

# **Liverpool City Region's Coastal Designated Sites Evidence Strategy Workshop – Liverpool**

**13 & 14 September 2016, Liverpool John Moores University**

## Background

In 2012, the Liverpool City Region (LCR) signed a 'Deal' with Government which included significant investment from a range of partners to fill the urgent evidence gaps in coastal designated sites for nature conservation. These gaps were affecting decision-taking timescales and were a risk to sustainable economic growth aspirations. One of the outcomes of that short-term investment was the publication of statutory guidance in the refreshed Conservation Advice Packages by Natural England.

A further outcome has been the need to prepare a Coastal Evidence Strategy which is the focus of the workshop.

## Workshop 13/14 September 2016

The Liverpool City Region's Coastal Evidence Workshop aimed to inform preparation of an Evidence Strategy for this coastline.

This workshop provided the background to why an evidence strategy is needed. It explored data needs of those working in the area; how data are currently collected and managed and how we can work better in the future to target monitoring and cut the costs by working together (the 'collect once, use many times principle').

## Proposed Evidence Strategy

The Evidence Strategy is fundamental to:

1. Ensure that the evidence to underpin the Conservation Advice Packages remains current and up-to-date;
2. Prioritise resource allocation for evidence projects;
3. Inform project planning;
4. Provide a steer to a wide range of partners on evidence needs and the purpose of that evidence; and
5. Enable collaboration between academia, decision-takers and project proponents.

The workshop was structured to enable participants to gain an understanding of how evidence needs have been identified and prioritised to date and what gaps are thought to remain in the short and long term.