

Success – Crag Walk could be completed by 2010

After many years of campaigning to save the Naze and overcoming many obstacles we can now see the light at the end of the tunnel. The Naze Protection Society has formed a formal partnership with Tendring District Council (TDC) and Essex Wildlife Trust (EWT) to see the creation of Crag Walk by 2010 provided the £1M needed can be raised. Crag Walk is a 100-metre rock revetment in front of the cliffs adjacent to the Naze Tower. It will form a viewing platform, which will also save the Tower that will shortly be lost to the sea if nothing is done. It will provide a safe walkway from which the public can view the famous geological structure of the cliffs. The platform will be maintained from time to time to stop the sea from undermining the end. TDC are responsible for the design of Crag Walk, the management of its construction and subsequent maintenance. EWT have vast experience in grant application and the creation and management of conservation sites in Essex and will project manage the bigger scheme including improving and managing key conservation habitats and visitor infrastructure on site.

THE NAZE PROTECTION SOCIETY

The Naze Protection Society has been in existence for 25 years or so in several guises, the latest being formed as a Charitable Trust 12 years old. Over time many people have given freely of their services

to serve the public desire to save the Naze. One picture on this page shows our Charity Shop with shop managers Gladys and Annie. It has

been our heart and soul, raising over £200,000, which has put us in the public eye and convinced the various authorities that they have to do something.



The other picture shows campaigning Chairman David Gager being interviewed for television on BBC Look East.



THE FUTURE

Provided Crag Walk is implemented Essex Wildlife Trust intends to manage the Naze site on behalf of the Council who own it. They will develop the Naze as a nature/conservation area for the benefit of the local community, school groups who already visit the site, and the visiting public in general helping to re-generate the Walton area. It will incorporate indoor space for educational groups; displays of fossils found in the cliffs and provide opportunities for volunteers to get involved in conservation.



LASTEST CLIFF SLIDE SHOWS VUNERABILITY OF TOWER

ESSEX WILDLIFE TRUST

Essex Wildlife Trust is the county's leading conservation charity supported generously by over 35,000 members, 450 businesses and grant making organisations. They manage and protect over 7,250 acres of land in 87 nature reserves, and also run 7 visitor centres across the county. They have had an involvement with the Naze and surrounding landscape for many years, and two of their Nature Reserves are on the Naze: Barnes Spinney and John Weston. Over the past few years they have been working with the Naze Protection Society and Tendring District Council on developing the Crag Walk scheme to protect land at the Naze and Naze Tower for future generations to enjoy. They believe that this will be a key milestone in Walton's history, and brings the importance of pressures on the coast to a wider audience. The Naze cliffs are extremely important for fossils, but also for wildlife. Many rare invertebrates can be found in the soft eroding sand, and they have been in negotiation with Natural England as to how this habitat can best be managed for both these important reasons. They believe that there is a bright future for Walton and the Naze as an educational, heritage and wildlife destination and will continue to work with partners and the local community to see the project succeed.

Appeal Address

If you would like to contribute to the CRAG WALK Heritage Project please send your donations (Cheques made payable to The Naze Protection Society) to: THE NAZE PROTECTION SOCIETY, Haven House, Old Hall Lane, Walton-on-the-Naze, CO14 8LF. A copy of the Gift Aid declaration can be downloaded from our web site. Thank You.

www.nazeprotectionsociety.org.uk

FINANCING CRAG WALK

Over £1M is required. The Naze Protection Society has already raised £215K, that will be approaching £¼M by the end of 2010, mainly from its Charity Shop in Walton High Street and this will not only provide a quarter of the cost but can be used for match funding in grant applications. There is a promise of significant funding from the County Council and a small sum from the Town Council. The remainder will come from grants; twelve or so possible sources have been identified and the first one made to 'Haven Gateway' a multi-million pound regeneration programme for this part of Country. This will be closely followed by a submission for a National Lottery Grant. Personal donations, however small, are welcome and enable individuals to know they have played their part in saving the Naze and the Tower. Where possible personal donations should be accompanied by a 'Gift Aid declaration' that enables the Society to claim tax back on the amount donated.

TOWER LOSS WITHIN 5 YEARS

An important benefit of Crag Walk is the saving of the famous grade 2* listed Naze Tower. It is the oldest surviving navigational tower in the country; built in 1720 it is important to the nations maritime history. It has also played a role in the Napoleonic War, the two World Wars and even the Cold War. Today its role is as a popular heritage and cultural visitor attraction housing a tea rooms, art gallery, museum and viewing platform whilst retaining its historic status and character. The Tower is an important asset to the tourism and heritage value of Walton and is a symbol of the town and its people. The Naze Tower is open in 2009 : 1 April – 1 November every day 10am – 5pm
01255 852519 / www.nazetower.co.uk

Don't Miss Great Fun Day

Frinton Rotary are running a Summer Solstice day from 11 a.m. at the Naze on Sunday 21st June all the proceeds of which will go to fund Crag Walk.