



## **Heritage Coasts – a role for the future**

A webinar for members of the Coastal and Marine Working Group

**Thursday 9 February 2017 10.00 a.m.**

### Notes from the webinar

#### Participants:

Tim Venes (Chairman)  
Richard Blackman (EAI Facilitator)  
John Butterfield, Natural England (presenter)  
Nick Johannsen (Kent Downs AONB)  
Sophie Badrick (Colourful Coast Project Officer – St Bees Head)  
Carole Rothwell (Natural Resources Wales)  
Sarah Manning (Natural England)  
John Howden (former Heritage Coast Officer)  
Mel Nicholls (Marine Management Organisation)  
Simon Amstutz (Suffolk Coast & Heaths & Dedham Vale AONBs)  
Clair McFarlan (Solway Firth Partnership)

#### **Heritage Coasts – the current situation**

Heritage Coasts in England – presentation from John Butterfield

#### Questions / follow-ups:

Sophie Badrick (further information on St Bees Head HC extension):  
Have used development of site allocations in Local Plan as opportunity in discussions and site visits with local partnership incl Copeland BC, other partners and NE – now included in CBC's site allocations document. No HC management plan at present but this is one of the aspirations.

Carol Rothwell (HCs in Wales):  
Similar situation to England – not forgotten, but not much activity in recent years.  
New legislation under Welsh devolution provides a framework – Planning Act, Sustainable Development Act and Environment Act.  
Currently consulting on a marine plan for Wales, which includes HCs.

Following integrated management approach, producing area statements, including one for marine environment.

Local planning authorities still using HCs and still supportive – fact that they have endured suggests they still have value.

All Wales Coast Path now in place, has high profile and has reinvigorated HCs.

14 HCs in Wales, only three outside AONBs / National parks (Glamorgan, Ceredigion, Gt Ormes Head) although latter has multiple nature conservation designations.

In answer to questions, neither JB or CR are aware of any HC Committees still operating and both confirmed that no funding or additional staff resources were likely to be available for HCs in the foreseeable future, including greater involvement in planning applications.

*(Post-webinar correspondence from Sarah Manning:*

**Durham Heritage Coast** *has a HC partnership (and HC specific management plan)* [http://www.durhamheritagecoast.org/about\\_us/the-partnership/](http://www.durhamheritagecoast.org/about_us/the-partnership/)

**Sussex Heritage Coast** *has a 'HC group' and HC strategy/Action Plan*

<https://www.southdowns.gov.uk/care-for/conserving-our-landscape/sussex-heritage-coast/>

**N Yorkshire and Cleveland Heritage Coast** *has its own management plan*

*but is managed by NYMNP on behalf of the [North Yorkshire and Cleveland Coastal Forum](http://www.northyorkmoors.org.uk/discover/coast), – see details at <http://www.northyorkmoors.org.uk/discover/coast> )*

JB said that open marine boundaries sets HCs apart from AONBs and national parks (apart from Exmoor) and provides unique opportunities for engagement with marine environment. NE can't insist on HC management plans but would welcome them, or greater recognition within AONB and national park management plans.

Mel Nicholls said that the MMO had been requested by DCLG to replace a proposed landscape policy in the Draft South Marine Plan (based on the undeveloped coast provisions of the NPPF) with a signpost to similar work being undertaken in Local Plans. Could we influence DCLG and do more to raise the profile of seascapes and HCs in marine and terrestrial plans?

Sarah Manning asked if the results of recent NRW research on the economic effects of the Welsh Coast Path was segmented in any way so that it might be possible to see any specific effects on stretches of Heritage Coast, or if there was any useful anecdotal evidence. This might act as a prompt to English HCs to utilise the interest around the new England Coast Path to raise their profile and promote their value. CR thought it unlikely the research would have cut any data in this way but would look into it.

(Wales Coast path economic value report – see

<http://www.walescoastpath.gov.uk/media/1545/wcp-visitor-survey-2014-2015-final-report-for-publication.pdf> )

## Questionnaire responses

Presentation by Tim Venes summarising responses to questionnaire circulated to members of the Coastal & Marine Working Group prior to the webinar of compilation of responses to a simple questionnaire circulated prior to the webinar (see presentation slides)

Questions / follow-ups:

How can we raise profile / make more of HCs? Ideas included:

Highlight HCs via Coast Paths – on maps etc

Most AONBs will be commencing review of management plans in near future – opportunity to raise profile of HCs within these for coastal AONBs (JB – NE would support).

Heritage Lottery Fund is undertaking a strategic review of its programmes in near future; may be an opportunity to get HCs recognised for funding via a specific programme. Natural heritage appears not to be prioritised at present but some indication of interest in the marine environment, so linking land and sea may be a productive line to follow.

May be possibilities within current HLF programmes - Durham HC are leading on a Seas and Shores bid for Landscape Partnership Scheme funding.

Another possibility of funding via EU programmes – Kent Downs have put in an EoI to EU Horizon 2020 which is about making most of European Cultural Coastal areas for benefit of social and economic wellbeing.

### **Heritage Coasts – the future**

Wrap-up and way forward (Chairman):

TV noted that we need to work within the constraints imposed by resource limitations at NE and NRW – no likelihood of funding or additional staff resources being devoted to HCs, including for review of the definition. So will need to focus on what we can do collectively within our existing resources.

TV undertook to collate a draft paper on potential actions to raise profile of HCs, make more of the definition and explore funding possibilities and circulate to whole CMWG for further comment / input.