

To: NE England volunteers
North Norfolk volunteers
SE Scotland volunteers

Daniel M Turner
North Shields
Monday 06 April 2009

Cc: Dr Jan Andries van Franeker, Martin Heubeck, Eric Meek,
Dr Jane Delany, Keith Fairclough, and other interested parties

Dear All,

Here is our latest regional newsletter for the 'Save the North Sea' (SNS) Fulmar project and Beached Bird Surveys.

Please accept my thanks once again for your time and support. Here is a brief summary of contents:

Newsletter 17 SNS Fulmar project and BBS (including Northeast / Southeast England, and Southeast Scotland):

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If you think I have missed anything important from this newsletter please let me know.

Please continue to return your monthly survey forms (including 'nil returns' i.e. complete a survey form even when no corpses are found during any monthly survey) and if you have any un-submitted reports for recent months please forward them to me. Many thanks.

Spring is well on its way with warmer days, blooming flowers, birdsong and returning seabirds I hope you enjoy the coming seasons and continue to support our projects.

Due to my mother's recent illness since November (she died on 23 March) this has led to a slight delay in the completion of this newsletter. I hope you understand.

Best wishes,

Dan Turner

Newsletter 17
Northeast and southeast England and southeast Scotland
 'Save the North Sea' Fulmar project and Beached Bird Surveys

Northeast England, Beached Bird Survey summary report July to December 2008

Area	Key	Area	Key	Area	Key
County Cleveland	Cle	South Northumberland	SN	Tyne and Wear (South)	T&W (S)
County Durham	Du	Mid Northumberland	MN	Tyne and Wear (North)	T&W (N)
		North Northumberland	NN		

Month	July 2008								August 2008							
	Northumberland			T & W		Du	Cle	Tot	Northumberland			T & W		Du	Cle	Tot
	NN	MN	SN	N	S				NN	MN	SN	N	S			
Kilometres	19.0	3.6	7.8	2.8	2.8	4.5	3.0	43.5	19.0	3.7	7.8	3.0	2.8	4.3	5.0	45.6
Fulmar			1					1			1					1
Gannet	1							1	2							2
Gulls	1	2		1				4		2	2		14		1	19
Auks								0		1				1		2
Feral Pigeon			1					1			1					1
Total corpses	2	2	2	1	0	0	0	7	2	3	4	0	14	1	1	25

Month	Sept 2008								Oct 2008							
	Northumberland			T & W		Du	Cle	Tot	Northumberland			T & W		Du	Cle	Tot
	NN	MN	SN	N	S				NN	MN	SN	N	S			
Kilometres	19.0	4.4	7.8	1.0	2.8	0.0	9.0	44.0	19.0	3.6	7.8	3.3	2.8	4.5	6.5	47.5
Fulmar								0								0
Gannet	15	1					1	17	1	1						2
Cormorant								0	1							1
Barnacle Goose								0						1		1
Eider Duck	1							1	1							1
Waders								0						3		3
Pheasant			1					1								0
Gulls	1	1	1		2		1	6	1	2						3
Common Tern								0			1					1
Auks		2	3		1		4	10			1		1		1	3
Feral Pigeon								0			1	1				2
Total corpses	17	4	5	0	3	0	6	35	4	3	3	1	1	0	5	17

Month	Nov 2008								Dec 2008							
	Northumberland			T & W		Du	Cle	Tot	Northumberland			T & W		Du	Cle	Tot
	NN	MN	SN	N	S				NN	MN	SN	N	S			
Kilometres	19.0	3.6	7.8	3.3	2.8	4.5	6.5	47.5	14.0	3.6	7.8	3.3	2.8	2.5	6.5	40.5
Fulmar			1					1								0
Gannet	2						4	6								0
Cormorant	1							1								0
Swan sp.								0			1					1
Eider Duck	2							2								0
Kestrel								0						1		1
Waders								0						1		1
Gulls	2	4	2				11	19		1	2			1	2	6
Auks		1	1				1	3								0
Fieldfare								0						2		2
Total corpses	7	5	4	0	0	0	16	32	0	1	3	0	0	1	6	11

The above data are to be double checked later.

Northeast England Surveyors during this period

Chris Beneke, Martin A Blick, Ray Chilton, Peter Collins, Phil Davey, Gavin Dudley, Jonathan Everett, Phil Gilbert, Alan Gilbertson, Maurice Hepple, Steve Holliday, Malcolm Hutcheson, Gordon Hyslop, Dee McKeown, George McVitie, George D R Moody, Alex Moore, Will G Tapsfield, Daniel M Turner, Michael Yianni.

Other interesting shore finds (dead unless specified) during the NE England Beached Bird Surveys

Grey Seal?	17.06.08	North Blyth	Ray Chilton	Well rotted. Mostly covered with sand. Five to six feet in length.
Sperm Whale	25.06.08	Lindisfarne	Phil Davey	A live sighting at Marshall Meadows, less than 100 metres offshore, 19:30 – 22:30 BST.
Seal sp.	26.07.08	Easington Colliery to Hawthorn Dene	Chris Beneke	Dead and decomposing seal observed. Approx 3 feet long, all black in colour
Jellyfish	27.07.08	Cresswell, Druridge Bay	Gavin Dudley	Large jellyfish invasion – many washed up on beach (photo supplied).
Seal sp. pup	31.07.08	Cambois beach	Ray Chilton	Length: 70-80 cm, unmarked, fresh. A seal pup (of the same size) was seen alive at low tide on 30th, but swam off strongly when approached.
Racing Pigeon	24.08.08	Blyth South Beach	Dan Turner	Dead several weeks. Left leg: Green plastic (electronic?) ring. Right leg: Blue closed ring, SU08 F6057. Reported on-line to Scottish Homing Union on 16 Sept 2008. Awaiting details
Pheasant female	08.09.08	Cambois beach to North Blyth	Ray Chilton	Result of flooding
Sheep	08.09.08	Cambois beach to North Blyth	Ray Chilton	Result of flooding
Guillemot	08.10.08	Hartlepool North Sands	Martin Blick	Dead oiled bird.
Oystercatcher	08.10.08	Hartlepool North Sands	Martin Blick	Wings and skeleton. No oil.
Common Tern	12.10.08	Blyth South Beach	S. Holliday and Dee McKeown	Probable adult, left wing only.
Guillemot	12.10.08	Blyth South Beach	S. Holliday and Dee McKeown	Complete. Almost 100% oiled i.e. heavily.
Flounder	14.10.08	Blyth South Beach	Maurice Hepple	
Woodcock	30.10.08	Saltburn	Martin Blick	Dead about two days. No oil.
Oystercatcher	30.10.08	Saltburn	Martin Blick	Dead about three days. No oil.
Harbour Porpoise	06.11.08	Seaton Sluice to Blyth	Dr. Will G Tapsfield	It looked in very good condition and was about 3 ft in length. Had not been present on 5 Nov and by 8 Nov was no longer present. Presumably washed away by heavy seas.
Ray's Bream	30.11.08	Druridge Bay	Dan Turner	Specific name: <i>Brama brama</i> . Photographed. 52 cm in length.
Rabbit	15.12.08	Hartlepool N Sands	Martin Blick	Dead about one day
Oystercatcher	15.12.08	Hartlepool N Sands	Martin Blick	Dead about one week.
Kestrel	16.12.08	Saltburn	Martin Blick	Juvenile male. Dead about two weeks
Fieldfare	16.12.08	Saltburn	Martin Blick	Wings and skeleton
Fieldfare	16.12.08	Redcar	Martin Blick	Dead 3 – 4 days.
Starfish sp.	21.12.08	Blyth South Beach	Maurice Hepple	200+ small starfish (2-3 inches across). Most dead but a few alive.
Roe Deer	28.12.08	North Blyth	Ray Chilton	Adult? No antlers, approx 3 feet high and 3 to 4 feet long. Good condition. On the back legs one side section was missing. Suspect that it was poached and dumped in the river or on the beach.
Ray's Bream	Approx 07.01.09	Cullercoats Bay Tyne and Wear	Reindert Nijland	Smaller and not as fresh as the one found here on 21 January 2009.
Bottle-nosed Dolphins (live sighting).	12.01.09	Cheswick Bay	Malcolm Hutcheson	Eight were observed fairly close inshore on the low tide at 9.45 a.m., swimming south towards Lindisfarne. Of the eight at least one was a juvenile.
Ray's Bream	21.01.09	Cullercoats Bay, Tyne and Wear	Reindert Nijland	Very fresh. Cooked and eaten by Reindert: '... the taste was very nice but quite subtle'.

Ray's Bream	29.01.09	Cambois Beach, SE North/land	Ray Chilton	Fresh, gills red. Flesh eaten from hole on one side. Skin whole.
Ray's Bream	06.02.09	Seaburn Beach, Sunderland	Peter Collins	
Common Sea Urchin	07.02.09	Blyth South Beach	Steve Holliday	Many plus a few crabs washed up in the seaweed.
Bottle-nosed Dolphins (live sighting).	11.03.09	East Chevington, Druridge Bay	Alan Gilbertson	13:00 GMT. The group was travelling north, surfacing regularly in a calm sea about three-quarters of a mile to a mile offshore. Alan counted at least seven individual animals including one, possibly two juveniles. The younger animals were about half the length of the adults and noticeably paler in colour.

Gull corpse summary, July to December 2008, NE England beach surveys

Species	July 08	Aug 08	Sept 08	Oct 08	Nov 08	Dec 08	Total
Black-headed	-	2	1	-	4	2	9
Common	-	-	-	-	3	4	7
Herring	2	-	3	1	6	-	12
Great Black-backed	-	1	2	1	2	-	6
Lesser Black-backed	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
Kittiwake	2	15 (11 chicks)	-	-	4	-	21
Unknown	-	1	-	1	-	-	2
Total	4	19	6	3	19	6	57

Auk corpse summary, July to December 2008, NE England beach surveys

Species	July 08	Aug 08	Sept 08	Oct 08	Nov 08	Dec 08	Total
Guillemot	-	2	10	2	1	-	15
Razorbill	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
Puffin	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
Little Auk	-	-	-	-	2	-	2
Auk sp.	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
Total	0	2	10	2	3	0	17

July 2008. Cheswick beach (MHu, North Northumberland) held numbers of jellyfish on 28th July (15+ Moon Jellyfish and one Lion's Mane). RC: Cambois Beach (3.5 km, South Northumberland) on 25th July, small blue jelly fish at low tide mark along the full length of the beach.

August 2008. 12 Aug, 19:30 – 20:30 BST RC: Cambois beach middle section covered at low tide mark with greasy smelling substance. Particles varying from very small to approx 10 cm diameter. Went to check on Wed morning, 13th, 09:00 – 10:00, pollution deposited at high tide mark, middle section old pipes to North Blyth houses. Pollution reported to Environment Agency. Thur 14th, Environment inspector on beach – samples taken for testing and notices put up closing the beach due to pollution. Tue 19 Aug: started cleaning the beach dumping polluted sand in car park till test results came back. Pair of Stonechats feeding on sandhoppers in the piles of sand. Thur 21 Aug: did monthly survey – beach still polluted at North Blyth end and quite a few pieces left at other end, cleaners not there. 21 Aug, beach still officially closed, various gulls and waders feeding at the tide line (on small particles of pollution?). Dates not certain, but sand was loaded into skips and left at car park. Nothing official seen, but offenders seem to be Vee Fuel (Bio Diesel) at old Glaxo Plant. Skips removed, notices gone, still lumps of pollution on the beach. 8th Sept: No oil, still pieces of pollution at high tide mark, beach still closed, beach covered in debris from river flooding.

26th August: Blyth South Beach (STH): Starfish on beach – photographed. Small 'fall' of migrants on beach/dunes – 4 Wheatear, Redstart and 3 Willow Warblers near Gloucester Lodge farm.

August 2008: Cheswick to Tweed Estuary (MHu) was badly polluted by the debris brought down the Tweed as it had been in spate most of the month.

September 2008. MHu: Severe amount of timber tree trunks, straw and agricultural debris brought down the Tweed the first week of the month, covering the coastline south from Tweedmouth to Lindisfarne. Per. Julie Roper w/c 20 Sept: at Goswick there were a dozen dead juvenile gannets on the beach.

Oct 2008: STH (15:30 BST, Sunday 5 Oct): Newbiggin – there has been an oil spill and some ‘official-types’ are removing live and dead Guillemots in boxes.

Southeast England – Beached Bird Survey summary report 2008

Location

Norfolk, Holkham Bay

Data collected by:

Steve Bexton, Veterinary Officer, RSPCA East Winch Wildlife Centre and his team: Sandra Dunk, Hayley McMinn, Joanne Mead, A. Smith.

Southeast England, Table 1. Summary data: dead birds found during the Holkham Bay surveys.

Month 2007	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Kilometres surveyed	0	0	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9	0	26.1
Fulmar													0
Gannet											1 j		1
Goose sp.											1		1
Black-headed Gull				1		1		3					5
Gull sp. Common Gull?				1									1
Guillemot					3	2			1				6
Total birds	-	-	0	2	3	3	0	3	1	0	2	-	14
Number of oiled birds	-	-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	0

Key: j = juvenile

Southeast England, Table 2. Other interesting shore finds (dead unless specified)

Species	Date	Observer	Comments
Grey Seal	27.03.08	HM	Two white coats (juveniles): one headless, the other skinned.
Harbour Porpoise	24.04.08	SD	Reasonably fresh. Large wound around neck area.
Common Seal	24.04.08	SD	Fresh, a yearling.
Couch's Sea Bream (<i>Pagrus pagrus</i>)	16.11.08	JM	

Useful internet links to further Fulmar, litter and other information

A Marine Litter website: Modbury (South Devon), Great Britain's first plastic bag free town
<http://www.plasticbagfree.com/facts.php>

Link to a short video made by Jan of the 2009 Fulmar workshop on Texel, which was for our funding organisations NYK and Ministry of VenW. The video has been inserted into www.zeevogelgroep.nl (to view go to the wreck information page and click the 'workshop' line).

See also: <http://www.wageningenimares.wur.nl/UK/newsagenda/news/fulmar120309.htm>
and
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-cVOcOx_NnI&feature=email

Scottish Seabird Centre, North Berwick, East Lothian: www.seabird.org

Some recent illustrated finds in Northeast England



Photo 1 by Martin A Blick. 26 May 2008.

Lab analysis showed this was a second year female that died from plumage problems.

2. Lesser Black-backed Gull (*Larus fuscus*) of the *intermedius* or *fuscus* sub-species. Collected from Scaling Dam, Yorkshire. Donated to the Hancock Museum.



Photo 2 by Martin A Blick, 6 August 2008.

1. Northern Fulmar (*Fulmarus glacialis*), Hartlepool North Sands. Specimen NEE-2008-018, died soon after finding.



Photo 3. Beached young Common Seal (*Phoca vitulina*), Seaham to Ryhope, Durham, 9 March 2008. Thought to be up to six months old. Moved to Tees Seal Rescue Centre. Photo by Gordon Hyslop.



Photo 4 by Dr Reindert Nijland, 21 January 2009.

4. Ray's Bream (also known as Atlantic Pomfret *Brama brama*), Cullercoats Bay, North Tyneside, with Tynemouth pier in the distance. Very fresh when found. Reindert decided to prepare it for dinner having read that it should taste good. He went on to say 'I first checked its stomach content but this was completely empty. I cut a few fillets from the sides of this quite large fish, dusted these in plain flour, added some salt and pepper and shortly shallow fried them in some olive oil. The raw flesh was light-pink but turned to white when cooked. The texture was firm, a bit like mackerel but dryer/less oily and the taste was very nice but quite subtle.'



Photo 5 by John Thompson, 26 December 2008.

This Oar-fish (*Regalecus glesne*) was found towards the northern end of Druridge Bay, Northumberland. Its preferred depth range appears to be 300-600 metres where it feeds on mainly shrimp-like krill. The species can grow up to seven metres in length and is a mid-water fish in the open ocean.

Another specimen was found at nearby Amble / Hauxley on 23 / 24 February 2009 and a third fish was found dead beside the pier at Tynemouth (Tyne and Wear) on 24 February. For more details – see The Journal (Newcastle) dated 28 February (page 30) and the Newcastle Evening Chronicle dated 25 February (page 8). The Tynemouth specimen was given to The Blue Reef Aquarium. Many thanks to Stewart Sexton for providing various information.



Photo 6.



Photo 8.

6. Second-year or adult Guillemot (*Uria aalge*), Druridge Bay, Northumberland, 31 Aug 2008. This bird is in moult.

7. Wing rulers prepared for volunteers (some are still to be distributed).

8. Eric Morton, taxidermist with the Hancock Museum, Newcastle. Eric has preserved a number of bird specimens collected by our group.



Photo 7.

Photos 6, 7 and 8 by Dan Turner.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN NORTH SEA LITTER PROJECT

(Press release)

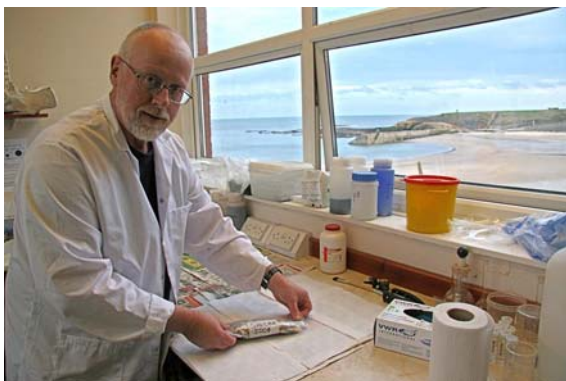
Dutch scientist Jan van Franeker, leader of the international 'Save the North Sea' Fulmar study, visited the Dove Marine Laboratory of the University of Newcastle upon Tyne from 20 to 23 January 2009 to collaborate with local co-ordinator Dan Turner. Their scientific work in the Dove Marine Lab was combined with educational presentations at the Scottish Seabird Centre in North Berwick.

The 'Save the North Sea' (SNS) project was a successful European campaign in 2002-2004 to increase awareness about the damage caused by litter in the marine environment. Symbol of the SNS-campaign was the Northern Fulmar, one of the many seabird species that mistakenly feeds on indigestible debris such as plastic. Earlier study in the Netherlands had shown that almost all beached Fulmars had plastic in their stomach. In the SNS project the Fulmar research was expanded to all countries around the North Sea. Quantities of plastics in stomachs of dead beached Fulmars are now used by northwest European governments to monitor the effect of their policies to reduce the discarding of debris in the marine environment. This so called 'Ecological Quality Objective (EcoQO)' research is commissioned by the Netherlands government and receives substantial support from the NYK Group Europe Ltd.

Internationally, the SNS Fulmar study is managed by Dr Jan A. van Franeker, senior scientist at the Institute for Marine Resources & Ecosystem Studies (IMARES) in the Netherlands. Dan Turner is the organiser of the monthly regional Beached Bird Surveys and participates in the Fulmar study in co-operation with the Dove Marine Lab and the Hancock Museum. His regional project received a British Airways 'community volunteering award' and several of the beach volunteers are British Airways employees as well as including ornithologists and naturalists from the northeast and southeast of England and southeast Scotland.

In the Dove Marine Laboratory, Cullercoats, Jan van Franeker and Dan Turner autopsied 47 Northern Fulmar corpses, 31 of which had been washed up onto beaches in the region mostly in May-June 2008. An additional 16 birds from Shetland were processed. Internal examinations of the northeast England birds showed that two out of three were females, many of them breeding adults and some of them carrying a fully developed egg in the oviduct. The phenomenon of adult breeders dying is unexplained but of serious concern. All these birds were totally emaciated. Stomachs were extracted for later analysis of litter contents in the IMARES labs in the Netherlands. The routine dissections in the Dove labs were interrupted by a visit to the Scottish Seabird Centre (SSC) in North Berwick. Two Fulmars were autopsied in public at the SSC one of them in a live television broadcast for the Scottish school television GLOW project, during which students had the opportunity to ask questions directly. Creating awareness among the younger generations is the most important contribution that the Fulmar study can make.

Dr. van Franeker was extremely pleased with the successful organisation of this productive visit and praised the high level of commitment by all those regionally involved in the project.



9. Dr. Jan A. van Franeker in Dove Marine Lab.



10. Whitley Bay Fulmar colony, January 2009.

Further data concerning 2008 Northeast England (and Southeast Scotland) Fulmars

The table indicates some of the data collected relating to the regional Fulmars collected in 2008, mostly found during the wreck of May / June.

Reference	Location	Finder	Date	Sex	Age	Culmen	Death cause
NEE-2008-001	Sunderland, Roker Beach	Peter Collins	16-Mar-08	F	AD	39.7	Drowning
NEE-2008-002	Northumberland, North Blyth	Steve Holliday	17-May-08	M	AD	42.8	Plumage problems
NEE-2008-003	Northumberland, Cambois	Ray Chilton	25-May-08	M	IM	40.9	Gut: Cancer and ulcers
NEE-2008-004	Northumberland, Cambois	Ray Chilton	25-May-08	F	AD	38.7	Starvation
NEE-2008-005	Northumberland, Cambois	Ray Chilton	25-May-08	F	AD	36.9	Starvation
NEE-2008-006	Northumberland, Cambois	Ray Chilton	25-May-08	M	IM	38.5	Starvation
NEE-2008-007	Northumberland, Seaton Sluice	Dan Turner	26-May-08	F	AD	36.6	Starvation
NEE-2008-008	Northumberland, Seaton Sluice	Dan Turner	26-May-08	F	AD	36.3	Cement cloaca
NEE-2008-009	Northumberland, Seaton Sluice	Dan Turner	26-May-08	F	IM	37.6	Plumage problems
NEE-2008-010	Northumberland, Boulmer	D.Turner & Maurice Hepple	25-May-08	F	AD	37.7	Starvation
NEE-2008-011	Northumberland, Boulmer	D.Turner & Maurice Hepple	25-May-08	F	AD	37.4	Starvation
NEE-2008-012	Northumberland, Boulmer	D.Turner & Maurice Hepple	25-May-08	F	AD	36.3	Starvation
NEE-2008-013	Northumberland, Blyth south beach	M.Hepple & S. Holliday	26-May-08	F	AD	39.1	Starvation
NEE-2008-014	Northumberland, Blyth south beach	M.Hepple & S. Holliday	26-May-08	M	IM	36.8	Starvation
NEE-2008-015	Northumberland, Druridge Bay	Dan Turner	26-May-08	M	IM	40.2	Starvation
NEE-2008-016	Cleveland, Hartlepool North Sands	Martin A. Blick	26-May-08			37.2	Starvation
NEE-2008-017	Cleveland, Hartlepool North Sands	Martin A. Blick	26-May-08	M	IM	40.5	Starvation
NEE-2008-018	Cleveland, Hartlepool North Sands	Martin A. Blick	26-May-08	F	2Y	34.7	Plumage problems
NEE-2008-019	Northumberland, Cambois	Ray Chilton	28-May-08	F	AD	36.3	Cement cloaca
NEE-2008-020	Northumberland, Holy Island	George D.R. Moody	28-May-08	F	AD	37.4	Starvation
NEE-2008-021	Northumberland, Seaton Sluice	Dan Turner	28-May-08	F	IM	38.4	Starvation
NEE-2008-022	Northumberland, Druridge Bay	Gavin Dudley	29-May-08	F	AD	38.4	Starvation
NEE-2008-023	Northumberland, Druridge Bay	Gavin Dudley	29-May-08	F	AD	37.6	Starvation
NEE-2008-024	Northumberland, Boulmer	D.Turner & Stewart Sexton	30-May-08	F	AD	37.0	Starvation
NEE-2008-025	Northumberland, Boulmer	D.Turner & Stewart Sexton	30-May-08	M	IM	41.6	Starvation
NEE-2008-026	Northumberland, Druridge Bay	Phil Gilbert	7-Jun-08	M	JU	40.0	Starvation
NEE-2008-027	Northumberland, Druridge Bay	Phil Gilbert	7-Jun-08			37.9	Unknown
NEE-2008-028	Northumberland, Druridge Bay	Phil Gilbert	7-Jun-08	M	AD	41.4	Starvation
NEE-2008-029	Cleveland, Saltburn	Martin A. Blick	12-Jun-08	M	IM	39.8	Starvation
NEE-2008-030	Northumberland, North Blyth	Ray Chilton	17-Sep-08	F	JU	38.1	Collision (bruises)
NEE-2008-031	SE Scotland, North Berwick	Maggie Sheddan	15-May-08	M	AD	39.3	Drowning

Fulmar wreck, January 2009, North Sea – brief overview

Coastal passage of Fulmars was noted off Egmond (Noord Holland) on 4 January, followed almost immediately by birds being washed ashore in the Netherlands with 14 fresh birds found on 5th followed by 26 more along 30 km of beach during 6th-8th (many dark phase birds were included). Fourteen more were washed up the Netherlands (Ameland) on 9th January including half or more dark birds. Between 8th-13th at Schelswig Holstein (Germany) at least 17 were beached with a further 48 on the East Frisian Islands (Germany). More were reported from the Netherlands up to 15th January. From 13th January dead Fulmars were recorded in Norway with up to 49 between 13-16th many of which were dark phase birds. From 14th-21st at least 33 additional birds were reported from the German North Sea coast with an overall total of 126 Fulmars from the German coastline during January. A total of 74 were noted in the Netherlands up to 26 January and in south Norway (Lista area) 26 Fulmars were beached of which 17 were collected. Other areas of the North Sea were monitored, but showed no abnormal numbers during this period. In Northeast England we recorded only one Fulmar corpse in January from 31.5 km coastline surveyed.

Many of the wreck birds were analysed during the Fulmar workshop on Texel from 11th-16th February 2009.

For more complete detail concerning this wreck refer to the website:

www.zeevogelgroep.nl

Oil pollution, northeast England October 2008

Over one hundred birds including sea ducks, puffins, guillemots and razorbills were washed up in early October along a stretch of the northeast England coastline from Amble to Roker, near Sunderland. Many more birds are thought to have died out at sea. The source of the oil remains unknown although HM Coastguard was investigating. Tynemouth Volunteer Life Brigade and the RSPCA were involved in the recovery of the ailing birds and Natural England officials took water samples in order to determine the type of oil.

The RSPCA requested assistance from members of the public to hand oiled birds to the Blue Reef Aquarium, Tynemouth, Tyne and Wear, where they would receive the treatment they required. Some birds were also sent to the Swan Trust centre at Berwick (North Northumberland) for cleaning.

****Notes:**

1. Please remember to save any ringed auks (Guillemot, Razorbill and Puffin), Little Auks (whatever the condition and state of completeness) and please continue to collect all Fulmars with complete abdomens for the litter monitoring project. Also save any interesting specimens that are in good condition – for the Hancock Museum or our own collection.
 2. Many thanks to Dr Jan Andries van Franeker for checking the draft version of this newsletter and converting the final version into Adobe .pdf format – so that it may be reduced in size for email purposes.
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NEBBS Newsletters 17 to 18, 2009

Newsletter 17, SNS Fulmar project and BBS (including NEE, SEE and SES)
Completed: Apr 2009.

To: Northeast England volunteers
Southeast England volunteers
Southeast Scotland volunteers

Daniel M Turner
North Shields
Sunday 22 Nov 2009

Cc: Jan Andries van Franeker, Martin Heubeck, Eric Meek,
Jane Delany, Keith Fairclough, and other interested parties

Dear All,

Here is our latest regional newsletter for the beached bird surveys (BBS) and 'Save the North Sea' (SNS) Fulmar project.

Thanks once again for all your time and support. Here is a brief summary of contents:

Newsletter 18 BBS and SNS Fulmar projects – in northeast England (this issue)

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If you think I have missed anything important from this newsletter or if you notice any errors then please let me know.

We have seven intact frozen Fulmars in storage which have been collected this year in our region.

Please continue to return your monthly survey forms (including 'nil returns' i.e. complete a survey form even when no corpses are found during any monthly survey) and if you have any un-submitted reports for recent months please forward them to me. Many thanks.

I hope you enjoy the winter months and continue to support our projects.

Best wishes,

Dan Turner

Newsletter 18**Northeast and southeast England and southeast Scotland**
Beached bird and 'Save the North Sea' Fulmar project surveys**Northeast England, Beached Bird Survey summary report January to October 2009**

<u>Area</u>	<u>Key</u>	<u>Area</u>	<u>Key</u>	<u>Area</u>	<u>Key</u>
County Cleveland	Cle	South Northumberland	SN	Tyne and Wear (South)	T&W (S)
County Durham	Du	Mid Northumberland	MN	Tyne and Wear (North)	T&W (N)
		North Northumberland	NN		

Northeast England Surveyors during this period

Chris Beneke (CB), Martin A Blick (MAB), Linda Charlton (LC), Ray Chilton (RC), Peter Collins (PC), Phil Davey (PD), Gavin Dudley (GRD), Jonathan Everett (JE), Phil Gilbert (PG), Alan Gilbertson (AG), Maurice Hepple (MHe), Steve Holliday (STH), Malcolm Hutcheson (MHu), Gordon Hyslop (GH), George McVitie (GMcV), George D R Moody (GDRM), Daniel M Turner (DMT), Emma L Turner (ELT), J. Andrew Turner (JAT), Simon J Turner (SJT), Michael Yianni (MY).

There will be a few more records to add to the data for this period at a later stage – which will be included in the full 2009 paper when published (for example additional Puffin corpses: one in April and six in July).

Month	Jan 2009									Feb 2009						
	Northumberland			T & W		Du	Cle	Tot	Northumberland			T & W		Du	Cle	Tot
	NN	MN	SN	N	S				NN	MN	SN	N	S			
Kilometres	19.0	3.6	7.8	2.7	0.8	1.8	5.0	40.7	19.0	3.6	7.8	2.6	0.8	4.3	9.0	47.1
Fulmar							1	1		1						1
Gannet	1							1			1					1
Cormorant								0	2							2
Eider Duck	3		1					4	5			1				6
Wigeon								0				1				1
Gulls		3		1			2	6	3	1					2	6
Auks							1	1								0
Feral Pigeon			1					1								0
Long-Eared Owl								0	1							1
Starling		1						1								0
Total corpses	4	4	2	1	0	0	4	15	11	2	1	2	0	0	2	18

Month	Mar 2009							Apr 2009								
	Northumberland			T & W		Du	Cle	Tot	Northumberland			T & W		Du	Cle	Tot
	NN	MN	SN	N	S				NN	MN	SN	N	S			
Kilometres	19.0	1.2	7.8	3.3	0.8	4.5	0.0	36.6	19.0	1.2	7.8	3.3	0.0	2.0	5.0	38.3
Fulmar								0								0
Shag								0	1							1
Mute Swan								0	1							1
Eider Duck								0	2							2
Waders				1				1								0
Gulls		1	2					3		1						1
Total corpses	0	1	2	1	0	0	-	4	4	1	0	0	-	0	0	5

Month	May 2009							June 2009								
	Northumberland			T & W		Du	Cle	Tot	Northumberland			T & W		Du	Cle	Tot
	NN	MN	SN	N	S				NN	MN	SN	N	S			
Kilometres	19.0	5.6	7.8	3.3	0.8	4.5	3.5	44.5	19.0	4.0	7.8	3.3	0	2.0	6.5	42.6
Fulmar								0	1	1	1				1	4
Gannet						1		1			1					1
Eider Duck								0	1							1
Gulls	1	3						4		11				1	3	15
Terns								0	1		1					2
Auks								0		2					3	5
Feral Pigeon		1				1		2				1				1
Total corpses	1	4	0	0	0	2	0	7	3	14	3	1	-	1	7	29

Month	July 2009								August 2009							
	Northumberland			T & W		Du	Cle	Tot	Northumberland			T & W		Du	Cle	Tot
	NN	MN	SN	N	S				NN	MN	SN	N	S			
Kilometres	19.0	3.6	7.8	3.3	0.0	2.0	0.0	35.7	19.0	3.6	7.8	3.3	0.8	4.5	4.5	43.5
Fulmar	2		1					3								0
Gannet	1		1					2								0
Waders			1					1								0
Gulls		7	5					12		2	1		1			4
Terns	2		1					3								0
Auks	2	3	2					7		1						1
Feral Pigeon		1	2					3								0
House Sparrow			1					1								0
Total corpses	7	11	14	0	-	0	-	32	0	3	1	0	1	0	0	5

Month	Sept 2009								Oct 2009							
	Northumberland			T & W		Du	Cle	Tot	Northumberland			T & W		Du	Cle	Tot
	NN	MN	SN	N	S				NN	MN	SN	N	S			
Kilometres	19.0	3.6	7.8	3.3	0.9	2.0	9.0	45.6	5.0	3.6	7.8	3.0	0.8	4.5	4.5	29.2
Fulmar							2	2								0
Manx Shear.							1	1								0
Gannet							3	3						1		1
Eider Duck	2							2								0
Waders							1	1								0
Gulls		1	2				7	10		3	1			3		7
Auks	1	1		1			4	7		2						2
Feral Pigeon			3					3				1				1
Unknown								0		1						1
Total corpses	3	2	5	1	0	0	18	29	0	6	1	1	0	0	4	12

Gull corpse summary, January to October 2009, northeast England beach surveys

Species	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Total
Black-headed	1	2	1		1	4	4	1	3	3	20
Common	1	2			1		2			1	7
Herring	2	1	2	1	1	4	2	1	5	1	20
Great Black-backed						2	1			1	4
Lesser Black-backed							1				1
Black-backed sp.		1									1
Kittiwake						4	1	1	2	1	9
Iceland Gull	1										1
Large gull sp.	1				1	1	1	1			5
Total	6	6	3	1	4	15	12	4	10	7	68

Tern corpse summary, January to October 2009, northeast England beach surveys

Species	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Total
Sandwich							3				3
Common						1					1
Arctic						1					1
Total	0	0	0	0	0	2	3	0	0	0	5

Auk corpse summary, January to October 2009, northeast England beach surveys

Species	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Total
Guillemot	1					4	5	1	7	2	20
Razorbill						1	1				2
Puffin							1				1
Little Auk											0
Total	1	0	0	0	0	5	7	1	7	2	23

Other interesting shore finds (dead unless specified) during the northeast England Beached Bird Surveys: January to early November 2009

Ray's Bream	Approx 07.01.09	Cullercoats Bay Tyne and Wear	Reindert Nijland	Smaller and not as fresh as the one found here on 21 January 2009.
Bottle-nosed Dolphins (live sighting).	12.01.09	Cheswick Bay	MHu	Eight were observed fairly close inshore on the low tide at 09.45 a.m., swimming south towards Lindisfarne. Of the eight at least one was a juvenile.
Ray's Bream	21.01.09	Cullercoats Bay Tyne and Wear	Reindert Nijland	Very fresh. Cooked and eaten by Reindert: '... the taste was very nice but quite subtle'.
Compass Jellyfish	28.01.09	Cheswick beach	MHu	Malcolm's notes recall that he has never before seen a jellyfish in January
Ray's Bream	29.01.09	Cambois Beach, SE North/land	RC	Fresh, gills red. Flesh eaten from hole on one side. Skin whole.
Ray's Bream	06.02.09	Seaburn Beach, Sunderland	PC	
Common Sea Urchin	07.02.09	Blyth South Beach	STH	Many plus a few crabs washed up in the seaweed.
Oar-fish	23 / 24.02.09	Amble area	Michael Bould	
Oar-fish	24.02.09	Tynemouth	?	
Bottle-nosed Dolphins (live sighting).	11.03.09	East Chevington, Druridge Bay	Alan Gilbertson	13:00 GMT. The group was travelling north, surfacing regularly in a calm sea about three-quarters of a mile to a mile offshore. Alan counted at least seven individual animals including one, possibly two juveniles. The younger animals were about half the length of the adults and noticeably paler in colour.
Common European Squid	13.03.09	Seaham to Ryhope	GMcV and GH	Photo enclosed by the recorders.
Green Shore Crab <i>Carcinus maenas</i>	13.03.09	Seaham to Ryhope	GMcV and GH	Photo enclosed by the recorders.
Turnstone	29.03.09	Long Sands, Tynemouth	DMT	Headless, body featherless, wings present. Collected.
Grey Seal	08.04.09	Holy Island	GDRM	Young. Tagged. Tag passed to English Nature.
Probable Harbour Porpoise	09.04.09	Near East Chevington on Druridge Bay	Phil Allott	Body remains – head and tail well scavenged, dorsal fin missing. Size and markings indicate Harbour Porpoise. Colour photos present on http://crammybirding.blogspot.com/
Lumpsucker	10.04.09	North Blyth	RC	Quite fresh, unmarked.
Small crustaceans	18.04.09	Tynemouth Long Sands	DMT	Spread all along the strand line – thousands. Some collected to identify.
Small crustaceans	19.04.09	Seaton Sluice	DMT	Spread all along the strand line in abundance. Like on Long Sands beach (Tynemouth) on 18 April.
Small crustaceans	19.04.09	Seaburn beach, Sunderland	PC	Lots of sewage-related litter and dead crustaceans on beach. Also one dead Puffin.
Seal sp.	27.04.09	Holy Island	GDRM	Adult
Small crustaceans	06.05.09	Wansbeck Estuary to North Blyth: at The Rockers.	RC	Thousands of live, tiny shrimp-like crustaceans (newly hatched?) washed onto beach for some distance, some were collected. Being fed upon by two mixed flocks of about 100 gulls (Common and Herring) 20 – 30 metres from the shore. In places they were washed up in lines half an inch deep and two to three inches wide.
Octopus	06.05.09	Cambois / North Blyth	RC	Well dried out. At high tide mark, middle section of the beach stretch. Fifteen inches long.
	09.05.09	Cambois to North Blyth	RC	No sign of any of the small crustaceans which had been present on 6 May. Some Herring, Common and Black-headed Gulls and various waders feeding on the sand.

Squid	09.05.09	Cambois to North Blyth	RC	70 cm in length. Good condition. Collected. Found just above tide line.
Rabbit	10.05.09	Druridge Bay	LC / DMT	Young, fresh, body scavenged.
Dog	16.05.09	Easington Colliery to Hawthorn Dene	CB	Possible cross breed terrier. All black, approx 3 feet in length, yellow collar, fully intact, very fresh.
Foam i.e. algal bloom	16.05.09	Easington Colliery to Hawthorn Dene	CB	Brown Oily foam observed at low shore level all along surveyed shore. Light amount of oil observed at high shore level all along surveyed shore.
Foam i.e. algal bloom	16.05.09	Blyth South Beach	DMT / LC	Brownish foam at low tide mark and at the edge of the sea.
Grey Seal	24.05.09	Seaham to Ryhope	GMcV / GH	Probably this year's young. Identified by Callan Duck, Sea Mammal Research Unit, University of St Andrews.
Eider	23.06.09	Holy Island	GDRM	Young bird 2 – 3 weeks of age.
House Sparrow	01.07.09	Blyth South Beach	MHe	Fledgling.
Knot	09.07.09	Cambois to North Blyth	RC	Adult, quite good condition.
Grey Seal	12.07.09	Blyth South Beach	DMT	Six feet in length. Dead several weeks. Remains, headless, flippers missing. Grey upperside and some cream colouration.
Racing Pigeon	25.07.09	Druridge Bay	DMT / LC	Green ring (right leg): GB 08 H46567. Left leg dark green electronic plastic ring. Dead several weeks. On two of the outer primaries of the left wing was printed the owner's name and number. The bird had been lost during a race from Portsmouth in mid June.
Rabbit	22.08.09	Druridge Bay	DMT	Dead 2+ weeks, 9 cm hind foot, 42 cm nose to tip of tail.
Manx Shearwater	17.09.09	Redcar	MAB	Webbing on feet still soft and supple. Wings and skeleton, dead 1-2 days, probably eaten by a Great Black-backed Gull, Great Skua or similar.
Oystercatcher	18.09.09	Hartlepool N Sands	MAB	Dead about 3-4 weeks
Wood Mouse (alive)	08.11.09	Blyth South Beach	STH & MHe	On the edge of the Marram grass near Meggie's Burn.
Ray's Bream	10.11.09	North Blyth	RC	Approx 18 inches long. Fresh, eyes missing, gills still bright red.
Codling	10.11.09	Cambois beach to North Blyth	RC	Approx 15 inches long. Found in seaweed, middle section of beach. Poor condition. Whole but pieces missing.

Specific / scientific names of species mentioned in the table above:

Ray's Bream	<i>Brama brama</i>	Grey Seal	<i>Halichoerus grypus</i>
Oar-fish	<i>Regalecus glesne</i>	Rabbit	<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>
Lumpsucker	<i>Cyclopterus lumpus</i>	Dog	<i>Canis lupus familiaris</i>
Codling	<i>Gadus morhua</i>	Wood Mouse	<i>Sylviaemus sylvaticus</i>
Bottle-nosed Dolphin	<i>Tursiops tursio</i>	Eider	<i>Somateria mollissima</i>
Harbour Porpoise	<i>Phocaena phocaena</i>	Manx Shearwater	<i>Puffinus puffinus</i>
Compass Jellyfish	<i>Chrysaora hysoscella</i>	Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>
Common European Squid	<i>Loligo vulgaris</i>	Knot	<i>Calidris canutus</i>
Common Octopus	<i>Octopus vulgaris</i>	Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>
Common Sea Urchin	<i>Echinus esculentus</i>	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>
Green Shore Crab	<i>Carcinus maenas</i>		

Other northeast England notes

May 2009. Ray Chilton: 12 May, Cambois beach pipes to North Blyth: No oil, but middle section of beach polluted with pieces of greasy substance same as August 2008. 20-25 May: Tankers working on pipeline in field above warning notices about pollution (put up in car parks on beach).

June 2009. Ray Chilton: 16 June, Wansbeck Estuary to North Blyth: The warning notices that were put up in May said the pollution would be cleaned up, but pollution still present on beach.

July 2009. Around 15 July there was an item on BBC Look North (local news television program) about half a dozen Puffins washed ashore at Druridge Bay, Northumberland. The friends who told me about this news item mentioned that the Puffins were laid on the beach together and it was thought they may be young birds and had perhaps become entangled in fishing net offshore. Gavin Dudley carried out a Druridge Bay beach survey on 19 July and found one headless Puffin.

Oiling 2009

16 May 2009: Easington Colliery to Hawthorn Dene (CB) - Light amount of oil observed at high shore level all along surveyed shore. Brown oily foam observed at low shore level all along surveyed shore. Quite strong, oily, unpleasant smell noted throughout the survey.

13 June 2009: Druridge Bay, one possibly oiled Guillemot (GRD).

Nov 2009: Druridge Bay – three oiled dead Guillemots on the beach and others on the sea close by which were also thought to be oiled (09 Nov, per PC). By the concrete culvert draining from East Chevington lakes.
Alnmouth – one oiled dead Guillemot on shore (approx 14 Nov, MHe).

Useful internet links to further shore records, litter and other information

Following the Oar-fish reported in the last newsletter (No. 17, page 7), the following link refers to the specimen at Tynemouth:

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/england/tyne/7908284.stm>

Item from Hans Verdaat (email 2 June 2009) from Texel

‘Really interesting that some Oar-fish were found in England as well. There were two Oar-fish found on the Dutch coast, these were the first Oar-fish recorded in The Netherlands’.

For example, see: http://visserijnieuws.punt.nl/?id=430415&r=1&tbl_archief=

And a further link:

<http://ecomaren.websites.xs4all.nl/flashplayer/flvplayer.html?myVideo=riemvis.flv>

Item from Jan Andries van Franeker (international co-ordinator of the SNS Fulmar project):

link to a recent photo-series of albatross chicks (and stomach plastics) on Midway Atoll.

http://www.chrisjordan.com/current_set2.php?id=11

Also pointed out by Jan:

Laysan Albatross necropsy: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FinDNPopXQY>

Some surveyors' live bird sightings, January – October 2009

Jan 25, 2009. About 30 pairs of Fulmars at nest sites, Marsden (JE).

Feb 07, 2009. Two pairs of Stonechats in dunes, Blyth South beach (STH).

Feb 14, 2009. Approx. 500 Golden Plover in field and two pairs of Stonechats, Seaton Sluice on the return stretch along the path beside the dunes (DMT).

Feb 15, 2009. A flock of 1500 Greylag Geese in fields behind dunes and flying around, Druridge Bay (South end) (GRD).

Feb 28, 2009. About 40 pairs of Fulmars on the cliffs, Marsden (JE).

March 29, 2009. Around 200 pairs of Kittiwakes on the Marsden Bay cliffs (JE).

Apr 10, 2009. Two Sandwich Terns, Druridge Bay (north of CP) (DMT & LC).

April 10, 2009. Two Stonechats in dunes, North Blyth (RC).

Apr 19, 2009. One Swallow and one pair of Stonechats, Seaton Sluice stretch (DMT & LC).

Apr 25, 2009. Two Swallows on seafront at Cullercoats and three more flying along Whitley Bay beach. One Sandwich Tern heard (DMT).

May 10, 2009. One Roseate Tern, Druridge Bay (north of DB Country Park) (DMT & LC).

May 18, 2009. Two Little Terns moved south off Blyth South Beach (STH).

May 20, 2009. One male Wheatear, Whitley Bay beach (DMT & LC).

May 25, 2009. Ringed Plover nest with four eggs (RC).

May 31, 2009. Sand Martins nesting at the North End of Marsden Bay, around 30 pairs (JE).

June 2009. Three Oystercatcher nests and four Little Tern nests at Lindisfarne (GDRM).

June 28, 2009. 37+ Painted Lady butterflies flying along the shore and feeding at the lilac-coloured flowers at the edge of the dunes, Blyth South beach (DMT & LC).

July 18, 2009. Twelve Sanderlings, Blyth South beach (STH).

Aug 29, 2009. Two or three Wheatears, Whitley Bay beach (DMT & LC).

Oct 18, 2009. Six Stonechats (two pairs and two singles), Seaton Sluice stretch (DMT & LC).

Oct 28, 2009. Two Snow Buntings, Whitley Bay beach at the Brierdene Burn mouth (DMT).

Oct 28, 2009. Two Sandwich Terns, calling and feeding just offshore, Druridge Bay (DMT).

Some recent illustrated finds in northeast England



Photo 1 by Gavin R Dudley, 13 June 2009.



Photo 2 by Dan Turner, 9 July 2009.

1. Northern Fulmar (*Fulmarus glacialis*), Druridge Bay. Specimen NEE-2009-002. Collected by Gavin Dudley.

2. George Moody (our Holy Island surveyor) at his upturned boat-house shed on Lindisfarne. George had just handed over Fulmar NEE-2009-005.



Photo 3. Wood Mouse (*Sylvaemus sylvaticus*), Blyth South Beach, 8 November 2009. On the edge of the Marram grass near Meggie's Burn. Survey by Steve and Maurice Hepple. Photo by Steve Holliday.



Photo 4. Common European Squid (*Loligo vulgaris*), Seaham to Ryhope beach, Durham coast, 13 March 2009. Photo by George McVitie.



2009. The bird was fresh, but scavenged and pieces were scattered. Photo by Dan Turner.

Photo 5. Ray Chilton with Fulmar NEE-2009-001. Collected by Ray from North Blyth beach on 5 June 2009. Photo by Dan Turner



Photo 6. Linda Charlton with a dark phase immature Fulmar wing, Druridge Bay, 16 Feb

Other news

A paper is in preparation for 'Seabird', the journal of the Seabird Group, entitled: 'Numbers of Atlantic Puffins *Fratercula arctica* found on beached bird surveys in Orkney and Shetland over a 30-year period'. The authors are: Heubeck, M., Meek, E. R., Mellor, R. M & Wilson, M. A couple of notes are included referring to some of our comparative northeast England auk data for the period 2004 – 2007.

Notes

1. Please remember to collect any ringed auks (Guillemot, Razorbill and Puffin), any other ringed seabirds, including Little Auks (whatever the condition and state of completeness) and please continue to collect all Fulmars with complete abdomens for the litter monitoring project. Also collect any interesting specimens that are in good condition – for the Hancock Museum or our own collection.
 2. Many thanks to Dr Jan Andries van Franeker for checking the draft newsletter and converting the final version into Adobe .pdf format – so that it may be reduced in size for email purposes.
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Beached bird and 'Save the North Sea' Fulmar project *Newsletter* (for northeast and southeast England and southeast Scotland) **Newsletter 18** completed: November 22, 2009.
Compiled by D.M.Turner (northeast England co-ordinator).