# Our Future Coast ISSUE 1 · WINTER 2023/24

Lancaster District Sites - Jenny Browns Point and Hest Bank

Working with Nature to Safeguard Coastal Communities



In 2021, DEFRA allocated £150 million to 25 projects across the country under the Flood and Coastal Resilience Innovation Programme (FCRIP).



The Programme aims to deliver practical actions to reduce the future costs and damages from flooding and coastal erosion.

Our Future Coast is one of those 25 projects. Led by Wyre Council, the project includes 12 case study sites along the North West Coast. Hest Bank and Jenny Brown's Point are two of those sites, they are being managed by Lancaster City Council, with assistance from Morecambe Bay Partnership.

### A word from our Communications and Engagement officer...

#### Joseph Earl- Morecambe Bay Partnership

Our Future Coast is vitally important to manage the effects of climate change on our coastal communities. It will help us to restore salt marsh at Hest Bank & Jenny Brown's Point to support nature as a coastal defense, carbon store and biodiverse habitat.

It has been fantastic engaging with these communities over the past year; we've learnt so much from you already and we can't wait to work with you as project progresses. Enjoy the issue!



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## **Hest Bank**

We have been busy meeting and working with the local community at Hest Bank over the past few months, and would like to thank everybody who came along and talked to us.

At the end of August myself and Paul Blakeley from Lancaster City Council were joined by Morecambe Bay Partnership, at the Slyne with Hest Memorial Hall, for a community drop in. We had over 60 attendees! It was fascinating to hear old stories regarding the site and people's perception of change. We had a lot of sign ups for our Design Committee and our future construction days.

Our Design Committee, made up of local residents and some students from Lancaster University, met on the 17th October. The session began with a talk by Ray Lawrenson, from Siskin Asset Management, regarding nature based solutions they have designed and delivered in Scotland. We also had Serena Pollastri and Suzi Ilic from Lancaster University talk about their ideas to use natural fibres, such as wool, to create structures to trap sediment and encourage saltmarsh growth along the coastline. Using a selection of current and historic photos and maps, the latter dating back to 1846, designs and ideas to restore salt marsh were discussed and sketched. We now have several designs to refine and have begun talks with Natural England and the Marine Management Organisation for approval.









Photos of Design Committee discussing and creating. Photos courtesy of S. Bleakley





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### Monitoring

You may have seen the coastal monitoring stations that were on the promenade, they were provided by Marlan, a coastal monitoring company based in the North West. They have collected data for over a year and have now moved on to other sites in the Our Future Coast project.



We have been lucky enough to have benefited from two is stations, one on the end of the stone jetty, and one at the Venus & Cupid statue. This has meant more data for the project, as well as the ability to cross reference the overlapping data, which has not been done before.







Marlan station on the Stone Jetty

Some of the initial results with the highest confidence are shown (left). A large area (red circle) of higher elevation mudflat erodes between September 2022 2023. and July Although the graphs here just show elevation, Bank Marlan's monitoring also provide a variety of other at including data, ment currents and sediment embank embank movement. team will with e working and 5 Marlan Lancaster Lancaster University students to fully understand this data over the course of the



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project.

#### **Jenny Brown's Point**

On the 16th November myself and Paul Blakeley were joined by Joseph Earl (Morecambe Bay Partnership) and Susannah Bleakley (Communications & Engagement Lead) for a drop in event at the Gaskell Memorial Hall in Silverdale. We had nearly 80 people attend and talk to us about our proposal to restore salt marsh around the chimney. Thank you to all who came to share their thoughts, memories and concerns.

In the New Year we will be calling all those who signed up to help us co-design structures to join us for an evening of discussion and creation. If you have not yet signed up and would like to, please visit <u>keepconnected.lancaster.gov.uk/ofc</u>

Our Design Committee will meet for a couple of hours in the evening. We will receive talks showcasing examples of nature based solutions from Lancaster University and Siskin Asset Management. Then using current photographs, past photographs and old OS maps we will discuss methods of preventing further erosion to salt marsh and trapping sediment to restart salt marsh growth.



















# A word from our Nature Based Solutions consultant...

#### Ray Lawrenson- Siskin Asset Management Ltd

Siskin Asset Management Ltd (SAML) are very pleased to have the opportunity to contribute to the 'Our Future Coast' project at the Hest Bank and Jenny Brown's Point locations. As a company we have been developing innovative solutions for mitigation of coastal erosion for a number of years now. Our philosophy is to seek to boost natural processes to resist erosion mechanisms using materials and methods which can be implemented using only community level resources.

The base case concept design developed by SAML is based on the use of chestnut paling and waste forestry materials deployed in a novel geometry. The alpha test version of this design has been on the ground and in operation at Moray Golf Club, Lossiemouth since November 2021 and proven very effective at the location.

Working on the requirements set out for 'OFC' the SAML concept has been evolved to work with natural processes associated with salt marsh creation/re-generation. We are very much looking forward to making a positive contribution to the project.

#### Next Steps...

As we head into 2024 we will be looking to:

- Continue discussions with Natural England and Marine Management Organisation regarding the Hest Bank Co-Designed solutions from the Design Committee
- Hold Jenny Brown's Point Design Commmittee
- Construct and Deploy MiniBuoys at Jenny Browns Point for a non intrusive means of monitoring wave action
- Engage with local schools to plan monitoring in the Spring and Summer

#### Want to get involved?

All the information about both sites can be found at **www.lancaster.gov.uk/ofc** and if you wish to sign up please visit our Keep Connected site **keepconnected.lancaster.gov.uk/ofc** 

- www.lancaster.gov.uk/OFC
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This project is funded by Defra as part of the £150 million Flood and Coastal Resilience Innovation Programme which is managed by the Environment Agency to develop and test new approaches to resilience tailored to local communities.





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