

**Welcome ...** to the third edition of the newsletter of the North Yorkshire and Cleveland Coastal Forum.

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

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

Issue 3 - September 2005

### Interreg Funding Bid

Forum staff recently bid for European money to provide funding for the delivery of on the ground projects. Unfortunately the bid was unsuccessful. The bid failed because one of our potential partners withdrew, leaving the bid incomplete. Forum staff will continue to seek sources of external core funding.

4th Annual North Yorkshire and Cleveland Coastal Forum on the 22nd of September at The Spa, Scarborough.

Stewart Rowe  
North Yorkshire and Cleveland Coastal Forum  
Town Hall  
St Nicholas Street  
Scarborough Borough Council  
Scarborough  
YO11 2HG  
01723 232459

### Scarborough Coastal Defence Strategy Review

The existing Scarborough Coastal Defence Strategy is under review. The review is examining the coastal defence options within the North Bay, Foreshore and South Bay of Scarborough.

The draft document will be available for consultation in October 2005.



Storm damage to Scarborough South Bay sea wall

# Tees Estuary to Flamborough Head Bathymetry and Sediment Budget Scoping Report

Scarborough Borough Council has commissioned a £30k scoping report into the sediment transport budget and bathymetry along our coast.

The report examines the available data, identifies where there is lack of understanding, and identifies what additional information is required.

The main thrust of the investigation will be to: investigate the composition of the coastal (hill) cliffs; investigate the offshore sediments; determine the characteristics of beach sediments; undertake bathymetric surveys along the coastline; investigate what the yield of



Filey Bay

sediments from erosion of the coastal cliffs and what is the pattern of redistribution (the loss and gain) of beach sediments.

The scoping report will address these issues and make recommendations to advance our knowledge of our beaches.

For more information, contact Stewart Rowe on (01723) 232444 or email [stewart.rowe@scarborough.gov.uk](mailto:stewart.rowe@scarborough.gov.uk)

## **New conservation scheme for farmers & landowners**

**A new national land conservation scheme is currently being promoted to farmers and landowners across the Coastal Forum area.**

**Environmental Stewardship, administered by DEFRA, provides payments to landowners to undertake conservation work across their landholdings. The new scheme, launched in March this year, will bring major benefits to the coastal landscape and its' wildlife. Examples of options include traditional field boundary protection and maintenance, woodland management, caring for archaeological features, buffer strips and field margins, reducing soil run off and various options for grassland management.**

**The scheme is split into 2 levels. Entry Level, which provides for a basic level of conservation management and Higher Level, which includes payments for capital items such as pond creation, bracken control and field gates. Landowners must have control over the management of the land for either 5 or 10 years (depending on the level).**

**The scheme is scored on a points system depending on the amount of conservation land management that will take place and this is converted to the amounts that farmers will be paid. For entry level this is £30 per hectare (as long as 30 points are scored per hectare). Details of how to achieve points are in the relevant handbooks, but, for example, by managing both sides of a hedgerow you get 22 points per 100 metres.**

**Locally, the Higher Level scheme has been targeted at the coast and specific habitats have been identified. Coastal gills & wykes, field boundary networks, riparian habitats, great crested newt sites, improving water quality are all included as is promoting the coastal countryside through increased understanding and interpretation.**

**The scheme is designed to be simple to operate with much of it being done 'on line' through the Internet.**

**If you require further information about the scheme contact either the DEFRA regional offices or John Beech, Coastal Projects Officer at the Danby Moors Centre 01439 770657.**



Buffer Strips adjacent to arable land on the Heritage Coast

# Royal Albert Park to be developed in Scarborough's North Bay

Plans are being drawn up to improve the open spaces on the coastal slopes of Scarborough's North Bay. The area concerned stretches from the Castle Headland round to Peasholm Gap and one of the first ideas for improvement is to re-name these open spaces Royal Albert Park, after Royal Albert Drive and the area's associations with Prince Albert.

The project is being developed as a partnership between Scarborough Borough Council and the Friends of Royal Albert Park.

The plans will propose a wide variety of improvements, from picnic benches to new cafés and skateboard parks to nature trails. It will be a large and long-term undertaking but there is a lot of local enthusiasm and it is hoped that work can start on site this winter.

This area has a tremendous natural beauty and this is to be conserved and enhanced in the improvements.

The site contains geological features of international importance and also part of the North Bay to South Tollhouse Cliff SSSI.



Much of the site's geology was discovered and interpreted by William Smith and there are opportunities to link the project to the Rotunda redevelopment.

One of the ideas for creative geological interpretation is to develop a "History of the Holmes" golf course.



Rocks saved from the foreshore as part of the sea defence works will be landscaped into the course and players will travel through geological time as they move around the holes.



The plans will be presented at a public fun day event on Sunday 25th September, 1-5pm at the Castle Holmes old putting green.

For more information or copies of the plans please contact Tom Mutton on (01723) 374079 or [tom.mutton@scarborough.gov.uk](mailto:tom.mutton@scarborough.gov.uk)

TOP: ORCHIDS ON THE PLATEAU  
ABOVE: WETLAND IN CENTRE OF HOLMES  
LEFT: CASTLE ARCH

# **Flamborough Head European Marine Site Management Scheme**

## **Partnership Working to Protect One of England's Best Wildlife Sites**

Human activities have taken their toll on the spectacular wildlife of England's coasts and seas. Recent reports by English Nature and Defra have highlighted their plight; our marine and coastal environments and the species that they support are now in a damaged and degraded state and continue to decline.

This has occurred in most cases not through malicious intent but simply through a lack of understanding and coordination between the plethora of organisations, government bodies, groups and individuals who make decisions that effect the maritime environment. It has taken us a long time to realise that the actions of one often directly affect the interests of another. In the scramble to protect our own interests we have collectively forgotten to protect our most valuable asset - the environment that sustains our own lives.

So the question is how do we learn to live in the coastal environment in a way that maintains our economy, society and culture in a buoyant state but protects our beautiful landscape and wildlife? This is no mean feat and could turn out to be one of societies greatest challenges. If the problem is living and working with our blinkers on then the cure must be is communication and cooperation. Decision makers must learn to talk to other decision makers, industries and stakeholders.

In doing so the decisions made are more likely to be acceptable to a wider audience rather than simply further the interests of individual sectors. Luckily for us these changes are underway in a number of different guises - 'Sustainable Development', 'Win-Win Situations', 'Integrated Coastal Zone Management', 'Adaptive Management' and 'Participatory Management' to name but a few. In essence they all mean the same thing, modifying the way we live so that no single interest can win at the expense of another.

In Yorkshire the increased and improved communication between local government, government agencies, industry, other organisations and the public that is required to produce 'sustainable coastal management' is progressing through the establishment of the 'East Yorkshire Integrated Coastal Zone Management Plan' and the 'North Yorkshire and Cleveland Coastal Strategy'. However, in areas that are extra special for their wildlife interest it has become apparent that we need an even closer level of communication and information sharing. Flamborough Head is one such site.

As many readers will know Flamborough Head is one of England's most important and spectacular wildlife sites. The 15 kilometres of soaring chalk cliffs and complex network of bays annually support in excess of 200,000 pairs of breeding seabirds and is the only mainland site in the country where you can see breeding ganets. In addition the cliff tops support extensive areas of coastal vegetation which are peppered with rare plant species.

The seas around Flamborough Head also abound with wildlife. The site holds almost 10% of Europe's chalk reef habitats. This includes the tidal rocky shore and extensive areas of kelp forests in the shallow waters. The habitats are extremely diverse; on the rocky shores of Flamborough alone over 100 species of seaweed and nearly 300 species of invertebrate have been recorded. The site has over 200 sea caves which themselves support unique and vulnerable communities of plants and animals. Out in the deeper waters, the seabed is covered in a 'living turf' of fragile sea-firs, sponges and sea-squirts, many of which are rare and nationally important. In recognition of its international importance Flamborough Head is designated as a European Marine Site and a Special Protection Area. It is essential that we protect sites such as Flamborough Head for current and future



**Flamborough Head**

generations to enjoy. However, areas that are exceptionally important to people because of their wildlife and landscape value are particularly vulnerable to the influences of human activities. In addition to this, the activities and issues that cause them to degrade can be extremely complex and occur at a variety of scales and intensities.

Therefore in order to manage these sites properly we must have an open dialogue between everyone that has a stake in the site; from fishermen to local dog walkers, urban planners to fossil collectors, everyone has a right to participate. Decisions that are made must be taken, in so far as is possible, with consideration of the interests of all stakeholders. Only then can we ensure that nature conservation interests of these sites are protected whilst enabling human activities to continue.

In order to achieve this a Management Scheme has been prepared for Flamborough Head. This Scheme is administered by a Management Group on which sits representative of all authorities who have a legal obligation to protect the sites nature conservation interest this group is also informed by an advisory group called the Flamborough Head Maritime Forum. The Management Scheme has involved the production of an action plan for Flamborough Head. The plan has identified all activities that occur within and around that site that were likely to be having an adverse impact upon the wildlife. Partner organisations have then adopted separate actions and reported on these on an annual basis. The Management Group has conducted a number of studies that have improved our understanding of Flamborough Head; these range from studies on fossil collecting and sea-fisheries to dredging, water quality and ecology.

The Scheme is now in its sixth year and a good deal of progress has been made. It has demonstrated that it is an effective tool for the protection of biodiversity and the delivery of sustainable development on Flamborough Head and has become an example of best practice in the management and protection of natural resources in England. The process is reliant on the participation of all Relevant and participating authorities and has shown us that groups of organisations can analyse complex situations and implement integrated solutions that protect wildlife and the natural environment whilst allowing human activities to continue within the site.

Despite this progress there is however a huge amount of additional work to be done. The Management Scheme has now completed its first six-year cycle and as part of their ongoing commitment the Management Group will be employing a Project Officer for one year beginning in September 2005. The Project Officer will review the management scheme and take forward its implementation. As part of this process we will seek to engage the views of members of the public and other stakeholders by working closely with the Flamborough Head Maritime Forum and other stakeholder groups. We are also be looking to build stronger strategic links between the Flamborough Head Management Scheme and the overarching East Riding ICZM and the North Yorkshire and Cleveland Coastal Strategy to ensure greater integration of coastal management in the area. All of this work is going to take time and considerable effort however It would seem that Flamborough Head and its unique wildlife, landscape and culture has a lot to look forward too and for this we can be proud.

Robbie Fisher  
English Nature, June 2005

# Research and Monitoring on the Coast - Coastal Processes

If we are to ensure that our environmental legacy is better than our environmental inheritance then we need to know what is going on. Research and monitoring of coastal processes enables us to improve our overall understanding of this complex and changing environment, and to assist with management decisions which are based on the best available knowledge at any given time.

Scarborough and Redcar Borough Councils carry out monitoring of coastal processes on the North Yorkshire and Cleveland Coast. There are other sources of data such as that gathered by wind farm operators, aggregate extraction companies and ports.

However, this information only tells us what is happening at a point in time under a certain set of conditions. Whilst we can measure what is happening now we need to understand what will happen in the future so that we can try and accommodate these changes.

This is where the research element comes in; by looking in more detail at the available information we can develop our understanding of the processes and develop predictions for the future evolution of the coast.

Research can occur at a number of spatial levels, it can be very local such as that being looked at as part of the PhD, or it can be national and trans-national such as that looking at climate change. On the North Yorkshire and Cleveland Coast we are participating in regional research that is looking at three main areas:

Sediment Transport - to identify and define the movement of sediment within the area from Saltburn to Flamborough Head. This information can be used when designing

schemes and also to inform decisions in relation to proposals such as aggregate extraction.

## The impact of climate change on our coast

Wave and water level joint probability - when designing schemes and looking at risk we need to understand the chances of extreme storm events occurring. The worst storms are associated with high tides occurring at the same time as surges and large waves, this study will aim to provide a better definition of the probability of these extreme events occurring.

## Why is the coast not static?

Some of the changes come about as a result of geological processes, these tend to be slow but operate over a long time period. Some processes are cyclical in nature such as weather patterns that repeat over a period of years or decades. Then there are human influences such as aggregate extraction, dredging, land reclamation and climate change.

## Wave rider buoy

SBC has a wave rider buoy deployed approximately 2km offshore. The buoy is recording live information on wave heights direction and frequencies. The information will be used to calibrate wave-modelling techniques and assess storm events along our coast.



A second buoy may be deployed at Whitby prior to the commencement of coastal defence works to better inform coastal engineers of the current wave climate.

The wave rider buoy data can be seen live at [www.geodata.co.uk](http://www.geodata.co.uk)

Receptors are the hinterland areas and the different defence types, topography, land use and development status applying in particular areas. (Shoreline and Defence Inspections, Monitoring of behaviour and performance of sand dunes)

Consequences are the effects that flooding and erosion has on the receptors.

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## Monitoring

Scarborough and Redcar Borough Councils have been carrying out monitoring on the coast for a number of years.

This data has been used for specific research in the past but with the increasing power of computers it has been

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## Shoreline Management Plan 2

Many of our readers will have been involved in the Shoreline Management Plan 2 (SMP2) via public consultation.

The SMP2 is progressing according to plan and a draft document will be available for comment early next year.

The SMP2 will be seeking to set coastal defence policy over the next 100 years. Climate change, rising sea levels, increased erosion is all set to influence our coast.

The SMP process seeks to prepare our defended coastline for the future.



To date:-

- 1000 letters and questionnaires sent to stakeholders
- 200 Responses received
- 4000 users have visited the SMP2 website
- 500 issues raised during consultation
- 500 stakeholders attended the first 2 rounds of consultation.

The first round of Stakeholder Engagement meetings took place during December 2004 and January 2005.

A second round of meetings in April 2005 followed, during which the issues and features identified in previous consultation were reviewed to ensure they have been correctly included and interpreted, and to ensure that sensible objectives have been developed which will guide the production of Shoreline Management Plan policies.

## Fylingdales Moorland Restoration

Many of you will remember the devastating moorland blaze near Ravenscar two years ago. Since then a huge amount of work has been undertaken to try to restore the site by various staff and volunteers from different organisations.

Natural regeneration has proved to be very difficult due to the intensity of the burn damaging the rootstocks of the heather plants. As a result of this English Nature and the National Park Authority have funded a reseed of the area and employed a local contractor to spread the seed by quad bike.



Volunteers from Whitby planting Juniper on Fylingdales Moor

Signs are that the natural vegetation is recovering slowly and the new seed is taking very well. The site is gradually returning to its former status.

More recently volunteers from the Coastal Projects Unit have been actively involved in planting 100 Juniper trees on the site. These are rare commodities in the National Park and the moorland site was acknowledged as a good area to establish a population of Juniper. Special needs volunteers from Whitby assisted the Unit by planting the trees and adding tree shelters to promote growth.

## Beach Survey Analysis

The monitoring of beach levels at Whitby -Sandsend; Scarborough North and South; Cayton Bay and Filey Bay have been underway since September 2001. The beach profile data is currently being analysed to provide information on erosion and accretion of our beaches.