



Sefton Coast Landscape Partnership Nature Conservation Strategy refresh

Community & volunteer workshops report: February 2025

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Background

This workshop for community members and volunteers across the Sefton Coast was organised to support the process being undertaken by the MEAS team on behalf of the Sefton Coast Landscape Partnership to refresh the Sefton Coast Nature Conservation Strategy. Some background context is included as an appendix, alongside the slides presented at the event. The workshops were managed by independent facilitators [3KQ](#). They were held in the evening with refreshments to make it accessible to as many people as possible, with 42 people attending the event at Southport Market Hall on 5th February, and 24 attending the event held at Bootle Town Hall alongside additional presenters and facilitators on 26th February.

Introductory presentation

After a round of introductions (see attendance list at the end of the report) the aims and objectives of the meeting were shared and working agreements for the day confirmed.

Purpose and objectives:

The workshop will contribute to the refresh of the Sefton Coast Nature Conservation Strategy. Specifically, the session will:

1. Brief everyone on the refresh of the Nature Conservation Strategy.
2. Answer people's queries so they fully understand how the refresh fits with other work and current knowledge about the Sefton coast.
3. Explore opportunities offered by the Nature Conservation Strategy refresh.
4. Identify challenges and solutions in relation to doing more for nature

Alan Jemmett, (MEAS Director & Chair of the Sefton Coast Landscape Partnership), Andrew Clark (MEAS Principal Ecologist) and Natalie Hunt (Natural England Higher Officer – Sefton Coast) gave an introductory presentation about the context and process for the refresh of the Sefton Coast Nature Conservation Strategy. They were joined by colleagues as follows:

Southport event – Jo Doolin, MEAS, Justin Matthews, National Trust, Alex Piggot, RSPB, Gordon White, John Dempsey & Rachel Northover, Green Sefton

Bootle event – Jo Doolin, MEAS, Justin Matthews, National Trust, Wes Davies, RSPB, Gordon White, John Dempsey & Rachel Northover, Green Sefton

The presentation slides are included [here](#) at the end of this report.

Questions and answers following introductory presentation

After the presentation everyone was invited to talk around their tables to decide what questions they had. These were as follows:

Southport plenary Q&A

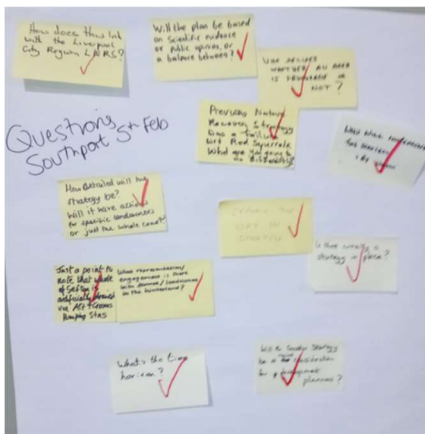
1. **What's the time horizon?**
The strategy will aim to be in place by late summer 2025 (see next steps section of report)
2. **Will the coastal strategy be a required consideration for development planners?**

The status of the Nature Conservation Strategy has not been legally defined. The intention is that it becomes an adopted strategy of all of the partners so it becomes a blueprint and a framework. This should include Sefton Council's local plan, in the knowledge that Sefton will shortly be starting a local plan review. There was subsequently a discussion about the 'opt in' strategy in relation to nature conservation and biodiversity.

3. How detailed will the strategy be? Will it have actions for specific landowners or just the whole coast? Who will implement the strategy?

No single organisation will implement the strategy - it needs to be everyone working together – different partners will have different roles to play. Individual landowners have their own management plans but the strategy will help bring all these together to help work towards a shared vision for the Sefton Coast. The aim is for the strategy to provide a framework within which all organisations can do their bit.

4. 'Just a point to note that the whole of Sefton is artificially drained via Alt Crossens pumping stations'



5. What representational engagement is there with farmers/land owners in the hinterland?

There haven't been any specific farmland engagement events in those areas, though there will be discussions linking up with Natural England's work with farmers on nitrogen action plans.

6. How does this link with the Liverpool City Region Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS)?

One of the things that was discussed in planning timescales for reviewing this strategy was when it would have most

influence and be most useful. LNRS will provide an overall framework; the Sefton Coast Nature Conservation Strategy is the local context and framework that will sit with the overall city wide LNRS.

7. Will the plan be based on scientific evidence or public opinion, or a balance between?

The LNRS and NCS are both very much evidence based. Although there is still more evidence needed there is a good understanding of most aspects. It is also important to take account of local opinion and local expertise – not everything is officially monitored.

8. Who decides whether an area is favourable or not?

Natural England is responsible for the monitoring and evaluation of SSSIs in England on an approximate six-year cycle.

9. Is there currently a strategy in place?

No – the previous plan was from 2015, which is the reason for this current refresh

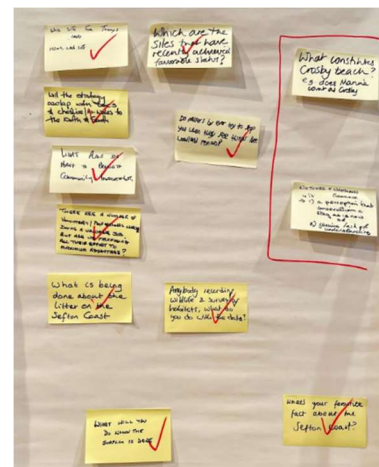
10. Previous Nature Recovery Strategy was a failure with reference to red squirrels. What are you doing differently?

It was confirmed that red squirrels will be included in the new strategy. The local red

Bootle plenary Q&A

The strategy is just the beginning. There will be a lot of action – it will be a framework – what is needed is action and identifying where the support needs to come from to make this happen. We need to be creative about where we find funding to do more and how to support community groups to do their good work

We have thought about what is the area of the coast and we include the marine interface and farmland interface (birds use both). We are also aware there is only a certain amount of capacity and funding so we are focusing on the designated area. However there are links to Cheshire and N Wales – Liverpool Bay goes to Anglesey and South Cumbria. Additionally the NCS is part of the wider Sefton Coast Plan – that is founded on principles of integrated coastal management which absolutely recognises the relationship between the Sefton coast and other areas of land and sea. Birds don't recognise administrative boundaries. Need to think about the relationships across the Sefton wide area



That is what we are here for! We need to have greater involvement and find out from you, is it about particular projects or access to materials or advice? All these things can come under things we can do for community involvement. The strategy needs to be practical and helpful to community groups working along the coast. E.g. can we share expertise and knowledge amongst groups?

No we are not, as we don't yet have visibility of all the activity. We are about to embark on a bit of a mapping exercise to map all the people and organisations along the coast to make sure – Nick Thompson, Vice Chair of the Sefton Coast Landscape Partnership told the meeting about the plan to undertake an audit to find out about community and volunteer groups activities and what more they want to do in order to get better information for the partnership on this.

Reference was made to the fact sheets on the table (included as Appendix 3 below)

Southport and Ainsdale golf course and Formby Ladies golf course. Formby Ladies golf course recently won an environmental award for their work

The data can be recorded by [Merseyside Biobank](#), which is the local centre for nature and conservation records – plant, animal , fungi - participants were encouraged to talk to

the staff representative from Merseyside Biobank at the meeting. It was explained that the Biobank records are verified and that the information will be used in the strategy.

8. What is your favourite fact about the Sefton Coast?

The facilitator opened this question up to everyone and the following list was compiled:

- 40% of population of natterjack toads
- Scale and size of the continuous dune habitat – largest functioning dune habitat in northern Europe
- Natterjack toad's call can be heard up to a mile away!
- NDTB's go blind when they hunt
- Crosby CP is botanically very rich
- Within 1 hour drive of 6 million+ people
- 730 new tidelines every year
- Amazing variety of plants
- Views are amazing
- Home to rare sand lizards
- Constantly changing and very dynamic
- Fastest beetle in the world!

9. Do passers-by ever try and stop you when they see things like woodland removal?

A member of staff from Green Sefton responded to this question: Yes all the time! Pretty much every time my staff are out on duty they get asked about what they are doing. They submit reports on interaction with the public whether positive or negative. Staff are reporting vastly positive interactions – it is quite often the case that a bit of interaction improves understanding about what is going on.

10. What is being done about litter on the Sefton Coast?

Different parts of the coast are managed by different managers, there are central collection points but there aren't bins at every area. Littering behaviour is a wider societal issue. In terms of the Nature Conservation Strategy if it is highlighted as an important thing then it definitely needs to be considered in terms of how to motivate behaviour change – it is all our responsibility. On the positive side the fact that there are some very vibrant litter picking groups in the area was highlighted with the recommendation that this can be a good way for people to meet others and get outside and that these groups are often looking for new members.

11. What constitutes Crosby Beach

12. Notches – woodland clearance is it 1) a perception that conservation = stay as it is now or 2) genuine lack of understanding

Both the above questions were taken for discussion at gateway groups.

Group discussion about the 'gateways'

What follows below is a summary of the issues discussed by groups at the Southport and Bootle events. A full list of everything noted on flip charts as part of the individual area discussions is available in Appendix 4 below.

Education

Education was a strong theme emerging from many of the group discussions. It was felt that if people were able to better understand the natural processes at work on the coast, and the species of plants and animals that make it special, then they would be more willing and able

to make conscious efforts to support nature conservation. There was an acknowledgement that some disturbance issues e.g. dogs running about disturbing birds happened out of ignorance rather than disregard, and could therefore potentially be addressed.

There was a request for more Forest Schools and the development of a similar concept – ‘Coast School’ to education through experience about sand dune and salt marsh habitats. The possibility of ‘an amenity salt marsh’ away from sensitive features was put forward so children could have the experience of getting muddy and be out in nature.

There was recognition that Formby in particular hosts many school visits and a hope that this could be built on to create a ‘centre of education for the coast’. However education of adults was seen as equally important to that of children about all aspects of the coast.

Communication & Engagement

The need to modernise communications channels was put forward in the hope that the strategy can identify the process for a strong social media comms strategy for the coast, and the linking of messages from different organisations to strengthen messages relating to nature conservation and responsible access.

Access

The importance of making it possible for people to access the coast with minimal disturbance to nature was discussed. This was felt to be one of the functions of Southport Pier and other accessible routes such as the coastal path at Crosby. Some people felt that board walks or other provisions could also provide this function but others were keen to see historic features restored.

Improved vehicle access to Birkdale was mentioned & a request for continued access for fishing without restrictions on bait collecting.

The fact that the coast provides an accessible free day out to local families as well as those from further afield was felt important, as well as the positive effect this has on local businesses such as cafes. There was acknowledgement that this could be difficult for the strategy to address but more than one group mentioned the need for consideration of the needs of people and nature alongside each other.

Habitats & species

Many groups expressed hope that the strategy would address the importance of protecting and enhancing the habitat for endangered species, with particular mentions of natterjack toads and sand lizards as part of an overall healthy sand dune system. There was also hope expressed that sea buckthorn control could be successful alongside tackling other invasive species.

Survey data was considered important to address in the strategy including data held by universities as well as Merseyside Biobank and how the public can view data.

Coordination of volunteering

A significant number of discussions referenced better coordination of volunteer efforts as something they would like to see addressed in the strategy, alongside a coordinated effort to increase the numbers of volunteers involved in all types of work along the coast, and the support they receive.

Funding

The possibility of funding to contribute to nature conservation on the coast from biodiversity net gain and other green finance was seen as a positive that could be highlighted in the strategy.

Action focus/impact

Finally the hope that the strategy would consider ways to monitor and measure impact was highlighted by participants, and the hope that the strategy would be firmly action focused.

Fears and concerns

In most group discussions these centred around:

- Concerns about whether enough **funding** could be identified to implement the strategy
- Fears about the impact of **increasing visitor numbers**, with particular reference to disturbance of natural habitats, with an acknowledgement that this could be linked to **lack of awareness of the importance and rarity of the flora and fauna** within the sand dune habitat. Public infrastructure was discussed in relation to increased numbers including implications for **car parking and litter**.
- Threats relating to **climate change** including increased rainfall, more spring/summer droughts and increased erosion
- Implications of the **Mersey Barrage** was mentioned in several group discussions

Other concerns expressed included reference to the capacity of the sewage system, house building, whether or not the views of people making a living from the beach would be considered, invasive species and how the impact of the strategy would be measured as well as a concern that the strategy might not address the decline in species directly or strongly enough.

A full list of fears and concerns for the strategy discussed in each group can be found in Appendix 4

Asks and offers

After the locality based discussion groups participants had the chance to complete individual forms, on which they were invited to answer the following questions:

1. *What would you **suggest/ask** that would make it easier to help you support nature conservation on the coast? If you are part of a group what would help you do your conservation work more easily or better?*
2. *What might you **offer**, to help support nature conservation on the coast?*

The team committed to looking at all the individual asks and offers (the option to include contact details was included) to consider what could be incorporated into the strategy

Main themes for asks

- Making it easier to find out about volunteering opportunities
- Increased volunteering opportunities
- More support for volunteering activities

- Coordination of the work of volunteer groups
- Improved communications about what is going on along the coast

Main themes for offers

- Offers to share information
- Offers to share time and expertise
- Help to share information and key messages

Next steps

Andrew Clark outlined the timeline for the development of the strategy and outlined the next steps:

Nature Conservation Strategy - Timeline

Date	Activity
Aug-Sep 24	Awareness raising talks
Sep-Nov 24	Online survey
Dec 24	Landowner workshop/engagement
Jan-summer 25	Strategy refresh
Feb 25	Volunteer and community workshops
Mar/Apr 25	Final workshop - draft Strategy review
May 25	Updates post engagement
June 25	SCLP approval
Summer 25	Strategy publication and launch
Summer 25 onwards	Monitoring and delivery

Finally, Alan Jemmett, as Chair of the Sefton Coast Landscape Partnership, thanked everyone for attending and promised to discuss and review the outcomes of these workshops with the full partnership and that the input will then inform the update of the Strategy.

Appendices

Appendix 1: Presentation slides

Included as separate document for now

Appendix 2: Workshop participant list

Name Organisation if applicable

Not sure if it's appropriate to have a participants list for these public workshops?

Appendix 3: Background information document



Sefton Coast Nature Conservation Strategy Refresh

Background info for Land manager/owner Workshop, 6th December

The Sefton Coast Landscape Partnership

The Sefton Coast Landscape Partnership (SCLP) has been operating for over 40 years and is formed of landowners and managers that work on the Sefton Coast. Members include:

- Cabinet Members and Ward Councillors
- Sefton Council departments such as Green Sefton and Highways
- MEAS
- Natural England
- The Environment Agency
- United Utilities
- Mersey Forest
- The National Trust
- RSBP
- Lancashire Wildlife Trust
- Sefton CVS
- CPRE Lancashire
- Community members, experts and volunteers

This partnership is open to anyone that works on the coast and helps co-ordinate the management activities across the coast.

Nature Conservation Strategy (NCS) Refresh

The existing Sefton Coast Nature Conservation Strategy (NCS) was a document produced in 2007 that considered landscape and nature conservation across the coast. It provided a framework for habitat management and creation, sustainable tourism activity and partnership working within the area.

This document expired in 2015 and through funding from Natural England and Sefton Council, the SCLP is now developing a refreshed strategy to reflect the changes in the coast since the original strategy and addressing new issues and opportunities along the Sefton Coast. The NCS is a priority for the Sefton Coast Plan and will be a delivery plan for nature recovery. The goal will be to conserve, protect and enhance the landscape character, natural beauty, biodiversity and geodiversity of the coast.

The scope and guidance for PSS's is yet to be agreed, and as part of this, five pilot studies across England are being developed to test potential ways to develop these strategies. Natural England is using The Sefton Coast NCS refresh as a separate research project due to the existing partnerships and history of long-term stakeholder collaboration across the coast. It is hoped that the refreshed NCS alongside Protected Site Strategies will lead to wider opportunities for future funding and create successful partnerships to help deliver improvements across the area.

Working with others

It is very important to the Sefton Coast Partnership to access a wide range of views and experience as part of the strategy refresh. A variety of engagement activities are being undertaken to support this including:

Summer Talk Series

MEAS held four public talks in the summer that covered topics including climate change and its impact on the coast, wildlife and invasive species, and community engagement and involvement. These talks were well attended and helped raised awareness of issues on the coast, and the strategy refresh.

Online Survey

A survey was set up on the "[Your Sefton Your Say](#)" website to get a general feeling of the public opinion on coastal issues. A poster with a QR code linked to the online survey was produced and sent to stakeholders to display on reserves and noticeboards. The survey questions covered a range of topics including priorities for management, key issues on the coast, woodland management and recreational impact.

A total of 347 responses were received. There was overall agreement that wildlife friendly management should be undertaken, however more specific works such as woodland removal and notch creation had less agreement. Responders felt antisocial behaviour, littering and dog walkers were amongst the main problems on the coast, and the need for funding and coastal protection was also highlighted.

Comments on the survey generally called for action to resolve local issues, such as removal of sand along Crosby and Waterloo footpaths and vegetation clearance on Southport beach. Other challenges raised included enforced dog control and more litter bins. Comments called for more communication, engagement and education on the wildlife and habitats on the coast, the impacts people have on the coast, and ways people can help.

A full report will be issued on this survey and circulated.

Further Opportunities to comment

The project team is developing its approach to further engagement and will continue to reach out across the local communities and wider interests in Sefton, to ensure that a wide range of views and opinions are collected.

Key Contacts:

- Andrew Clark, Principal Ecologist (Local Nature Recovery), MEAS:
andrew.clark@eas.sefton.gov.uk

Nature Conservation Strategy - Timeline



- Jo Doolin, Nature Recovery Advisor, MEAS: joanne.doolin@sefton.gov.uk
- Natalie Hunt, Higher Officer – Sefton Coast, Natural England:
Natalie.Hunt@naturalengland.org.uk
- Sefton Coast Landscape Partnership elaine.taylor-valles@sefton.gov.uk (secretariat)

MEAS website pages

<https://eas.merseysidebiobank.org.uk/ecology-and-planning-2/ecology-projects/sefton-coast-nature-conservation-strategy/>

<https://eas.merseysidebiobank.org.uk/ecology-and-planning-2/ecology-projects/sefton-coast-nature-conservation-strategy/ncs-consultation/>

Appendix 4: Transcript of flipchart records from ‘gateway discussions’ at both events

*points that straddle both columns were seen as having elements of both

Southport (Southport event)	
Hopes/aspirations	Fears/concerns
Pier – hope it will be restored, fear it won't be Need a safe place for people to access nature without disturbing it. Pier would be a safe place to see all the nature.	
Pollution – water quality needs to be addressed – hope it will be addressed in the strategy, fear it won't be	
Hope that there could be board walks to develop so that people have somewhere to walk without disturbing nature given that they can't walk on the pier currently	Fear that the strategy won't directly address declining species – there has been a parlous crash of a high number of species of migrating birds, butterflies, bees, insects...
Hope it will address the issue of rising sea levels	Fear that it won't be clear about who does what and how to fund it
Would like to see green solutions/natural processes but difficult to predict	Climate change – will this be addressed?
Education of children – is it a part of this strategy?	Big fan of all the plans but worried that although 10% will be behind it, 90% will just want the pier re-opened
It would be good to emphasise the importance of engaging children and young people in nature conservation	
Better interpretation of natural coastal processes and species to help raise awareness – most people don't know about natural processes – there are many that don't understand rather than actually disagree	
Old people in Southport think the beach is dirty because of the weeds – they need to know that this is important for the future of the SSSI	
Important to educate adults as well as children – need to widen understanding	
Learning how to be in nature is important – increased public access would help develop respect for nature. People don't realise they are making mistakes e.g. impact of dogs on bird disturbance	

Hesketh Park Heritage Centre would like visitor centre to explain nature and habitat	
Need to include impact monitoring including: Who is the strategy for? How will it be delivered? Who is going to check?	
RSPB could have a visitor centre , host visits from children – people could visit to have coffee and cake but also enjoy and learn about the wildlife	
Need to be able to secure biodiversity on the coastline now and also be able to embrace new species	

Ainsdale (Southport event)

Hopes/aspirations	Fears/concerns
Improve quality of sand dune habitat around Fisherman's Path (has grown over and dried out)	Implications of the Mersey Barrage if it happens
Reversal of decline of sand lizards and natterjacks	Not enough money!
Key things for sand lizard are scrub control and removal also bare sand path creation. Also scrub removal for Nattjack	Not involving the people that make a living off the beach
Good marine water quality <u>continues</u>	
No extra restrictions on fishing or how we do this (bait collecting etc)	
Improved vehicle access surface at Birkdale – old shrimping carts on foreshore	
Improved buildings on Ainsdale Gateway e.g. Sands Hotel (<u>but</u> these are privately owned)	
Better coordination of volunteer efforts e.g. buckthorn removal – effort best directed?	
Strategy must be a <u>living</u> document, as there's lots of change coming we need to respond to	
Strategy must be really widely publicised so residents are aware of it, and own it	

Southport & Ainsdale (Bootle event)

Hopes/aspirations	Fears/concerns
BNG/Green Finance opportunities contributing to the coast	Concerns there would not be enough funding for education/forest schools etc
Funding continues and the value of educating people is recognised	Education – getting in early at schools – teaching youngsters (but also all generations!) incl. ways to behave
Forest Schools – more of them but also for other habitats like coast/sand dunes/salt marsh	People have lost their respect for the countryside – countryside code, fit for purpose?
Key species are protected and populations increased	Increasing visitor numbers – concerns over litter, parking, educating visitors

360 degree communication – modernising comms channels	Recreational disturbance – prom dog walking, risks to natterjacks, birds etc
How about an amenity salt marsh – getting kids muddy, out in nature, space away from sensitive features	How will the strategy be measured? How will it be communicated to the wider public?

Formby (Southport event – no takers at Bootle)	
Hopes/aspirations	Fears/concerns
Resources to do the work	Sewage facilities at breaking point?
Manage the frontal dunes at Formby to reduce coastal erosion	Would a Mersey Barrage affect Formby adversely?
Make Formby centre of education for the coast. School visits, public engagement – Formby gets 100+ schools each year	Sefton Council - planning / roads
NT Instagram content is great. Helps get the message through. Better social media comms strategy for the coast and linking messages across the coast	How many windfall houses been build in Formby last ten years
	Littering
Change name to ‘action plan’	Too many plans and no resources and lack of buy-in –
Red squirrels	Dog mess/bags
Maintenance of habitat for endangered species	Grey squirrels
Protect what’s left of green belt in Formby	Recreation pressure – visitors and traffic parking
Access needs to be managed better. Need someone to take responsibility for access management to minimise traffic/parking issues to maintain responsible access	Formby infrastructure <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Park & ride • More enforcement • Encourage to use alternative beaches Concerns over NT car park attracting more visitors
Distrust of experts - repetition of same message from many different sources and methods may help	
A more healthy and connected sand dune system	
Local people more aware of why the coast is special for nature conservation - not just fun beach and red squirrels!	
Education on importance of coast and how important it is above aesthetics	
Hope that Freshfield triangle keeps up the conservation work on the dune heath (from a volunteer!)	
Hope that we can educate people more about just how <u>special</u> our coast e.g. education on how rare it is	
Better channelling of visitor money into Formby businesses	
Hope that the public liaison about Victoria Road car park is successful	

Crosby	
Hopes/aspirations	Fears/concerns
Sea defence – benefits of sand dune/prom	
Historic integrity of Crosby/Waterloo	
Raising awareness of coastal botany e.g. I.O.M Cabbage vs perception of 'amenity' green	
A plan for CCP that is owned by the majority of the community	Shrimping ban
Management of park for skylark	Scouring down to waste material at Crosby Prom – question around dune dynamism
Opportunities for schools to engage and get involved in citizen science	Invasive species management and resources
Shops in Crosby – all terrain scooters for less mobile – link to economy	Resources for management/maintenance of sand
	Encroachment of garden escapees/invasives on the inland edge of the dunes
	Coastal erosion – MEPAS sewer
	Disability access
	What are we trying to achieve? In terms of nature

Crosby & Waterloo	
Hopes/aspirations	Fears/concerns
Resources - money and education - a hope and a fear	
Are there high visitor numbers due to ease of parking?	
Hope we can protect the flora and fauna that is there at the moment	Heavily urbanised – might make conservation difficult
Growing up here I wasn't taught about the coastline – I would like more education to be passed on to the public – adults and children – about protected species – birds, butterflies, plants etc. This should be for local residents and those from further afield.	Need to consider the effects of the Mersey Tidal project
Need to be clear about not swimming	Not always enough bins and they are not seagull proof
Hope that funding will be found for Crosby Nature Trail so it can be used for education	Crosby promenade – the path has sand on which makes it inaccessible to bikes or wheelchairs
Would like it to be managed so it can be accessible (the path)	Littering e.g. people going to the co-op and having picnics then leaving litter including disposable BBQs
Want to appreciate Crosby and Waterloo for nature and people	Heritage lottery – Crosby Nature Trail - concern this is not sustainable and unfunded. Council unable to manage due to austerity/funding
Need a management plan as well as the vision	Footfall near the coastguard station – how does this affect habitat. How do we manage footfall (including effects regarding litter)
Balance between beautiful coastline which needs to be protected but also we need people to come	

Hope for adaptation management planning to mean that nature and humans can cooperate at present and into the future	
Public access management is key	
Crosby needs to be managed so it is accessible to as wide a range of people as possible (physically (access for prams/wheelchairs etc) and cost (people need options for a free day out)	
Could have a café at the car park – this might reduce littering from picnics and contribute to the economy – the café could take advantage of the urbanisation and close distance of car park/prom/station unlike Formby	
Crosby and Waterloo - unique and amazing – Gormley statues, amazing nature alongside people	

Hightown (Bootle event)

Hopes/aspirations	Fears/concerns
Training for stump treatment for scrub removal	Rubble/shingle on the beach – people steal as momentos
Beneficial use of dredgings to build path	Volunteers like to do more but legal/planning constraints
Countryside stewardship - NT work	Erosion of training bank – revitalise training wall
Translocation site for sand lizard NT	i-neighbour – events happening promotion
Yucca – tackle with help of volunteers	
Training for wildlife recording with biobank	
INNS threats - working with groups to give additionality to CS	
Litter picking stations and collection – encourage wider use	
Corporate Social Responsibility – volunteering, awareness raising	
Act as one – need to follow same management principles	
Volunteers/groups co-ordinate and make best use of skills – align working programme	

Whole coast

Southport event	
Hopes/aspirations	Fears/concerns
Perception of too many 'cooks in the kitchen' – websites for better comms show we are all joined up	
More Forest Schools! Partnerships allow new connections between different people and organisations	Coastal change – Ribble Estuary accretion and green beach
New connections – who does what? Networks and where to go for advice	Alt Crossens pumping stations – flooding issues – increased rainfall from climate change
Hope for demise of Sea Buckthorn on coast!	Threat: Higher winter water table More spring/summer droughts Slacks and breeding success

Maintain/hope diversity of management practices across coast ownership help with uniqueness	More litter ?? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support groups - Materials - Roll out more - Behaviour change
To live long enough to see the demise of Pontins and sea buckthorn!	Grey squirrel control <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Land owner responsibility - Public perception - Opinion shifts
Education: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Nature - Responsible practices - Forest School - Litter pickers 	Concerns for the natterjack toads with increased winter rainfall plus impacts from spring droughts
Programmes into schools – ‘Love the Sefton Coast!’ Get them out in the dunes!	Funding concerns – funding cut for councils and other organisations, not enough resources for nature conservation
Grow volunteer base and make the feel supported	Climate change – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Formby Point and Hightown erosion - Position in 50 years - Rainfall/storminess - Residential – is the water not getting away? - Building/CSO's/drives etc. I
More doing and less talking!	
More volunteers	
Bootle event	
Hopes/aspirations	Fears/concerns
All this work we are talking about really makes a difference & people can access it safely	Development reducing the dune landscape: will it continue
Integration of wildlife and people – both communities in harmony: younger/older people	Lack of coordination amongst volunteer group efforts. Are we making a difference?
Building resilience to coastal change in future – oral histories, living archive, map	Lack of public knowledge about what we've got on our doorstep. 95% of residents aren't aware!
All survey data and expertise in universities to be accessed and feed into strategy	Increased coastal squeeze
We <u>accept</u> natural changes to the coastline – understand and embrace	
Social value and corporate CSR – such as volunteer work days	
Health Social Prescribing e.g. prescription for a walk on the coast e.g. dementia	
Making the most of all the community group work – networking and joining them all up to maximise	

Appendix 5: Review of the meeting

Participants were asked to score how worthwhile they had found the meeting on a score of 1 to 5 where 1 was 'not very worthwhile' and 5 was 'very worthwhile'.

The average score for the Southport event was 3.8, and for the Bootle event it was 4.4. The difference can be directly attributed to the fact that the acoustics at Southport Market hall were identified as a negative factor by 15 of the 32 respondents.

A selection of things that were appreciated:

- *Good to have access to the information & individuals involved in the work and management of the plan. Appreciate their time.*
- *It was good to be given an insight into 'the plan'*
- *Well organised. Good start with refreshments*
- *Would be great to see more of these, plenty of time to chat and a good vibe in the room*
- *Excellent session with some great presentations from all speakers - would be interested in what the final strategy looks like and how it is delivered*
- *Very well structured and timed. Very good balance of talks and engagement*

A selection of 'could do better'

- *Thought there was a disproportionate amount of talk about access, rather than actually about nature conservation measures.*
- *Noisy hall space made listening difficult (Southport event)*
- *The 4 depends on how much of the concerns etc actually get addressed*

All comments (anonymised) available on request.