

Unlocking the Landscape of Sefton

Community Consultation Report | Formby & Ainsdale

January 2008

Jemma Simpson
Paul Mahony
Jonathan Porter



125 Ducie House, Ducie Street, Manchester M1 2JW, UK

T 0161 236 3432 **F** 0870 052 3270

E info@countryside.org **W** www.countryside.org

Table of Contents

Introduction	3
Workshop Summary	5
Wildlife and Nature.....	5
History	5
Activities.....	6
Local Economy	6
Experiences	7
Patterns and Features	7
Conclusions	8
Transcription of Formby & Ainsdale Workshop Mind-Map	10
Group One	10
Group Two.....	15
Group Three	18
Group Four	22
Ideas Bucket.....	26

Introduction

The Sefton Coast Landscape Partnership, as part of the evidence base for its Landscape Strategy, has carried out a series of stakeholder and community workshops along the Sefton Coast during 2007. The aim of the workshops was to help understand how the landscape, and landscape change, is perceived and valued by the local communities in terms of its development, management and future. Workshop participants, selected from the Sefton Coast Partnership contact database, represented both communities of place (ie. people who live and work in the landscape) and communities of interest (ie. organisations with a stake in the landscape).

A mind-mapping technique was used to encourage creative thinking and discussion between stakeholders. Countryside has developed these techniques and applied them successfully with stakeholder groups within Landscape Character Assessments, and as part of development work for CPRE's 'Unlocking the Landscape' initiative. Mind-mapping is a proven and widely accessible technique for collating information from a diverse group of stakeholders. It allows people to think freely, without immediate judgement and encourages everyone to share their views. This community engagement methodology is repeatable and could be used at 5 and 10 year intervals to monitor the impact of the Sefton Coast Landscape Partnership in terms of community engagement and how it is meeting the aims of:

- Strengthening links between people and nature, by increasing opportunities for people to become involved in understanding their heritage and in thinking about the future.
- Increasing the level of physical and intellectual access to the natural and cultural heritage values of the Sefton Coast.

The Formby and Ainsdale workshop was held in St Luke's Church Meeting Room, Formby, on 22nd November 2007. Thirty-two people took part in the event. The community members ranged from members of Civic Societies to teachers, local politicians, volunteers, land owners and land managers. The consultees were divided into four groups of eight, each working with a mind map and spatial map to record their views on the landscape.

The mind maps were divided into six branches to enable a structured process, the branches were:

- Wildlife and nature
- History
- Activities
- Local Economy
- Experiences
- Patterns and features

The consultees used colour coded leaves to respond to three questions:

- Comments on brown leaves represented landscape values:
“What do you value most about the local landscape – what is important, unique, or special?”
- Comments on green leaves represented landscape visions:
“What are your visions for the future of the landscape? What needs be changed or protected; what new projects or ideas can you suggest?”
- Comments on grey leaves represented what is at risk in the landscape:
“What is at risk; what needs to be protected and what challenges do we face?”

The spatial maps (Ordnance Survey, aerial photography and Landscape Character) enabled consultees to add a spatial component to their comments – for example, recording *where* their ideas should be implemented, or *where* problems are occurring. The maps are not published but were given to the Sefton Coast Landscape Partnership to form part of the evidence base. The maps could provide a useful monitoring tool: if the consultation was repeated over fixed periods, then the mapping exercise could provide a way of measuring how well strategies and programmes have responded to the views of local stakeholders.

The remainder of this document contains a summary of the workshop findings, along with a transcription of each mind map.

Workshop Summary

The following summary discusses the workshop findings under the different aspects of landscape used on the mind maps.

Wildlife and Nature

The community members demonstrated a strong understanding of the uniqueness and diversity of the local landscape. They valued the different landscapes of the dunes, the woodland and the mosslands with very strong concern shown for the future of these landscapes. People valued the diversity of the landscape around them and were aware of its high ecological status as illustrated by one comment which stated that the local area was “the most biodiverse in the North West”. There is a strong sense of pride among the community regarding their surroundings and people felt that it was a beautiful area, offering opportunities for appreciation and education. For example: one comment mentioned the noise of the Natterjack Toads as something to enjoy.

There was strong concern over landscape change and this ranged from the landscape scale down to individual species, particularly the red squirrels and natterjack toads. There were many comments on the future of the sand dunes due to a number of reasons including climate change and how the dunes have been managed in terms of stabilisation. Opinion was divided over the woodlands with support for enhancing and renewal of the existing pine woodlands, as well as support for the removal of the pinewoods and replacement with deciduous species. People wished to see a sustainable future for the landscape with co-operation in the establishment of management plans and nature conservation approaches. Interestingly, people put the needs of wildlife and nature above access, suggesting the need to both control the impact of ‘honeypot’ sites and possible access restrictions in order to protect or enhance biodiversity. People felt that Green Belt land was at risk and suggested it be preserved and protected. Another risk to the landscape was identified in the impact of aerial nitrogen deposition which is affecting vegetation locally.

In terms of the future landscape there was a strong call for a co-ordinated response in terms of adapting to climate change for both the landscape and the local community. It was felt that education regarding landscape and heritage needed to be strengthened to protect local values and histories, as well as to interpret the landscape to people. People wanted a sustainable landscape where the current landscape elements such as the dunes and associated flora and fauna can survive. Other issues raised included landscape maintenance on a smaller scale, including rubbish removal.

History

As with wildlife and nature, people were well aware of the heritage of the landscape and the current evidence of this. It was commented that there was historical evidence dating from 3000 BC or earlier to the present including the preserved human footprints in silts at Formby Point, the lifeboat station

and promenade, and the remnant asparagus beds. The range and uniqueness of these historical elements was strongly appreciated by the community members, illustrating a good level of knowledge and understanding about the local historical landscape.

There was concern regarding the future of the dune system and how it could impact on the visible historical landscape. There was also concern that the historic settlement of Formby as a village was being lost due to expansion, causing the village atmosphere to decline.

Consultees felt that historical sites within the landscape should be preserved.

Activities

Again, there was a strong appreciation of the opportunities that the landscape can offer. People mentioned a range of activities from walking, cycling and horse riding to bird-watching and social groups. People appreciated the range of opportunities from easy, flat walking to more demanding cycle rides. It was acknowledged that access through the landscape was good with a network of routes and an ability to roam. The local leisure facilities were commented upon, as was the fact that the Formby landscape offers activities for a diverse range of people and is very family-friendly.

Future activities were diverse and interesting: there were comments regarding improving the seawater quality locally, to developing a visitor centre at Lifeboat Road that offers performance space and wooden sculptures. People want, in the future, to reopen the link between the coastal communities and those further inland, associated with the mosslands, suggesting a wide view of what makes up the local landscape. Although people felt there was plenty of opportunity for walking in the landscape, there were calls to increase opportunities for cycling with new routes. People also wished to see more public consultation and co-operation in how future landscape activities should be managed.

Although open access was very highly valued, it was recognised that excessive visitor pressure on the sand dunes could have a negative impact leading to erosion. Once again, education of the local community was highlighted, as it was felt that a lack of understanding among the local community as to how the landscape is affected by activities could lead to landscape damage.

Local Economy

The groups did not focus as strongly on the coastal landscape, considering also the village and its services here. People did comment on how the landscape provides for the local economy through tourism as well as agriculture. The inclusion of agriculture here (bearing in mind that the agricultural landscape is behind the urban edge and the dune systems) suggests that the community have a wide view of what they see as the landscape, not limiting it to the coastal landscape alone. The presence of local shops was appreciated although people felt that supermarkets may be having a derogatory

impact on local trade. There was understanding of the maritime economy, both old and new in terms of shipping and wind farms which are a fairly recent addition to the coastline.

In terms of considering the future there was a very strong emphasis on the need for a sustainable local economy with a reduced carbon footprint and greater involvement between the local community and local business. Another emphasis was placed on the use of the Formby area and landscape as a marketing tool: these ideas considered both local tourism produce such as calendars, as well as establishing a Formby and Ainsdale brand for food and local produce that would enable producers to market more widely using the local sense of place.

The local economy was seen to be threatened by the changing demography – ie. people who do not have strong links to the local economy and therefore do not contribute to it. This problem was linked to one of affordable housing and a loss of local facilities. It was also felt that there was a false perception that the area was more affluent than it actually is.

Experiences

The landscape was the focus of what experiences people valued in Formby and Ainsdale. The pinewoods and dunes were both mentioned, the dunes both to watch dune wildlife as well as for recreation. There was a strong appreciation of being able to experience wilderness and tranquillity - both were mentioned by a number of consultees. People also appreciated the open spaces and wide views available in the landscape and the bracing and fresh air associated with spending time on the coast.

Again, there was a strong call for co-operation and co-ordination of coastal management in the future, suggesting that the community is keen to be involved in the process of coastal management and wish to ensure that it is democratic and accepting. In terms of facilities, people wanted to see enhanced facilities in the future with public toilets, better public transport and education and interpretation, enabling people to better understand the landscape around them. Protecting the experiences that were valued is unsurprisingly an important priority, including tranquillity and wilderness.

The ageing demographic of the area was seen as a potential problem as it could change the needs of the community, placing priorities elsewhere. Indifference was also mentioned here.

Patterns and Features

The combination of dunes and woodland was mentioned several times as important to people. This pattern was expanded to include the farmland and canal further inland, which illustrates a strong awareness of landscape and how the different landscape characters relate to each other.

People saw patterns on very different scales, from mentioning field boundaries (e.g. cops and ditches), to commenting on post-glacial change and the impact on landscape patterns and features.

There were two clear concerns regarding what people saw as the vision for the patterns and features of the landscape and these were inter-related: the loss of land to development and encroachment on the Green Belt. Another issue mentioned included the need to restrict access in summer to protect ecosystems.

Climate change, natural processes and overcrowding were seen as threats to the current patterns and features of the landscape. Neglected dunes and the issues of woodland management were also seen as issues which could affect patterns and features within the landscape. People understood that this is a dynamic landscape where some change will occur through natural processes, regardless of human intervention.

Conclusions

During the workshop 202 comments were made: of these 172 described landscape values; 98 commented upon landscape visions and; 92 discussed landscape risks. The workshop participants were asked to discuss the mind map after each stage of the mapping process and through group discussion decide their top five values, visions and risks. Although wording differed there were distinctive themes visible from each of the groups.

In terms of values, three key themes emerged as being: **community**, **history** and **wild species**. People valued highly the community spirit of the area and this was clear throughout the workshop and was mentioned by two of the groups as part of their top five values (and is also mentioned on three of the maps as part of their general responses). The local history of Formby and Ainsdale was mentioned by three of the groups as part of their top five values and all of the groups commented on history within the landscape - including the prehistoric footprints visible on the coast, as well as the local association with Vikings and Viking settlement. All of the groups commented on the flora and fauna of the area and all four groups mentioned this as one of their top five values. People had strong association to the rarer species in particular, but also valued wildlife and nature generally, particularly within the dunes.

There was a strong commitment throughout the workshop to **building consensus** on coastal management and for the community to play a role in the management of the local area. This was evident in the top five visions, with two groups stating a vision for consensus building and **community involvement** in coastal management, and three of the four groups commented on building a consensual management plan. This shows strong levels of both interest and commitment from community members to managing the coastline. Associated with this consensual planning approach was a vision for better education of both visitors and locals, enabling people to understand the coastal resource better than they currently do. Three of the groups commented on **environmental education** and awareness as part of their top five visions, whilst one considered the lack of education

as a risk to the landscape. Associated with education was another theme that ran through the 'top five' visions, that of heritage. People were concerned that **local heritage** was at risk of being lost and forgotten: two groups saw heritage as part of their top five future visions and three groups commented on the need to preserve and explain the local heritage in order to prevent it being lost.

Another issue that was commented on as a future vision was the expansion of the **access network**, cycle routes in particular. Two groups mentioned cycle routes as part of their top five visions although the wider access network and its maintenance was commented on by three of the groups as part of the mind mapping exercise.

The consensus between groups continued through to risks to the landscape. All four groups mentioned the risk of losing species and **diversity of species**. Some groups mentioned individual species such as the Red Squirrels which are at risk from Squirrel Pox. **Climate change** and global warming was mentioned as a landscape risk leading to flooding and habitat loss by two of the groups. There was also concern that the **local community** was being lost as the demographic of the area changes. Green Belt was another issue that gained consensus as a landscape risk although this has limited risk to the coast and instead illustrates how the community regard a much wider landscape than the coast alone.

The strong community commitment to the landscape was evident and provides a very strong resource on which to build a range of landscape programmes from management and maintenance, to heritage and interpretation - all of which are regarded as necessary by the community members.

Transcription of Formby & Ainsdale Workshop Mind-Map

Please note: the following comments have not been prioritised and are listed in no particular order.

Key:

Comments in brown represent landscape values | *“What do you value most about the local landscape – what is important, unique, or special?”*

Comments in green represent landscape visions | *“What are your visions for the future of the landscape? What needs be changed or protected; what new projects or ideas can you suggest?”*

Comments in grey represent what is at risk in the landscape | *“What is at risk; what needs to be protected and what challenges do we face?”*

Group One

Wildlife & Nature

Seasonal change

Considerable wildlife which needs protecting expanding

Dunes and woodlands – general countryside

The diversity of the flora and fauna of the area throughout the year

A rich wildlife and flora, easy to see

Open air walks in woods, dunes and beach

Sea, pinewoods, dunes, trees

Environment (physical scenery)

Watching and experiencing nature. Uniqueness and wealth of wildlife so close to city

Red squirrels

A landscape and community which is able to adapt to change – climate, coastal, natural

Green parks and spaces rationalised – Duke Street Park, Deansgate Fields

Beach, dunes – woods revitalised with the man made lake remade. My nephew learnt to canoe with the scouts there.

Footpath maintenance

School – environmental education – primary and secondary

Human interference in the natural course of nature – the dunes
 The area being over developed and blighted by building
 Coast and squirrel’s environment
 Red squirrels from lack of good cones and pox from greys
 Lack of management of the local environment
 Loss of sand dune species through over-stabilisation, atmospheric pollution, under-management of invasive species
 Wildlife and landscape being destroyed by people
 Deciduous trees – wind erosion, rabbits
 Sand dunes – sea erosion

History

This area is rich in history from above 3000 BC to present
 The main history of southern end has disappeared i.e. lifeboat house and promenade
 Coastal change is changing the landscape – footprints, WWII, asparagus and landowners
 A place of change and chaos
 History of physical and environmental history IF you are prepared to look

(None)

The dune system

Activities

Enthusiasm from groups e.g. Vikings, rugby, Jim Roukes Football League, cricket
 Wide range of physical and mental activities available
 Ability to roam at will over the dune area
 The open spaces which encourage people to use them for sports and recreation
 Areas open to public walking/ riding
 Local villages – Little Crosby, Ince Blundell
 Formby pool and leisure centres Sports – cricket, football, tennis club

More real, rather than pseudo consultation on local plans
 Equestrians need more consideration
 Improvement in seawater standard
 More personal and community involvement from M.O.P.
 No development on the sand dunes
 Development of Lifeboat Road – visitors centre, performance area, wood sculptures

Isolationism
 Local buildings and village centre

Local Economy

Son also works locally having been various places
Assumed to be affluent but need for further inward investment
Visitors
The area support a diverse agricultural economy and also tourism
Tourism, beach, National Trust, woodlands, farming

The best of all worlds! Traditional but sustainable, living landscape best of modern too
Village to be heart of community – retaining its historic roots but also the café society
aspect – great place to shop and socialise
Formby village centre
Bus service frequency (not 2 at once) and where people need to go e.g. hospital/ doctor
etc

Demography and its impact on population profile
At southern end very little is contributed to local economy
The ambience of village in early hours
Post offices
Historical buildings – council offices/ cottages

Experiences

My children grew up in Formby/ Hightown local school then away and Oxford / London
for university/ college – all now live in Formby and children are in local schools
Scouts Bonfire Night – schools input
Pinewoods – smell, light, conflicts
Sense of community
Community groups
A sense of identity
Friendliness in community – mother moved to flat here and joined everything
Wild unmanned areas
A place to grow socially and emotionally through a lifetime
Running about as a child – open space ‘wilderness’
Residents like values
The sky
The wonder of it all!
180° horizon
Village atmosphere
Village community development

<p>Continuous proper management of the dune area</p> <p>Co-operation between various agencies and group of the area</p> <p>A systematic, scientifically supported consensual policy on coastal management</p> <p>A collaboration on coastal management</p> <p>Less friction over coastal management</p> <p>Have rest areas of the dunes to rehabilitate</p> <p>An informed socially responsible public – residents, visitors</p> <p>An understanding of and valuing of our natural resource</p> <p>Better public transport, especially east to west to cut down on use of cars</p> <p>Beaches, Vikings, lifeboat station, Formby Hall, past village life</p>
<p>Community – social capital</p> <p>Neglected dunes in NT area</p> <p>Loss of peaceful areas and opportunities for ‘exploration’ due to changing cultures</p>

Patterns and Features

<p>Dunes and woodland</p> <p>Lifeboat and coastguards</p> <p>Church buildings</p> <p>Beaches, dunes, pinewoods, mossland, views, canal, farmland, skies, clouds, colour</p>
<p>No further loss of land to urban development</p> <p>No more encroachment into the green belt</p> <p>Proper management of Sefton trees and maintenance, pruning is important, dead wood needs removing</p> <p>Formby’s history, prehistory prioritised</p>
<p>Woodlands need management to make them more interesting</p> <p>Lack of interest</p> <p>Local identity (starts to look like everywhere else – same shops, same roads)</p> <p>Scrub management</p> <p>Neglected dunes</p> <p>Access to shore</p>

“Top 5” Landscape Values

- Rich wildlife and flora – easy to see
- Area rich in history
- Wide range of physical and mental activities available
- Sense of community

- Sense of identity

“Top 5” Landscape Risks

- Dunes, natural habitats and species
- Existing community life – loss of amenity
- Historic village buildings and ambience
- Flooding – global warming
- Alien species

“Top 5” Landscape Visions

- Understanding and consensus on coastal management issues – collaboration and co-operation
- Visitor centre on Lifeboat Road
- Environmental education
- Landscape and community able to adapt to change
- Celebrating historical/ cultural heritage:
 - Lifeboats
 - Viking roots
 - Protection of historical features
 - Ensuring continuance of village life

Group Two

Wildlife & Nature

<p>Sound of the natterjacks</p> <p>Wildlife and nature</p> <p>Coast and dune system and woodlands</p> <p>Woodlands</p> <p>Red squirrels and wildlife – fox and others</p> <p>Values: the environment, the coastal area, village community</p>
<p>Protect conservation of wildlife and animals</p> <p>Maintain dune habitat</p> <p>Green belt preservation</p> <p>Renewal of existing pinewoods</p>
<p>Climate change</p> <p>River Alt</p> <p>Overuse of some sites</p> <p>Red squirrels</p> <p>Climate change: coast, pinewoods, wildlife, red squirrels</p>

History

<p>Footprints</p> <p>Heritage 'victorian'</p> <p>The history of Formby Viking day</p> <p>History – Vikings of Formby</p> <p>Wartime history</p>
<p>Preserve historical sites i.e. ruins</p>
<p>Loss of village atmosphere</p>

Activities

<p>Walking and cycling</p> <p>Sports/ golf</p> <p>Accessibility</p> <p>Swimming pool, sports clubs</p> <p>Bird watching – beaches , marshes and dunes</p> <p>Church involvement – all denominations</p>

Rediscover the cultural links between coastal communities and West Lancs/ inland e.g. farming

Local consensus in managing the coast

Wider recreational activities

Formby to Hightown cycle route

Education/ understanding of local people regarding wildlife and coast

Local Economy

Local businesses

Village centre

Visitors and caravan sites

Visitors

Café culture

Friendly village community

Improve village street scene

Post offices

Loss of local businesses e.g. post office

Affordability of housing

Traffic

Housing v landscape/ green belt

Experiences

Feeling of wilderness

Coastal area, friendly village community

Street trees – tree climbing!

Schools wildlife education

Beach

Views

Public toilet facilities at Lifeboat Road

Improved transport links – rail and road

Improved emergency services

Increased forest areas (rear of dunes)

Vision for transport and wider area of the coast

Lack of police
 Public transport
 Ageing population – 50 plus
 House prices and lack of building land

Patterns and Features

Different habitats
 Large dune open area with wooded habitat behind
 Tree/ dune and greenfield preservation

(None)

(None)

“Top 5” Landscape Values

- Coast, dune and woodland systems
- Red squirrels and rare wildlife
- History – Vikings
- Accessibility – recreation
- Friendly village community
- Schools and education – especially wildlife education

“Top 5” Landscape Risks

- Coast and dune wildlife/ pinewoods and red squirrels – climate change
- Loss of local business e.g. post offices
- Traffic
- Housing v landscape and threat to the green belt
- Education/ poor understanding of coast and wildlife

“Top 5” Landscape Visions

- Improved transport links, rail and road
- Improved village services and local economy
- Protect conservation, wildlife, biodiversity and maintain dune habitat
- Local consensus in managing the coast
- Wider recreational activities e.g. Formby to Hightown cycle route

Group Three

Wildlife & Nature

Variety of habitats
Beautiful coastline full of interest: shells etc
Rare species
Huge variety of plants
Splendid wild animals and birds
Unusual birds: woodpeckers etc
Beautiful coastline
Openness
Abundance of flora

A shared vision for the sustainable management of the coast
Improve appreciation of the dune flora and fauna
Protect sand dune habitat

Trees
Wildlife diversity
Flora and fauna
Sand dunes
Wildlife habitats
Firing of woodlands by naughty kids
Rare species e.g. squirrels
Threat to red squirrels and natterjack toads
Red squirrels
Loss of red squirrels
Decent sized trees in the street and larger gardens – numbers declining

History

Range of cultural heritage
Uniqueness of ancient footpaths
Ancient footprints and moving sand hills
The ancient in the landscape especially F. footprints

(None)

(None)

Activities

<p>Wildlife watching</p> <p>Outdoor activities</p> <p>It is flat! Easy to walk around</p> <p>Walking</p> <p>Pleasant walking opportunities in dunes</p> <p>Many local voluntary activities such as the Choral Society</p> <p>Good sporting facilities – cricket, tennis, swimming, golf etc</p>
<p>More cycling through habitats</p> <p>Children and others involved in clearing up litter etc</p> <p>Improved sustainable access to coastline</p> <p>Need to educate people/ children about the destruction of sand dunes</p>
<p>(None)</p>

Local Economy

<p>Local shops</p> <p>Family friendly</p> <p>Seascape – port, shipping, wind farms etc</p> <p>A good place for basket making and willow growing</p> <p>Vast stretches of beach</p> <p>High quality schools</p> <p>Coast and beach undeveloped in part – less so in the future?</p> <p>It is safe and friendly to live in Formby</p>
<p>Education, education, education of the young!</p> <p>Restrict further building development – maintain all green spaces</p> <p>More small shops</p> <p>Promote Formby products e.g. calendars</p> <p>Avoid overdevelopment of coastal area</p> <p>Encourage small businesses of all types – e.g. 'Formby Foods'</p> <p>Encourage a stronger sense of social responsibility, especially amongst children</p> <p>A community effort to reduce our carbon footprint</p> <p>More involvement with the local business community e.g. sponsored beach cleaning</p> <p>Maintain and develop educational resources for future generations</p>

Flooding

- Loss of memories and experiences as people move on
- Too many drinking establishments
- Too many supermarkets, too few small shops
- Parking!!!
- Destruction of old buildings and replacement by ugly blocks of flats

Experiences

- Nice people!
- Wildness
- Youthful memories
- Childhood memories
- Field studies
- Variety/ diversity of walks
- Bracing air
- The first time I saw the footprints
- Walking, bird watching, wild places
- Quality and pace of life
- Learning about mature willows, grasses etc

- Protect tranquillity and wilderness of place
- Greater understanding and interpretation of open habitats

- Loss of tranquillity
- Ability to cross some roads at busy times, it isn't easy today!

Patterns and Features

- The active beach
- The landscape and it's response to post-glacial change
- Large extent
- The landscape and it's response to climate change
- Natural beauty
- Variety of landscapes
- Unique landscape

<p>Restoration work where needed on dune forms</p> <p>A shared understanding of our dynamic coast</p> <p>Protect our dune ecosystems</p> <p>A need to consider some restrictions on access, at least in summer, on the numbers or whatever</p>
<p>Coastal erosion – loss of sand dunes and habitat</p> <p>Loss of extent of habitat due to climate change</p> <p>Openness</p> <p>Erosion of coastline</p> <p>Sand dunes</p>

“Top 5” Landscape Values

- Tranquillity
- Rare species
- Range of cultural activities
- Unique, dynamic, beautiful coastline
- Walking, bird watching, wild flora and fauna – flowers

“Top 5” Landscape Risks

- Loss of habitat diversity – sand dunes/ slacks
- Loss of small, local shops
- Destruction of old buildings and replacement with ugly blocks of flats/ 2 houses on original site
- Loss of memories and experiences and people move on should be recorded

“Top 5” Landscape Visions

- Maintaining the coast for future generations
- Education and involvement of the community/ users
- Maintain all green spaces
- Encourage community spirit through involvement of local businesses, schools etc...
- Community effort to reduce our carbon footprint

Group Four

Wildlife & Nature

Woodland conservation and reforestation Squirrels Dune Flora Unique and diverse wildlife Wildlife – the most biodiverse landscape in the north west Nature – dune plant community are varied, fascinating and visually stimulating Mosslands and wetlands Habitat improvement
Sustainable environment Help nature sustain some diversity, restrict some access (as is) Continued managed woodland removal and replanting native tree planting over 100 years To protect the beach, dunes, pinewoods and squirrel and natterjack toad populations Implementation of the new 'Nature Conservation Strategy' Species protection through well managed habitat recreation Adequate funding for future landscape/ wildlife management Conservation to be strengthened Clearance of rubbish left by visitors
Red squirrels (squirrel pox) Green belt between Formby and Hightown Destruction of the natural environment Possible over-felling of trees on coast Development and destruction of natural habitat Loss of open stable dune space due to the development of scrub Loss of endangered species Lack of sympathy to environment Vegetation change due to aerial nitrogen deposition (now critical) Trend towards increasing access without appropriate zoning to safeguard wildlife

History

Open field (town field system)
 Rapid change in landscape by natural means too
 Coastal scenery formed by human activity
 Settlement of Altcar area dating back to Domesday Book
 History – past land use makes a fascinating story and has linkages with current landscapes
 Partaking – history of the area
 Persistence of old farming patterns

'Heritage Coast' designation
 Recognition as a 'Heritage Coast'
 Improve awareness in archaeological importance of previous coast: mammals, birds, mosses

Allow for Man's induced problems. Erosion/ climate change

Activities

Local associations in the arts
 Walking my dog
 Walking well maintained pathways
 Walking
 Cycle paths energise!
 Very family friendly
 2 parish councils – Little Altcar and Formby giving local representation
 Activities – walking on the coast keeps me fit (relatively!)

Coastal cycle links

Dune fragmentation due to coastal erosion, development and vegetation change
 People
 Excessive visitor pressure
 Over visitor pressure

Local Economy

Local villages shops
 Accessibility (railway)
 Good range of shops in Formby village
 Farming and fishing

Local economy to continue to grow
Ways to increase local involvement – trade / jobs
Ensure appropriate development in the appropriate areas
Restriction on supermarket expansion
Integrated public transport
More co-ordination of public transport and provision of safe cycleways
Appropriate funding to improve resources available
Bring people from outside into the area
Green tourism
Training opportunities
Become more sustainable

Over development
Pressure of increased population
Too much house building – infilling
Infilling of open spaces within towns into flats etc

Experiences

Views
Fresh air and wellbeing
Quiet
Very pleasant area to live in
Improve notification for public – easier access by signs and maps
Sea of sounds!
Wide open spaces – open dunes and beach
Friends like visiting the area, even southerners!
Long term residence
Experiences – observation of sand dune wildlife is of huge recreational value to me

Increase in local people's awareness of their locale
Better understanding of landscape
Local plan to be developed and agreed

Motorcars
Indifference
Delays in habitat improvement

Patterns and Features

<p>Space</p> <p>Sea</p> <p>Beach</p> <p>Sand dunes and beach</p> <p>Field boundaries – cops and ditches</p> <p>Privileges in living here</p> <p>Pinewoods</p> <p>Open spaces so near a city</p> <p>Freedom, open spaces</p> <p>Patterns and features – I prefer open dunes to planted conifer woodland</p>
<p>Lessen threat from development in areas of importance to wildlife</p> <p>To prevent over-development of the area</p> <p>Fewer spaces devoted to car parking!</p> <p>To protect the greenbelt as it exists now</p>
<p>Natural processes</p> <p>Overcrowding – too many people</p> <p>Decisions made against the wishes of local residents</p> <p>Climate change with unpredictable consequences</p>

“Top 5” Landscape Values

- Patterns and features – urban spaces
- Wildlife and nature – unique and diverse wildlife
- History – changes in habitat, archaeology and local area
- Activities – walking for all ages
- Local economy – green tourism and interpretation
- Experiences – Weather, well being, etc – living with the landscape

“Top 5” Landscape Risks

- Visitor pressures on habitats
- Human impact on environment – over development
- Indifference
- Threats to wildlife
- Become more sustainable

“Top 5” Landscape Visions

- Patterns and features: To protect the green belt areas
 - Nature and wildlife: Continued conservation of habitats, broad spectrum of issues
 - History: Heritage coast project
 - Activities: Green cycle links, transport
 - Experiences: Awareness, better understanding
-

Ideas Bucket

- Do local people/ communities really understand their local landscape, especially a complex and changing one such as the soft coast of Sefton?
- Historical facts e.g. development of settlements, land management practice is one thing but these rarely translate into an understanding and appreciation of change in the landscape. How can this be addressed?
- The views of this consultation group are that of a mainly retired audience. There is a complete lack of young, younger and middle aged views which should be taken into consideration
- Threats/ at risk – there is a perception that Formby itself is at risk although there is a significant buffer of sand dunes. Should we be assessing perceived risk as well as actual? (Graham Lymbery, Coastal Defence – Project Leader)