

Morecambe Bay Partnership Progress and update January 2012



Headlines - July to December 2011

- In August 2011 Heritage Lottery Fund announced that our application to the Landscape Partnership Scheme has been successful with the full £2million that we requested being set aside. The development phase for the Headlands to Headspace (H2H) project will run for 18 months from Jan 2012 with a 5 year delivery phase starting late in 2013.
- Susannah Bleakley has been appointed to progress the H2H development phase on secondment for 18 months, 4 days a week, starting on 1 Jan 2012. The remaining 1 day a week, Susannah will oversee the work of the Morecambe Bay Partnership. Backfill will be arranged for the Morecambe Bay Partnership.
- In November 2011 DEFRA announced that our application for a capacity building grant of £22,000 to explore the development of a Morecambe Bay Local Nature Partnership (LNP) was successful. This will help us work with partners to define the structures, vision and priorities for a Morecambe Bay Local Nature Partnership. James Rebanks Consultants have been appointed to support this work starting in January 2012.
- A successful AGM and Conference was held on 8 October in Ulverston, attended by over 140 delegates.
- 25 beach cleans have taken place in the second half of 2011 involving over 300 volunteers who have removed more than 2 tonnes of litter from the shores of Morecambe Bay.

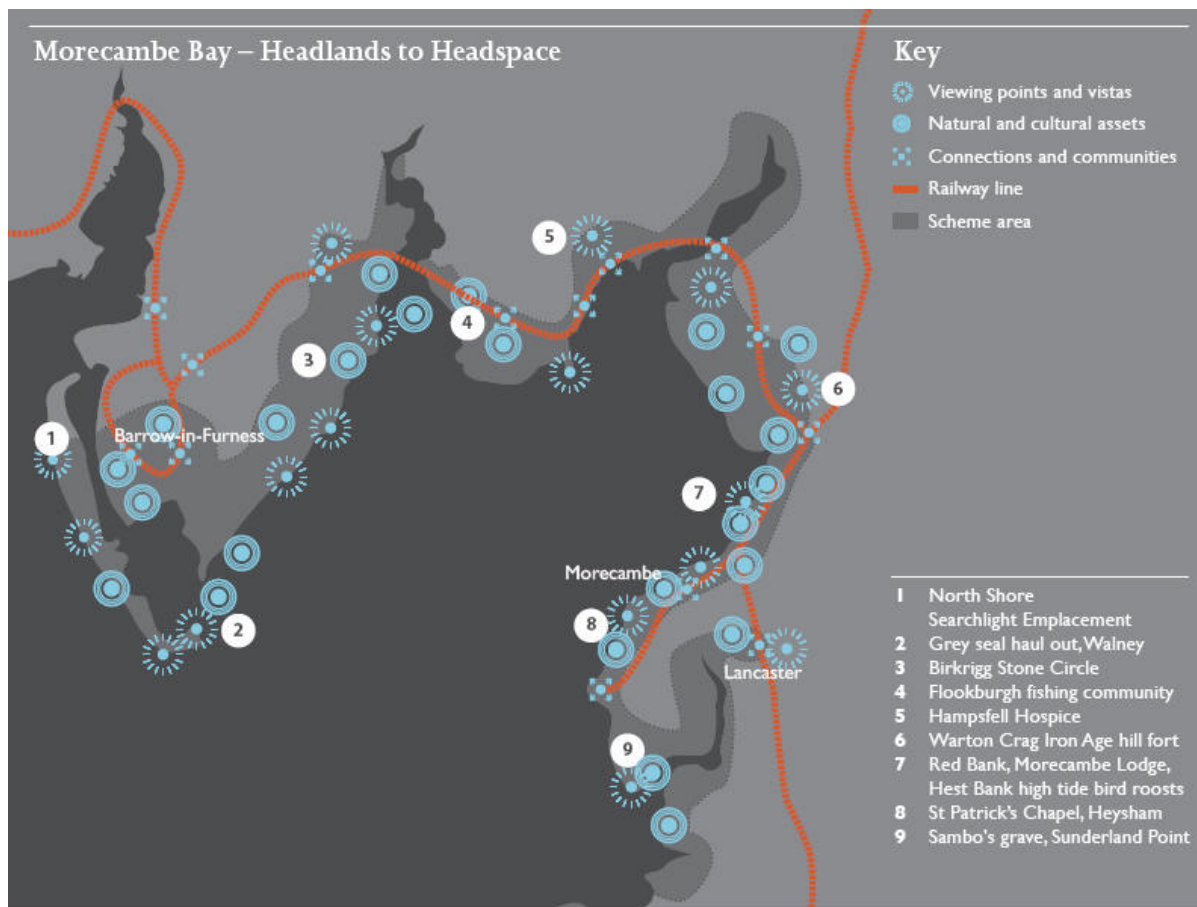
Heritage Lottery Bid - Landscape Partnership Scheme

Headlands to Headspace (H2H)

Morecambe Bay Partnership has been awarded a 2 million pounds first round pass from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) through its Landscape Partnership programme for the [Headlands to Headspace](#) project. This includes a development fund grant of £100,000.

A first round pass means that the money has been set aside by the Heritage Lottery Fund for our scheme. The development phase will run for 18 months from Jan 2012 at the end of which we shall submit a further, second stage application to secure the full award. It is anticipated that the 5 year delivery phase will start late in 2013.

The Headlands to Headspace (H2H) project aims to make the Bay better appreciated and inspire and engage local people in looking after its special and distinctive features.



Projects are proposed to

- celebrate the Bay's unique cultural heritage and stunning landscapes
- support local people to restore and reconnect wildlife habitats, protect the tidal islands and study birds and seals
- develop the railway stations as hubs to access key sites
- support education projects and oral history looking at the traditions of fishing in the Bay
- support new opportunities for visitors from near and far to explore, enjoy and learn about this fascinating landscape and
- community training in archaeology, surveying, safeguarding monuments and habitats.

Natural Environment White Paper

In the [Government White Paper on the Natural Environment](#) (2011) provision is made for a number of new initiatives including [Local Nature Partnerships](#) (LNPs) and [Nature Improvement Areas](#) (NIAs).

Morecambe Bay is an area of high priority for nature conservation with interlinked habitats, and significant biodiversity value and threat. It is also a coherent, large area that makes sense from the perspective of the natural environment - what DEFRA refers to as a bio-geographic unit and exactly what they describe in their Local Nature Partnership guidance.

The background to the White Paper includes the [Lawton report](#) 'Making Space for Nature' which calls for joining up nature conservation work at a landscape scale, or in the report's own 4 word summary: *more, bigger, better and joined*.

A Morecambe Bay Local Nature Partnership?

Local Nature Partnerships (LNPs) are about joining up structures and prioritising action to improve the natural environment and benefit the green economy. DEFRA has said, "We anticipate around 50 Partnerships across England. We want to encourage them to form around the places, areas and natural systems that work best locally."

A Morecambe Bay Local Nature Partnership could join together a number of initiatives, adding value and ensuring better co-ordination of actions, funding and plans.

In November we heard that our application for a Local Nature Partnership capacity building grant was one of 47 that were successful. We were awarded £22,000 from DEFRA to explore the development of a Morecambe Bay Local Nature Partnership. This will help us to work with our partners to define the structures, vision and priorities for a Morecambe Bay Local Nature Partnership.

James Rebanks consultants have been appointed to support this work, starting in January 2012. Initially there will be a programme of scoping and research to identify the priorities and how a Local Nature Partnership could add value and deliver at the strategic level.

Any individual or organisation who wishes to have a say in the development of this partnership model should contact [James Rebanks](#) to arrange a time to speak. James will endeavour to ensure that the partnership approach that emerges takes account of different perspectives. Further, we are discussing with our partners in Cumbria and Lancashire, to make sure that we are working together.

Morecambe Bay Local Nature Partnership Stakeholder Consultation - 22 March 2012, Morecambe

A stakeholder consultation event for the proposed Morecambe Bay Local Nature Partnership is planned for 22 March 2012 at the Midland Hotel, Morecambe.

Invitations will be sent out in February. Anyone interested in learning more is welcome to check our website later this month or contact Susannah.

A Morecambe Bay Nature Improvement Area?

In addition, the Morecambe Bay Limestones and Wetlands Nature Improvement Area application was successfully passed to the third stage. This means it is one of fifteen in the running to secure a further £670K for delivery of nature conservation around the Bay starting in April 2012. Twelve applications will be successful and a decision is expected in February.

The Morecambe Bay Nature Improvement Area application was submitted by the Arnside & Silverdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Partnership on behalf of Morecambe Bay Wildlife Network

We are working very closely with our partners to ensure that delivery of Headlands to Headspace and further initiatives around the Bay, such as the Nature Improvement Area, if successful, are very closely aligned, complementing and adding value to one another.

Information and Communication

AGM & Conference - Saturday 8 October

Over 140 delegates joined us for our Annual Conference and AGM which was held on Saturday 8 October at the Coronation Hall in Ulverston.

This event celebrated the success of our major grant from the Heritage Lottery to Headlands to Headspace, heard from other Landscape Partnership Schemes on their progress, Adrian Philips gave keynote on European Landscape Convention and the National Grid reported on the work underway to make a Grid Connection at Sellafield. The [speakers' presentations](#) are available as downloads from our website.

Communities - BeachCare

The volunteer beach cleaning programme continues strongly. Since its formation 8 years ago over 4,900 volunteers have taken part in 274 events and removed 35 tonnes of waste from our beaches. In the Spring of 2012 we look forward to welcoming our 5,000th volunteer to the programme.

Our thanks go to the willing support of our volunteers, both as leaders and participants - the success of this work is a reflection of their support. The full programme of [beach clean events](#) is on our website.

Staffing

Susannah Bleakley seconded 4 days to H2H

Susannah Bleakley has been appointed to progress the Headlands to Headspace £100K development phase funded by Heritage Lottery. This is an 18 month, 4 day a week secondment starting on 1 Jan 2012. The remaining 1 day a week, Susannah will oversee the work of the Morecambe Bay Partnership. Backfill will be arranged for the Morecambe Bay Partnership, as soon as possible.

Other News:

No Boat Required

Our friend Peter Caton has published this intriguing book of his journeys and walks to the 43 tidal islands in Britain for which '[No Boat \(is\) Required](#)' the title of the book. He gives a warm account of joining the Partnership for walks to Piel and Chapel Islands.

We've enjoyed his book and are impressed by his commitment to travelling by public transport. He even gave the Morecambe Bay Partnership a plug when he was interviewed on BBC Radio 4's Excess Baggage.

Future Dates - BeachCleans:

All at 10am to 12 noon unless otherwise stated.

Saturday 14 Jan, Rampside, nr Barrow

Saturday 11 Feb, Morecambe Lodge, Bolton-le-Sands

Wednesday 15 Feb, Holgates, nr Silverdale

Saturday 18 Feb, Earnse Bay, Walney

Saturday 3 March, Hest Bank

Saturday 17 March, The Cove, Silverdale

Saturday 17 March, Humphrey Head

Wednesday 25 April, New Barns, Arnside

Saturday 28 April, Morecambe Lodge, Bolton-le-Sands

Saturday 12 May, Silverdale Shore

Saturday 12 May, Hest Bank

Full details online
www.morecambebay.org.uk

Follow BeachCare on



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Funders

With thanks to all our funding partners for their continued support:

Associated British Ports

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Holker Estates

LEADER

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Lancashire County Council

Natural England

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DEFRA

Heritage Lottery Fund

Lancaster City Council

South Lakeland District Council.