

Making the Most of the Coast

Project review 2012 – 2014



Solway Firth

Partnership

Solway Firth Partnership

To support a vibrant and sustainable local economy while respecting, protecting and celebrating the distinctive character, heritage and natural features of our marine and coastal area.

Managed by Solway Firth Partnership the Making the Most of the Coast project provided a great opportunity to promote Scotland's south coast along with increasing understanding and care of the environment for the benefit of the region.

VISION



Making the Most of the Coast
won a D&G LEADER Good
Practice Award

Future SFP action – build on strong partnership working

Making the Most of the Coast

To engage with people to raise awareness of the high quality of the Dumfries and Galloway coastline and promote initiatives which take good care of our precious resource.

Making the Most of the Coast was an initiative which successfully worked with others to make the best use of available resources along over 200 miles of coastline.


AIM



Making the Most of the Coast worked with the Shore Thing project to survey for climate change indicator species to aid our understanding of a changing marine environment. Involving high schools and wildlife groups, the surveys led to the discovery of the non-native Pacific oyster sparking new research and monitoring.

RESEARCH


Making the Most of the Coast engaged with 28 education providers



Future SFP action
– encourage coastal
wildlife recording

LEARNING

Making the Most of the Coast provided a local focus to national initiatives using the coast as an amazing resource for outdoor and creative learning. From nursery schools to post graduate research the coast provides an ideal laboratory.

A group of volunteers wearing waders and boots are working on a muddy beach. One person in the foreground is bent over, using a tool to dig in the mud. Other people are visible in the background, some standing and some working. The scene is outdoors, with a body of water and hills in the distance.

Making the Most of the Coast provided support for volunteer groups involved in the management of coastal paths and habitats. Working in partnership with other ranger services, significant improvements were achieved along the Solway coast through volunteer action.

MANAGEMENT

Making the Most of the Coast generated over £10,000 in volunteer time



Future SFP action – support
skill building opportunities
for volunteers

WILDLIFE

Making the Most of the Coast organised habitat management by volunteers. Work included controlling non-native species and enhancing habitats for wildlife including the rare natterjack toad and northern brown argus butterfly.

Making the Most of the Coast helped co-ordinate beach clean events to tackle the environmental issue of marine litter. Plastic collected by the Irish Sea and deposited on the Solway coast is unsightly and a danger for wildlife.

ENVIRONMENT

Making the Most of the Coast organised
39 beach clean events





Future SFP action – develop innovative ideas to promote coastal issues

AWARENESS

Making the Most of the Coast supported projects to help people understand how they can help protect Solway beaches. The Solway Sea Monster was created as a response to the need to draw attention to the problem of durable plastic washed up on the shoreline.

Making the Most of the Coast acted as facilitator in the Solway Firth Campus which brought together young people from across Europe. Partnership working ensured they could learn about coastal issues and develop opportunities to raise awareness of European coastal issues.

PARTNERSHIP

Making the Most of the Coast worked with 31 groups, organisations and businesses





Future SFP action – promote the protection of heritage features

PROMOTION

Making the Most of the Coast worked with volunteers to survey coastal heritage from Iron-age promontory forts suffering from erosion to the disappearing skills of traditional fishing. Young people produced a short film promoting the need to record and monitor our heritage at risk.

Making the Most of the Coast supported events promoting the sustainable use and enjoyment of the Solway coast, from joining the Environmental Arts Festival Scotland with the 'Walking the tide' event to plastic recycling at the Environment Fair.

EVENTS

Making the Most of the Coast engaged with over 2,500 people





PARTICIPATION

Making the Most of the Coast championed activities which maximised social engagement, from primary school children filming for a night-time screening on an inflatable globe to BioBlitz events recording as much wildlife as possible in one place on one day.


Future SFP
action – develop
creative coastal
events



Making the Most of the Coast has used social media through the Solway Firth Partnership website and Facebook. An international 'call out' for washed up footballs has resulted in an image of Solway footballs being used to raise awareness of marine litter world-wide.

MEDIA

Making the Most of the Coast
featured in 33 coast promotions



Future SFP action – explore better ways to promote the Solway

COMMUNICATIONS

Making the Most of the Coast used publications and exhibitions to increase understanding of the marine environment and celebrate the Solway coast. Publications include beachcombers' guides to seashells, seaside plants and strandline finds, as well as a Good Beach Guide to help you locate your ideal beach.



Solway Firth

Partnership

www.solwayfirthpartnership.co.uk



The Scottish Government
Riaghaidh na h-Alba



The European Agricultural Fund
for Rural Development
Europe Invests in rural areas



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