



Natura 2000  
Networking  
Programme on behalf  
of the European  
Commission

Sefton Council



Natura 2000 Networking Programme managed in  
partnership by project partners EUROPARC  
Federation, Eurosites and European Landowners  
Organization (ELO)

## Wild Places, Open Spaces: Natura 2000 on the North West Coast Speakers' Biographies

### Laurence Rose

Regional Director for Northern England, RSPB

Laurence Rose has worked for the RSPB since 1983. He has held a variety of posts over the years, spending five years responsible for the RSPB's face-to-face communications with supporters and potential supporters, ten years running its European programme, and the past seven and a half years as a Regional Director. The RSPB restructured its regional operations this summer and Laurence is now Regional Director for Northern England, which encompasses the North West, the North East, and Yorkshire and the Humber.

As Regional Director he and his team are responsible for some 27,000 ha. of land managed as RSPB nature reserves, conservation campaigns to safeguard threatened sites and species, education programmes at five centres of real world learning, advocating supportive public policies on such matters as agriculture, climate change, water resources, and real world learning, and fundraising. Laurence is a former Chair of the North West Coastal Forum, and sits on various bodies in the North West, dealing with the Natural Economy, Sustainable Food and Farming, and Rural Affairs.

Spare time interests include music (he is a trustee of a national music charity and is actively involved in the world-renowned Huddersfield Contemporary Music Festival), wildlife and the countryside, and visiting historic places.

### John Houston

Landscape Partnership Planning Officer, Sefton Borough Council

John came to the Sefton Coast in 1979 as the Project Officer for the Sefton Coast Management Scheme. In 1983 a Winston Churchill Memorial Trust scholarship allowed him to spend time in Holland and Denmark studying dune management techniques. Further European networking was developed through EUCC-the Coastal Union, Eurosites and a UK Know-How Fund project with the City of Gdansk.

In 2001, after being involved in European co-financed ERDF, LIFE and Interreg projects in Sefton, he became a consultant for the European Commission LIFE Unit as a monitor for LIFE-Nature projects in the UK and Ireland. Since returning in 2005 he has worked on behalf of the Sefton Coast Partnership in developing a Nature Conservation Strategy for the coastal area and in preparing a bid for a Heritage Lottery Fund Landscape Partnership scheme. He also works part-time at Liverpool Hope University with the UK Sand Dune and Shingle Network. He has been involved in Natura 2000 issues for over 12 years

### Chris Lumb

Natural England

Chris has a North West regional maritime coordination role with Natural England. With English Nature, he helped to set up several of the coastal partnerships in the North West and has worked with them since to help sustain and develop their roles. He was involved in the establishment of maritime Special Areas of Conservation in the North West and the development of management schemes for some of the marine Natura 2000 sites, securing LIFE funding for two pilot sites in the North West. He was part of the Defra-funded Irish Sea Pilot project team, testing out a marine conservation framework for the UK. Chris represents Natural England on the Management Board of the North West Coastal Forum and, with colleagues, is keen to raise awareness of the rich natural heritage we have on the North West coast and identify how it can contribute sustainably to socio-economic opportunities.

### **Sue Kidd**

[Chair, North West Coastal Forum and Senior Lecturer, University of Liverpool](#)

Sue Kidd, Chair of the North West Coastal Forum, is a professional planner and Senior Lecturer in the Department of Civic Design at the University of Liverpool and is attached to SWIMMER - the University's Institute for Sustainable Water, Integrated Management and Ecosystem Research. Sue's research interests centre upon the many challenges of integrated planning and management particularly those associated with marine, coastal and water environments. During her career she has been involved in a range of practice, consultancy and research projects in this field including work related to the original proposals for a Mersey barrage, reclamation proposals for the Mersey Marshes, the development of coastal zone policies for the Sefton Unitary Development Plan, preparation of the Mersey Estuary Management Plan and development of integrated coastal planning advice for North West Regional Planning Guidance funded by the Department of Environment Transport and the Regions.

Sue is currently part of a group from the University of Liverpool heading a research council funded trans-disciplinary seminar series exploring new approaches to managing ecosystem services in the marine environment. She is also taking the lead in establishing an MSc in Marine Spatial Planning and Management which hopes to take its first intake of students in September 2008.

### **Egbert Beens**

[Site Manager, State Forestry Service, National Park de Weerribben, The Netherlands](#)

Egbert is a site manager working for the Dutch State Forestry Service, Staatsbosbeheer. He is responsible for the 3500 ha National Park 'De Weerribben', a wetland area within the peatlands in the north east of the Netherlands. The site is an internationally important area for birds (Ramsar, IBA). Through Eurosite the site is twinned with the Biosphere reserve 'Spreewald' in Germany, National Park Narwev ( Poland) and National Park Stokhid - Pripyat ( Oekraine). His experiences with the designation of the site in the Natura 2000 network have been good; but some negative issues arose with farmers and leisure enterprises. He is interested in developing clear messages about Natura 2000 and in using Natura 2000 as a brand in communication work.

Contact: [e.beens@staatsbosbeheer.nl](mailto:e.beens@staatsbosbeheer.nl)

### **Dr Tim Thom**

[Senior Wildlife Conservation Officer, Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority & Yorkshire Dales Limestone Country Project Manager](#)

Tim has been the Senior Wildlife Conservation Officer (otherwise known as Ecologist) for the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority (YDNPA) for the last eight nine years. Tim is responsible for managing a team of four wildlife conservation staff. Tim wrote the Yorkshire Dales National Park's Local Biodiversity Action Plan and was the first Chair of the Yorkshire Dales Biodiversity Forum. Tim, in partnership with Paul Evans from English Nature (now Natural England) developed the Limestone Country Project and has been the joint Project Manager for the last five and a half years.

### **Katie Read**

[Natural Tourism Manager, Natural Economy Northwest](#)

During her five years at the helm of the North West Farm Tourism Initiative, she has driven excellence and quality up within the farm tourism sector and established highly successful cluster groups that have allowed farms to network, share best practice and market as a team. Examples of these include Luxury in a Farm, Equestrian Tourism, Natural Producers, Tea Trail Cumbria and Enjoy the Farm, all of which have enjoyed huge success.

This has led to an exciting new role as Natural Tourism Manager; Natural Economy Northwest. A partnership led by Natural England, the Northwest Development Agency and the SITA Trust, it draws on the expertise of specialists working in tourism, business development and the environment sector. It nurtures natural environment projects that, with the right investment, can deliver cultural and economic benefits across the Northwest. Natural Economy Northwest maximises the economic benefit from existing and new investment in the region's natural environment.

Dedicated to working with natural environment, business and farming community and with 20 year's experience of the tourism and marketing, Katie is no stranger to the consultancy world and is a specialist business coach accredited with UK tourism industry's Best Practise Forum. Former roles have been as tourism officer for Taunton Deane Borough Council and Portsmouth City Council, marketing officer for the Royal Marines Museum in Southsea and marketing executive for the English Riviera Centre, Torquay.

**Ian E Henderson**

Manager, Arnside and Silverdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

I have been involved with Countryside Management since 1979 and I have been working in the Arnside and Silverdale AONB since 1988; before that I was involved as a professional mountaineer/water skills man working in Antarctica, The Lake District and Wales.

I am very much a practical man, confronting practical problems with a down to earth approach. I have always enjoyed being asked to do the impossible.

Working with people and the natural environment on many different habitats and invariably in difficult terrain has given me the credentials to talk today.

It has all been good fun and rewarding. Now for the really big challenge, can I entertain you people and get an important message across?

**Dr Steve Atkins**

Chief Executive, North Western and North Wales Sea Fisheries Committee

Steve is the Chief Executive of the North Western and North Wales Sea Fisheries Committee. The Committee has responsibility for managing fisheries within 6 nautical miles from the coast.