

A comparative review of the coast and estuary initiatives on the North West coast of England

based on compilations by
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PLEASE NOTE

The information presented in this paper was valid at the date
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1. Introduction

1.1 PISCES

PISCES, the Partnership of Irish Sea Coast and Estuary Strategies, is a grouping of coastal initiatives located in the North West region of England.

It includes the Dee and Mersey Estuary Strategies; the Solway Firth, Duddon Estuary, Morecambe Bay, Ribble Estuary and Sefton Coast Partnerships; the Solway Rural Initiative; the Lake District National Park West Coast and the Cumbria Marine Litter Project.

1.2 PISCES aims and objectives

PISCES aims

- to raise awareness of the strategic importance of the North West coast
- to build support for its sustainable use and integrated management, and
- to work towards best practice in integrated coastal zone management in the North West.

The objectives of PISCES are to

- assist sharing of experience between the North West coastal initiatives
- promote development of best practice in coastal zone management techniques
- help secure the longer term future of coastal zone management and the coastal initiatives in the North West
- raise the profile of the North West coast with key decision-makers and organisations
- stimulate debate on strategic issues affecting the North West coast.

PISCES works to achieve its aims with all agencies with an interest in the coast and the future of the North West region. PISCES was influential in setting up the North West Coastal Forum, and remains an active member. Liaison has been formalised with the North West Coastal Group, a Memorandum of Understanding has been agreed between PISCES and the Irish Sea Forum, and PISCES is represented on the North West Bathing Waters Forum.

PISCES' work is carried out through the Project Officers from the individual initiatives.

1.3 About this paper

This paper aims to provide a factual description of the coast and estuary management initiatives that make up PISCES, and set this in context of the work of these initiatives on the North West coast.

Section 1 is the introduction. This includes background about PISCES.

Section 2 provides an overview of the characteristics, significant features and main issues on the North West coast. It introduces the geography of the areas covered by the individual initiatives.

Section 3 provides a factual description of the origins, aims and objectives, management structure and development of the individual initiatives. Some comments are made about common aims and significant differences.

Section 4 draws some concluding remarks from this review, highlights the strengths and achievements of the work of the initiatives and seeks the support of local authorities and others to sustain the initiatives in the longer term.

Section 5 contains further information in annexes including contact details, reports from the individual initiatives, other references and further detail on management structures.

1.4 Acknowledgements

PISCES has been supported by a grant from English Nature's marine programme. PISCES also acknowledges the support of Cumbria County Council, Sefton Metropolitan Borough Council, the Officers and Steering Groups of the constituent Strategies and Partnerships and the Environment Agency.

Kathy Kennedy, of Kathy Kennedy Environmental Management, was contracted by PISCES to prepare the first draft of this comparative review paper. This work was funded by English Nature. Officers from the individual initiatives provided the information in the tables. This was completed in July 1999.

Emily Forsythe, a student from Bournemouth University on placement with Sefton Metropolitan Borough Council, carried out further work collating information. Again, officers from the individual initiatives provided information. This was completed in March 2000.

The two documents were combined and edited by Susannah Bleakley, Morecambe Bay Partnership Officer, in July 2000. Ceri Jones and Chris Lumb made useful comments on the text. The document was finalised by Rona Arkle, Morecambe Bay Partnership Assistant, in December 2000.

2. The North West coast

2.1 An overview of the significant features and issues

The North West coast is a very diverse length of coastline. With its outstanding natural environmental features and an up-turning economy, the region presents great opportunities for making the concept of sustainable development a reality.

Physical features

From the spectacular rocky headland of St Bees to the enormous sand dune system along the Sefton coast, the North West coast has something for everybody. It provides a recreational resource for enjoyment and relaxation that is critical to the well being of the region.

Perhaps the most important physical characteristic of the region is its extensive network of estuaries, which cut across the low-lying coastal strip. In addition to providing the physical resources for a significant sector of the region's economy, these tideways are extremely

important for wildlife, providing the feeding and breeding grounds for one third of Britain's over-wintering bird population.

Conservation

This network of estuaries is a resource of global ecological importance. In recognition of this, around 90% of the length of the North West coast is within proposed, candidate or designated European marine sites. These include Special Protection Areas and Special Areas of Conservation, for which the UK government has special responsibilities under the Habitats Directive. Keeping this system in good condition is critical to the maintenance of its global ecological value.

Although inter-linked, each estuary has its own special character and scale. This is reflected in the many different ways that local people use the estuaries.

Population and settlements

Nearly half of the North West population of 7.2 million people live in coastal settlements. And yet, along much of the coast it is possible to experience feelings of peace and solitude, an amazing fact considering that the population density of the North West region is three times higher than the European Union average.

The pattern of human settlement in the region is marked by increasing population density from north to south, starting in the sparsely settled areas of the Solway plain and moving through the more developed and industrialised areas of the Wyre, Blackpool and Fylde to the metropolitan landscapes of Merseyside and its surroundings. Maritime trade has played a major role in the industrial development of the North West region and is an influential factor in the settlement pattern. Together with the physical features of the coast, the remarkable diversity of the North West coastal towns is one of the region's best assets.

Industry

The North West coastline is a significant national and international economic resource. Coastal industries such as shipping, fisheries and tourism, account for a considerable proportion of the region's employment. The role and regeneration of coastal resorts, the recognition of coastal communities and the spatial pattern of future coastal developments are all significant. For example, the resort of Blackpool attracts 17 million visitors each year and the tourism industry supports 52,000 jobs in the region. In recent years the region has seen the development of offshore oil and gas fields. The major production areas are the Morecambe Bay gas fields and the oil and gas fields in Liverpool Bay.

A new economy based on knowledge and information is developing world-wide, and its location is not limited by access to resources and transportation. "Quality of place" is therefore very important, and future development is likely to focus on regions that have high environmental quality, natural amenities and quality of life. The North West region's ability to compete for employment and economic development in the 21st century will be strongly influenced by the quality of its water and waterside environments.

Regeneration

Problems of urban poverty and social inclusion in the Merseyside conurbation continue to receive focused and productive attention. The Liverpool waterfront is the single most

dominating feature of Merseyside, forming a spectacular view from the estuary. Here opportunities for inward investment and regeneration of the area's great architectural assets are being realised. The Mersey Basin Campaign is now mid-way through its 25 year, £5 billion investment programme. It is also targeting improvements in the Merseyside area through the renewal and sustainable economic development of the waterside environments of the Mersey catchment.

In Round 6 of the Single Regeneration Budget, coastal areas in the North West, including Wirral, Liverpool, Sefton, Blackpool, Whitehaven, and Workington, received over £95m. This will help to deliver programmes focusing on economic development, raising skills and regeneration.

Fisheries

The North West coastal waters support vital, dynamic and healthy fish and shellfish resources, many of which are commercially harvested. Accordingly, there are communities along the coast that have a long-standing association with the fishing industry, especially Fleetwood, Whitehaven and Maryport. Sustainable management of the fisheries resource needs to be encouraged – fish stocks are declining world-wide and over-fishing has been (and remains) a real problem in certain areas, one example being cockles in the Solway Firth. Continued regeneration of these communities will therefore need to employ a wider focus than fishing and fish processing. Opportunities for marketing the heritage dimensions of the fishing industry are significant.

Water quality

There are 34 designated bathing areas on the North West coast. Achieving good water quality has been a significant issue. Sampling results indicate that water quality is continuing to improve year-on-year - in 2000, 28 of the 34 designated sites complied with the EU Bathing Waters Directive standards, compared to only 17 in 1997.

Improvements to coastal and estuarine waters have been achieved through major investment by North West Water and other industries – for example, North West Water's "Sea Change" programme has seen the investment of over £500 million, as has the "Investing for Life" programme on the River Mersey.

A North West Bathing Waters Forum was set up in 1999 by the Environment Agency to seek further improvements and communicate what is being done to a wide audience. Its Steering Group includes North West Water, the North West Tourist Board, local authorities and PISCES partners.

Marine litter

Marine litter is a coast wide problem. It originates from two distinct sources: the sea and the land. The sea is a "fenceless environment" where pollutants are carried far and wide, often affecting areas many miles from the original source. Marine litter on the North West coast is made worse by prevailing weather patterns and tidal flows in the Irish Sea. The International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships treaty (MARPOL 73/78) addresses the dumping of waste from shipping at sea, and littering of beaches is a prosecutable offence under section 87 of the Environmental Protection Act (1990). Despite such legislation, a beach free of litter in the UK is hard to find. Many coastal local

authorities carry out regular beach cleans – for example, Copeland Borough and Allerdale District Councils spent £16,500 and £19,000 respectively on beach cleansing in 1999. The issue of marine litter is being addressed by Tidy Britain Group, the Marine Conservation Society and other initiatives, notably the Cumbria Marine Litter Project. However, much more work is needed.

Pollution

As a consequence of the high population and industrial densities within the Mersey catchment, areas such as Liverpool Bay show elevated levels of a variety of contaminants compared with other parts of the Irish Sea. The region's coastal waters also receive tightly controlled low-level radioactive discharges under strict authorisation conditions, the North West being the centre for Britain's nuclear reprocessing industry.

Climate change

Extensive areas of the North West coast are low lying, and the majority of the coastal zone lies below the 10m contour. With increased storminess and an estimated sea level rise in the North West of 12–67cm by 2050 (SNW 1998), the strategies that the region adopts for managing or combating the impacts of climate change along the coast is an issue of great importance to the region.

Information on strategic coastal issues in the North West is presented in the PISCES report “The North West Coast. Regional asset – strategic view” (Consultation Draft, December 1998).

2.2 The North West coast and the individual coastal initiatives

The North West coast has seen the development of a number of coast and estuary management initiatives. These can be seen in Figure 1. The physical nature of the coast is described in the next section from north to south, divided roughly according to the locations of the individual coastal initiatives.

Figure 1 – Coverage of coast and estuary management initiatives in the North West (see http://www.northwestcoast.org.uk/PISCES/cr_maps.pdf)

2.3 Physical nature of the coast

The **Solway Firth** includes the area of the Solway Coast AONB. This huge Firth includes a diverse range of landforms and habitats, from the towering cliffs of St Bees Head to sand dunes, machair, sand and mudflats and merse (saltmarsh). The Solway's enormous sand and mudflats seem to go on forever, and its shallow nature (less than five metres) means that the tide rushes in at great speed.

The **Lake District National Park West Coast**, which includes the area covered by the **Cumbria Marine Litter Project**, is estuarine in part, containing small areas of the Duddon and Morecambe Bay and the whole of the Ravenglass Estuary. In addition, there are 19 km of open coast between Drigg and Silecroft. These are made up of sand dunes, rock scars, low boulder clay cliffs and dune heath. In places the coast is fronted by *Sabellaria* reefs.

The scenery of the National Park coast is breathtaking, with mountains rising above the coastal plain (offering a view of large tracts of unspoilt dunes and undeveloped coast), an unusual pattern of longshore drift that has developed the Hyton Marsh shingle spit, and three rivers flowing down from the fells to form the Ravenglass Estuary.

The **Duddon Estuary** is a broad inlet lying between the West Cumbrian coast and Morecambe Bay. It is dominated by the surrounding hills, from where there are spectacular views. Although mainly long and narrow, the estuary widens considerably at the seaward end. The main elements in the landscape are wide intertidal areas, the defining hills, and extensive saltmarshes and dunes. Unusual features include the Hodbarrow lagoon and the ship breakers yard at Millom.

Morecambe Bay has four estuaries flowing into its huge embayment, which is the second largest in the United Kingdom. The bay is fringed by saltmarsh and vast intertidal sand and mudflats. It has largely rural surroundings, although there are several small towns around the bay. The landscape is spectacular, with the hills of the Lake District and Forest of Bowland forming a backdrop. It is possible, with a guide, to walk across the bay (*eg* the six miles from Hest Bank to Grange-over-Sands), and every year many people participate in this unique activity. A variety of traditional fishing techniques are still in use on the bay, *eg* jumbo boards, haafnetting and nearshore tractor fishing for shrimp and salmon.

The **Ribble Estuary** is characterised by the diversity of its features and uses, from the open coast and dune systems along the Sefton coast in the south, north into the salt marshes and mudflats that are the home to some of the largest bird populations in the UK. Inland, Preston Docks and marina have seen a revival in fortune and Lytham St. Annes still retains its Victorian splendour. In contrast, Blackpool is a mecca for tourism, and provides a destination for millions of visitors each year. Some of the region's major employers, such as BNFL, are situated on the Ribble estuary and make a significant input to the economy.

The **Sefton Coast** stretches for 27 km between the Mersey and Ribble estuaries, and is soft and low-lying. This stretch of coast contains the largest sand dune system in England. It includes a major sea port (the Port of Liverpool), the seaside resort of Southport, and seven links-type golf courses. The sheer scale of the intertidal area means that the landscape changes significantly between low and high tides. The close interaction between nature and developed areas is also distinctive.

The **Mersey Estuary** and its hinterland host a diverse range of land uses, including ports and port-related industry, petrochemical industry, residential and commercial uses, agricultural land, grazing marsh and areas of significant architectural and heritage value. The estuary is narrow at the mouth and widens upstream, resulting in unusual estuary dynamics and poor dispersion of effluents. The unusual physical form of the estuary has also resulted in the development of diverse shoreline features. The North Wirral foreshore comprises open sandy beaches backed by sand dunes. There are also areas of rocky foreshore, and within the narrows the man-made sea walls support Victorian promenades enjoyed by local residents and visitors alike. The narrows also host the world-renowned Liverpool waterfront (a proposed World Heritage Site), magnificent views of which can be gained from the Wirral side of the river or on entering the estuary by boat.

The vast open area of the inner estuary is typically characterised by low lying grazing marsh, saltmarsh, mud and sand flats, where it is possible to experience great feelings of isolation.

The upper estuary towards the town of Warrington is a more clearly defined and relatively narrow meandering river valley.

The **Dee Estuary** exhibits the usual estuarine habitats of saltmarsh, mudflats and sand dunes, but in addition has clay cliffs and islands. There are breathtaking views across the estuary to the north Wales landscape. Around 30% of the Dee Estuary was reclaimed from the sea in the 18th and 19th centuries, and much of this land now houses some of the most technologically advanced industries in the world including chemical plants and gas power stations.

Table 1 below summarises the extent of each coastal initiative and summarises the main features of the area.

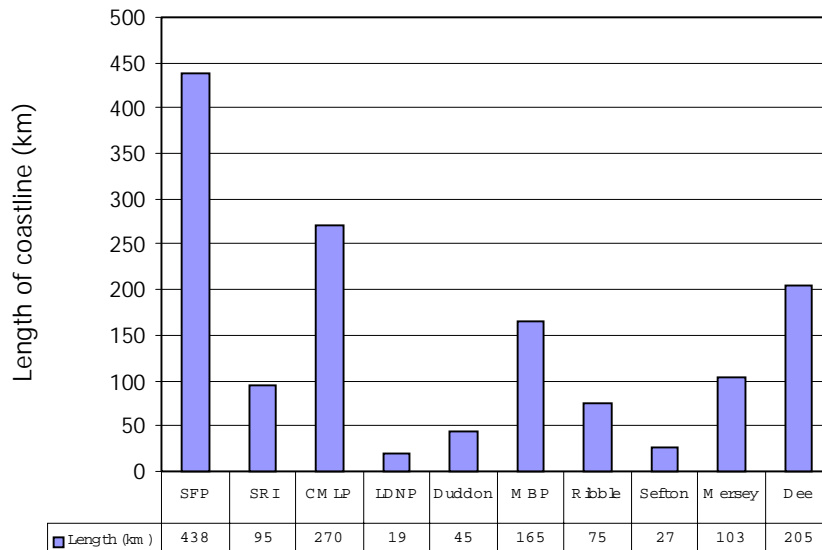
Table 1 – Area covered by the individual initiatives and description of the area

Initiative	Area covered by the initiative	Description of the area
Solway Firth Partnership	All waters east of a line from the Mull of Galloway in Dumfries and Galloway to St Bees Head in Cumbria. The landward boundary is accepted as 1km from mean high water springs.	Raised beaches and warp, glacial sand and gravel, boulder clay with solid rock outcrops, peat, fluvial alluvium, and marshes.
Solway Rural Initiative	The Solway Coast AONB stretches from Rockcliffe, east of Carlisle, to the sea brows north of Maryport. Its area is 115 sq km, equal to 25% of the Solway Rural Initiative's area.	Sand dunes between Maryport and Silloth. Salt marshes, intertidal mudflats, sand and shingle, and beaches between Skinburness and Rockcliffe.
Lake District National Park West Coast	On the west coast, from Drigg to Silecroft (including the Ravenglass estuary). On the southern boundary, includes small parts of the Duddon Estuary and small parts of Morecambe Bay. Seaward to mean low water mark, except for the inclusion of Kokoarrah rocks.	Sand dunes, rock scars, low boulder clay cliffs and dune heath between Drigg and Silecroft. In places, <i>Sabellaria</i> reefs front the coast. Hyton Marsh has a shingle spit, and there is an estuary at Ravenglass.
Cumbria Marine Litter Project	Project actually covers the whole of the Cumbrian coastline (~270 km) but practical work focuses on 7 survey sites, each 500 m long, between Drigg and Silecroft. Survey sites were chosen as representative of beach and coastal margins of the open coastline. Surveys are carried out from low water mark to various inland boundaries defined by site topography.	Sand dunes, rocky scars, low boulder clay cliffs and dune heath.
Duddon Estuary Partnership	From the sea wall at Hodbarrow to the northern tip of Walney Island - includes the estuary of the River Duddon, the smaller Kirkby Pool and North Walney Channel. Landward, it is generally taken to extend to around 1km behind the estuary. Area is 35 sq km.	Inner estuary characterised by extensive saltmarsh. Outer estuary contains coastal sand dune, marshes and alternating sea and mud.
Morecambe Bay Partnership	Stretches from Walney Island around the coast to Fleetwood. Includes the estuaries of the Leven, Kent, Lune and Wyre as well as rural coastal lands and coastal settlements. Inland to 5 m contour. Area of Morecambe Bay is 337.5 sq km.	Four estuaries flow into a huge embayment containing saltmarsh, pioneer saltmarsh and vast intertidal sand and mudflats.
Ribble Estuary Partnership	From Formby Point on Merseyside to Rossal Point in Lancashire, extending upstream as far as Preston, approximately 10 km offshore and inland to the 5 m contour.	Extensive intertidal sand and silt flats, and saltmarshes. Includes the largest NNR in Britain.

Initiative	Area covered by the initiative	Description of the area
Sefton Coast Partnership	Length of coast lying within the Borough of Sefton, between the Ribble and Mersey estuaries. Northern boundary lies just beyond the channel of the River Crossens, southern boundary within the Liverpool Dock complex. Inland boundary roughly defined by extent of blown sand, seaward boundary average 1 km from mean low water mark. Area is approximately 50 sq km.	Sedimentary coastline with sandy shore and hind shore dune system. Muddy shores as the coast progresses towards Southport. Small area of saltmarsh in the Alt Estuary. Sefton sand dune area is the largest of its kind in the UK and is of European importance - a classic example of a west coast calcareous (lime-rich) dune system. Scrub woodlands.
Mersey Strategy	From Woolston Eye upstream of Warrington to several miles offshore into Liverpool Bay (including the dredging deposit grounds), overlapping with the Sefton Coast as far as Formby Point and extending along the North Wirral coast to the mouth of the Dee Estuary. It also includes land related to, or influenced by, the water, and includes land between high water and (approximately) the 10m AOD contour.	Grazing marsh, sandy beaches, sand dunes, rocky foreshore, salt marsh, mud and sand flats.
Dee Estuary Strategy	From Rhyl and the Clwyd Estuary in the west to New Brighton and the North Wirral coast in the north east. Landward, the DES zone follows the old river cliff in both Clwyd and Cheshire as far as the tidal limit at Chester weir, and the zone extends below mean low water out into Liverpool Bay to the 6 nautical mile limit where development is under maritime control.	Mud flat/sand banks, salt marsh, sand dunes, rocky shores, clay cliffs and islands.

Figure 2 and Table 2 below summarise some physical and population statistics within the individual management initiative areas. Major towns in the region are located in Figure 3. Shoreline Management Plan sub-cells and coastal management groups covering the North West coast are shown in Figure 4.

Figure 2 – Length of coastline within each initiative area



Note: Solway Coast AONB coastline is 59 km

Table 3 – Tidal range, population and main settlements in each initiative area

Initiative	Tidal range	Population	Main settlements
Solway Firth Partnership	7.0-8.5 m	Not known	Stranraer, Kirkcudbright, Gatehouse of Fleet, Dumfries, Annan, Workington, Whitehaven
Solway Rural Initiative	7.0-8.5 m	25,240	Silloth, Maryport
Lake District National Park West Coast	7.0-7.5 m	Not known	Ravenglass, Silecroft
Cumbria Marine Litter Project	6.0-8.5 m	Not known	Workington, Whitehaven, Silloth, Maryport, Ravenglass, Silecroft, Millom, Broughton, Askam, Barrow-in-Furness, Ulverston, Grange-over-Sands
Duddon Estuary Partnership	7.0-7.5 m	56,000	Millom, Broughton, Askam
Morecambe Bay Partnership	8.0-10.3 m	200,000	Barrow-in-Furness, Ulverston, Grange-over-Sands, Morecambe, Heysham, Fleetwood
Ribble Estuary Partnership	7.5-8.0 m	Not known	Fleetwood, Blackpool, Lytham St Annes, Southport, Preston
Sefton Coast Partnership	7.5-8.0 m	300,000	Southport, Formby, Crosby, Bootle
Mersey Strategy	8.0-9.7 m	834,000 within 1 km of the shore	Liverpool, Runcorn, Widnes, Bebington, Birkenhead, Warrington
Dee Estuary Strategy	8.0-8.5 m	280,000	Hoylake, West Kirby, Heswall, Neston, Chester, Connah's Quay, Flint, Holywell

Figure 3 – Major towns in the North West (see http://www.northwestcoast.org.uk/PISCES/cr_maps.pdf)

Figure 4 – Shoreline Management Plan boundaries in the North West, showing Coastal Cell 11 sub-cells (at http://www.northwestcoast.org.uk/PISCES/cr_maps.pdf)

3. The origins, aims, management structure and development of the individual initiatives

3.1 Origins of coastal management initiatives in the North West

One of the first coastal management schemes to be developed outside the Heritage Coast framework was in the North West. This was the Sefton Coast Partnership set up in 1978. The Lake District National Park Authority rangers were also actively involved in practical coastal management in the early 1980s.

Since then, various coastal initiatives and fora have developed in response to local issues. The early conservation groups on the Dee and Morecambe Bay were initiated and promoted

by key individuals concerned about specific local issues, the pressures on estuaries in general and, of course, barrages. These were given some support by the RSPB.

Prompted by proposals for the Mersey Barrage, in 1992 a Management Plan was started for the Mersey Estuary. This was initiated and supported by the Mersey Basin Campaign.

Coastal partnerships in the North West received a huge boost in 1992 with English Nature's "Campaign for a Living Coast". The estuaries of the North West coast were among the first to be included in the programme to develop estuary strategies, with English Nature sponsoring Project Officers on the Dee, Mersey, Ribble, Morecambe Bay and Duddon estuaries, and a Project Officer sponsored jointly by English Nature and Scottish Natural Heritage working on the Solway Firth. More recently, the Environment Agency have added their support to some of the initiatives – particularly the Mersey, with smaller contributions towards the Morecambe Bay, Ribble Estuary and Solway Firth projects.

The RSPB was among those actively lobbying for Integrated Coastal Zone Management in the early 1990s. The RSPB document "Making the Coast Count" focused on the North West coast.

Table 3 below summarises a number of key factors relating to the origins of each of the North West coastal initiatives, the bodies behind their establishment, and any lead agencies.

Table 4 – Summary of origins and key bodies behind the initiatives

Initiative	Origins	Key bodies behind the establishment of the initiative
Solway Firth Partnership	Initiative launched in 1994 following Cumbria County Council coastal seminar in 1992, and funding from Scottish Natural Heritage and English Nature.	Scottish National Heritage, Cumbria County Council, English Nature, Dumfries & Galloway Council
Solway Rural Initiative	AONB designated in 1964 on recommendation of the Countryside Commission. In 1991, Allerdale Borough Council proposed an integrated countryside management and rural development agency.	Countryside Commission (Agency), Allerdale Borough Council
Lake District National Park West Coast	National Park designated in 1952. A separate chapter on the coast was included in the National Park Management Plan for the first time in 1999.	Lake District National Park Authority
Cumbria Marine Litter Project	Began in 1996 as a partnership between the Lake District National Park Authority, Tidy Britain Group and Copeland Borough Council.	Lake District National Park Authority, Tidy Britain Group (TBG), Copeland Borough Council. TBG is the lead agency.
Duddon Estuary Partnership	Cumbria County Council held a coastal seminar in 1992. Steering group formed to look at issues in the Duddon area. Aided by English Nature's Estuaries Initiative in 1992.	English Nature, Cumbria County Council
Morecambe Bay Partnership	Started in 1992 with funding from English Nature's Estuaries Initiative.	Local authorities around the Bay, English Nature
Ribble Estuary Partnership	Started in 1992 with funding from English Nature's Estuaries Initiative.	Steering Group formed in January 1993 with officers from the local authorities, English Nature and representatives of other initiatives

Initiative	Origins	Key bodies behind the establishment of the initiative
Sefton Coast Partnership	Started in 1978 as a joint initiative between Merseyside County Council and the Countryside Commission.	Merseyside County Council, Countryside Commission and Sefton Borough Council. Sefton Borough Council has been the lead agency since the early 1980s
Mersey Strategy	Started in 1992, forms part of the Mersey Basin Campaign. Strategy arose due to recognition of the need to coordinate development/land use on the estuary. Data collected as a result of the proposed Mersey Barrage Scheme highlighted the need for a data bank for the estuary.	University of Liverpool, Mersey Basin Campaign, Estuary Project Group,
Dee Estuary Strategy	Started in 1992 with funding from English Nature's Estuaries Initiative, following a call for action from the Dee Estuary Forum and the Dee Estuary Conservation Group.	Countryside Agency, Countryside Council for Wales, English Nature, Metropolitan Borough of Wirral, Chester City Council, Ellesmere and Neston Borough Council, Cheshire County Council, Flintshire County Council, Denbighshire County Council, Ministry of Defence, Environment Agency, Dee Estuary Conservation Group

In 2000 there was a meeting of minds on Integrated Coastal Zone Management, with significant European (EC), national (Local Government Association) and regional (PISCES, Liverpool University and others) interest in the establishment of regional coastal fora.

The Government Office for the North West (GO-NW) was keen to enhance regional strategic involvement in progressing key coastal issues to secure the sustainable management, use and development of the NW coastal zone. At the first North West Coastal Conference in May 2000, with the support of partners GO-NW launched the North West Coastal Forum to promote and deliver ICZM. In its first 6 months the Forum has

- put in place key documents after agreement by Steering Group partners (Aim, Vision, Terms of Reference, Structure, Working Methodology, Key Linkages, Logo)
- begun to raise the profile of the North West coast with presentations made in national arenas and through media coverage
- highlighted the opportunity here for piloting the development and implementation of marine and coastal policy - there is already significant interest in this

A full-time Forum Project Officer has been appointed from 1 December 2000 - 31 March 2001 to add further impetus to the Forum's work.

3.2 Aims and objectives of the coastal initiatives in the North West

The aims and objectives of the individual initiatives are summarised in Table 4.

The Cumbria Marine Litter Project has very specific aims relating to marine litter issues. All the other initiatives have broad aims and objectives, encompassing social and economic aspirations alongside environmental ones.

Table 5 - Summary of aims and objectives of the coastal initiatives

Initiative	Aims / Vision	Objectives / Policy Principles
Solway Firth Partnership	To secure an environmentally sustainable future for the Solway Firth area which allows the economy to prosper while respecting the distinctive character, natural features, wildlife and habitats of the Firth	<p>Community support & participation – the importance of establishing active partnerships to ensure understanding and public involvement in developing goals and action plans</p> <p>Wise use of natural resources – the importance of developing the region's economy in an environmentally sustainable manner</p> <p>Maintaining social economic diversity – the recognition that a rich and diverse social, cultural and economic environment can be achieved by encouraging activities and development of an appropriate nature, size and scale</p> <p>Integration – the recognition that multiple use of the Firth can be achieved by developing goals which are capable of accommodating a range of users and activities</p>
Solway Rural Initiative		
Lake District National Park Authority (West Coast)	Encapsulated within the Lake District National Park Management Plan objectives for the coast	<p>To ensure that:</p> <p>The quality of semi-natural coastal habitat is maintained and where possible enhanced, and that populations of important species flourish</p> <p>The full extent of the coastal archaeological resource is identified, and protected as appropriate</p> <p>The coastal environment is a clean and safe place for residents and visitors to live, work and enjoy</p> <p>A visit is a rewarding experience related to the enjoyment of the coast's distinctive qualities</p>
Cumbria Marine Litter Project	To quantify the extent and nature of the marine litter problem on the Cumbrian coast and find solutions to reduce it	<p>To sample, quantify and record by material type the debris deposited onto the shore and coastal margin</p> <p>To identify trends and, where possible, specific sources of rubbish</p> <p>To establish a verifiable database for Cumbrian marine information. To be as compatible with, and complementary to, existing data as possible</p> <p>To clean beaches regularly, and establish 'best practice' criteria for the task</p> <p>To promote awareness of the cost, nature and scale of the problem among public and relevant authorities</p> <p>To seek effective intervention at all points between source and sink to reduce marine rubbish</p>
Duddon Estuary Partnership	<p>To promote good management practices which will:</p> <p>Contribute to the sustainable use of the Duddon Estuary</p> <p>Balance the demands on its natural resources with the economic, cultural and social needs of the area</p> <p>Enable resolutions of conflicts of use</p>	<p>Economic and infrastructure development should give priority to the local needs and welfare of the present and future Duddon community, and should therefore include responsible management of environmental resources</p> <p>The present range, variety, viability and character of natural, physical, aesthetic, cultural and economic resources should be maintained or enhanced wherever possible. In particular, non-renewable resources should not be squandered by inappropriate development and where they are used they should be recycled wherever possible, and vulnerable renewable resources should not be reduced to non viability by inappropriate development</p> <p>The local and general public appreciation and awareness of the Duddon Estuary as a whole should be raised and the threats and opportunities facing the estuary should be more widely understood</p>

Initiative	Aims / Vision	Objectives / Policy Principles
Morecambe Bay Partnership	To sustain our local communities, build a strong economy and ensure a healthy environment and, to these ends, to involve public, private and voluntary bodies around the Bay in the work of the Partnership	<p>Establish a framework which encourages a process of local management through co-operation and improved dialogue and communication</p> <p>Allow the many different interests around the Bay to share their expertise and knowledge and ensure co-ordination in their work</p> <p>Promote social and economic well being for the Bay's communities</p> <p>Minimise conflict and improve understanding between groups</p> <p>Provide a lead in sustaining the distinctive natural and man made features of Morecambe Bay for future generations</p>
Ribble Estuary Partnership	To sustain, enhance and improve the environment of the Ribble Estuary in order to maximise its potential for wildlife and human use	<p>Human activities – the future developments in and around the Estuary take account of the needs of the local community and economy and are as far as possible compatible in size, scale and location with the local environment</p> <p>Management – to encourage management practices that enhance the estuarine environment and its use, create opportunities for the local community to participate in the development implementation and review of the Strategy, and encourage the provision of information and interpretation facilities for the public</p> <p>Natural resources & heritage – to sustain the part of the natural resource which is irreplaceable and to maintain and where appropriate enhance the quality and character of naturally and historically valuable areas whilst promoting their use and enjoyment</p> <p>Water environment – to promote the sustainable use of the water environment</p>
Sefton Coast Partnership	Our vision is for the Sefton Coast to be managed to ensure the conservation of one of the most important coastal areas in Europe for nature while being an asset to a healthy local economy and providing a much needed area for the quiet enjoyment of the countryside. Specifically, we accept the joint responsibility to ensure that the integrity and natural value of the dune system and estuaries is protected in perpetuity as one of the series of European nature areas	<p>Encourage and support appropriate land use, sustainable economic development, investment and employment consistent with the general character and conservation importance of the coast</p> <p>Conserve, protect and enhance the natural beauty and biodiversity of the coast, including its characteristic terrestrial, littoral and marine flora and fauna, geomorphology, landscape and heritage features of architectural, historical, cultural and archaeological interest</p> <p>Facilitate and enhance the enjoyment, understanding and appreciation of the coast by improving and extending opportunities for appropriate recreation, education, sporting and tourist activities that draw on, and are consistent with, the natural character and conservation value of the coast</p> <p>Support the need to protect life, property and habitats by appropriate coast defence strategies, and to maintain the sea defence function of the beaches, sand dunes and saltmarshes, consistent with the natural character and conservation importance of the coast</p> <p>Liaise with the competent agencies for the control of activities at sea to ensure that they are aware of the high amenity and conservation value of the Sefton Coast and the impact their activities may have on terrestrial sites, and to work with others to promote the conservation and management of marine resources</p> <p>Protect and enhance the environment by preventing and reducing pollution and promoting public health</p> <p>Adopt a systematic and open approach to the delivery and monitoring of Plan outputs</p>

Initiative	Aims / Vision	Objectives / Policy Principles
Mersey Strategy	<p>Set out within the Mersey Estuary Management Plan's Vision Statement:</p> <p>'The Management Plan is based upon a vision of the future of the Estuary as one of the cleanest developed estuaries in Europe, where the quality and dynamics of the natural environment are recognised and respected and are matched by a high quality built environment, a vibrant maritime economy and an impressive portfolio of estuary-related tourism and recreational facilities'</p>	<p>To allow the estuary to function as naturally as possible and in a self-sustaining way by controlling human interference in inter-tidal and marine areas, having regard to the natural conditions and processes of the Estuary and Liverpool Bay</p> <p>To support continuing improvements in water, air, land, noise and light quality and the adoption of environmental good practice within the estuary zone</p> <p>To support the continued commercial and economic development of the estuary's ports and port-related employment areas compatible with the Management plans environmental policies</p> <p>To promote the regeneration of the Estuary Zone through maintaining and realising the distinctive potential of its existing developed waterfront and bankside locations and in adjoining areas</p> <p>To realise the potential of the Estuary as a focus for tourism</p> <p>To maintain, enhance and where appropriate, extend public access to the shores of the Estuary so that people may enjoy sport and public recreation in safety</p> <p>To protect existing water-based recreation facilities and promote the appropriate development of new opportunities on the Estuary</p> <p>Steps should be taken to provide adequate management information to develop understanding and awareness of the natural dynamics of the Estuary and the inter-relation of social and economic activity – including the objectives and policies of the management planning process – with these natural factors</p>
Dee Estuary Strategy	<p>These directly relate to the six core functions of estuary management, especially those relating to awareness raising, a framework for communication and conflict prevention.</p>	<p>Our vision for the Dee is that:</p> <p>The waters, beaches and shoreline are clean, safe and pollution free</p> <p>The natural wildlife assets are protected and enhanced</p> <p>The area has a prosperous, vibrant and environmentally sustainable economy</p> <p>Development blends into the beauty of the natural and built landscape and that the cultural and natural heritage of the area is protected</p> <p>The local community and visitors to the area enjoy easy access, good facilities and opportunities for recreation and relaxation in harmony with the environment and other uses</p> <p>The quality of life is enhanced by using, enjoying and learning about the area's assets</p> <p>Above all, we want all those with an interest in the Dee, through a successful and innovative partnership, to care for and manage its assets for future generations</p>

3.3 Management structure of the coastal initiatives in the North West

The management structures of the individual initiatives are summarised in Table 5. Tables 8 to 17 in the annexes show more detail for each component of the management structure for individual initiatives.

A variety of management structures have arisen in response to individual circumstances, and perhaps reflecting the development of different groups on the ground in each area. However, it is clear that each initiative is drawing a range of different interests into its management structure.

Table 6 - Summary of management structures

Initiative	Management structure
Solway Firth Partnership	A Steering Group meets quarterly to review the progress and overall direction of the initiative. A Joint Project Working Group, a sub-group of the Steering Group, guides day-to-day project management. The initiative employs two full-time staff. An annual conference promotes discussion and consensus building.
Solway Rural Initiative	Limited Company with Directors from local business, local authority and other funders. Various voluntary working groups.
Cumbria Marine Litter Project	The initiative is steered by the Tidy Britain Group, Copeland District Council, the Lake District National Park Authority, Cumbria Waste Management Environment Trust and North West Water. Tidy Britain Group has recently taken over field and budget management. The initiative also reports to the Lake District National Park Management Committee.
Lake District National Park Authority (West Coast)	Management and decision-making in the Lake District National Park Authority are overseen by five committees of county, district and parish councillors and individuals appointed by the Secretary of State. These committees are: Visitor Service, Park Management, Planning and Policy Control, Administration and Finance, and Development Control. National Park Officers service the committees. In addition, the Drigg Coast Forum ...
Duddon Estuary Partnership	Two groups oversee the management of the Duddon Estuary – the Duddon Estuary Consultative Committee and a Working Group. Both groups work in parallel, there is no hierarchy. No Project Officer.
Morecambe Bay Partnership	A Standing Conference with 150 members informs all the work. A Management Committee and Resources Group provide advice to Partnership staff. Considering reforming as a charity in winter 2000/spring 2001 – Board of Trustees will be elected by membership. Membership of the charity is expected to be similar in composition to existing Standing Conference.
Ribble Estuary Partnership	At present there are three groups that guide the Ribble Strategy - an officers Steering Group, a members Advisory Group and a User Group. The Ribble Estuary Partnership will continue to take its lead from the Steering Group although a more strategic direction, in terms of linking with the rest of the catchment, will be derived from links with the Source to Sea management group.
Sefton Coast Partnership	Previously a Steering Group and Working Party with main land managers, landowners and key agencies, with sub-groups as required. Currently being restructured into a broader partnership with cross-sector representation, to be launched in January 2001, with a Board/Strategic Group and Working Groups as required. The full partnership meets at an annual Forum.
Mersey Strategy	A Steering Group made up of 13 representatives drawn from the private, public and voluntary sectors is responsible for overall strategy, funding and project management. Action and decision-making on specific policy issues is delegated to Implementation Groups which cover the 4 strategic policy areas - Estuary Resources, Economic Development; Recreation, and Understanding & Monitoring. A project manager provides day-to-day management and co-ordination of the project and provides a mechanism for communication of issues, both internally and externally. The Mersey Strategy also leads the annual Mersey Estuary Forum.
Dee Estuary Strategy	Work is guided by three autonomous groups – the Dee Estuary Local Authority Liaison Group, Dee Estuary Forum and Dee Estuary Strategy Advisory Group. A Project Manager is responsible for the day to day running of the initiative. Five voluntary groups provide further coordination, communication and consultation

3.4 Development and growth of the coastal initiatives in the North West

In looking at the origins and development of the coastal initiatives in the North West, two basic approaches can be seen.

The Sefton Coast Partnership, Lake District National Park Authority and Solway Rural Initiative were originally set up to deliver practical on-the-ground management, including visitor management. These initiatives had support from the Countryside Commission or the

National Park Authority. As these initiatives have matured they have become broader, so that they also encompass strategic management aspirations.

In contrast, the estuary partnerships on the Dee, Mersey, Ribble, Morecambe Bay, Duddon and Solway Firth have their origins in an integrated strategic approach to management. With time, as these initiatives have matured, they have tried to include more practical management, but they are limited in what can be achieved by a severe lack of resources.

Table 6 below summarises some of the key dates in the development and growth of the individual initiatives.

Table 7 – Summary of key dates for individual initiatives

Initiative	Key dates	
Solway Firth Partnership	1992 1998	Project Officer appointed, Steering group formed Strategy launched
Solway Rural Initiative	1992 1998	Partnership formed, lead by Allerdale Borough Council Solway AONB Management Plan launched
Lake District National Park West Coast	1996 1999	Cumbria Marine Litter Project initiated Separate chapter on "The Coast" included in National Park Management Plan
Cumbria Marine Litter Project	1996 1999 2000	Partnership formed between Lake District National Park Authority, Tidy Britain Group & Copeland Borough Council Cumbria Waste Management Environment Trust become additional partner, providing landfill tax funding for full-time Project Officer for 1 year Additional landfill tax funding secured by CWMET for further 3 years. New Project Officer appointed on 3 year contract
Duddon Estuary Partnership	1992 1994 Dec 1995 Oct 1998 Sep 1999	Steering Group formed Technical and Issues reports published Duddon Estuary Consultative Committee formed Draft Strategy agreed (reviewed annually) Part-time Project Officer employed (until March 1999) Helpline set up to report damaging incidents
Morecambe Bay Partnership	Autumn 1992 Nov & Dec 1993 Summer 1995 Oct 1996 Mar 1998 Dec 1998 Mar 2000 Oct 2000	Project Officer appointed, Steering group formed Initial consultation - 7 public meetings to explore issues; Issues Report produced 4 topic groups involving over 120 people developed options Morecambe Bay Strategy published 1 st Standing Conference launched Morecambe Bay Partnership 1 st Agenda for Action published (reviewed and 2 nd Agenda published March 1999) Review and Forward Plan published Shoreline Management Plan launched at 8 th Standing Conference European marine site management scheme launched at 9 th Standing Conference
Ribble Estuary Partnership	Oct 1993 Spring 1994 Summer 1995 Jun 1997 Aug 1997 Sep 1999	Initial meeting to discuss Strategy 1 st round of consultation to identify issues 2 nd round of consultation leading to formation of User Group Strategy launched Project Officer appointed Formation of Source to Sea (links estuary to upstream initiatives)
Sefton Coast Partnership	1978 1983	Sefton Coast Partnership established Coast Management Plan published

Initiative	Key dates	
	1989	Southport conference – 1 st in the UK specifically on coastal management
	1995	3-year LIFE project awarded (EU funding package)
	1997	Sefton Coast Management Plan 2 nd Review
	1999	Sefton Coast Forum established
Mersey Strategy	1992-1994	Liverpool University commissioned by Mersey Basin Campaign to produce Mersey Estuary Management Plan
	1995	Mersey Estuary Management Plan published (launched in February 1996)
	Jul 1997	Full-time Project Officer appointed
	1998	Mersey Estuary Action Programme published
	1999	Mersey Estuary Action Programme Implementation & Review published
	2000	“Making the most of the Mersey” booklet published
Dee Estuary Strategy	Autumn 1992	Project Officer appointed
	Feb 1996	Strategy launched
	Nov 1996	1 st Agenda for Action published
	1998	2 nd Agenda for Action published
	1999	Business Plan 1999-2001 published

3.5 Sustainable long term structures?

Figure 4 and Table 7 below summarise factors relating to the budget and staffing of each of the coastal initiatives. Discussions with the Partnership officers indicate that limited and insecure funding is one of their greatest concerns for the work of the initiatives. Associated with this are short term contracts, which will only be renewed subject to sufficient funding.

Figure 4 – Approximate annual budgets for North West coast and estuary initiatives

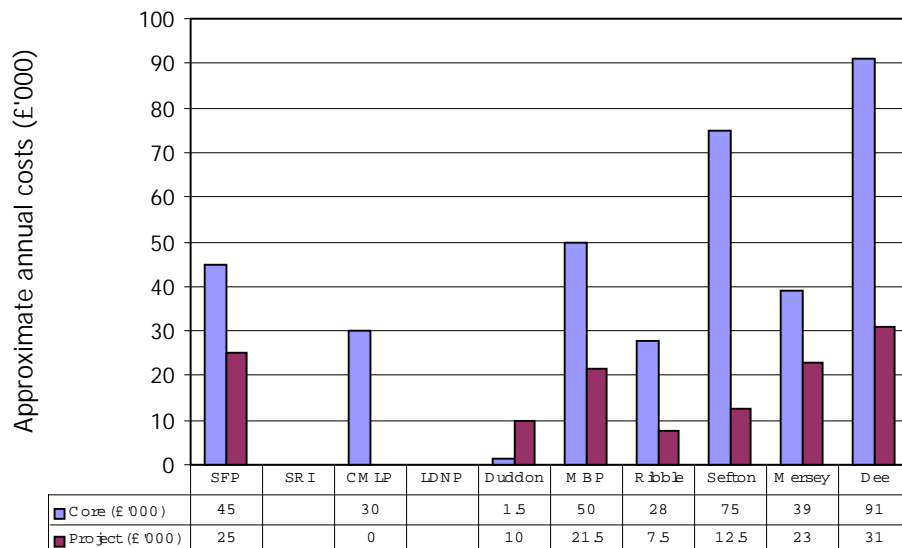


Table 8 – Staffing of coast and estuary initiatives in the North West

Initiative	Number of staff and lengths of contracts
Solway Firth Partnership	Two full-time members of staff, one on an annual contract and one on a temporary contract (which will become an annual contract subject to sufficient funding).
Solway Rural Initiative	
Lake District National Park West Coast	One permanent full-time member of staff, 3-4 estate workers and ~40 volunteer wardens. However, none of these staff work exclusively on coastal issues.
Cumbria Marine Litter Project	One full-time member of staff on a 3-year contract.
Duddon Estuary Partnership	No staff currently employed, work is carried out by partners. Part-time project officers have been employed in the past.
Morecambe Bay Partnership	Two full-time members of staff both on one-year contracts, subject to sufficient funding.
Ribble Estuary Partnership	One full time officer on a one-year contract through the Source to Sea Project. Able to draw on the time of two other officers through the Source to Sea if required.
Sefton Coast Partnership	Three members of staff - one permanent, one permanent/part-time, one seeking permanent status.
Mersey Strategy	One full-time member of staff employed on a one-year contract. One full-time graduate placement on a 6-month contract.
Dee Estuary Strategy	One member of staff on 6-month contracts until 1999 – currently on secondment elsewhere. Two project assistants between 1996 and 1999, both on 6-month contracts. Two staff starting around Easter 2000 with 6-month contracts.

4. Concluding

4.1 Overview

Some conclusions that can be drawn from this review of the work of the coastal partnerships on the North West coast are highlighted below.

- The North West coastline is highly diverse in its character and features, yet there are also many common issues
- Coastal partnerships have been formed along this coast in response to individual circumstances and local issues
- The entire length of the North West coastline from the Dee to the Solway is covered by an estuary or coastal initiative
- These initiatives have come together as PISCES
 - to work for better recognition of coastal issues
 - to promote sustainable management of the coast and
 - to work towards, and share, best practice in integrated coastal zone management
- The coastal partnerships on the North West coast are based on a common philosophy – bringing together different interests to seek to resolve issues
- One of the strengths of these partnerships is their way of working – *ie* the *process* of bringing interests together

4.2 Achievements and strengths of the coastal initiatives

Along the North West coast there are strong partnerships in place, bringing together a vast array of interests and sectors. These partnerships have developed trust and understanding between different groups, and this in itself helps with preventing unnecessary conflicts and easing tensions. The partnerships are able to contribute to conflict resolution – for example, through the work of sport and recreation groups or other user groups.

The activities of the partnerships have led to improved information becoming available on the coastal environment – for example, through topic reports, reviews and data sharing. There is both formalised and informal networking of coastal contacts – *eg* through who's who, mailing lists, newsletters, websites, conferences, seminars and meetings.

The coastal partnerships have contributed greatly to the implementation of the Habitats Directive and development of European marine site management schemes. This is partly because the relevant authorities had experience of working together as a result of their involvement in the partnerships, and because the partnerships have undertaken consultation and communications roles for the management schemes.

The coastal partnerships have promoted and started to tackle sustainable development issues. They have also been active in interpretation, awareness raising and education, improving access on the ground, visitor management and countryside management. Many of these activities link with regional strategies.

Some of the benefits of the work of the coastal partnerships include

- the involvement of local people in deciding about the future of the coast
- different interest groups talking to each other
- co-ordinated management programmes
- conflicts prevented through better communication and understanding
- sharing of knowledge and best practice with other organisations in the UK and internationally
- raised awareness about the coastal and marine environment
- better understanding of the coast and our pressures on it
- better access for recreation and enjoyment
- active public participation in coastal conservation
- better management of wildlife and landscapes
- and ultimately, the protection and use of coastal resources for the benefit of all of us.

4.3 The long term view

Despite the long-standing work of the coastal partnerships on the North West coast, and despite the considerable local support they enjoy, none of the coastal partnerships has a long-term sustainable funding regime.

Some initiatives are struggling to survive on a day-to-day basis. None is able to plan a long-term work programme. Yet, if the partnerships were not in place, we would be trying to invent them.

The partners in PISCES need to address these funding issues and would welcome the support of regional government, local authorities and other agencies in delivering long-term sustainable management for the coast.

5. ANNEXES

5.1 ANNEX 1 • PISCES Contacts

5.1.1 Contacts for coast and estuary initiatives

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5.1.2 Contacts for other active PISCES partners

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5.1.3 Contacts for other organisations with strong links to PISCES

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Irish Sea Forum

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5.2 ANNEX 2 • References

5.2.1 Key background documents for each initiative

Solway Firth Partnership

Solway Firth Review (1996)

Solway Firth Strategy (1998)

Business Plan 1999-2000 (1999)

Solway Rural Initiative

Solway Coast Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Management Plan (October 1998)

Cumbria Marine Litter

Cumbria Marine Litter Project Interim Report (June 1997)
Cumbria Marine Litter Project (Phase 1) Final Report (March 1999)
Discs of litter data

Lake District National Park Authority

Lake District National Park Management Plan (1999) - especially Chapter 10 "The coast"

Duddon Estuary Project

Technical Report (April 1994)
Strategy (June 1998)
Issues Review (March 1999)
Strategy Review (March 1999)

Morecambe Bay Partnership

Morecambe Bay Strategy (October 1996)
Agenda for Action (March 1998)
Review and Forward Plan 1996-2000 (December 1998)
Agenda for Action - 1998 Review and 1999 Actions (March 1999) plus supplement

Other reports:

Progress Report, July 1996-July 1997 (August 1997)
Conference Report, October 1997 (November 1997)
Conference Report, March 1998 (April 1998)
Public Health Seminar Report (November 1998)
Progress Report (December 1998)
Conference Report, March 1999 (April 1999)
Secrets of the Sands (August 1999) with English Nature, European Marine Site Group
Industry Seminar Report (November 1999)

Ribble Estuary Partnership

Ribble Estuary Strategy (March 1997)

Sefton Coast Partnership

Sefton Coast Management Plan 2nd Review (1997-2006)

Mersey Strategy

Mersey Estuary Management Plan (1995)
Mersey Estuary Action Programme: Implementation and Review (annual)

Dee Estuary Strategy

The Dee Estuary Strategy, Final Report (January 1996)
Agenda for Action (annual)

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5.3 ANNEX 3 • Management frameworks of the individual initiatives

Table 9 - Solway Firth Partnership management framework

Divisions in management	Role	Membership	Frequency of meetings
Standing Conference	Deals with the wider goals and actions affecting the Solway To increase awareness and understanding Promote discussion and consensus building	All interested bodies, groups and individuals	Once a year
Steering Group	To manage the Partnership Reviews progress and overall direction of the project Promote implementation of the Strategy Agree on and implements a Business Plan Secure financial and other support	Representatives from all agencies with responsibilities in and around the Solway	Quarterly

Divisions in management	Role	Membership	Frequency of meetings
	Manage budget		
Joint Project Working Group	Day-to-day management of the Partnership and the Solway European Marine Site project	Sub-group of Steering Group	Quarterly, between Steering Group meetings
Action Groups	To bring together partners whose remit or concern covers a particular issue (<i>ie</i> communities of interest and/or place) to work towards implementing specific actions within the Solway Firth Strategy. Some groups may be short-term, to address a single action and then disband, others are permanent groups.	Open to all relevant users and managers	As needed
Partnership Staff	Provide secretariat, maintain the Partnership network, oversee management and day-to-day work of project, encourage Strategy implementation by all Partners, and undertake specific projects as directed by the Steering Group.		

Table 10 - Solway Rural Initiative management framework

Divisions in management	Role	Membership	Frequency of meetings
Directors of Solway Rural Initiative	Responsible for the monitoring and valuation of coastal processes and providing a plan to manage the coast	Local business leaders, local authority members and officers, funding members	N/A
Voluntary Groups	Land management through ownership or license agreements Specialist monitoring, surveying and databases May act as "eyes and ears" on the coast and provide assistance on practical work and survey days Provide a method of obtaining agreement and discussion between groups Private landowners may co-operate through the Countryside Stewardship Scheme	Conservation groups, national bodies, private landowners	N/A
Solway Firth Partnership	Provide management strategy to promote sustainability	N/A	N/A

Table 11 – Lake District National Park Authority management framework

Divisions in management	Role	Membership	Frequency of meetings
National Park Authority	The NPA has general power under the Environment Act 1995 (subject to specific constraints) to aid its management of the park. They carry out all the planning functions including the preparation and review of structure and local plans, and the control of development through planning applications.	Representatives from local county, district and borough councils, five Parish Councillors appointed by the Secretary of State from local nominations and members appointed by the Secretary of State	N/A

Table 12 – Cumbria Marine Litter Project management framework

Divisions in management	Role	Membership	Frequency of meetings
The management of the initiative is carried out through four agencies – the Lake District National Park Authority, Copeland Borough Council, Tidy Britain Group and Cumbria Waste Management – each of which provide different types of support. Tidy Britain Group manages the budget. A Steering Group meets two times per year, and a Working Group meets quarterly between Steering Group meetings.			

Table 13 – Duddon Estuary Partnership management framework

Divisions in management	Role	Membership	Frequency of meetings
Consultative Committee	Guides and influences	61 members from voluntary, statutory and private sector	3 per year (1 as AGM)
Working Group	Deliver work programme	Local authorities, English Nature, Environment Agency, and Chair, Vice Chair and 1 other representative from the Consultative Committee	As and when required, but ≥ 3 per year

Table 14 – Morecambe Bay Partnership management framework

Divisions in management	Role	Membership	Frequency of meetings
Standing Conference	Informs, influences, and guides the work of the Partnership, enables communication between many interests and encourages cooperation action for the benefit of the Bay	Open to all Over 150 different organisations registered and mailing list includes another 100 interested parties	2 per year
Management Committee	Provides support and oversees the implementation of the Strategy Considers relevant issues and recommends action Maintains influence and contact with regional and national coastal initiatives	Local authorities, other agencies and key interest groups	3 per year
Resource Group	Provides line management and support to the Partnership Staff	Cumbria County Council, Environment Agency, English Nature, Lancashire County Council, South Lakeland District Council and Partnership staff	8 per year
Working Groups	Formed when progress is required with a specific task – eg Sport & Recreation User Group	Relevant interests/individuals	As needed
Partnership Staff	Oversee management of project and day-to-day work		

Table 15 – Ribble Estuary management framework

Divisions in management	Role	Membership	Frequency of meetings
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Steering Group	Aim to make rapid progress with policies and the recommendations of other groups Guide and oversee the development of the Strategy Where proposals fall within the statutory remit of the organisations within the Steering Group – meetings provide an opportunity to inform one another on progress and share experiences Outside of the statutory realm the proposals need to be prioritized for action, and decide responsibilities	Local Authorities Other Statutory Bodies Local interest groups, eg industry, recreation and tourism	Quarterly
Advisory Group	Discuss findings and recommendations of the Steering Group at key stages in the development of the strategy	Local Authorities Statutory Bodies	Biannual
User Group	Consultation within a wider group of organisations. Dissemination of information and feedback on Strategy proposals. Non-decision making	Open to all	Biannual
Project Officer	Provide focus and catalyst for the implementation of the Strategy proposals Maintain support and involvement with the Strategy Progress the implementation of policies		

Table 16 – Sefton Coast management framework

Divisions in management	Role	Membership	Frequency of meetings
Steering Group	Strategic coastal issues are usually discussed within this framework before going to main Committees		Quarterly
Council members and officers	Attend meetings of appropriate local, regional and national fora and committees		
Working Party and associated sub-groups	Advise the Sefton Coast Partnership Steering Group which in turn advises the relevant Committees of Sefton Council Sub-groups are set up to address specific issues and areas where communication leads to good management – they conduct their own business and report back through the Working Party mechanism		
Coastal Strategy Officer	Employed by the Planning Department to co-ordinate and provide the secretariat for the Management Scheme, and the production of the Coast Management Plan		

Table 17 – Mersey Strategy management framework

Divisions in management	Role	Membership	Frequency of meetings
Mersey Strategy Steering Group	Responsible for the overall management of the Mersey Strategy initiative; guides and oversees the ongoing development, implementation and review of the Mersey Estuary Action Programme	13 members drawn from the public, private and voluntary sector networks	Approximately 6 meetings per year
Mersey Strategy Implementation Groups	Review the relevant strategic policy area, eg Estuary Resources, Economic Development; responsible for overseeing the on-the-ground implementation of each policy area in the management framework	Members drawn from the public, private and voluntary sectors; 10-20 per group	At least 2 meetings per year
Mersey Estuary Forum	Oversees the outputs of the Mersey Strategy and neighbouring River Valley Initiatives and provides a forum for informed debate on pertinent issues	Attended by over 100 delegates from all sectors	Annual

Mersey Basin Campaign	Oversees the outputs of the Mersey Strategy and neighbouring River Valley Initiatives through a formal monthly report and quarterly targets sheet; provides guidance and advice on day-to-day issues and a link to other relevant organisations
Mersey Strategy Manager	Provides day-to-day project management, coordination and monitoring of the Strategy's delivery mechanisms and provides a focal point for communications and information-sharing, including the dissemination of information on the work of the Strategy and issues pertinent to the Mersey Estuary

Table 18 – Dee Estuary Strategy management framework

Divisions in management	Role	Membership	Frequency of meetings
Dee Estuary Local Authority Liaison Group			
Dee Estuary Advisory Group	Oversees implementation of the Strategy. Detailed technical work is devolved to Working Groups, eg finance	Multi-sectoral	
Dee Estuary Forum	Receives progress report		Annual
Strategy Project Manager	Delivers work programme and Agenda for Action		N/A
Voluntary Groups	Five groups: Dee Estuary Conservation Group, Dee Estuary Industry Partnership, Dee Estuary Recreation User Group, Dee Estuary Sea Fisheries Group and Liverpool Bay Coastal Group/Tidal Dee Users Group. Raise awareness, influence policy and influence the priorities of the Strategy and its partners		As necessary