

# Sand Dune and Shingle Network Conference 2025

Liverpool Hope University **Creative Campus**

(updated 04/09/2025)

## Programme

The conference includes lunch on all 3 days of the conference. Evening meals are not provided on any day.

### Day 1: Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> September 2025

**12:00 – 13:00** Registration and Refreshments/Lunch (Cornerstone Building Foyer)

**13:00 – 13:15** Welcome and Opening Remarks (Great Hall)

#### **13:15 – 15:00 Session 1: Emerging Threats and Conservation in Practice**

| Time  | Title                                                                                                                               | Presenter                                                |
|-------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|
| 13:15 | Coastal squeeze threatens dune biodiversity                                                                                         | Eva Lansu (Royal Netherlands Institute for Sea Research) |
| 13:30 | Restoring natural dynamics in the Boschplaat Nature Reserve                                                                         | Joeri Lamers (Staatsbosbeheer)                           |
| 13:45 | LIFE Dunamics –Reviving natural processes and community engagement in dune conservation along the Danish west coast                 | Maria Michelsen (The Danish Nature Agency)               |
| 14:00 | Live or Let Die; management choices for a drowning pine plantation in the Amsterdam Dunes                                           | Luc Geelen (Waternet)                                    |
| 14:15 | Supporting coastal dune recovery in Ireland: exploring different methodologies to assess the effectiveness of restoration actions   | Silvia Cascone (University of Galway)                    |
| 14:30 | Establishing a Research Approach: “Assessing the hydrological resilience and vulnerability of coastal vegetation to sea level rise” | Christopher Richards (Open University)                   |
| 14:45 | Poster Introductions                                                                                                                | Various                                                  |

**15:00 – 15:30** Coffee Break and Posters

#### **15:30 – 17:00 Session 2: Conservation in Practice: Case studies and Lessons**

| Time  | Title                                                                                                                                                                                            | Presenter                                                |
|-------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|
| 15:30 | Preliminary results of a case study removing senescent forest plantations for insular habitats restoration in Galician Atlantic Islands National Park (NW Spain): lessons learned from the field | Javier Ferreiro (Universidade de Santiago de Compostela) |
| 15:45 | Effects of fallow deer on the vegetation (and fauna) of the Amsterdam dunes                                                                                                                      | Mark van Til (Waternet)                                  |
| 16:00 | 50 years of habitat change at Ainsdale Sand Dunes NNR: integrating research, experiments and practice                                                                                            | Jon Millet (Loughborough University)                     |
| 16:15 | Climate change on machair coasts in Uist: where communities, scientists and official bodies achieve effective adaptation by engagement                                                           | Stewart Angus (NatureScot)                               |
| 16:30 | Day 2 field trip introduction                                                                                                                                                                    | Paul Rooney (Liverpool Hope University)                  |

## Day 2: Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> September 2025

**09:00 – 15:30** Guided Field Trip to The Wirral Foreshore

A coach will leave Liverpool Hope Creative Campus at 09:15 am. Packed lunches will be available to collect from Cafe 1846 on the ground floor at 8.30am.

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## Day 3: Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> September 2025

**09:00 – 09:15** Welcome (Great Hall)

**09:15 – 10:15** *Session 3: Future Research and Innovation*

| Time  | Title                                                                     | Presenter                                               |
|-------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| 09:15 | Hydrological characteristics of moist dune slacks along the Belgian coast | Sam Provoost (Research Institute for Nature and Forest) |
| 09:30 | Tracing Foredune Notches to Enhance Flood Safety and Ecological Outcomes  | Carolien Wegman (HKV)                                   |
| 09:45 | Habitat monitoring near a notched foredune using time-lapse game cameras  | Gerben Ruessink (Utrecht University)                    |
| 10:00 | Assessing coastal embryo dune development at two managed UK sites         | Matthew Withers (University of Huddersfield)            |

**10:15 – 10:45** Coffee Break and Posters

**10:45 – 12:00** *Session 4: Future Research and Policy and Practice*

| Time  | Title                                                                                                                                       | Presenter                                                 |
|-------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| 10:45 | Vegetation-ecological development of dune vegetation on Spiekeroog: A comparative study of natural and anthropogenically influenced systems | Julia Lechtenberg (Lower Saxon Wadden Sea Park Authority) |
| 11:00 | Designing and implementing guidance for dune slack creation/restoration                                                                     | Laurence Jones (UK Centre for Ecology and Hydrology)      |
| 11:15 | Dune slack vegetation response to hydrology                                                                                                 | Lisanne van Willegen (Bangor University)                  |
| 11:30 | The Interagency Coastal Geomorphology Network. Who are we and what do we want? How to make your research useful for coastal conservation    | Elizabeth Hopley (Natural England)                        |
| 11:45 | Dynamic Dunescapes: Next Steps                                                                                                              | Glen Cooper (Natural England)                             |

**12:00 – 13:00** Lunch and Posters

**13:00 – 14:00** *Session 5: Open Space Discussion* ([Open Space Explainer](#))

**14:00 – 14:30** Open Space Summation

**14:30 – 15:00** Closing Remarks and Next Steps

## Posters

| Title                                                                                           | Presenter                              |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| Assessing the hydrological resilience and vulnerability of coastal vegetation to sea level rise | Christopher Richards (Open University) |
| Linking ecological niches and spatial plant-sand feedbacks to predict coastal dune formation    | Charlotte Taelman (Ghent University)   |

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|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Comparing the distribution of the European rabbit ( <i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i> ) in the Amsterdamse Waterleidingduinen, as derived from transect counts, pellet counts and camera trap observations | Luc Geelen (Waternet)                                                              |
| To Harvest Marram Grass for Thatching, or Not?                                                                                                                                                        | Corallie Hunt (Poster co-produced by NatureScot and Historic Environment Scotland) |
| Sand Dune and Shingle Network information                                                                                                                                                             | Sand Dune and Shingle Network                                                      |