

Note of the Coastal and Marine Working
Group Meeting
held on Monday 18 January 2016 in
Birmingham



EUROPARC
Atlantic Isles

1. Introductions

Attendees:

Maxime Sizaret (Causeway Coast & Glens AONB)
Edward Holdaway (Alliance for National Parks Cymru)
Ray Drabble (South Downs NP)
Sarah Manning (Natural England)
John Briggs (Natural Resources Wales)
Mel Nicholls (Marine Management Organisation)
Tom Munro (Dorset AONB)
Tim Venes (Chair, Norfolk Coast AONB)
Richard Blackman (EAI)

Apologies:

Clair McFarlan (Solway Firth)
Jason Lavender (High Weald)
Lucy Barron (Arnside & Silverdale)
Sarah Kelly (New Forest)
Anna Johnson (Dumfries & Galloway)
Simon Amstutz (Suffolk Coast & Heaths)
Niall Benson (Durham HC)
Peter Ogden (CPRW)
Christine Tudor (NE)
Nick Johannsen (Kent Downs)
Chris Woodruff (East Devon)
Michel Regelous (Pembroke Coast)
Pete Rawcliffe (SNH)
Efan Milner (Anglesey)
John Beech (North York Moors)

TV introduced the meeting and said that he hoped this gathering would lead to the group working together again on a more regular basis.

2. Review of progress on recognition and application of seascapes since the 2011 seascapes manifesto

TV reported that he had circulated a questionnaire on seascapes, based on points in the manifesto, and received some 15 responses. *(See attached document for further information).*

- Q1 (recognition of seascapes in management plans) didn't apply to all, but many protected landscapes now have some recognition. The profile has been raised. Some haven't necessarily used the definition in the manifesto (Q2), but most are close to it.
- Q3 (adjacent marine areas) showed that the scope of management plans tends to be a bit limited.
- Q4 some cooperation with marine habitat designation, and through coastal forums, although marine beyond MLW is not protected landscape. TM – there is though a direct link. SM - Link to heritage coasts too. This should be recognised.
- Q5 It is felt that there is better recognition of seascapes than in 2011, but not extended to comprehensive view.
- Q6 Seascapes are recognised within marine plans (East & South). However, are Local Plans reflecting seascapes? SDNPA yes, but others not. Need for greater recognition of the marine at local level. In PCNPA and SNPA there is a formal link to the planning process.
- Q7 Definition used in marine plans? No, seascape not yet widely used enough. Defra & MMO won't change their view. Others saw SCA as visual only so difficult to get wider usage.
- Q8 (Identification and characterisation). There is not a sense of priority on this apart from seascapes connected to protected landscapes, and then not necessarily all. For MMO SCA is just a baseline, not yet moved to prioritisation of seascapes and value. MMO policy of raising profile of seascapes but doesn't go further than this. In Wales this is beginning to change. PCNPA has a strong link in their plan to the marine environment.

Two further questions to consider:

- Would specific guidance on undertaking SCA be useful?
- What are the current priorities?

Key discussion points

How can we get seascapes better recognised in terrestrial plans? In particular, how are Local Plans working with local authorities?

- JB – supplementary planning guidance, terrestrial planning authorities have been key drivers, marine planning elsewhere. There has not been much linkage.

- MN – it's still early days – only six years of marine planning (compared to 60 years of town and country planning). In Kent (Dover Straits), want to use seascape work to engage local authorities in integrating seascapes and marine planning.
- RD - SDNPA using sub regions with green infrastructure planning. Will bring in seascape work as part of this.
- There is perhaps a mismatch in definitions. Fuller definitions could be emphasised locally? This could be done in management plans with supplementary guidance etc.
- It was also noted by EH that Heritage Coasts have only ever had a definition and not been a designation and they've survived.

Marine Planning aspects

- EH - In PCNPA there has not been much coming through to test the SCA in its role as supplementary planning guidance and neither has there been in the East.
- Navitus Bay was a mistake and would have benefitted from earlier SCA. Applicants for the wind farm shouldn't have been allowed to bid there. This is related to the issue of "experience" and its impact on land – both character and visual impact, as character includes experience.
- No equivalent of protected landscapes for seascapes yet, even though seascapes are part of important nationally designated landscapes [see note below on situation in Wales].
- RD noted that there was some connection between Marine Conservation Zones and seascapes. It was asked whether the MMO are consulting all the right people.

TV agreed to talk with Phil Dyke regarding his Crown Estate contact and the possibility of funding for seascape characterisation

It was also noted that there is a need to look at taking seascapes beyond characterisation, to include sensitivity, policies etc.

3. Update on marine planning in the UK

The [presentation from MN of MMO](#) highlighted the following for marine planning in England:

- Application of marine plans;
- Marine plan areas. East – completed. South – about to go to public consultation. All areas to have marine plans by 2021, in line with Marine Spatial Planning Directive. Remaining plans are to be developed concurrently.
- Possibilities for coordination across boundaries? This is a question of staff. In NW not adjacent to Northern Ireland – just Scotland, Wales and I of M.
- Process for creation of plans.

- Marine Information System (MIS) online. On MMO website and You Tube! This seems to work well for users, likely to take over from marine planning portal
- East Plans monitoring – reporting next year as 3 years in place. Attribution and contribution at heart of monitoring but it is challenging to report.
- Duties to cooperate through Localism Act – legal duties on local authorities to engage, and similarly through Marine & Coastal Access Act. Coastal Concordat – mechanism to streamline decision making.
- Integration with terrestrial and other plans.
- Good practice examples – Selby, Swale Borough Council. MMO are also developing a protocol with Devon County Council
- Cross border integration. Welsh Govt and MMO working together. UK Marine Planning Liaison Group meets regularly.
- Seascape. Vehicle for integration of marine and terrestrial planning?
- International experience – 2015 International Marine Spatial Planning Symposium.
- Lessons learned from East & South Marine Plans.
- Challenges – Marine plans: what (more) can the MMO do through marine plans to recognise and support protected landscapes? How can EAI and protected landscapes promote awareness and understanding of marine plans and their implementation?
- Seascapes – how can they support integration?

MS – a single plan is being developed for Northern Ireland, consultation expected in March. Not aware of any marine planning happening in Republic of Ireland

- *MN*: Scotland: adopted national plan in place. Pilots in Shetland and Clyde for regional marine plans. Working on legal mechanisms for partnerships. The (earlier) plans for coastal and marine national parks are still on the shelf.
- *JB & EH* Wales: An SCA has been completed for the Wales marine plan and more detailed SCAs have been done for some of the NPs and AONBs. See [note attached](#) to the minutes. The Marsden Review on the Purposes and Governance of designated landscapes in Wales includes recommendation to extend protected landscape borders into the marine area. However, there is no mention of landscape in new Welsh Environment Act. The pre-consultation draft of the marine plan for Wales has on objective relating to coastal designated landscapes, though no policies have been drafted yet.

Protected landscapes and EAI: if relationship with sea can be considered important then thinking will develop. We need to ensure that Protected Landscape plans recognise and are integrated with marine plans (and vice versa), also develop contacts with terrestrial (local authority) planners to develop coordination. Local relationships will become more influential, including with terrestrial planners. Make sea / land link relevant to communities. SCA supports integration between marine and terrestrial planning

4. Update on relevant European and national initiatives and funding

RB reported on the development of the EUROPARC Federation strategy and the arrangements for the 2016 Siggen conference in November, which will be devoted this year to marine and coastal issues. He could arrange a teleconference with Federico Minozzi and some members of the group to develop further the ideas for the collation of good practice case studies. It would be useful to have suggestions and areas of interest to coordinate next steps, with a need to be relevant to several countries across Europe.

Marine Strategy Framework Directive: RD stated that the 11 principles were useful. TV thought that it was potentially quite a powerful tool.

An update on Integrated Coastal Zone Management in the EU was needed.

Of the new Marine Conservation Zones two are adjacent to N Ireland, and one is in the SDNPA (Beachy Head West). The question of resources and management plans remains outstanding.

MS provided an update on EU funding. LIFE funding for the Habitats and Birds directives includes marine, as well as a new strand around climate change. The Interreg Va and Vb (Northern Periphery) programme has opportunities published and is of relevance to Northern Ireland and Scotland. The Exec Agency for SMEs is potentially useful as is the Horizon 2020 programme. The Interreg Vb Atlantic Area programme provides opportunities for much of the UK and Ireland.

It was proposed that EAI could register as potential partner to disseminate requests to other organisations, especially for Interreg. Subjects or areas of work that members are interested in could be collected by EAI, making it easier to match partners.

5. Heritage Coasts

[RD presentation on Sussex Heritage Coast](#)

RD stated that the heritage coast had been set up in the 1970s to raise awareness of vulnerability of coasts. Only 7% of the coast in SE England is undeveloped (40% in SW). Sussex Heritage Coast runs from Eastbourne to Beachy Head and Seaford.

Its objectives align well with national park purposes. It is the only undeveloped coast within the national park. A short stretch of undeveloped coast outside the HC has been included within the same policy in their NP plan. Sussex was the first heritage coast and includes the undeveloped estuary of the River Cuckmere.

From 2013 onwards the SDNPA has been building a Heritage Coast Partnership through creating synergies between different actors.

- Natural Resource Management: landscape scale partnerships, protecting coastal and marine environment; management fragmented between SSSI & MCZ.
- Sustainable Cultural Tourism & Recreation;
- Access;
- Heritage e.g. defence from the Iron Age onwards;
- Interpretation;
- Local Community incl. health and well-being;
- Planning (SD Local Plan) – NPPF has reinforced Heritage Coasts, green infrastructure, developer contributions – community infrastructure levy applied to development – replacement of S106 (Southern Marine Plan)

Focus on two questions. A point about a recent lack of leadership was raised. Also whether there was again scope for national development. This could be built around existing regulations / commitments. Lobby for increased profile for Heritage Coasts and new national guidance.

TV noted that Heritage Coasts were an important interface between the marine and the coasts.

SM explained that the last examination of Heritage Coasts from a policy angle was a 2006 report, with resources deployed elsewhere since. Natural England has possible locations of new definitions of Heritage Coastlines or extensions although these are not included in NE's designation strategy, and NE would not be able to provide funding. This could be brought up the agenda. It would involve tweaking rather than large resource intensive projects. There is now an opportunity again. Also the focus of people working on the English coastal path is a significant opportunity. Heritage Coasts are definitely not redundant.

JB reported that in Wales heritage coasts have not been on the agenda for a long time. 42% of the coastline is covered; 14 stretches in all. In Glamorgan the management plan includes areas that aren't designated. It is connected to ICZM (2006 document), which has also gone quiet. Heritage Coasts do not appear in Marsden Review.

EH asked what else can Heritage Coasts do that NPs and AONBs can't? Although not a formal designation, it is specifically coastal. JB thought that although not a specific seascape designation, Heritage Coasts were ahead of their time.

TM said that in Dorset there is a direct link to the quality of the sea, provides a valuable addition when bidding for resources, and gives the AONB leverage on the access discussion.

RD noted that coastal conurbations need to value their natural capital (undeveloped environment) nearby e.g. Eastbourne.

EH thought they were potentially very powerful, even if not designations, but as policies.

TV agreed to draft and circulate a short text; a sort of 'manifesto for heritage Coasts' based on their value as a vehicle for ICZM, our finest seascapes, integrating terrestrial and marine planning etc. TV also agreed to talk further with SM (and probably JB) about what can be done within their organisations.

6. Role of EAI

RB explained EAI's current financial situation, work programme development and noted that the organisation was at something of a crossroads. He asked what members valued / needed from EAI, and whether we can actually provide a unique service.

- MN: find links to marine management elsewhere in Europe. This could be done with the Eurosite group.
- EH – need to put things into network as well as get things from the network. Where do we sit with other umbrella organisations in the UK?
- TM – brokerage with organisations elsewhere in Europe would be useful.
- JB – knowledge of projects elsewhere. Use network actively to share this. Could also use LinkedIn group. Shared sense of direction of e.g. manifesto. Investigate setting up a coastal group on the National Association for AONBs 'basecamp' network, to include coastal AONBs and national parks, and Heritage Coasts. TV to raise this with Jill Smith at NAAONB.

RB / TV
February 2016