



# **UK Sand Dune and Shingle Network**

Fourth Newsletter, November 2008

## Introduction

Welcome to the fourth newsletter of the UK Sand Dune and Shingle Network. Copies of the previous newsletters are available on our website [www.hope.ac.uk/coast](http://www.hope.ac.uk/coast) under 'Project News'.

Funding for the continuation of the network has been secured through further support from the Higher Education Funding Council for England and through an agreement with Natural England to provide a range of network services.

Since the last newsletter we have run a successful shingle workshop on behalf of Natural England, organised an excursion to Blakeney Point with the National Trust and have contributed to various studies and working groups.

Over the next six months we will have a push to increase the network membership following which we will analyse our membership database to give you some feedback. If you are not yet a member please take the time to consider the advantages of joining. It only takes a few minutes to fill in the registration form and return it to us –and it's free! Please also encourage your colleagues to join.

## Shingle Workshop

On 18 September 2008, on behalf of Natural England, we coordinated a meeting of experts, policy makers and managers to share experiences about the conservation of coastal vegetated shingle and to help identify pressing issues and priorities. The venue was Cley-Salthouse on the North Norfolk Coast. The current 'beach plan' agreed between Natural England and the Environment Agency is to allow the shingle ridge (which has been maintained as a sea defence) to be restored to a fully functioning gravel barrier, thus meeting the conservation objectives of the Natura 2000 site. The approach was tested in the storms of November 2007 when high tides broke down sections of the engineered ridge allowing tongues of shingle to flow up to 140m inland. The different perceptions ranging from a 'return to nature' to 'threat to local communities' were discussed with representatives of the Norfolk Wildlife Trust, National Trust,



Natural England and coastal geomorphologists.

Professor Julian Orford of Queen's University Belfast is an advisor to Natural England. He explained how it is unsustainable to try to keep a barrier in a fixed position. Gravel barriers are not flood protectors and management approaches which try to hold the line by raising barriers higher end up losing overall volume. Barriers need to be mobile to maintain their volume and their function.

Issues concerning the conservation of vegetated shingle include the impact of grazing, the control of invasive species and the inter-relationship between shingle features and other coastal habitats. At Dungeness some grazing has helped to maintain the character of more mature shingle communities, but, on the other hand, the BAP species Stinking Hawksbeard (*Crepis foetida*) only thrived where rabbit grazing was excluded.



Salthouse, November 2007 © Norfolk Wildlife Trust

There is a need for further work on mapping and monitoring of shingle habitats. Several different approaches to habitat mapping have been developed and surveys have given different measurements of the total area of shingle in the UK. Part of the problem is that it is difficult to map boundaries between vegetated shingle and bare shingle and the transitions between shingle, saltmarsh and sand dune.

Although most of the shingle resource is within protected sites, the condition of the habitat in England falls short of current targets for SSSIs. This is a result of a number of factors which need to be addressed to improve the understanding, management and restoration of this scarce habitat. Natural England is the lead agency for the UK Habitat Action Plan for coastal vegetated shingle. The targets for the Habitat Action Plan have been revised (see [www.ukbap.org.uk](http://www.ukbap.org.uk)) and the workshop was a starting point for reviewing the actions contained in the plan.

The discussions at the workshop are being written up as a Natural England research report and will be published in 2009.

## Excursion to Blakeney Point

The shingle workshop included a visit to Blakeney Point organised by John Sizer and David Wood of the National Trust. Departing from Morston Quay allowed a trip through the saltmarsh creeks and across the channel, viewing the Common Seals at the tip before alighting by the iconic, blue, former lifeboat station, now housing the National Trust visitor centre and University College London's field centre.

The field centre and the site were secured in the early 20th century by Professor F.W. Oliver of University College. It was handed over to the National Trust in 1912. Blakeney Point is a National Nature Reserve and forms part of the North Norfolk SAC.

The shingle ridge extends some 6 km westwards from Weybourne before separating from the coast near Cley, and running further westwards 3 km before culminating in Blakeney Point itself. Although the attached section of the ridge at Cley-Salthouse has been engineered for flood protection, natural processes are dominant at the Point where there is a dynamic interaction, both geomorphologically and ecologically, between shingle, sand, saltmarsh and mud. Marram growing on shingle, and saltmarsh plants growing in primary dune slacks, were clear indications that we must ensure a wider context to the 'habitat-focused' approach of the network!

The importance, both in landscape and biomass terms, of the nationally scarce *Suaeda vera* growing on the upper saltmarsh and at the shingle and dune: saltmarsh interface, can be seen from a distance on approaching the Point.

The economic value of coastal landscapes and wildlife are shown by the successful boat trip businesses to the Point. These bring large numbers to the visitor centre. A boardwalk controls much of this pressure. In the areas visited a high quality dune sward, with significant amounts of *Corynephorus canescens*, was seen. There are no rabbits on the Point, although grazing by hares is likely to be significant given the extensive and numerous droppings observed.

Blakeney Point is one of the UK's classic coastal sites with a well documented historic literature, particularly the ecological work initiated by Professor Oliver. It was impressive to experience such an important scientific site supporting a key economic, recreational and education role. Sally Edmondson, Liverpool Hope University [edmonds@hope.ac.uk](mailto:edmonds@hope.ac.uk)



John Houston at Blakeney Point

## Changing Perspectives in Coastal Dune Management

Despite delays, we are still working towards producing proceedings for the conference 'Changing Perspectives in Coastal Dune Management' held in Liverpool, UK 31st March – 3rd April 2008. Following peer review, papers will be published in the 'Journal of Coastal Conservation, Planning and Management' produced by Springer - see <http://www.springer.com/environment/journal/11852>. Those of you who presented at the conference and want to contribute to the proceedings should go to this web site and see the section headed 'For authors and editors' on the right hand side of this page for manuscript instructions. The option with this publisher, Springer, is very interesting as it includes an 'on-line first' option which means the papers will go out on-line before the hard copies of the journal are produced, and we can include full colour illustrations at no fee. Presentations not taken forward to the journal are encouraged to contribute to the Coastal Wiki web site at [http://www.encora.eu/coastalwiki/Main\\_Page](http://www.encora.eu/coastalwiki/Main_Page) For further information on the journal proceedings or the Coastal Wiki e-mail [dunes@hope.ac.uk](mailto:dunes@hope.ac.uk)

Several papers at the conference addressed issues arising from the presence of non-native species on sand dunes. Antje Ehrenburg presented a case study from the Amsterdam Watersupply Dunes where *Prunus serotina*, a woodland species which had been present for many decades at a low level in the open dunes has over the past 15 years become highly invasive and now threatens the *Hippophaë rhamnoides* scrub and the open calcareous dune grassland. The speed and scale of the invasion was sudden and presents the site managers with a long and expensive restoration project.

Also for the Netherlands Eddy Weeda notes that several neophytes have become problems. These include the moss *Campylopus introflexus* and the shrubs *Rosa rugosa* and *Prunus serotina*. The expansion of these species reflects the reduction in the natural dynamics of the dunes. However, many neophytes have become part of native plant communities without harming other species, whereas some native species can become invasive so, in Eddy's words "each species should be judged by its own virtues and vices and not by its origin".

In a detailed study of the impacts of garden waste tipping on the housing/dune interface Sally Edmondson showed how a boundary zone of modified vegetation can develop in areas where such practices are common.



Yucca at Blakeney Point

## Network Activity

The network has secured funding to expand its activity over the next two years. We are being supported through the Higher Education Innovation Fund (HEIF4) for the 'Making Links' project (see below) and have also received a grant from Natural England which is linked to a number of outputs. The increased funding allows John Houston to be employed as Network Project Officer for two days a week. We will also increase the newsletter publication to three issues a year.

We are also receiving some funding through consultancy activity for bodies such as the European Commission, Scottish Natural Heritage and Countryside Council for Wales as part of consortium bids with other consultants.

Network members have helped to promote our work at the Wadden Sea Conference and we will be presenting a review of dune conservation management at the final conference of an Italian LIFE-Nature project in December 2008.

## Making Links

Our new project, 'Making Links', is running for two years from September 2008. It is a project which focuses on the important role that 'links' golf courses can play in the conservation of dune landscapes and wildlife. It involves the key stakeholders including course managers, academics, engineers, representatives of the golf governing bodies, statutory government bodies and non-governmental groups.

Through networking and the exchange of experience the project aims to improve golf dune management practices. Outputs will include information on the web site, research projects, publications and academic articles, consultancy services, a golf links symposium, and training and skills development through study tours and workshops.



The origins of golf, and all of the premier courses hosting the annual Open Championship, are in coastal sand dunes. Golf is a sizeable industry in its own right and continues to grow. Many dune systems in the United Kingdom and Ireland have at least one golf course. Although much of the original vegetation may be retained as roughs, the fairways, greens and tees are often severely modified by mowing, fertilising and re-seeding. Over-management reduces the dune links character of the landscape.

Maximising the dune qualities of links golf courses is thus beneficial both to the quality of the sporting play and the natural dune environment. There is actually very significant, but largely unrealised, common ground between the aims of links golf and dune conservation in terms of desired landscape and habitat qualities. The Making Links project will help to highlight this common ground.

The project will aim to bridge a gap between golf as a business, statutory agencies and conservation science. A 'habitat based' and 'evidence informed' approach to the solution of shared issues will assist in meeting conservation objectives and will contribute to sustainability for the golf industry.

## Site News

### **The scaly cricket still at Branscombe**

Missing for nearly 18 months and with concerns for its survival, one of the rarest insects in Britain has been found again on Branscombe Beach in south Devon.

The scaly cricket (*Pseudomogoplistes vicentae*) is a very rare insect in the Britain – in fact it is only known from 3 sites: - Chesil Beach (Dorset), Branscombe Beach (Devon) and Marloes Sands (Pembrokeshire). It is a curious insect whose life cycle isn't fully understood. It is nocturnal and lives on shingle beaches feeding on general detritus. Normally found in the Mediterranean the cricket measures between 8 and 13 millimetres long and they can live for up to three years. A full account of its discovery in Britain can be found in Peter Sutton's paper in British Wildlife magazine (1999) 10, 145-151.



© Adrian Colston /National Trust

In January 2007 the storm-damaged MSC Napoli was deliberately grounded in Lyme Bay off Branscombe. Following the massive clean up operation concerns were raised for the survival of this tiny cricket as a result of the debris from the stricken ship, cleaning the beach of oil and bad

weather. There were unfounded reports that the population had survived. In 2008 Adrian Colston set himself the goal to try and re-find the species at Branscombe Beach.

Using five baited pitfall traps left out for a couple of days a single specimen was found. Although only one animal was trapped Adrian is confident that a good population survives. An animal that lives under the shingle and flourishes despite winter storms and moving shingle terraces was always odds-on favourite to survive the Napoli! More information on <http://devon-orthoptera.blogspot.com/>

Adrian Colston: Property Manager, The National Trust, Dartmoor and County Recorder for Orthoptera in Devon.

## International competition meets international wildlife site

Ainsdale Sand Dunes National Nature Reserve hosted the Ward Junior Home International Orienteering competition in September. The competition, organised through Merseyside Orienteering Club (MEROCC), brought together 92 youngsters from England, Scotland, Wales and a combined Ireland team, competing for the coveted British Championship titles.

Natural England hosted the individual event with the relay event hosted by Sefton Coast and Countryside Service on the neighbouring Local Nature Reserve. The competitors were aged from 14 to 20 years and ran in three age classes. Some of the finest young athletes in the UK were on show, with many having been selected for the British Team at the European Youth Championships. Scotland narrowly pipped England in the individual competitions, however England ran out overall winners with a comprehensive victory in the relay event.

The reserve provided the competitors with a technically challenging course. The longest course was 7.9km, with a total of some 500km covered by all competitors in the individual competition.

In planning the event, staff had to manage for the high conservation value of the site. Orienteering competitions have been restricted to September to avoid site sensitivities – potential disturbance of slacks and Natterjack Toad development, trampling of Sand Lizard eggs, and disturbance of ground nesting birds are all avoided, as well as conflicts with managing our over-wintering livestock.

Although the restrictions imposed are necessary and by their nature limiting, there is potential for positive benefits to be derived, for example through controlled disturbance (in areas of over stability) with the clever use of route planning. This is an element of planning that we could look at in the future with possible larger scale events. Encouraging recreational use of the natural environment also has many wider benefits to health and well being. For further info contact Mike Downey at Ainsdale NNR, 01704 578774, mike.downey@naturalengland.org.uk



## Fylde Sand Dunes Management

Lancashire Wildlife Trust and Fylde Borough Council have established a project to manage the dune system from Starr Gate in Blackpool to Lytham St. Annes in Lancashire. The project aims to manage the dunes and associated coastal habitats to improve their ecological condition and to strengthen their sea defence value. The Fylde Sand Dunes Project is being funded in its first year by the Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund. Funding is being sought to continue the project for a further three years.

A management plan will highlight appropriate actions for dune erosion, recreation pressures, scrub encroachment and salt marsh accretion. The Fylde dunes may be fragmented and narrow in places but they still hold a wealth of botanical diversity, including internationally rare species of *Juncus balticus* x *J. inflexus*, (Baltic Rush hybrid), *Epipactis dunensis* (Dune Helleborine) and *Coincya monensis* (Isle of Man cabbage).

The project will involve the local community through volunteering opportunities as well as an education programme ranging from schools visits to guided walks and interpretation boards.

A Project Officer, employed by the Wildlife Trust, is in post to coordinate all dune activity, through the Sand Dunes Steering Group, with the main task of implementing the management plan and ensuring community involvement and education. For more information contact Anne Heslop on 07595 233424 or aheslop@lancswt.org.uk.



Anne Heslop  
© Lancashire Wildlife Trust

## Tentsmuir

The latest edition of the nature reserve newsletter can be found at [http://www.nnr-scotland.org.uk/downloads/publications/Tentsmuir\\_NNR\\_Newsletter\\_19.pdf](http://www.nnr-scotland.org.uk/downloads/publications/Tentsmuir_NNR_Newsletter_19.pdf). The newsletter gives an update on hand pulling self sown pine plants on the open dunes, the second edition of the education pack, the site interpretive plan and Coralroot Orchid.

## Reports and Publications

Smith, P.H. (2008). *Corynephorus canescens* (L.) P. Beauv. (Grey Hair-grass) on the Sefton Coast, Merseyside (v.c.59). *Watsonia* 27: 149-157.

The paper describes the history, current status and habitat of the nationally rare *Corynephorus canescens* on the Sefton Coast, some 250 km north-west of its nearest native localities in East Anglia. The grass is largely confined to acidic fixed dunes where it has apparently increased over the past decade to a population of nearly 10,000 plants occupying c. 0.86 ha. Possible reasons for this expansion and potential threats are discussed.

The paper gives a useful overview of habitat requirements and reproduction of the plant. A species action plan has

been prepared by the Merseyside Biodiversity Group. This recommends surveys at five-year intervals.



Smith, P. H. (2008). Population explosion of *Hypochaeris glabra* L. on the Sefton Coast, Merseyside in 2007. *Watsonia* 27: 159-166.

Smooth Cat's-ear, a plant of European southern temperate origin, is a native annual of open, summer-parched grasslands, including dune grassland and sandy shingle. In 2007 28 populations, supporting over 5200 plants and occupying about 2.4 ha were found on the Sefton Coast sand-dunes. The typical habitat is rabbit-grazed fixed-dune with a short open sward, often with a substantial cover of mosses and lichens. The paper concludes that unusual weather conditions contributed to this apparent population explosion.

Prior to the present study the only Sefton Coast records in the last 50 years are for Ainsdale Sand Dunes National Nature Reserve in 2000 and 2003. The Ainsdale records were from an area where pine plantations were felled in 1992, followed by winter sheep-grazing. In 2007, however, a number of colonies were found by chance. This led to a systematic search of the dune area. Locations included sites that had been turf-stripped, abandoned asparagus fields, vehicle tracks and areas cleared of conifers. The plant tends to be found in the older parts of the dune system with more acidic soil conditions. This might explain why the plant is found near pine plantations and on land cleared of pine plantations. Moderate human trampling is a factor encouraging the plant at some localities but heavy recreation pressure seems to result in an absence of Smooth Cat's-ear.

The unusual weather conditions of spring and summer 2007, with a warm, dry April followed by a wet early summer perhaps provided ideal conditions for a population explosion. The weather condition of autumn 2006 may also have been a contributing factor.



## Classic Book

**Sand Dunes and Salt Marshes by Charles Wendell Townsend, 1913 The Colonial Press**

<http://www.kellscraft.com/SandDunes/SandDunesContentPage.html>



The book is available on-line for personal use through an American website which specialises in reproducing out of copyright books. The book is a superb and inspiring read about an age when dunes were wilder places. Many of his descriptions and sentiments could have been equally applied to many European dune sites. Here are just a couple of quotations;

“Sand dunes have a fascination all their own. In the multiplicity of their forms and colours, varying with the seasons and years, they are a constant source of pleasure, while in their wealth of plant and animal life their interest is never-ending. Their surface records a continually changing story, — ripple-marks of the varying winds, magic circles made by the grass, and myriad tracks of living creatures.”

“ ... the full glory of the dunes, to my mind, is to be found in the winter storms, when the biting wind sweeps with resistless force over them, driving snow and sand into the face of the toiling dune traveller, when the gulls scream noisily overhead, and flocks of ducks, restless in the foaming seas, scud by before the blasts, while over all the roar of the waves, pounding relentlessly on the beach, sounds a grand sea dirge. As one pauses for breath in the lee of a dune and watches the clouds rush by over the tumultuous ocean of sand, one feels to the full the primeval grandeur of the dunes and sees them in their true colours and stormy activities.”

### **Special offer – free publication!**

**Blakeney Point and Scolt Head Island, The National Trust, 1989**

The National Trust is offering network members the opportunity to obtain a free copy of the book 'Blakeney Point and Scolt Head Island'. The book was first published in 1952, edited by Professor J. A. Steers of the University of Cambridge. The fifth (and last) edition of 1989 was edited by Hilary Allison of the National Trust and John Morley of the Nature Conservancy Council. The book contains eight chapters under physical geography, botany and zoology. It also contains aerial photographs and maps of both areas.

For a copy please send a tough self-addressed envelope (to hold a soft-back booklet 1 cm thick and A5 in size) and 78p in stamps. Send this to; National Trust Office, Friary Farm, Blakeney, Holt, Norfolk, NR25 7NW

## Dune Management in the Wadden Sea

Over 50 Dutch, Danish, German and English experts met at the trilateral dune conference in Wilhelmshaven on 28 August 2008, which was jointly organized by the National Park Administration Lower Saxon Wadden Sea and the Common Wadden Sea Secretariat. The last conference of this scale was held in 1991.



*Spiekeroog © Harald Marencic*

Recent management issues to protect and restore dune habitats were a focus of the conference, which concerned, amongst others, how to deal with impacts from climate change, introduction of new plants and animals, eutrophication, tourism, as well as future coastal protection needs. There is particular concern about the conservation of wet slacks on the Wadden Islands. Humid dune slacks are threatened by habitat loss, stabilization of dunes and lowering of ground water table. As a consequence, some Dutch Wadden Sea islands have stopped ground water extraction on the islands and get their drinking water from the mainland and other islands have found solutions to reduce the negative impacts on dunes. Recommendations on how to increase dune dynamics were also presented at the conference.

The webpages contain links to the main presentations. Please have a look at these, at least for the superb range of aerial photographs and GIS maps in the presentations. <http://www.waddensea-secretariat.org/news/symposia/dunes%202008/dune-management.html>

### **Highlights from the Conference by Graham Weaver, Natural England**

- Most of the Wadden Sea islands have significant resident populations and substantial visitor numbers. For most of the islands tourism and housing is concentrated on the old cores of the islands with natural processes allowed a much freer rein on the younger dunes where there is little infrastructure.
- The older dunes become very acidic in contrast to most around the English coast. This slows down, but does not stop, succession on the oldest dunes to scrub and woodland; and it makes the dune wetlands very sensitive to changes in soil chemistry brought about by small falls in water table, and to atmospheric inputs.
- There is comprehensive and up to date information on all vegetation of the whole Wadden Sea area (in a GIS form), allowing policy and management decisions to be based on up-to-date evidence. This is collected every five years by use of infra-red aerial photography backed up by substantial ground truthing. A major project has also recently been completed to enter all historical vegetation information on to the GIS giving excellent information on changes over time.
- The Dutch and German authorities are trying to 'square the circle' of both maintaining some stability of the barrier islands and allowing more natural processes, by using beach and near-shore sand nourishment as their prime management tool. There was surprisingly little debate at the conference about the sustainability of this.
- Perhaps unsurprisingly, it has been found that efforts at re-mobilisation are best rewarded at points along the shore or within dunes that, without artificial stabilisation, would be most unstable. There was a reminder of the crucial functional link between each beach and its foredunes. But it was also pointed out that there is a link between the foredunes and the grey dunes. If there is sufficient bare sand in the mobile and semi-fixed dunes, some sand will be blown back on to the fixed dunes, slowing down the development of organic soils. The corollary of this is that without sufficient mobility, soil development speeds up on the fixed dunes - reinforcing the effects of atmospheric nutrient deposition.
- A key issue is drinking water abstraction from the island dune aquifers and its impact on the dunes. It has been demonstrated that this does lower the water table with adverse consequences on dune slacks, some of which are difficult to reverse.
- There seems to me a slight paradox with these island aquifers leading to some caution over direct transfer of results to UK dunes. Although the island aquifers are impacted on by abstraction, they seem to be remarkably deep and substantial. Salt water intrusion does not seem to be an issue. As a result the aquifers exert significant pressure at ground level which helps to explain the Dutch workers' emphasis on 'flow-through slacks' in their typology of dune slack types. It also explains their apparent lack of focus on climate change impacts on dune wetlands. There must be intriguing underlying geology to explain this. I believe this contrasts with English dunes where flow-through slacks do not seem such a feature and small decreases in rainfall seem to have larger impacts on our dune wetlands. There seems to be more emphasis placed on studying the soils on dunes in the Wadden Sea than has been the case in the UK.
- The chronic lack of information on the invertebrate fauna of dunes and its changes over time was highlighted despite the high conservation importance of a substantial proportion of this fauna. It was strongly stated that there were no satisfactory short cuts to actually monitoring target species.
- There was lively discussion about the need for more, and better, communication of the realities of coastal processes and coastal change - both to resident and visitor communities.

## Research news

### **Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services**

**M.L.M. Jones and A. Garbutt, Centre for Ecology and Hydrology**

The role of biodiversity in maintaining ecosystem services in temperate European agricultural systems is of considerable interest for UK and European policy<sup>(1)</sup>. In particular it is recognised that multi-functional land use involves trade-offs between the levels of provision of different ecosystem services that can be accommodated<sup>(2)</sup>. A new project run by the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology is examining the impacts of extensification on biodiversity, and subsequent effects on the provision of selected ecosystem services. The project utilises a range of habitat types which range from mesotrophic to highly eutrophic along a productivity gradient<sup>(3)</sup>, including sand dune and saltmarsh grasslands.

The impact of changing management intensity on different components of biodiversity are poorly understood, for example, effects on invertebrate diversity often run counter to trends in plant diversity. While nitrogen inputs consistently decrease plant diversity, regardless of initial position on the productivity gradient<sup>(4)</sup>, it is uncertain whether reducing management intensity would consistently have the opposite effect of increasing diversity, particularly at the low end of the productivity gradient. Therefore this study will test the effects of extensification on the stability of above- and below-ground diversity in a wide range of taxa, and their inter-relationships; and will test for differential effects on low productivity sites. Secondly, it is unknown whether provision of individual ecosystem services correlates directly to measures of diversity (total or functional diversity) i.e. they follow the same curve in relation to productivity; or whether each ecosystem service has its own unique curve. Contact [lj@ceh.ac.uk](mailto:lj@ceh.ac.uk)

- 1) Hector, A. & Bagchi, R. 2007 *Nature* 448, 188-191;  
2) Perez-Soba et al. 2008 In: *Sustainability Impact Assessment Of Land Use Changes*; 3) Grime 1973, *J. Environ Manage*; 4) Gough et al. 2000, *Oikos* 89, 428-439.

## Hans Esselink 1954-2008



We are sad to report the loss of our friend and colleague Hans Esselink of the University of Nijmegen. Hans was the inspiration for the LIFE-co-op project on mires and dunes which has stimulated networking and exchanges within and between disciplines.

Hans was member of the Dutch expert team on the dune and coastal landscape and chairman of the expert team on fauna, both

teams established by the Dutch government. He, and his team at the Bargerveen Foundation, carried out numerous studies on the fauna of the dunes, most notably on the Red-backed shrike in the Netherlands and Denmark. [www.barger.science.ru.nl](http://www.barger.science.ru.nl)

## Dune Conservation in New Zealand

We are developing links with the Dune Restoration Trust of New Zealand. The organisation was established in 2007 following about 10 years of community based dune restoration initiatives through the Coastal Dune Vegetation Network. At the website [www.dunestrust.org.nz](http://www.dunestrust.org.nz) you can download the newsletters and find out a range of community-led restoration projects such as the CoastCare Northland programme [www.nrc.govt.nz](http://www.nrc.govt.nz), the Waikato Beachcare programme [www.ew.govt.nz](http://www.ew.govt.nz) and the Bay of Plenty CoastCare programme [www.ebop.govt.nz](http://www.ebop.govt.nz). Guidance for local authorities is published in the manual [http://www.envbop.govt.nz/media/pdf/Report\\_Coastalhazardsandclimate.pdf](http://www.envbop.govt.nz/media/pdf/Report_Coastalhazardsandclimate.pdf).

The Dune Restoration Trust is keen to develop links with practitioners in the UK, particularly on sharing experiences of managed realignment and soft engineering solutions to flood and coastal defence. We will report on developments in our next newsletter.

## Forthcoming Events

### **Dune Management in the Netherlands**

A study tour with Liverpool Hope University, the University of Amsterdam and the Foundation for Integrated Coastal Dune Management.

**Monday 9 February to Friday 13 February 2009**

We were pleased to offer network members an opportunity to join Masters' students from Liverpool Hope University and University of Amsterdam for a study tour of the Netherlands. The six places on offer have now been taken but we do have a reserve list and may also expand the group to take more professionals.

Please contact us for an outline programme, costs and travel options. The cost would be about £300-£350. To register your interest please contact Paul Rooney on 0151 291 3933 or e-mail [rooney@hope.ac.uk](mailto:rooney@hope.ac.uk)

### **South West England Regional Event**

We plan to coordinate a sand dune and shingle meeting in south west England in summer 2009 on behalf of Natural England. Planning is at an early stage but please contact us if you are interested in assisting or attending. We will circulate more information with our newsletter in February 2009.

This newsletter has been compiled by John Houston. Contact [houstoj@hope.ac.uk](mailto:houstoj@hope.ac.uk)

The UK Sand Dune and Shingle Network is based at Liverpool Hope University and is supported by the Higher Education Funding Council for England and Natural England