

Welcome . . . to the second edition of the newsletter of the North Yorkshire & Cleveland Coastal Forum.

This brings you up to date with latest from the coast between Saltburn and Speeton on the issues of coastal & flood defence, conservation, marine issues, natural processes, recreation and water quality.



New Coastal Forum Strategy

The Coastal Forum's new strategy is now available in both CD and paper format. The strategy is based on the results from the first Coastal Forum meetings workshop groups. The strategy includes a vision for the coast, principles, core issues and 9 priorities of equal importance. The strategy will influence vital decisions made about the local coast and attempt to address many issues facing our coastline.

To obtain your copy of the strategy contact Forum staff.

Issue 2 - November 2004

3rd Annual Forum Meeting September 2004

Monday 20th September saw the 3rd annual Forum conference at the Spa, Scarborough. Over 70 delegates attended to hear presentations by the Environment Agency on water quality, Encams on beach quality and blue flag awards and the North York Moors National Park on renewable energy use in coastal communities. The day, hosted by North Yorkshire County Council encouraged discussion and debate on the various topics delivered by the speakers.

In the afternoon there was a presentation by Mel Cunningham from the National Trust on management of its' coastal properties. This was followed by brief updates from Scarborough Borough Council on coastal defence, conservation and recreation work from the Coastal Projects Unit, the North York Moors National Park on agri- environment

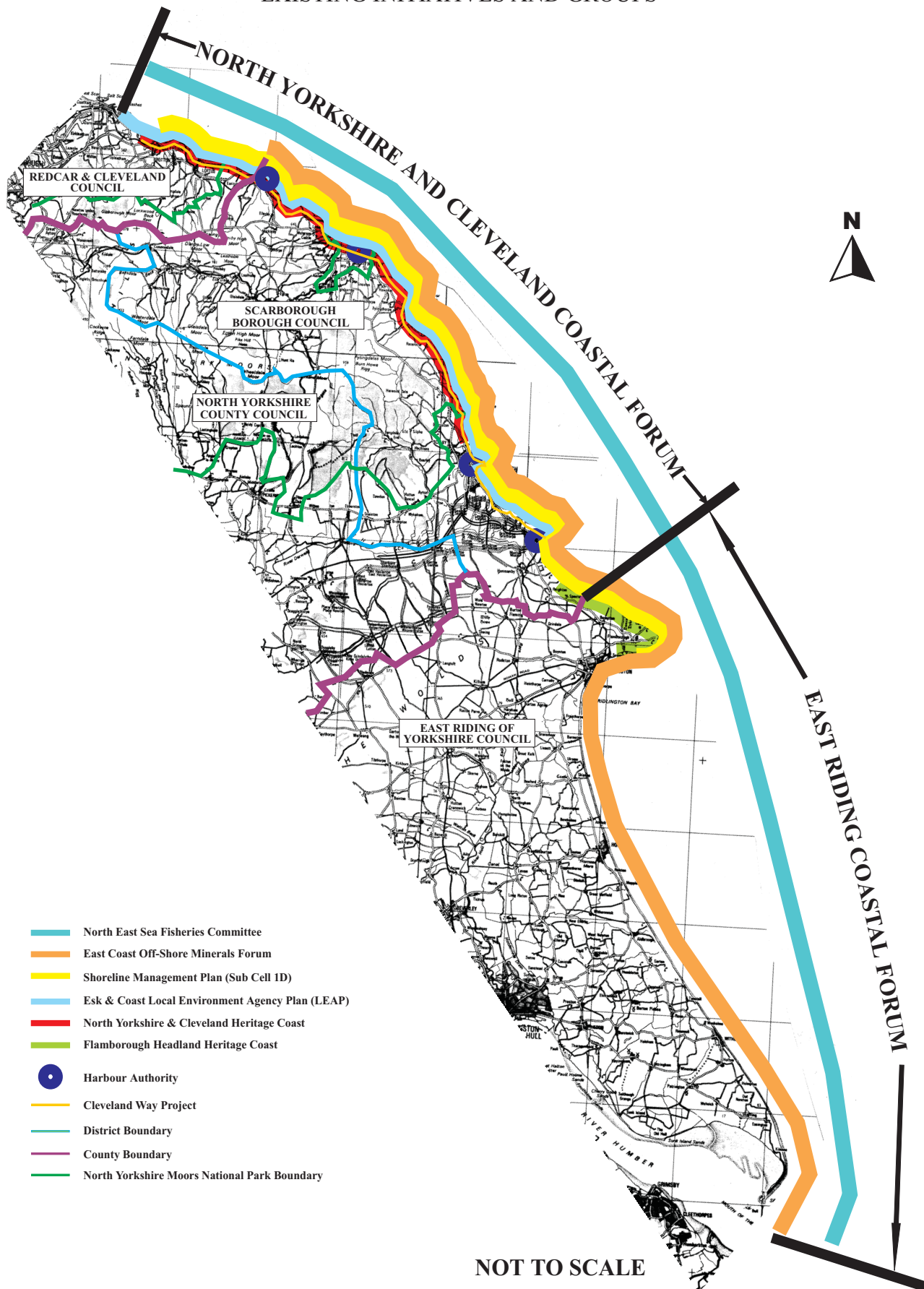
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Frank De Planta updates on Environment Agency work

NORTH YORKSHIRE AND CLEVELAND COASTAL FORUM

EXISTING INITIATIVES AND GROUPS



... continued from page 1

schemes and the latest on the EU Interreg IIIb bid to encourage integrated coastal zone management (ICZM) on the local coast.

Membership of the Forum is free and staff are encouraging as many people with an interest in the coast to join. Contact Forum staff for further information.



Mel Cunningham from the National Trust



Vicki Shaw on renewable energies

European Funding Bid to Assist Forum

Forum staff are currently bidding for a pot of money from the EU focussed on integrating coastal zone management along our coastline. If successful, the bid will ensure that the Forum's profile is heightened by employing a full time member of staff to run the Forum, develop a Forum website and provide some funding for 'on the ground' projects identified in the coastal action plans drawn up by the Coastal Projects Unit.

The bid will be submitted in November and we should hear in March if successful.

Environment Agency

The Environment Agency monitors the quality of designated bathing waters in England and Wales against the standards set within the EC Bathing Water Directive. Twenty samples are taken at every bathing water throughout the bathing season, which are assessed for a number of microbiological parameters.

The directive has two sets of standards, imperative (mandatory) and guideline. The imperative standards should not be exceeded, whereas the much stricter guideline standards should be achieved where possible. Quality has improved significantly in recent years, with over 98% of monitored bathing beaches across England and Wales meeting the imperative standards in 2003. The Agency's target is to achieve and then maintain at least 97% compliance. Over 70% of bathing waters across England and Wales now comply with the guideline standards, compared with 25% in 1990. The Agency has set a target to achieve 85% compliance with the guideline standards by 2005.

Within the Agency's Dales area, which covers the North Yorkshire and Cleveland counties, bathing water quality has improved significantly in the last three years. Compliance against the imperative standards increased from 89.4% in 2000 to 100% in 2001, but dropped back to 94.7% in 2003. Compliance against the guideline standards increased from 15.7% in 2000, to 68.4% in 2001, but again dropped to 42.1% in 2003.

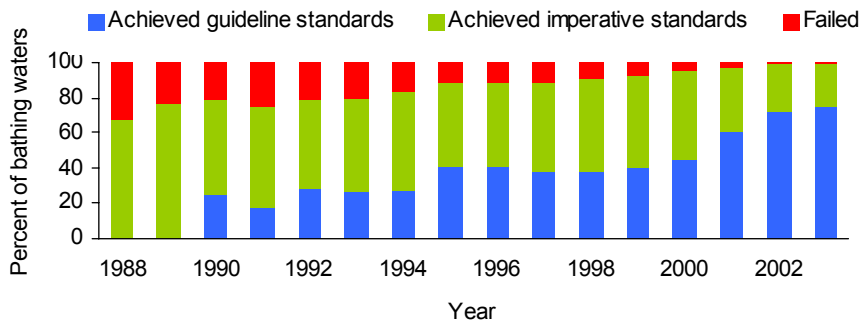
The recent improvements in the quality of bathing waters are due to substantial investment work that has been done at many coastal sewage treatment works to improve their discharges. However, these results also demonstrate that there is still work to be done. In particular, diffuse pollution and intermittent discharges of sewage during heavy rainfall still have the potential to affect bathing water quality. Diffuse pollution often results when rainfall carries pollutants from land into adjacent watercourses.

The Agency will continue to investigate all sources of contamination at all non-compliant bathing waters. In addition, investment by water companies is ongoing to safeguard the current high standards and improve bathing waters further. Plus, within the North East Region a bathing water project has been established to

look in more detail at the causes of poor or fluctuating bathing water quality, to enable further improvements to be made in the future.

Further information on bathing water quality can be obtained on the Environment Agency's web site at www.environment-agency.gov.uk.

Bathing water compliance in England and Wales, 1988 to 2003



Source: Environment Agency

Bathing Water	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Seaton Carew North										
Seaton Carew Centre										
Seaton Carew North Gare										
Redcar Coatham										
Redcar Lifeboat Station										
Redcar Granville										
Redcar Stray										
Sea at Marske Sands										
Saltburn										
Staithe										
Runswick Bay										
Sandsend										
Whitby										
Robin Hoods Bay										
Scarborough North Bay										
Scarborough South Bay										
Cayton Bay										
Filey										
Reighton										

Key: I = Imperative Pass, G = Guideline Pass, F = Imperative Failure, cl = closed

English Nature

Have your say on our coasts and seas- A 21st century agenda for their recovery, conservation and sustainable use.

Over the last 18 months English Nature has embarked on a process of dialogue with a wide

range of stakeholders to develop a strategy to improve the quality of England's coasts and seas. English nature's consultation document Our Coasts and Seas: a 21st century agenda for their recovery, conservation and sustainable use presents the result of the process so far, and sets out the ways we hope to improve the quality of our coastal and marine environment.

A case for action

As part of an island nation, England is fortunate to have such a rich maritime heritage. We all depend on the health of our coasts and seas for a better quality of life. However, despite a number of initiatives aimed at improving coastal and marine management, the quality of our coasts and seas continue to decline. English Nature's Maritime State of Nature Report getting onto an even keel (available at www.english-nature.org.uk/pubs/publication/PDF/SONmar.pdf) highlights fisheries, water quality and coastal development and management as priority issues for our coasts and seas.

We are now seeking the views of a wide range of stakeholders on our suggestions for improving the quality of our seas and coasts. The consultation document can be found on English Nature's website at www.english-nature.org.uk/science/coasts_and_seas, and there is a web feedback form at the same location.

Alternatively, if you would like a paper copy, please email maritimestrategy@english-nature.org.uk.

The strategy that is formed as a result is expected to drive many aspects of the management of our coasts and seas over the next fifty years, so make sure you have your say!

SEASEARCH & Shoresearch

The national SEASEARCH programme is being promoted to local dive clubs again this year. The programme, co-ordinated by the Marine Conservation Society aims to encourage club members to become qualified to undertake basic marine life identification as well as general make up of the sea bed. The results will be stored at the North East Yorkshire Ecological Data Centre. Given that conditions are not always ideal for

diving off the local coast the results of last years efforts have been limited. For further information contact Simon Pickles at the Data Centre on 01904 557235 or John Beech at the Coastal Projects Unit.



Divers undertaking SEASEARCH work

Next year, English Nature & its' coastal partners will be promoting a local shoresearch project on the Yorkshire coast. This will encourage local coastal communities to participate in the scheme aimed at identifying key species which may indicate changes in the make up of our shores through global warming and climate change. Dr. Stewart Evans from Newcastle University undertook a similar project 4 years ago in Northumberland and achieved great success and found some interesting results.



Back on board Whitby SAC dive boat

Nortrail Update

EU funds are benefitting the coastal section of the Cleveland Way National Trail via an Interreg IIIb project called Nortrail. The scheme is the development of the North Sea Trail, a route around the North Sea rim promoting the local natural & cultural heritage. Malcolm Hodgson, Cleveland & Yorkshire Wolds Way Officer explained " The Nortrail Programme is allowing us to develop many exciting projects, such as a website of circular walks linked to coastal heritage; access improvements along the Cleveland Way and to sites of interest; new guides about the heritage along the Cleveland Way, Wildflowers of the coast and Robin Hood's Bay and also support for cultural theatre projects and English Heritage events in 2005.

Photo shows access improvements to Cleveland Way at Robin Hood's Bay - funded through Nortrail and Countryside Agency



Coastal Cycle Routes

The Coastal Projects Unit have recently been successful in leveraging in money from the National Parks' Sustainable Tourism Fund to promote short family cycle routes along the Heritage Coast.



A choice of four routes to follow

The routes will be colour coded and waymarked along the way. The scheme aims to produce waterproof leaflets that show the routes which also promote places for refreshments and places to stay.



Waymarker posts on cycle routes

John Beech commented; 'The routes cover some of the most spectacular and remote parts of our Heritage Coast. They are designed for all ages but you must be able to use an off road bicycle and average about 5-6 miles in total'

Review of the Shoreline Management Plan

The existing shoreline management plans, which extend across our coastline, are to be reviewed. The review will provide an opportunity for the coastal forum and its members to influence how the natural and man made coastal defences are managed over the next 100 years.

In partnership with 6 other local authorities, DEFRA and other agencies, Scarborough Borough Council as lead authority, will be responsible along with the consultants, Posford Haskoning to consult and liaise with all interested stakeholders.

Stakeholder meetings will be held at Filey, Scarborough, Whitby and Redcar. For those who unable to attend the meetings, they will be given the opportunity to respond to public information leaflets or access the information on the SMP website www.northeastsm2.org.uk.

Since the adoption of the current shoreline management plans in 1998 the coast protection authorities have commissioned an extensive coastal monitoring programme consisting of:

- * Aerial photographic surveys 1999 and 2003
- * Tide and Wave Rider buoy to measure wave height and direction
- * Beach surveys to measure sand levels and to monitor changes in beach levels
- * Cliff condition and recession survey
- * Monitoring changes in ground water levels and cliff stability.
- * Bathymetric Surveys and Sediment Transport Studies

The results of the monitoring programme will be fed into the new shoreline management plan to be able to predict the long-term evolution of the North Yorkshire and Cleveland coastline in order to develop sustainable coastal defence policies.

For more information contact Chris Matthews at SBC on 01723 232461

Major Sea Defence works in Scarborough



EU FUNDS STUDY INTO CLIMATE CHANGE

Scarborough Borough Councils Capital Strategy and Procurement Unit has been a driving force behind a successful 1.8 million euro bid to fund a study into managing climate change in coastal areas. 'Response' (Responding to the impacts of climate change) was submitted to the EU last September, under the auspices of the LIFE (L'Instrument Financier de l'Environnement) Environmental Programme. One of the largest projects ever approved under the LIFE programme. The project will fulfil the need to identify and implement measures aimed at adapting to the effects of climate change, mainly through the development of sustainable strategies by local authorities and other coastal stakeholders. The aim is to manage natural hazards in the coastal zone, an issue of particular concern to the North Yorkshire coastline with its erosion, flooding and ground instability problems, all of which will worsen as a result of the impact of climate change. The Response project comprises a multi-national partnership of nine local authorities and national institutions in the UK, France, Italy and Poland. Scarborough Borough Councils Stewart Rowe said "We are delighted that the European Commission has approved the funding for this important project. As a small local authority with limited resources and a long, complex coastline we will be particularly susceptible to the impacts of climate change, including sea level rise causing increased coastal erosion, instability and flooding. "We are also concerned about the predicted increase in summer temperatures which are likely to result in clay shrinkage, and also a predicted increase in winter rainfall.

Through this project we will have the resources to undertake applied research which would not otherwise be possible. The project will allow us to fulfil our objectives of finding ways to protect life, property and the environment in the Borough looking ahead for the next 80 years".

Looking ahead, we expect to produce both technical and non-technical guidance arising from this project.

For further information, please contact Stewart Rowe on 01723 232444



Speeton Cliffs

Forum staff

Stewart Rowe

Stewart is Assistant Coastal Engineer at Scarborough Borough Council focussing on coastal and flood defence within the borough. He is based at the Town Hall and can be contacted on 01723 232444 or Stewart.Rowe@scarborough.gov.uk

John Beech

John is Coastal Projects Officer at the Coastal Projects Unit in Whitby. He works on conservation, recreation and community projects mainly on the Heritage Coast but also across the Forum area. He can be contacted on 01947 603060 or john@heritage-coast.fsnet.co.uk