

# Severn Tidings

Working in partnership for the future of the Severn Estuary

[www.severnestuary.net](http://www.severnestuary.net)

## Inside...

**Association of Severn  
Estuary Relevant  
Authorities**

**Severn Estuary Coastal  
Group**

**Bristol Channel Standing  
Environment Group**

**Devon & Severn  
Inshore Fisheries  
and Conservation  
Association**

**IMCORE**

**Explore the Severn**

**Purton Ship Graveyard**

**Arfordir: Coastal  
Heritage and  
Community Engagement**

**Severn Area Rescue  
Association**

**Photo Competition**

**DeltaNet**

**Hinkley Nuclear  
Power Station**

**Flatholm Island**

**The Severn Estuary  
Forum**

**Events**



## Spotlight on the Severn

# Welcome!



George Ashworth,  
Chair of the Severn  
Estuary Partnership  
Management Group

Once again the past year has flown by with numerous developments on the

Severn Estuary, including those at Bristol Port, Hinkley Nuclear Power Station, Oldbury Nuclear Power Station, Newport Gas fired Power Station, The Shoreline Management Plan 2, The Environment Agency's Flood Risk Management Strategy, ASERA's European Marine Site Management Scheme and the development of potential Marine Coastal Zone sites. Here at SEP we have been busy keeping on top of developments and of course keeping you informed. To this end the 2011 Severn Estuary Forum will focus on both flooding and energy in the Estuary.

We have also seen some internal changes with the departure of Dr. Jeanette Reis as interim Partnership manager. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Jeanette for all her support over the past 6 months, especially with the development of the Partnership's Strategic Business Plan which can be downloaded at: [www.severnestuary.net/sep/partnership.html](http://www.severnestuary.net/sep/partnership.html) Until a new manager is appointed, key members of the SEP Management Group will be providing the strategic management of the Partnership while partnership officers, Christine Marsh, Gwilym Owen and Paul Parker continue to deal with key SEP office functions.

It is also my sad duty to announce that after many years of tireless support, Peter Tyzack will be stepping down as SEP Chair. On behalf of SEP I would like to thank Peter for his help and support in the development and running of the Partnership over the last decade and wish him all the best in the future.

We are now actively seeking a new Partnership Chair to continue Peter's excellent work. It is the Partnership's wish to have an appropriate Elected Member as future chair. If you would like to nominate a suitable candidate please contact SEP staff on: Tel 02920 874713 or Email [Severn@cardiff.ac.uk](mailto:Severn@cardiff.ac.uk)

We look forward to welcoming a new chair in the near future.



(From left to right, Christine Marsh (ASERA & SEP Scientific Officer), Paul Parker (SEP Engagement Officer), Gwilym Owen (SEP Communication Officer)

## Spotlight on the Severn

The Severn Estuary Partnership continues to play an important and unique role in the management of the Severn Estuary. The Partnership offers Secretariat Services to local estuary groups, participates in European project work, organises estuary wide meetings and events and coordinates relevant information and data dissemination. All our activities help to promote the sustainable management of the Severn Estuary and surroundings; enhancing and protecting the area for the benefit of the community, the environment and the economy.

The past year has been busy with the Partnership taking on the secretariat for the Bristol Channel Standing Environment Group, while continuing to work closely with the Association of Severn Estuary Relevant Authorities and the Severn Estuary Coastal Group. Updates on the activities of all these groups can be found later in this newsletter.

The Partnership has also been busy, working jointly with the Environment Agency (EA) to collate responses to the EA's Flood Risk Management Strategy public consultation. An overview of the responses of this consultation can be viewed at: [www.severnestuary.net/frms/publications.html](http://www.severnestuary.net/frms/publications.html) The EA feel that the concerns raised through the consultation process require careful consideration, possibly involving Government Policy makers, before further consultation with the most effective local communities can ensue. Further updates on the Strategy will be provided through SEP's E-News and the Severn Estuary Flood Risk Management Strategy Website.

We have also been furthering our links with new partners and organisations including the Devon and Severn Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Association (IFCA) who are responsible for sea fish conservation within the Severn Estuary, further information on the Devon & Severn IFCA is available in this newsletter.

We have continued to support and engage with outside bodies to ensure effective two-way communication on Estuary wide matters. The groups we have recently been engaged with include Finding Sanctuary and Marine Conservation Zone Wales. An update on the Marine Conservation Zone process can be viewed at: [www.severnestuary.net/sep/pdfs/eneews/Marine Conservation Zones Update.pdf](http://www.severnestuary.net/sep/pdfs/eneews/Marine Conservation Zones Update.pdf) We have also been engaged with the Welsh Government through the Wales Coastal Maritime Partnership and its Marine Planning Group. Similarly on the English side of the Estuary, SEP are actively involved with the Coastal Partnership Network which is in constant communication with the Marine Management Organisation to help inform & support marine planning decisions.

To aid wider engagement, we also re-launched our membership scheme at the 2010 Severn Estuary Forum. If you have not yet become a formal member of the Partnership, please consider doing so. Membership offers unique benefits including access to the members' area of our website and discounted places at the Forum. If you are interested in becoming a member for as little as £10, please contact a member of the SEP staff team or visit our website for further information: [www.severnestuary.net/sep/](http://www.severnestuary.net/sep/)

[partnership/join.html](http://www.severnestuary.net/partnership/join.html)

In Partnership with the Environment Agency and European funded INTERREG IVB IMCORE project, we have been working hard on the development of a State of the Severn Estuary Report. The report aims to engage and inform local stakeholders about the 'State of the Severn Estuary' and what it has to offer. The report is currently being finalised and will be launched at the 2011 Severn Estuary Forum.

We are also keeping busy by aiding the development of the INTERREG IVB IMCORE project and the INTERREG IVC DeltaNet project. More detailed information regarding the progress of these projects can be found within this newsletter.

Away from the Partnership's daily activities, long term partnership supporter, Don Sutherland, EDF Energy's Nigel Knee, and I recently helped to develop a film on behalf of the World Wildlife Federation PISCES (Partnership Involving Stakeholders in the Celtic Sea Ecosystem) project. The film promotes the Severn Estuary Partnership as a best practice stakeholder engagement mechanism and can be viewed online at [http://projectpisces.eu/about\\_us/sharing\\_what\\_we\\_learn/case\\_study\\_films/](http://projectpisces.eu/about_us/sharing_what_we_learn/case_study_films/)

On behalf of SEP, I would like to thank Don and Nigel for their time and support in the development of this film.

Finally, we have also been busy organising Estuary-wide events such as the recent JAC event held on the 10th May in Cardiff, Minutes of this event can be viewed at: [www.severnestuary.net/sep/partnership/jac.html](http://www.severnestuary.net/sep/partnership/jac.html) We are also looking forward to the 2011 Severn Estuary Forum to be held at Cardiff University on Friday 23rd September. The event will focus on flooding in the Estuary and the energy sector. We will be joined by Miranda Krestofnikoff, a presenter from BBC Coast TV series, to introduce footage of the Severn and help lead debate. To avoid disappointment, book your place now (see the back page of this newsletter for details). Further details of the event can be found at: [www.severnestuary.net/forum](http://www.severnestuary.net/forum)

As you can see there is a lot going on in and around the Severn and we do our best to keep you informed via our newsletters, website and E-News services. If you would like to join our E-News service please email [Severn@cardiff.ac.uk](mailto:Severn@cardiff.ac.uk)

I look forward to welcoming you to a Partnership event soon!

*Paul Parker*  
Severn Estuary Partnership Officer

# News in Brief, An Estuary Round up

## The Association of Severn Estuary Relevant Authorities (ASERA)

Over the past year ASERA has been progressing the revised scheme of management for the Severn Estuary European Marine Site. ASERA are pleased to welcome its newest member, the Devon and Severn IFCA, which has joined ASERA's Working and Management Groups.

Most recently the Working Group has been reviewing the penultimate draft of the document and it is expected that finalising the consultation draft of the management scheme will soon be complete.

The management scheme document is designed to be short and concise and, once complete, will be interactive via the website. It is aimed towards the ASERA's relevant authority representatives and their colleagues, responsible for managing their activities in the Severn Estuary European Marine Site. However, it should also inform others as to how the designated interests of the Severn Estuary are protected through the management of day to day activities. It is intended that the action plans will be reviewed annually and updated by all Relevant Authorities in time for the ASERA AGM and publication in the Annual Report.

The document will be online for the public to view in the Autumn of this year.

Finally, ASERA has been representing many of its member bodies on the stakeholder group

of Finding Sanctuary which is establishing marine conservation zones (MCZs) through the SW coastal areas. Whilst the Severn Estuary is already protected by its European Site designations, ASERA has been active in discussions on the need for any further protected areas. The outcome of this process was that no MCZs have been proposed along the Somerset Coast of the Severn Estuary.

## Severn Estuary Coastal Group



The Severn Estuary Coastal Group has been focusing their efforts on the development of Severn Shoreline Management Plan 2 (SMP2) which is progressing well with most Local Authorities having formally adopted the plan. The SMP2 is currently waiting for IROPI (Imperative Reasons of Overriding Public Interest) sign off from both the Welsh Government and DEFRA. Some issues relating to the Flood Risk Management Strategy (FRMS), centred around areas of realignment at the Congresbury Yeo area and Minsterworth, Elmore Back and Longney have been identified post consultation. It is, therefore, possible that some SMP2 policies may need reviewing. However it is envisaged that the FRMS should not affect the SMP2, though it could impinge on the IROPI process.

The SECG are also in the process of developing a communication plan and communication leaflets on the outputs of the SMP2. It was hoped that a joint communication with the FRMS would be produced to minimise confusion between the two projects. However due to the delayed

timescales SECG are looking into further options and hope to produce a summary document for each individual Local Authority soon.

Further information regarding the activities of the Severn Estuary Coastal Group and the development of the Shoreline Management Plan 2 can be found at: [www.severnestuary.net/secg](http://www.severnestuary.net/secg)

## Bristol Channel Standing Environment Group (BCSEG)

The main function of the multi agency Bristol Channel Standing Environment Group is to prepare for marine pollution incidents where there is likely to be a threat of sea or air pollution involving oil or hazardous substances. This preparation is to permit the activated Environment Group to provide public health and environmental advice and guidance with minimal delay to all the response groups that will be involved during a major incident.

The group will steer the overall incident response with respect to minimising impacts on the environment. This includes the assessment of environmental and public health risks and potential impacts arising from an incident.

The BCSEG has now developed their activation plan and tested the plan as part of a simulation exercise in April 2011. The group were pleased to welcome the support of so many organisations and felt the plan worked well when tested. The activation plan allowed the Standing Environment Group to make a quick and accurate evaluation of the scenario and be in a position to provide informed advice.

The group will continue to update their work programme over the next 12 months with further information being made available at: [www.severnestuary.net/bcseg/index.html](http://www.severnestuary.net/bcseg/index.html)

## Devon and Severn Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Association



The Devon & Severn IFCA replaced the Devon Sea Fisheries Committee and the Environment Agency as the organisation responsible for sea fish conservation within the Severn Estuary on 1st April 2011. There are ten IFCAs around the coast of England. Wales and Scotland have their own system for inshore fisheries management.

The IFCAs were brought into law through The Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 (MACAA). The MACAA deals with many aspects of conservation and fisheries management within the inshore area. It sets out how the IFCAs operate and gives them the necessary legal powers to undertake their new role.

The Devon & Severn IFCA's northern boundary runs from the Cornwall and Devon county boundary just west of Hartland Point along the coast of Somerset, North Somerset, Bristol, South Gloucestershire and Gloucestershire. The district extends as far as the tidal limits at Maisemore Weir and then to the boundary between England and Wales at Chepstow.

The Devon and Severn IFCA is funded by eight

local Councils within its district. The Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Officers have enforcement powers within the whole of their district including the land but also have powers through cross warranting arrangements with Cornwall and Southern IFCAs and the Fisheries Department within Welsh Government.

The IFCA currently enforces EU, national fisheries and conservation legislation as well as 29 local byelaws inherited from the Sea Fisheries Committee and 10 byelaws inherited from the Environment Agency. There is a commitment to review all byelaws within the first two years of the IFCA to make sure all byelaws are fit for purpose. As well as byelaws currently in place the IFCA is responsible for the protection of the new coastal Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) as well as all existing areas such as the Severn Estuary European Marine Site. The IFCA will also be responsible for protection of the new Marine Conservation Zones (MCZ).

Partnership working is very important to the IFCA and it will endeavour to work closely with all partners in the coastal area. It is very much a two way process with partners feeding information to the IFCA and the IFCA feeding back information and advice to others. The process of implementing byelaws is a bottom up approach where a need is identified through consultation before the IFCA implements any new legislation. With the new guidelines from the Secretary of State byelaws are seen as a last resort and education followed by voluntary codes will be explored before new legislation is brought forward.

The IFCAs already work very closely with other agencies such as the Environment Agency, Natural England and the Marine Management Organisation. There are Memorandums of Understanding with all these bodies which sets out how all the organisations will work together this is backed up with regular meetings of the officers to discuss work programmes for the individual officers and how joint working can be undertaken to give a better coverage of our joint areas of responsibility. The IFCAs sit on the management groups of estuary partnerships to help share their expertise and knowledge.

There are high expectations of the new IFCAs around the country from the many users of the marine and coastal environment. There is also wide spread support for the new organisations from the local wildlife trusts and members of the local angling clubs. There will be a need for the IFCA to address many new issues for which it may not currently have the expertise to deal with. There is a need to manage some of this expectation as in the early stages of the new organisation there is a very steep learning curve but the officers of the IFCA will try their hardest to live up to the expectation and many have already begun additional training to meet some of the new needs and where practicable expertise from outside agencies will be called upon to help the IFCA reach decisions.

More information about the Devon & Severn IFCA can be found at: [www.devonandsevernifca.gov.uk](http://www.devonandsevernifca.gov.uk) or by contacting the office email account: [office@devonandsevernifca.gov.uk](mailto:office@devonandsevernifca.gov.uk)

*Tim Robbins, Chief Officer Devon & Severn IFCA*



SEP and Cardiff University staff have made good progress with the IMCORE project over the last few months. This has included the development of the Severn Estuary 2040 Adaptation Scenarios to inform the forthcoming IMCORE Severn Estuary Adaptation Guidelines. The team has also been involved with the Beacons education project, targeted at 14 - 16 year olds across Wales.

The following two short articles provide a flavour of the scenarios and education work we've been doing. For more information please visit [www.severnestuary.net/sep/imcore](http://www.severnestuary.net/sep/imcore) and / or contact Dr Rhoda Ballinger [BallingerRC@cardiff.ac.uk](mailto:BallingerRC@cardiff.ac.uk)



# INTERREG IVB IMCORE Project



## Shaping up Scenarios for the Severn 2040

Since the successful conclusion of the IMCORE Scenarios Building Workshops with key Estuary stakeholders in Cardiff and Bristol last October, we have been refining the workshop outputs into four draft futures scenarios. These address how different drivers of change will affect planning response to climate change in the Severn Estuary in 2040. In summary these possible future scenarios are:

- **Scenario 1 Riding the Dragon**

A continuation of the best of the present - in this progressive scenario there is a focus on technological and market-oriented measures to provide solutions to climate change adaptation.

- **Scenario 2 More is Less**

A continuation of the worst of the present – a failing market-led economy fails to yield sufficient economic growth to support resource adaptation and effective coastal management.

- **Scenario 3 Strong Local Roots**

The new economic paradigm future - this includes Transition Towns, Energy Descent Adaptation Plans and Steady State Economics.

- **Scenario 4 Little Britain**

A resource starved, regionalised and fragmented set of regions - each region becomes preoccupied with its own approach to climate change security and adaptation.

In parallel to the development of these scenarios we have also conducted an online Delphi expert survey. This has enabled us to address the planning theme in greater depth and has yielded some very striking strategic recommendations for future strategic actions.

Over the next two months the scenarios will be tested and examined by experts. We will also hold a series of half-day "issues workshops" with key local authorities to identify significant core issues emerging from the scenarios and formulate options for action. Final versions of the scenarios and the Severn Estuary climate change adaptation guidelines will be presented at this year's SEP Forum.

To download copies of the draft Severn Estuary Adaptation Scenarios 2040 please visit [www.severnestuary.net/sep/imcore](http://www.severnestuary.net/sep/imcore) – we'd really love to know what you make of them.



© Jeanette Reis – Beacons YoCCo workshops at Gowerton Comprehensive School



© Jeanette Reis – Beacons YoCCo workshops at Gowerton Comprehensive School



## All-Wales Young People's Climate Change Forum

**Given the future changes projected for coastal areas in light of climate change, the realisation that adaptation will become increasingly important is a crucial message to convey to the younger generation. The young people of today are the policy-makers of tomorrow and as such, it is vital that they are well informed and are given the opportunity to contribute to the decision-making processes that will directly affect their future.**

The Severn Estuary Partnership has been working alongside Cardiff University, Techniquest and the Welsh Youth Forum for Sustainable Development to influence the way in which young people think about their role in a world with a changing climate. Through the Beacons Young People's Climate Change Forum (YoCCo), the project has used 'best available science,' involving 160 young people aged between 14 and 16 from coastal communities as well as education experts, and senior policy makers. The project has provided a

series of school workshops as well as producing a Young People's policy document and an education pack for Key Stage 4.

Within the workshops, two of which were held within the Severn Estuary region, there was a focus on adaptation, looking at the potential effects of climate change on different aspects of everyday life. These workshops generated much interest and enthusiasm from both staff and pupils:

Gethin While from Cardiff University who delivered one of the workshops said *"It was great to know that so many young people are ready and receptive for the advice and orientation that the Beacon's project seeks to provide. We've hit the ground running and hopefully we have enforced and deepened appreciation and understanding of these issues amongst young people in Wales"*.

One young person said *"I really enjoyed the workshop. We should be more involved within decision making and the government need to think about different ways to solve problems"*.

The Young People's policy document highlights young people's concerns and recommendations

for climate change adaptation in Wales. Hopefully, this should help inform decision makers of young people's views, providing them with a voice for the future.

The education resource pack, to be launched in the coming weeks, will be distributed to schools across Wales. The pack contains teacher and student sections, activity lists, and a wealth of information on climate change, collated from multiple resources including the media, worldwide web, and official data sources. For more information on the resource pack, please visit: [www.yocco.org](http://www.yocco.org)



[www.imcore.eu](http://www.imcore.eu)



Hide for bird watching © Gwilym Owen

As the summer approaches and the weather improves, SEP Officers having been donning their walking boots and taking to the paths and trails around the shores of the Severn Estuary. To this end, we would like to encourage you all to explore the public rights of way around the Severn. If you know or discover any interesting or enjoyable routes, we would love to hear from you. It is our intention to provide a resource of walking routes around the Estuary on our website and to feature a specific walk in each future issue of Severn Tidings. If you do have any suggestions of appropriate walks please email details to [severn@cardiff.ac.uk](mailto:severn@cardiff.ac.uk)



# Explore the Severn

The fields around Goldcliff © Gwilym Owen

To whet your appetite this summer, why not try one of our previous walks which can be found in Severn Tidings Issues 5, 6, 7 and 8 - <http://www.severnestuary.net/sep/publications/newsletters.html>

Alternatively there is a fantastic resource for some walks in and around the Severn on the BBC website, including one on Flatholm and one in the Gwent Levels. [http://www.bbc.co.uk/wales/nature/sites/walking/se\\_index.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/wales/nature/sites/walking/se_index.shtml)

Happy Walking!

## The Purton Ships Graveyard



Volunteers at the Purton Ships Graveyard © Friends of Purton

I originally came across the Purton Ships Graveyard as a boy in 1976 and spent many a summer afternoon exploring the then almost intact vessels, whilst engaged in childhood fantasies of cutlass wielding pirates and a life of adventure on the high seas.

It was not until many years later in 1999 and upon returning from a life at sea for real, that my passion for the site (now sadly much eroded/destroyed) re-ignited and I embarked on a privately funded course of study to locate, chart and identify as many of the hulks as possible. To this end it has been

established that the site, which stretches 1.5km to the north of Sharpness New Dock entrance, is the final resting place of 81 vessels and encapsulate steel, timber and concrete constructions.

Amazingly, ongoing research has established that the site is now deemed to be the largest of its kind in the U.K. and is formed in distinct layers including mighty ocean going schooners, reliable Severn Trows, sturdy Wich Barges, revolutionary concrete lighters and extremely rare Stroudwater and Kennet barges.

As a result the Friends of Purton

was formed in 2008 bringing together a representative group of the growing enthusiasts.

The Primary Objective of the Society is to protect and secure the as yet undefined site and abandoned vessels lying at Purton, Gloucestershire, which is collectively referred to as 'The Purton Ships' Graveyard'.

The aims of The Friends of Purton are:

- To foster the interest of the general public, historians, archaeologists, scientists and other professionals;
- To promote the understanding of this unique resource and all it can reveal;
- To facilitate continued investigation and research within the site for as long as it remains possible.

Whilst it is recognised that perhaps due to its nature and location, the physical protection of the site remains complex, further recognition of the significance of it, largely through different and varied forms of education, can help. This education has so far taken the form of volunteers accompanying organised groups

on 'walks and talks' programmes throughout the site since 2005. Why not join me and the Friends of Purton on a guided walk in 2011, we'd love to share the magic of the site with you!

Paul Barnett

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

### SCHEDULED SITE TOURS

**Sunday 3rd & 17th July 2011 2pm**

**Sunday 7th & 21st August 2011 2pm**

**Sunday 4th & 18th September 2011 2pm**

**Sunday 16th October 2011 2pm**

**Sunday 20th November 2011 1pm**

**Meet Purton Lower Bridge**

**Tour donation £3.50 per person**

**Approx tour time 2 hours weather permitting**

# Arfordir: coastal heritage and community engagement

**The 'Arfordir' project is a pan-Wales project aimed at addressing the damage caused to coastal heritage sites by erosion and other threats through the recruitment and training of interested members of the local community.**

The project is designed to mitigate the impact of coastal erosion, climate change, sea level rise and pressure of visitor numbers on the vulnerable sites in the coastal zone, and to take advantage of the constantly changing conditions to record new sites as they are revealed by shifting sands and tidal action. Local people are best-placed to notice subtle changes in the foreshore, and volunteers are taking an active role in monitoring and recording the damage to vulnerable coastal sites.

In southeast Wales, the project is being coordinated by Ellie Graham of the Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust, and the study area has recently been expanded. Originally, it

encompassed Gower and Swansea, but this has now been extended as far east as the Ogmore River.

The results of the first year's work have been very encouraging, with well over a hundred new sites being recorded, and all stretches of the coastline being monitored, which has highlighted several priorities for further work and areas which are being particularly damaged by erosion.

These include Broughton, where several areas of stonework and a buried land surface have been noticed eroding out of the dunes, and the Brynmill section of Swansea Bay, where volunteers have recorded staggering numbers of wooden features, from Iron Age trackways to medieval fish traps

For further information please visit the Arfordir project website at: <http://www.ggat.org.uk/arfordir/enter.html> or contact Ellie Graham (email: [ellie@ggat.org.uk](mailto:ellie@ggat.org.uk) ; Tel: 01792-655208).



Volunteers recording a fish trap in Swansea Bay © GGAT



Volunteers at a deserted medieval settlement on Worms Head © GGAT

## New Lifeboat on the Severn

**Severn Area Rescue Association, affectionately known as SARA have recently taken delivery of a new inshore lifeboat for duties on the Severn Estuary from Cardiff to Gloucester and the rivers Wye, Avon and Usk.**

Although not the largest of SARA's fourteen rescue boats "Swiftanbold" (callsign "SARA-3") cost over £20,000 and was brought into service on 12th March at a ceremony attended by sponsors and dignitaries representing the towns & counties bordering the Severn Estuary.

Station Chairman, Mervyn Fleming from Newport said, "This is a long awaited event, our old inshore lifeboat has served this coast for fifteen years and has now been retired to the calmer waters of the Severn at Kidderminster where she will serve with SARA's "Wyre Forest" rescue-station."

The vessel, built to SARA's own design, incorporates the new UK Lifeboat specifications, has a central communications console and simply bristles with rescue and safety features developed by SARA crew: all protected by a Kevlar™ reinforced glass-fibre hull.

"SARA is geared up to attend flood situations both within its operational area and beyond - with two 'DEFRA Type-B' rescue response teams," says Mervyn. "Floodwaters hide many dangers such as street furniture, cars, fence posts and other obstructions which will make short work of all but the most robustly constructed craft - hence our hull design."

The boat's Manufacturers "Delta Power Group" of Cheshire report that this is the most technically compact and specific design they have been tasked to construct and are very pleased with the result.

The Crew at the Beachley, Chepstow Lifeboat station are also very pleased with the result... powered by a 40 HP Mariner outboard "Swiftanbold" is capable of speeds up to 30 Knots and is very responsive. With a crew of three and able to carry an additional four passengers or one stretcher casualty, she will give good service to the dangerous waters of the region.

Why "Swiftanbold"...? It is the motto of The First Battalion The Rifles who have been good neighbours and staunch supporters of SARA and, with their permission SARA has adopted it, not only as a name for the boat but as a principal of operation.



"Naming the boat" Mrs de Labillière, wife of Lt. Col. James de Labillière the 1-Rifle Commanding Officer performs the naming ceremony © SARA



"The Old and the New" Two SARA-3 craft show off their paces at the launch of the new craft. "Swiftanbold" is nearest the camera © SARA



"Fast - very fast" "Swiftanbold" shows off her paces with a series of tight turns © SARA

Further information on the Severn Area Rescue Association can be found at: <http://www.sara-rescue.org.uk/>

Mervyn Fleming, SARA Beachley Station Chair

## Severn Estuary Partnership Photo Competition

The partnership is looking for high quality photos for its publications, website and flickr site. To this end we would like to encourage people to submit photos to us in the form of a competition, with the best entry winning a pair of tickets to this year's Severn Estuary Forum, to be held in Cardiff on September the 23rd. The winner and runners up will have their photos presented on the SEP homepage slideshow, as well as on a slideshow showcasing the Severn Estuary at the Severn Estuary Forum. Full acknowledgement of the photos will of course be made, with full ownership being retained by the photographer.

Photos can either be emailed to us at [severn@cf.ac.uk](mailto:severn@cf.ac.uk) under the subject 'Photocomp'; or you can upload them to SEP's flickr site (<http://www.flickr.com/groups/severnestuary/>), remembering to add the tag 'photocomp' to the photo so that we can find them when the competition closes.

The closing date for entries is August 31st – Good luck!



## DeltaNet:



Begun in March 2010 and continuing until February 2013, the DeltaNet Project is financed by the European Union's Regional Development Fund through the Interregional Cooperation Programme (INTERREG IVC). The DeltaNet Project is a partnership of eight river estuaries and deltas around Europe (The Rhine, Meuse and Scheldt (Belgium/Netherlands); Elbe (Germany); Vistula (Poland); Severn (UK); Tagus (Portugal); Ebro (Spain); Minho (Spain/Portugal) and Danube (Romania)). The project aims to help its participants work together and share their wealth of knowledge, experience and good practice to inform appropriate coordinated spatial planning measures in these geographically sensitive areas. As all these regions are facing the challenge of competing demands which threaten the future sustainable development of these regions, there is a clear need for the participants to share ideas to inform coordinated solutions to sustainable spatial, economic and social development.

The aims of the project are spread out across five successive 'theme' areas: 1 - Integrated Delta Approach; 2 - Flood & Sediment Management; 3 - Healthy Environment; 4 - Delta Awareness, and 5 - Coordinated Delta Policy, which seeks to collate the results of the first four themes and combine them into a sustainable policy. Each theme is organised around a series of expert workshops with field visits; larger conferences involving local politicians and follow-up workshops.

The Severn Estuary Partnership is currently a minor participant in this project, having so far been mainly involved in a number of workshops and conferences associated with the Integrated Delta Approach theme. In this capacity, it has been singled out as an example of best practice for its ability to promote a sustainable approach between the often competing interests of the environment, social and economic development of the Severn Estuary, with its inclusive partnership approach.

SEP is now in the process of developing a work plan for Theme 1, where we can share our knowledge and experience with the other

partners that have expressed an interest in learning from us. This includes inviting these partners to present at our upcoming Severn Estuary Forum event in September and allowing them the potential to network with their counterparts within the Severn Estuary.

SEP will be increasing its involvement in the project in the next few months, picking up roles related to Theme 2 (Flood & Sediment Management) and 5 (Coordinated Approach). Clearly, these link with areas of work which SEP and partners are already engaged in and should be beneficial to the Partnership.

For further information about the DeltaNet Project and INTERREG IVC, please visit SEP's DeltaNet page: <http://bit.ly/1Om7Ys>



Hinkley EDF Exhibition at Cannington in Somerset © EDF Energy

# PROGRESS ON HINKLEY POINT C

**The proposed new nuclear power station at Hinkley Point C in West Somerset could play a crucial role in plugging the nation's energy gap by providing enough electricity for 5 million homes at a time when capacity is predicted to decline as existing power plants close.**

What's more, its twin reactors could generate a secure supply of reliable, affordable and low carbon energy within our national boundaries, reducing or eliminating the need to import energy from other less stable parts of the world.

The project is a major undertaking and represents an investment of some £10 billion by EDF Energy.

The Hinkley Point C site, next to the existing nuclear power stations on the southern shore of the Estuary near Bridgwater Bay, was identified by Government as one of eight potential locations for a new nuclear power station in the UK. The important role of new nuclear in the energy mix is highlighted in the Government's revised draft National Policy Statement, which is expected to be ratified by Parliament later this year, following two stages of consultation.

Following its own extensive consultation over the past two years on its proposals, EDF Energy plans to submit its Development Consent Order

(the main application) to the new Infrastructure Planning Commission later this year.

Hinkley Point C would be a modern, efficient nuclear power station known as a European Pressurised Water Reactor (EPR). Similar facilities are currently being built in Finland, China and at Flamanville in France.

In building the new power station, EDF Energy is committed to ensuring that any significant impacts of the construction or operation of the power station and associated developments are managed sensitively and if they cannot be managed, they are mitigated. Construction is expected to take 7-8 years and the new station will have an operational life of 60 years. Detailed studies of the impacts of the new power station on marine life have been carried out, as well as considerations of the effects on shipping and recreational users of the Estuary.

EDF Energy's transport strategy is to deliver as much of the heavy materials as possible by sea - from a temporary Jetty to the north west of the main site and from a refurbished wharf at Combwich on the River Parrett, which was originally built to help with the construction of Hinkley Point A. This will help to minimise the number of HGVs on the local road network.

An application for the construction of the jetty is being considered by the new Marine Management Organisation.

Overall, the Hinkley Point C project will deliver:

- At least 5,000 jobs for Somerset people
- £100m a year during construction for the Somerset economy
- £40m a year during operation
- £100m of lasting community benefit, including a £20m Community Fund and £6m in local colleges to help as many Somerset people as possible to secure jobs
- Significant opportunities for local firms to win contracts. (A website, hosted by Somerset Chamber of Commerce, has been established to register interest from local companies – [www.hinkleysupplychain.co.uk](http://www.hinkleysupplychain.co.uk))

For further information, please contact EDF Energy's Bridgwater Office during office hours on 01278 444 6000.

Alan Hyde, EDF Energy

# Flat Holm Island, Jewel of the Severn Estuary



© Sam Whitefield

**Rising from the middle of the Severn Estuary, the Island of Flat Holm is a unique haven for wildlife. Flat Holm is a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and Local Nature Reserve, providing an important habitat for a wide variety of coastal and estuarine flora and fauna, none more so than the Lesser Black Backed Gull *Larus Fuscus*. It is one of the largest colonies in Europe with around 4000 nests annually. Other SSSI features include the maritime grassland communities and geology.**

## The Historical past

Flat Holm has served as an integral navigational aid for shipping in the Severn Estuary over the years, with a lighthouse dating back to 1737 and a fog horn station that was closed only in 1988; the Island is steeped in maritime history and culture.

Flat Holm's history begins with the axe head found on the Island, believed to be from the late Bronze Age of 900-700 BC. St. Cadoc was the Island's earliest known visitor, who with his disciples visited during the 6th century for tranquil meditation. Over the years, inhabitants have included Vikings, Anglo-Saxons, and even smugglers! In more recent years the Island has served as a farm, fortress and cholera hospital site. During Victorian times, Flat Holm formed part of a strategic coastal defence system for the Bristol Channel which included Brean Down, Steep Holm and Lavernock. The Island also played a significant role during WWII when 350 soldiers were stationed here!

## The present

Today the Island is managed by a small team of staff conserving the natural, cultural and historical features of the Island. Sustainability remains at the heart of Flat Holm, harnessing power from renewable energy; using solar water heating, solar panels, a wind turbine and rainwater collection.

The Island has been occupied and used for agricultural purposes over hundreds of years, and today, we continue to pursue our farming legacy, with Tamworth pigs and the lambing of our Black Welsh Mountain and Soay flocks. In addition, the resident free range hens are actively laying eggs for our visitors to purchase in the shop.

## Flat Holm as a learning resource

Flat Holm boasts a well-established education centre, encouraging children and adults to become actively involved in nature conservation and learning about the marine environment and Severn Estuary. The diverse education programme focuses on interactive activities, stimulating learning through direct experience and participation. We have residential programmes for KS2 up to university level covering topics from renewable energy to ecology.

## Exciting 2011 developments

On June 24th 2011, the Island will witness the opening of the "Gull and Leek", the most southerly pub in Wales! For the first time, 2011 will see commercial boat trips sail from the English coast, departing Weston Super-mare throughout the summer, with regular trips also leaving Cardiff Bay. A newly refurbished visitor centre and farm shop selling light refreshments, Island produce and souvenirs awaits all visitors.

For those hoping to spend more than a day on the Island; late summer will also see the opening of the Grade II Listed Fog Horn Cottage as self-catering accommodation. Guests will be able to relax in the comfort of the fully renovated cottage and enjoy panoramic views across the estuary. The 16th Century Farmhouse will also continue to provide dormitory style accommodation.

You can follow Island life and the day to day running of this unique SSSI and Local Nature Reserve online with our new blog: [www.flatholmisland.wordpress.com](http://www.flatholmisland.wordpress.com); Twitter: @flatholmers or Facebook: Flat Holm Island Officer. Sam Whitfield's photos can be found on flickr: <http://bit.ly/iZJXwO>.

For information and booking details please visit our website [www.flatholmisland.com](http://www.flatholmisland.com) or alternatively call 029 2087 7912.

*Ross Clifford, Flatholm Project*



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# Severn Estuary Forum 2010

**With over 100 delegates attending, the 2010 Severn Estuary Forum focussed on the public sector, with emphasis on marine planning as well as industrial and public relations with the Estuary. Delegates also had the opportunity to view informal displays on various European Projects, including DeltaNet and IMCORE as well as on the educational activities of the Beacons YoCCo project, promoting awareness of adaptation options for Climate Change.**

Cllr Simon Cook, the Cultural, Sport and Capital Projects Executive of Bristol City Council welcomed the Severn Estuary Partnership to Bristol. Cllr Cook outlined the importance of the maritime history of the City of Bristol and the value of working together. Dr. Jeanette Reis, Severn Estuary Partnership Manager, then highlighted the aims and objectives of the Partnership and explained the opportunities that the forum presented for joint working and information gathering, before handing the stage back to Cllr Peter Tyzack, SEP Chair, to continue with the Forum's proceedings.

Steve Brooker (Head of Marine Planning, Marine Management Organisation (MMO)), delivered an informative keynote address on the role of the MMO and local Coastal Partnerships. Steve outlined the importance of working with all stakeholders in the marine planning process and indicated the usefulness in partnerships such as SEP to achieve this. Steve also explained the importance of cross border working and early engagement with the Welsh Assembly Government.

Julia Williams (Head of Marine Planning & Nature Conservation, Welsh Assembly Government) was unable to attend the Forum due to unforeseen circumstances. Her presentation was given by Paul

Parker (Severn Estuary Partnership Officer) who outlined the intention of WAG to have an all Wales Marine Plan by 2012/13. The importance of engaging stakeholders around the coast was also reiterated.

Christine Marsh (Associated Severn Estuary Relevant Authorities (ASERA) Officer) presented a short talk on the Severn Estuary European Marine Site, outlining the work of ASERA, the importance of the Estuary from a species and habitats perspective and the timescales for the emergence of a new Severn Estuary European Marine Site management plan to cover all three designations (Special Area of Conservation, Special Protected Area, and RAMSAR) on the Estuary.

Kath Winnard (Marine Environmental Scientist, Water and Environment, Atkins) delivered an informative presentation on the lessons learnt through stakeholder engagement on the Severn Shoreline Management Plan 2. Kath explored the areas of engagement that work, and those that were not so successful, before stressing the importance of stakeholder engagement in marine planning and offering some suggestions on how this can be best achieved by the MMO and WAG on the Severn.

In a change to the advertised programme, John Chaplin, Director of Engineering, Bristol Port Company concluded the morning's proceedings. John presented Bristol Port Company's plans and progress to develop a deep water container terminal at Avonmouth, outlining the needs and benefits to the area.

After lunch and an opportunity for informal networking, Richard Hellen (Low Carbon South West) took the Chair for the Private Sector Session. Richard introduced the work of Low Carbon South West and stressed the importance of sustainable industry around the shores of the Severn Estuary.

Nigel Knee, Head of Nuclear Policy,

Nuclear New Build, EDF Energy then presented EDF's proposed Nuclear Power Development, Hinkley Point C. Nigel stressed the demand and importance of low Carbon Energy and informed delegates that the proposed Hinkley Point C could be capable of generating over 6% of the UK's electricity. Nigel then informed delegates of the potential job creation and economic benefit to the region before showing some illustrations of what the plant could look like from the Estuary.

Kate Royston (Robbee Smole Sustainable Business Solutions) presented on Sustainable Industrial Development and the Severn Estuary. The focus was on port development, green service providers, renewable energy developments, multi-modal transport and resource and process management. Kate highlighted the importance of co-operation and collaboration in order for sustainable industries to thrive.

Delegates then broke for a final networking opportunity before George Ashworth (Chair, Severn Estuary Partnership Management Group) brought proceedings back into action with the start of the final session entitled 'The Public'.

Dr. Rhoda Ballinger, Cardiff University, gave an update on the ongoing European IMCORE project, which is looking into the enhancement of the capacity for climate change adaptation in the estuary. Rhoda outlined the aims and objectives of the project before explaining the need to enhance the science base and the mechanisms for enhancing science-policy integration. The need to develop guidelines for adaptation to climate change were also highlighted, with further workshops and other ways to get involved in the project being outlined.

Stuart Ballard, a local resident to the Severn, keen Bore Surfer and trustee of the Severn Rivers trust, treated

delegates to a unique presentation explaining his discovery of the tidal Severn. His journey started with a surf board in the river, involved taking putchers to Glastonbury Festival and ended up with a river festival for all to share. Stuart explained in detail his journey with the Severn, from a dream to reality.

Andy Marvell (Chief Executive, Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust) gave the penultimate presentation, exploring the archaeology around the Severn Estuary. Andy explained the importance of the Severn Estuary for archaeological finds, before highlighting some of the more significant finds including a 15th century Newport Ship and 3rd century Barland's Farm boat.

The final presentation of the day saw Dr. Jeanette Reis review the past 12 months in the world of SEP. Jeanette highlighted the Partnership's ongoing core activities, responses to key consultations and input into local and European project work.

The Speaker's full PowerPoint presentations can be viewed at: [www.severnestuary.net/sep/forum/2010.html](http://www.severnestuary.net/sep/forum/2010.html)

Feedback from the event indicated that delegates had a rewarding and enjoyable day, celebrating the diversity of our Estuary and embracing the importance of marine planning and the need to work together towards a sustainable future. The Severn Estuary Partnership would like to thank the IMCORE project for sponsoring the 2010 Forum, the speakers and chairs for their contributions to the day and all those who helped to make the event a success.

# Severn Estuary Forum 2011

## Celebrating our Diversity



The Severn Estuary Partnership is pleased to announce that the 2011 Severn Estuary Forum will be held on Friday 23 September at The Julian Hodge Lecture Theatre, Cardiff University, Cardiff.

This year's event will focus on flooding in the estuary and the energy sector. The forum promises to be an exciting event with Miranda Krestofnikoff, a presenter from the BBC's Coast TV series attending to introduce footage of the Severn and help lead discussions. An outline programme will be available on the Partnership website in due course. [www.severnestuary.net/sep/forum](http://www.severnestuary.net/sep/forum)



Don't forget, the Severn Estuary Forum is the annual event for everyone interested in the Severn Estuary and its future. Once again, the

Forum promises to be a lively day of formal and informal presentations and talks. The Forum is open to everyone, whether you represent an organisation, live in the area, or simply enjoy visiting. It is a unique opportunity to learn from others, share your views and participate in the management of the Severn Estuary. We look forward to welcoming you to Cardiff.

There will be an opportunity at the Forum for displays from any organisation with an interest in the Severn Estuary. Display areas can be provided at a cost of £250 for a 1 meter display or £500 for 3 meter displays, please contact the Partnership office for further details.

## Booking Form

Complete the following form (or a copy) and return it to:  
Severn Estuary Partnership, c/o School of Earth and Ocean Sciences, Main Building, Park Place, Cardiff CF10 3AT  
Email: [Severn@cardiff.ac.uk](mailto:Severn@cardiff.ac.uk)

Severn Estuary Forum @ £12 (student) £20 (member) / £30 (non-member) per person. No. of places requested: .....

TOTAL COST : .....

Name(s): .....

Organisation/Interest(s): .....

Address for confirmation of place(s) : .....

Telephone: ..... Email: .....

### Payment Method

Cheque – made payable to Cardiff University enclosed with booking form

Invoice required – enclose purchase order with your full address.

Credit/Debit card (Not American Express) – Complete details below

  
  

Card Type: .....

Card No.:

Expiry ..... Date..... Issue No (Debit cards).....

Signature..... Date.....

Bacs transfer – to Cardiff University General Account, a/c no 7000 2203 sort 089003 quoting ML22001002

**Booking forms with full payment to secure your place should be sent to:**

**Severn Estuary Partnership, c/o School of Earth & Ocean Sciences, Cardiff University, Main Building, Park Place, CF10 3AT**

**Email: [Severn@cardiff.ac.uk](mailto:Severn@cardiff.ac.uk)**

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Editor Paul Parker

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unless otherwise stated.

Cover Photograph: Flat Holm Lighthouse © Sam Whitfield, Flat Holm Project



The Severn Estuary Partnership involves local authorities, other organisations and users of the estuary working together to ensure that the estuary remains a resource of great value throughout the 21st century.

## Coming up...

Bristol Tall Ships	29/07/11 to 31/07/11
The Magnificent Severn Festival <a href="http://www.magnificentsevern.co.uk">http://www.magnificentsevern.co.uk</a>	26/08/11 to 29/08/11
Cardiff Harbour Festival	27/08/11 to 29/08/11
Severn Estuary Forum	23/09/11