

Solent News

The newsletter of the Solent Forum

Issue 31: Winter 2011/12

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*What will the Solent be like in 2032 and what will the role of the Solent Forum be?
Photo courtesy of Portsmouth City Council*

Solent Forum Celebrates 20th Anniversary

The catalyst for setting up the Solent Forum was Hampshire County Council's booklet 'A Strategy for Hampshire's Coast', that was published in June 1991. Written by Alan Inder and Peter Bell from the County Planning Office, the document suggested that "there can be no doubt that a broadly-based co-ordinating agency would have an important role and would attract a large measure of support".

There was enough support for the inaugural meeting of the Solent Forum to be convened in December 1992, and since then the Forum has evolved into a highly useful and respected organisation. Maldwin Drummond was elected the first Chairman, as being sufficiently well respected, politically independent and knowledgeable about the Solent. Of the people who were closely associated with the Solent Forum at its inauguration, Alan Inder (now representing the Solent Protection Society) is still involved.

For the first three years or so, Hampshire County Council provided the administrative support and were wary that there would be little support for a Solent-wide strategy or plan. However, in 1996 the main players agreed to the production of 'Towards Strategic Guidance for the Solent', which brought together for the first time all the coastal issues faced by the different sectors around the Solent. It was agreed that a Project Officer be appointed to produce the actual 'Strategic Guidance for the Solent'. This Officer liaised with the various bodies and sectors, convened working groups and published the 'Strategic Guidance for the Solent' in 1997 which is still valid and can be downloaded from the Forum's website. Current Forum staff continue to update this document.

After 20 years the Forum is still going strong with 55 members, a well developed set of core services and project work that tackles the coastal issues of the day. It appears that the original sentiment that "there can be no doubt that a broadly-based co-ordinating agency would have an important role and would attract a large measure of support" has rung true.

To say thank you to its members the Forum will be holding a 20th anniversary celebration in 2012. It looks forward to working with the Solent's coastal community for the next 20 years and beyond.

News from the Forum

Chairman's Column...



Solent Forum Chair, Mike Clark

In the beginning was the word, and the word it seems (see this edition's lead article) was co-ordinating, or if we are allowed two words "co-ordinating agency". I can live with that very comfortably as a back-drop to the Solent Forum. Co-ordinate is a nice word, at least on the surface: however you define it there are associations with common, shared and harmonious decisions or actions. For 20 years this has been the singular contribution of the Forum, and its survival and notable success (measured in terms of both the breadth and depth of its services and the diversity and authority of its membership) shows that there is a highly-valued niche in providing a setting within which shared and harmonious viewpoints can emerge, evolve and prosper.

So, what of the future? Will co-ordinating give us another 20 good years? The spirit of Christmas might say yes, but logic, realism and even the lessons of the past all say no! Times change, and organisations together with the needs to which they respond must change too. Indeed, it has been the mantra of this column over the last year or two that the Darwinian principle applied to organisations is not so much survival of the fittest as survival of the most adaptable. Flexibility is the new strength.

Having said this, it would be wholly misleading to suggest that the recent storms

of finance, governance and global climate have left the Forum as a battered piece of flotsam progressing solely at the will of wind and wave. We have our own will, determination and direction - all of which have been fashioned and strengthened rather than weakened by recent challenges. The change, therefore, is an evolution rather than a revolution. At its heart is a growing commitment to the power of shared information and the rigorous processes that create it, often but not always scientific processes. Discussion was always the essence of the Forum, but now the insistence is on the depth of the evidential and logical underpinnings for decisions, actions and monitoring.

The Forum was born in a top-down era, and its stakeholder focus was indeed revolutionary at that time. Perhaps the future needs a different mission, true to our history but reflective of our evolving mission. My suggestion would be co-operate. At first sight comfortably similar, but beneath the surface frighteningly different. We are now in the century of data democracy. Top down won't do any more, the technology won't let it and the markets don't want it. Co-operation is still a matter of working together towards a shared purpose or target, but increasingly it becomes (or could become) our target not theirs. To make this work harmoniously will take enormous effort in a world that allows no secrets. More than ever, a place where people can come together to share perspectives, build confidence, defuse tension and converge on that common purpose and mutual benefit holds the key to effective governance and management. That place is, of course, a forum not a technology.

New Marine Consents Guide

The Solent Forum is currently preparing edition 4 of its Marine Consents Guide. It will be formally launched at the next meeting of the Solent Forum on the Isle of Wight in March 2012. This update was agreed by and is being overseen by the Forum's steering group.

A small group of Forum members are helping to prepare this Guide. They include Marina Projects Ltd, ABP, Environment Agency, Isle of Wight Council, Crown Estate, River Hamble Harbour Authority, New Forest District Council and the Marine Management Organisation. The Crown Estate have provided funding through their Marine Stewardship Programme.

It includes information on:

- Consents required for various types of works/development
- Consenting processes
- Assessments associated with development
- Designations
- Marine and land use planning
- Other considerations
- Further information and contacts

It is being developed as an online resource as a new directory of the Solent Forum's website. It will summarise the consents needed for developing in the coastal zone and the associated issues to consider. It will also signpost users to additional information and appropriate contacts. Please contact Kate Ansell at the Forum Office for more information at info@solentforum.org.

News from the Forum

SEMS Management Scheme Review

The Solent European Marine Sites (SEMS) Scheme of Management has been reviewed, following a report from ABPmer last summer; the new Scheme of Management will commence in the Spring of 2012. The Solent Forum has published a Summary and Implementation Plan which shows the new process. The new system includes the following:

- A new on-line monitoring system will be trialled for two years beginning in 2012 amongst the Relevant Authorities (RAs). The questionnaire ranks risks by High, Medium, Low and No risk as determined by Defra's European Marine Sites Risk Review published in 2010; it seeks to understand if there are any activities which are a cause of concern to the European Marine Site. This questionnaire is to be administered in the summer each year instigated by the Solent Forum. The Solent Forum is in the process of designing the questionnaire based upon a template designed by ABPmer.
- The new system allows a feedback mechanism to Natural England, to enable any changes to the risk category and thus enables any future updates on Defra's European Marine Sites risk review.
- Supplementing the on-line monitoring with face to face interviews with RAs who have raised any issues of concern in the on-line questionnaire.
- To continue to consult annually with the Strategic Stakeholder Group.
- To consider the development, monitoring and updating of a delivery plan which would signpost actions being undertaken for all 3 tiers of risks. The delivery plan, with examples, would be sent to RAs and other relevant stakeholders at the same time as the on-line proforma to populate before the annual meeting late Autumn. During the annual meeting a time-limited round table discussion of each activity and corresponding action(s) could take place.
- To work with Natural England for general advice on SEMS and the Marine Management Organisation/Inland Fisheries and Conservation Authorities for specific site management/enforcement issues.
- To use the Solent Forum to design the above and to continue supplying secretariat services for administration, an annual report, an annual meeting to manage activities (Autumn) and an annual newsletter if affordable.
- To manage any high risk activities and actions on them via topic groups organised via the Solent Forum Nature Conservation Group.

For further details contact Karen McHugh at the Solent Forum Office at info@solentforum.org.

Solent Disturbance and Mitigation Project

The wider Solent, from Hurst Castle in the west to Chichester Harbour in the east, and including the Isle of Wight is internationally important for its wildlife interest. There are a number of designations that include three Special Protection Areas (SPAs): the Solent and Southampton Water SPA, Chichester and Langstone Harbours SPA and Portsmouth Harbour SPA. Numerous studies have shown that recreational pressure can have adverse impacts on the bird interest of coastal sites, and a potential conflict therefore exists. There is a need to understand recreational access in relation to the spatial distribution of housing, and to link this to an understanding of how recreation can impact the designated bird interest of the key sites.

The Solent Mitigation and Disturbance Project (SDMP) looks at and addresses the impacts of disturbance on wintering waterfowl. By 'disturbance' it considers the impacts of unintentional disturbance, resulting from recreation and the presence of people in and around the SPA. The impacts of disturbance includes the combined effects of avoidance of otherwise suitable habitat, and the energetic costs of lost feeding/increased flight when birds are 'disturbed.'

Modelling work is now being undertaken which will comprise the production of a visitor model and a bird model. This work is nearly complete and will be published very early in 2012. It will provide evidence for Local Authorities, on advice from Natural England, to understand whether development and the associated recreational pressures is causing an adverse affect to birds. It will also enable detailed consideration on the implications for planning policy and the mitigation measures that might be required.

More information on the project and project reports can be accessed by visiting http://www.solentforum.org/forum/sub_groups/Nature_Conservation_Group/ and then visiting the SDMP directory.

Coastal Management

Towards Integrated Coastal Zone Management on the Manhood Peninsula

An Integrated Coastal Zone Management plan for the peninsula south of Chichester called 'Towards ICZM on the Manhood Peninsula' was adopted as a material consideration in planning decisions by Chichester District Council at a Full Council meeting on 20th September 2011. 'Towards ICZM' was recognised as a Manhood Peninsula Partnership (MPP) document reflecting the views and aspirations of the community.

The MPP has long been concerned with spatial planning on the peninsula. It recognises the positive attributes of it that make it such an attractive place to live, holiday, start a business and grow food. In spite of these considerable assets it is also a fragile environment in need of an Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) plan to ensure it has a sustainable future. To this end part of the Defra funding from the Coastal Change Pathfinder project was used to produce 'Towards ICZM on the Manhood Peninsula', a document aiming to provide a summary of everything learned from research and consultation over the last ten years.



Photo courtesy of Chichester District Council

Information was compiled from a variety of sources including county, district, parish and third sector documents. These included Village Design Statements, Conservation Area Character Appraisals, reports from both Going Dutch workshops, and plans affecting the shoreline such as Shoreline Management Plans and Coastal Defence Strategies. Many villages and settlement areas are represented, and although the intention was not to supersede the Village Design Statements and similar, the information needed to be complementary and provide a view across the entire peninsula.

This is a timely opportunity to influence planning policy proposals such as the forthcoming Local Development Framework, and 'Coastal Change Management Areas', where development is controlled proportionate to the risk from coastal erosion, landslip, and other physical change. It is hoped 'Towards ICZM' will help achieve this. Visit the MPP website to view the document at <http://peninsulapartnership.org.uk/projects/coastal-change-pathfinder-project/integrated-coastal-zone-management-iczm/towards-iczm/>.

Socio-economic Factors in Marine Planning

The Marine Management Organisation has released its first commissioned study of socio-economic factors in marine planning. The study, conducted independently, is a new resource to help marine planners, developers, local authorities and others with an interest in sustainable development in the marine area to understand various issues affecting coastal communities.

It takes a national snapshot of the socio-economic factors currently driving coastal communities in England, from planned developments to tourism, and then looks in more detail at the East of England, the area where the first two marine plans are currently being developed.

Download from the Marine Management Organisation website at www.marinemangement.org.uk/marineplanning/se.htm.

Defra to Commission More Research on MCZs

The Government's first step to identifying new Marine Conservation Zones (MCZs) was taken forward through four regional MCZ projects managed by the Statutory Nature Conservation Bodies. The regional projects provided their recommendations for proposed sites for MCZs on 8 September 2011. These recommendations were reviewed by the independent Science Advisory Panel (SAP). This Panel advised that there are a number of gaps and limitations in the scientific evidence base supporting the MCZ recommendations.

To address these gaps, Defra will be commissioning significant additional work to support MCZ designation including an in depth review of the evidence base for all the regional projects' site recommendations, and committing additional resources to carrying out seabed and habitat monitoring. Natural England and the Joint Nature Conservation Committee will provide the MCZ impact assessment and their formal advice in July 2012. This is six months later than previously planned. Public consultation on MCZs will take place by the end of 2012. This consultation will include all sites recommended by the regional projects with clarity on how and when work on them will be taken forward. It is envisaged that the first MCZ designations will take place in 2013. The Solent lies within the Balanced Seas regional project, see www.balancedseas.org/.

Environmental Quality

Chemical Water Quality Pilot Study in the Western Solent

The Western Solent is an important area for commercial fishing and specifically includes the Stanswood Bay Several Order Fishery for the native oyster (*Ostrea edulis*). Annual surveys by Cefas (and previously MAFF) since 1977 have shown a steady decline in the native oyster stocks in the Western Solent, based on annual dredge surveys. The precise factors related to this decline are not known but are undoubtedly complex and are likely to include biological, chemical water quality and fisheries management issues.

Discussions between the industry (Stanswood Bay Oystermen Limited), Natural England and Cefas highlighted the need to begin to address chemical water quality as a tractable and important piece in the jigsaw of beginning to understand factors relevant to the declining native oyster stocks. As a scientifically relevant and pragmatic first step, it was decided by all parties to undertake a pilot study of chemical water quality in the Western Solent to screen for endocrine disrupter activity.

The data generated indicates that androgenic activity concentrations in all six sea water samples for September 2010 were below the limits of detection. However, two stations sampled did show significant oestrogenic activity, the precise nature of the natural and/or synthetic chemicals which led to these observations cannot be defined from the current work alone. The chemical water quality results suggest a more detailed study should be considered involving specific chemical analyses and sampling of the Western Solent over several months to assess seasonal variations in chemical water quality.

For more information please refer to: Hutchinson TH & Smith A (2010). Pilot Study on Chemical Water Quality in the Western Solent: Screening for Endocrine Activity. Cefas Report Project Reference C5229, 14pp.

Oil Spill Exercise at Chichester Harbour

A road tanker spilling thousands of litres of diesel into Chichester Harbour was the scenario for a recent oil spill exercise.

Staff from Chichester Harbour Conservancy working with Langstone Harbour Board, Hampshire County Council, Havant Borough Council and other partners enacted a potential oil spill as part of ongoing training. A scene where a diesel tanker, involved in an accident on Langstone Bridge, was leaking up 3,000 litres of diesel into the harbour was given to staff who then had to go into action to manage and contain the spill.

Oil booming equipment held by the Conservancy was quickly deployed. This was supplemented by a larger boom supplied by Adler and Allen, a specialist oil spill response service. The larger boom took just 20 minutes to get into place which would have effectively contained the majority of the spill. In a real situation, the oil would then have been skimmed off the surface of the water.



Photo courtesy of Chichester Harbour Conservancy

The Conservancy organise this training every three years, to test its emergency plans and to make sure that all its staff are fully trained and ready to deal with any potential oil spills. In such environmentally sensitive waters, it is essential that work is undertaken quickly to prevent or manage any significant threat to wildlife and vulnerable habitats.

Major scheme to start in Millbrook

Southern Water is investing £25.8 million to upgrade Millbrook Wastewater Treatment Works, Western Docks, Southampton. In a major environmental improvement scheme, parts of the site will be rebuilt and the treatment process enhanced. The upgrade will include a new process to remove nutrients, such as nitrogen, from the treated wastewater recycled into the Solent. When the levels of nutrients are too high, algal blooms can grow in coastal waters. These may reduce the amount of oxygen in the water and can smother fish and other creatures.

The removal of these nutrients will ensure the water leaving the site is of the best possible quality and continues to meet tightening Environment Agency standards. Construction is due to start in late 2011 and be complete in the summer of 2014. Following the upgrade, Millbrook will have the capacity to treat up to 73 million litres of wastewater per day from a population of about 130,000 people. Work will be carried out by contractor 4Delivery.

Ports and Shipping

Portsmouth Port Master Plan

Portsmouth International Port is going through a transformation with infrastructure improvements including a new terminal, improved access by road and water, and new technology to speed cargo discharge, processing and delivery. These investments represent a greater emphasis on co-operation with the continent; the port's aspirations are meeting EC objectives resulting in it cooperating in several EU programmes under the European Regional Development Fund.

Investing in infrastructure and taking advantage of opportunities as and when they appear provide prosperity for the Port. This is particularly the case with respect to land use where the strategic defence review may allow land and berths to become available in Portsmouth Naval Base. With the Economic Impact Study and the Traffic Forecast both indicating that the passenger cruise industry represents one of the best potential areas of growth for Portsmouth, the contraction of naval assets in Portsmouth represents a potential opportunity.

The new Master Plan for the Port of Portsmouth for the next 15 years has been published and is open to public consultation. It outlines six key strategies for growth at the Port:

- Major infrastructure investments;
- Corporate social responsibility;
- Land use;
- Business planning;
- Carbon reduction and improved energy management; and
- Future infrastructure.

The Master Plan was unveiled at an international summit on the port industry held in Portsmouth on 20 October 2011 as part of the EU's Ports Adapting to Change (PATCH) project.



Photo courtesy of Portsmouth International Port

Changes to UK Coastguard Centres

Several UK coastguard centres previously earmarked for closure have been given a reprieve, however, eight will still go, with a loss of 159 jobs. At present, the 18 operate in nine pairs covering overlapping geographical areas. Under the revised plans, at least one of each pair will be retained, and in the case of Stornoway and Shetland, both will remain open.

The co-ordination centres at Forth, Clyde, Great Yarmouth, Liverpool, Thames, Swansea, Brixham and Portland will close by March 2015.

The centre at Solent will be replaced by the new Maritime Operations Centre (MOC) in Fareham, which will be housed in the vacant Fire Control Centre building.

The MOC will act as a national strategic centre to manage Coastguard operations across a network of interlinked coastguard centres, as well as co-ordinating rescue activities for many incidents occurring anywhere around the coast of the UK on a day to day basis. It will generate and analyse a national maritime picture using information from a variety of sources.

The Government expects to announce its plans for the long term provision of a national Search and Rescue Helicopter service in the near future.

Maritime Partnership Celebrates Historic Milestone

Hapag-Lloyd and DP World Southampton marked a milestone in the history of the two companies in December. The Hapag-Lloyd Basle Express called at the UK container terminal on Monday 5 December almost exactly 150 years ago to the day that the very first Hapag-Lloyd vessel called at the Port of Southampton.

On 4 December 1861, the Hapag owned Borussia, an iron steamer, providing a mail and passenger service between Europe and New York, made its maiden call at the port. In those days the Borussia, which had accommodation for around 500 passengers, would take about 16 days to reach New York from Europe.

Today the Basle Express is part of Hapag Lloyd's liner services which offer up to six weekly sailings from North America, the Middle East and Asia to Southampton, carrying containerised goods destined for shops and business in the UK and Europe.

The 150th anniversary between Hapag-Lloyd and DP World Southampton comes just after the shipping company celebrated 125 years of regular liner shipping services with the Far East and Australia in November.

Marine Industries

HMS Daedalus Enterprise Zone Awarded £5m

The former naval base HMS Daedalus was awarded £5m to turn it into a cutting-edge facility. The site at Lee-on-the-Solent has been given the money by the Regional Growth Fund (RGF) in a bid to turn it into a major hub for marine, aviation and aerospace business. Half the money at Daedalus will go towards improving the runway, while the rest will be used to provide grants for businesses which plan to come to the 82 hectare site or are already there.

Back in August this year, Daedalus became the first designated enterprise zone in the south. The move meant it would be entitled to business rate discounts and simplified planning rules, as well as potential access to government funding. Bids for a share of the Daedalus income will be overseen by the Solent Local Enterprise Partnership (Solent LEP).



Photo courtesy of SEEDA

The Solent LEP has already had substantial and immediate interest in the Enterprise Zone, and associated benefits, from a wide range of businesses. A register of interest has been created to ensure that it has as much information as possible on businesses looking at the site in order to facilitate the best possible development strategy.

A dedicated communications channel for the new Enterprise Zone is being set-up. However, in the interim, if you have any enquiries regarding the Enterprise Zone or would like to register your businesses interest in the site, please complete the contact form available at: www.invest-insouthampton.co.uk/contact/contactus.asp or telephone: 023 8083 2256.

Navitus Bay Onshore Infrastructure

The proposed Navitus Bay Wind Park will have a capacity of up to 1200MW, generating power for between 615,000 and 820,000 homes each year. An onshore substation is needed to transform the electrical power generated by the offshore wind park to the voltage of the National Grid.

The proposed substation sites near Mannington (near the New Forest) were selected based on a detailed appraisal of location options for Navitus Bay, taking into account environmental, visual and engineering considerations. Two public exhibitions were held at West Moors to help people find out more information about the onshore aspects of the project and the two proposed sites for a new onshore substation.

Up to six export cables from the offshore substations will be brought on land at a landfall site and a jointing pit will be used to connect up to six onshore underground cables.

Formal consultation on the offshore aspects of the project is set to take place in first quarter 2012, with public exhibitions across Dorset, Hampshire and on the Isle of Wight.

Over the next two years, Eneco will be working closely with interested parties including statutory consultees and undertaking site-specific surveys prior to bringing forward a development consent application for the offshore wind park. It is anticipated that, subject to obtaining the relevant consents, construction of the wind park will commence in 2016 with the wind park being fully operational by 2019.

Solent LEP Obtains RGF Funding

The Solent Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) has secured significant funding for the Solent area through the Regional Growth Fund (RGF).



The Solent LEP bid, entitled *Bridging the gap: RGF Funding for SMEs in the Solent*, submitted in partnership with The News, will allocate £2.1m of funding to 50 new start-ups and 50 SMEs with high growth potential in the Solent via a competitive bidding process.

The bidding process is expected to open in early 2012, so entrepreneurs looking to start a business or an SME looking to expand, should keep a look out for further details in the business pages of The News and its www.portsmouth.co.uk website, and on www.solentlep.org.uk.

The Solent LEP also supported two more successful bids. One from the Portsmouth Naval Base Property Trust and Portsmouth University to build an International Boatbuilding Training College and create a demand driven enterprise centre supporting enterprise skills development at Portsmouth Historic Dockyard. The second was from Southampton City Council to utilise over £5.5m of Regional Growth Funding to increase the capacity of Platform Road in the city of Southampton.

Flood and Coastal Risk

Southampton (Redbridge to Woodmill Lane) Coastal Flood and Erosion Risk Management Strategy

Coastal flooding is a real risk facing people and their properties along the Redbridge to Woodmill Lane stretch of coastline in Southampton and this risk is set to increase as sea levels rise.

Within 100 years, as sea levels rise, it is predicted that almost 5000 homes and businesses will be at risk of flooding from a 1 in 200 chance event within the study area. Southampton City Council, in partnership with the Environment Agency, have produced draft proposed options in order to manage current and future coastal flood risks along this part of the Southampton frontage, recognising that securing government funding for building and maintaining defences cannot be guaranteed. The draft proposed options range from measures to make individual properties flood resistant, to major engineering projects such as construction of new or improvements to existing defence structures and land raising.

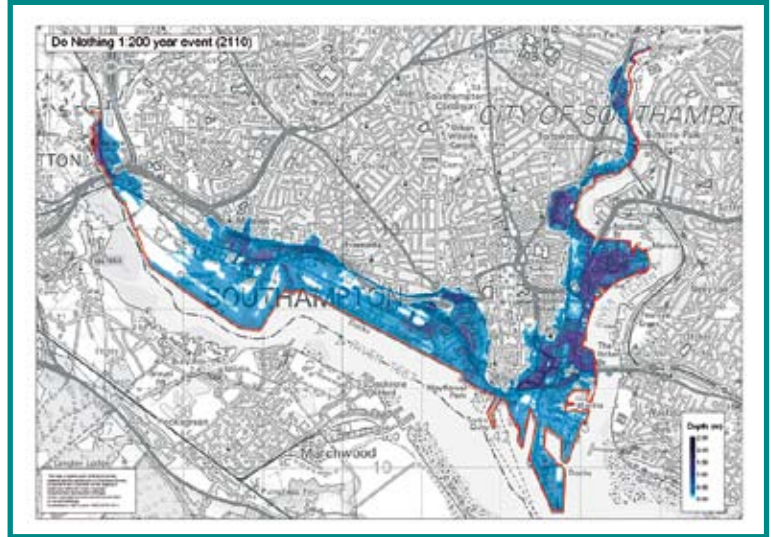


Image courtesy of Southampton City Council

The draft strategy is available for public comment from 7th November 2011 until 31st January 2012. The documents can be viewed and/or downloaded from www.southampton.gov.uk/flooding or www.southamptoncoastalstrategy.co.uk or a hard copy is available to view at Gateway, One Guildhall Square, Southampton SO14 7FP.

Comments can be submitted by email to info@southamptoncoastalstrategy.co.uk or by post to Southampton City Council, Planning & Sustainability, Southampton Coastal Strategy Consultation, Civic Centre, Southampton, SO14 7LY. Once it is completed and approved, the strategy will guide much of the coastal flood risk management work that will be done in this area in the future.

Pilot Coastal Erosion Maps Published

The Environment Agency has published pilot coastal erosion maps for two areas of the UK, one of which is the coastline from Beachy Head to Selsey Bill. The online interactive maps shows predictions of the extent to how the shoreline of England and Wales may change by around 2025. It also shows how local authorities and the Environment Agency plan to manage the shoreline during that time, and how that is likely to affect erosion rates.

The information is designed to increase awareness among the public about coastal erosion risk, and to encourage people living and working in coastal areas to find out more about (and get involved in) coastal management and adaptation to change. The information can also be used by those involved in planning in coastal areas, such as local authorities, as one of many sources of evidence where coastal erosion, landslides and flooding require particular attention when looking at planning applications for future development.

The predictions have been calculated using a methodology comparable to that which the Environment Agency uses to assess flood risk. Using the Risk Assessment of Coastal Erosion (RACE) it uses a range of data including historical patterns of erosion, geological information and the condition of any coastal defences to determine the likely extent of erosion and the impacts it may have. The RACE methodology incorporates the effects of climate change upon sea levels and storm surges that have been measured to date, but extra testing of the results was needed to include the latest climate change projections for the UK (UKCP 09). This has been done using sensitivity testing of UKCP09 scenarios at a range of locations around the coast to compare erosion predictions with the original results.

The Maps also show the preferred management approaches, or 'policies', that are detailed in local Shoreline Management Plans. Visit the Environment Agency's coastal erosion webpages for more information at www.environment-agency.gov.uk/homeandleisure/107495.aspx. For UK climate change projections visit <http://ukclimateprojections.defra.gov.uk/>.

Coastal Change

Coastal Communities Adapting to Change (CCATCH)

'Coastal Communities Adapting to Change (CCATCH) - The Solent' is a three year Community Engagement Project, led by Hampshire County Council (HCC), which will be largely delivered by the Solent Forum. The project is part of a wider European project led by the Environment Agency called 'Coastal Communities 2150 and Beyond' (CC2150).

The Project Overview Group (POG) met for the third time in December 2011, and agreed seven sites which will be taken forward for stakeholder engagement next year. They are Yarmouth, West Cowes, Itchen West (Woodmill to St Denys), Solent Breezes, Langstone and East Hayling, and Netley and Royal Victoria Country Park. This will be in addition to furthering the CCATCH pathfinder work at Lepe to Calshot. These sites were chosen with the project partners using a careful selection criteria to ensure a mix of different sites at risk from flood and erosion, with vulnerable communities which may not be protected over the sort to medium term. Separate Project Initiation Documents are being produced for each site and these include a risk profile and stakeholder analysis; these documents will be uploaded to the Solent Forum's website shortly.



Photo courtesy of the IOW Council

The next stage of the project, in January, involves:

- The setting up of a Local Engagement Group (LEG) at each site. The members of this group have been identified from the stakeholder analysis work conducted by partners, and include key representatives of each community. The project team will work with this group as well as partners in planning and conducting the community engagement campaign.
- Producing a detailed Stakeholder Engagement Strategy for each site.

Meanwhile work will be commencing on the second stage of the project to develop the tools for engagement. The third and final stage of the project, the engagement itself, will commence late Spring 2012. Further details about the project are available from Karen McHugh at the Solent Forum on 01962 846027 or Rachael Gallagher, overall Hampshire County Council Project Manager, on 01962 846925.

Adapting to Climate Change Programme

From 1 October 2011, the Environment Agency took on an additional role as the Government's delivery body in England to help business, industry, local government and the wider public sector adapt to climate change. The role includes overseeing the Adapting to Climate Change Programme to improve the nation's resilience to climate change.

The aim of the Adaptation Programme is to ensure that vital sectors, such as hospitals, travel planners and critical infrastructure providers, like ports, are incorporating climate risk management into their decision making. The Programme will consist of two parts:

- A web-based information service will give organisations access to the latest climate science and provide planning advice and guidance, and
- A tailored 'support service' will provide specific advice to those crucial sectors specialising in the built environment, infrastructure, business and economy, health and wellbeing, natural environment and local government.

The Environment Agency is currently consulting on the programme and is asking for the views of customers, partners and government departments to help inform it. The full programme will be in place by April 2012. To have your say on the Programme visit <https://web.questback.com/theenvironmentagency/atccp/> to fill in an online survey.

The Environment Agency-led programme replaces and builds on the Defra-funded UK Climate Impacts Programme (UKCIP), based at Oxford University. To ensure a smooth transition, UKCIP is working as a delivery partner on the programme providing support and guidance on adaptation until March 2012, when the handover is set to be complete.

Conservation

LBAP for Havant Published

Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust have been working with Havant Borough Council to produce a Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP) for the borough. The plan has created targets for conservation that can be achieved within three to five years, ten years or are ongoing.

The production of the LBAP has involved initial workshops with local councillors, conservation groups and relevant bodies to gain ideas on where actions needed to be targeted and to in-part local knowledge on the key wildlife areas and the species found. This formed the basis for the creation of over 50 actions including many related to the harbour and coastal areas around Havant and Hayling Island, such as the enhancement of shingle areas at the Oysterbeds, monitoring of pollution from run-off and investigating the disturbance effects of bait digging to birds.

Key partners were identified for each of the actions and two rounds of consultation were undertaken to ratify these actions. The document provides a point of reference for planners and links to the 'Greening for Growth' vision for the borough; as well as to other environmental strategies such as Green Infrastructure, Solent Disturbance & Mitigation Project, and the Solent Waders & Brent Goose Strategy.

The LBAP is now available from the Havant Borough Council website as an evidence base document within the planning section of the website (<http://www.havant.gov.uk/havant-12025>).



Birds Roosting on oysterbeds off Hayling Island, photo courtesy of Hants and Wight Wildlife Trust.

Habitats & Wild Birds Directives Review

The Government has announced that it will undertake a review of the implementation of the EU Habitats and Wild Birds Directives in England. The announcement was made by the Chancellor on 29 November 2011 in his Autumn Statement.

The Review will focus on those obligations that affect the authorisation process for proposed development, with a view to reducing the burdens on businesses while maintaining the integrity of the purpose of the Directives. It will publish recommendations by Budget 2012. It will review:

- Natural England's and JNCC's approach to the provision of advice to competent authorities;
- What is working well in terms of meeting the objectives of the legislation and the sharing of good practice;
- The scope for the further streamlining of consent processes;
- The scope for Natural England and JNCC to build on their work improving their dealings with customers, including early engagement;
- Experience of implementing the Directives in other Member States, to see whether there is good practice elsewhere; and
- The scope for further improving the guidance available to businesses.

Birds Ringed at Chichester Harbour

Two hundred birds have been colour-ringed at Chichester Harbour in a bid to help halt declining numbers of these threatened species. Working with Farlington Ringing Group, Chichester Harbour Conservancy have assisted a project to colour-ring Sanderling and Ringed Plover.

These birds have been declining in numbers in recent years, both locally and internationally.

Both birds are migratory, travelling as far as the Arctic to breed and some travel as far as Africa to overwinter. Significant numbers visit Chichester Harbour in the winter months where they feed on the mudflats and shoreline.

By attaching colour-rings to their legs, the birds can now be individually identified. Keen birdwatchers can report their sightings, helping researchers to track the birds' movements.



Photo courtesy of Chichester Harbour Conservancy

Recreation & Leisure

More Opportunity to Enjoy the Outdoors

Six months on from the completion of the Environment Agency's Enjoying Water project, the findings and evidence base are being used to influence both the planning and delivery of new water-based recreation opportunities in the southeast. This partnership project looked at how to improve access to the water for the widest possible audience. It has been well received and it is hoped that it will be used as a resource to develop community and sports led initiatives.

In the Thames estuary, the project findings are being used by a number of groups to support community led projects looking at providing mooring opportunities and developments linked with other regeneration projects.

The British Marine Federation and RYA's Green Blue initiative and the Environment Agency are also looking at a future project that links recreational boating and the Water Framework Directive. This will highlight the impacts of diffuse pollution from recreational craft and marinas, and look at how boaters can minimise these impacts. Further information on this project will be available in spring 2012, when a pilot project will be launched in the Solent.

For more information contact Russell Robson at russell.robson@environment-agency.gov.uk.



Photo courtesy of the Environment Agency

Olympics Sailing 2012

The waters of Weymouth Bay and Portland Harbour will play host to 10 exhilarating Sailing events during the London 2012 Olympic Games. The events take place from Sunday 29 July to Saturday 11 August with 380 athletes competing (237 men, 143 women). Sailing made its Olympic debut in 1900; with the exception of 1904, the sport has appeared at every Olympic Games since then. At London 2012, the 10 different Olympic Sailing events will feature a variety of craft, from dinghies and keelboats to windsurfing boards.

Each event consists of a series of races. Points in each race are awarded according to position: the winner gets one point, the second-placed finisher scores two, and so on. The final race is called the medal race, for which points are doubled. Following the medal race, the individual or crew with the fewest total points will be declared the winner.



River Hamble Games 2012

River Hamble Games is a one day sporting extravaganza to be held on 21st July 2012 organised by a committee of enthusiastic local residents. It is intended for the wider local community to enjoy and draws its inspiration from the 2012 Olympics. It is supported by Hampshire County Council and the River Hamble Harbour Authority.

There will be maximum 20 Teams competing on the day and Teams are now invited to register via the website at www.riverhamblegames.com. Each Team will be made up of up to 26 competitors and age ranges from 12 upwards can take part. Events are as follow:

- Sailing - Racing will be just outside the River at Cat Head and the event base will be split between Warsash Sailing Club and Hamble River Sailing Club.
- Rowing - will be in the River based at Bursledon Gigs. Each team can enter a maximum of two boats and races will be run in heats culminating in a grand final.
- Kayaking - Also on the river and Kayaks will be available for loan on the day. Racing will be organized from Hamble side of the river, launching off the foreshore over a slalom course. Heats will culminate in a grand final.
- Swimming - will be based along Warsash shore of the River, distances will be 1500m or 500m.
- Running will start from Hamble foreshore. Distances will be 5k and 10k over on and off-road terrain.

The day will culminate in a medal ceremony at the end of the event, for competitors and spectators alike to enjoy.

Heritage & Archaeology

HMS Victory Repair Work

The warship used by Lord Nelson in the Battle of Trafalgar is undergoing a £16m restoration. BAE Systems has been awarded a five-year contract to overhaul HMS Victory in a project that will preserve it for the coming decades.

The main mast has been removed as part of a major restoration of Admiral Lord Nelson's flagship. It is the first time in almost 70 years that the ship has been seen without her entire rigging. The project was described as the ship's "most extensive restoration" since the 1805 Battle of Trafalgar, during which Lord Nelson was killed onboard Victory. A recent survey of the 250-year-old ship, which is still the flagship of the second sea lord, showed it was in urgent need of repair. It revealed it was leaking, suffering from rot and was being pulled apart by its own weight.



The renovation work, which began last summer, is set to last ten years and is being funded by the Royal Navy. The main topgallant mast has been removed and so have the ship's three large masts, bowsprit and rigging. All parts will be catalogued and documented for future surveying, design and replacement. The work will also include installation of a fire suppression system, replacement of planking and repairs to the middle-gun deck.

Only a fifth of the original ship remains and is on display in a dry dock at Portsmouth Historic Dockyard. A brand new exhibition on site, 'Bones of Iron and Oak - Beneath Victory's Skin' tells how the great sailing warship of the 18th century was built and maintained at battle readiness.

Diving into the Mesolithic Past of the Solent

The Hampshire and Wight Trust for Maritime Archaeology (HWTMA) is pleased to announce the first major publication of its internationally important excavations and research of the submerged pre-historic site of Bouldner Cliff in the Solent. Published by the Council for British Archaeology, with support from English Heritage, the 200 page report details the ground-breaking methods and fascinating results from the 8,000 year old site.



Photo courtesy of HWTMA

Bouldnor Cliff is 11 metres below the surface and approximately 250 metres offshore of Bouldnor, near Yarmouth on the Isle of Wight. Excavations have been ongoing since the Mesolithic settlement was first identified in 1999, when a lobster was seen throwing Stone Age flints from its burrow. Since then the site has yielded numerous secrets, including the oldest

piece of string and more than a quarter of all the Mesolithic timber that has been recovered in this country. The material so far recovered has demonstrated that the technology of the era was 2,000 years ahead of what archaeologists previously believed. For further information please contact Jan Gillespie at jan.gillespie@hwtma.org.uk or tel: 02380 593290.

Isle of Wight industrial crane in heritage rescue

English Heritage has called for a giant Grade II listed cantilever crane on the Isle of Wight to be preserved. The 99-year-old crane at Cowes, which needs urgent repairs, is on the heritage organisation's "at risk" list. The 150ft (50m) maritime structure lifted boilers and engines into naval ships during both world wars. The organisation said it would provide funding for immediate work to the "hammerhead" crane as part of its Industrial Heritage at Risk campaign. In its heyday during both world wars, about 2,000 people worked under the 80 tonne crane. It has been out of use since 2004 and is now owned by a developer.

More News

Coastal Partnership Working Group

The Solent Forum is an active member of the Coastal Partnership Network (CPN). The CPN exists to encourage the exchange of information and debate between Coastal Partnership Officers and to establish links with other coastal stakeholders. In this way the CPN offers increased opportunities for learning and influence, strengthening and supporting Coastal Partnership Officers and encouraging stronger representation of the value of the work of Coastal Partnerships to their supporting partners and other coastal stakeholders and initiatives. CPN is run by a small committee of Coastal Partnership Officers who operate on a voluntary basis and report to the annual Coastal Partnerships Forum.



Over 50 Coastal Partnerships, many with up to 20 years experience, exist around the UK coast implementing voluntary coastal and estuary management plans and strategies. Coastal Partnerships (CPs) play a vital role in the integration and management of actions and activities on our coasts, targeting their work towards local or specific communities and sectors through a 'bottom-up' approach. CPs are now regularly being used by statutory organisations to deliver stakeholder engagement; the value of this role has proved to be significant.

As well as 'traditional' Coastal Partnerships, the CPN also encompasses the work of other groups such as AONBs and European Marine Site management groups. These groups still offer a service within coastal management, although their roles and structure do differ. Coastal Groups are also involved in the CPN, although they do not offer many of the core services that CPs do, such as neutral stakeholder engagement and conflict resolution. Whilst CPs depend on funding from Partners, many of these other groups have their own statutory funding.

Hamble Fieldwork 2011

In August 2011, the Hampshire and Wight Trust for Maritime Archaeology (HWTMA) conducted four days of fieldwork on the site of the former boy's training school TS Mercury, at Satchell Marsh on the River Hamble.

The particular site of study was two hulked vessels, two abandoned jetties and an associated waterfront embankment, in use from the very late 19th century to the 1930s. Archaeologists and volunteers from the HWTMA excavated an area of foreshore adjacent to one of the hulks (former North Sea fishing vessels converted to hospital ships for the school) where pottery and glass artefacts had been noted in the eroding bank. The aim was to establish whether the artefacts were related to the use of the hulks as hospital ships, or deposited as part of the construction of the embankment.

To establish a benchmark for future surveys, a wider topographic landscape survey was undertaken that accurately located all of the features of the site and recorded the position of the eroding embankment. Survey work was also conducted on the two hulks in order to supplement a previous survey conducted by the HWTMA in 2007/8.

The fieldwork at Satchell Marsh has produced a large amount of information from the survey and an interesting assemblage of artefacts from the excavation. Both promise to greatly help our understanding of the site and the wider maritime landscape of the River Hamble in the early 20th century.

Sea Angling 2012

Sea Angling 2012 is a new government-sponsored project to provide data on recreational sea angling that can help improve the scientific understanding of fish stocks off our coast, as well as ensuring that the needs of sea angling can be represented as effectively as possible in future marine policy development.

The data collected will enable national and local policy makers to make informed decisions on fisheries management, and provide the sea angling community with information to help them develop their own views and policies. This should benefit anglers and businesses while helping to conserve and improve fish stocks by ensuring management decisions are based on the best possible scientific data.

The project will look at how to provide the most cost-effective information on:

- The number of people who go sea angling during the year.
- How often they fish from the shore or from boats in different parts of England.
- Numbers and sizes of fish caught or released to the sea.
- The social and economic importance of sea angling in England.

The project will be carried out by the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (Cefas), the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) and individual inshore fisheries and conservation authorities (IFCAs).

More News

Isle of Wight Destination Management Organisation

The Isle of Wight Council has announced its intention to consult with the tourism industry on its plans to create a new private sector-led organisation to promote and develop the Island as a world class visitor destination. The development of the organisation will secure £3 million of council funding for the industry over the next nine years.

Government policy is to create strong, new and independent tourism bodies, to eliminate past structural problems and allow the industry to take responsibility for its own future. It plans to modernise and update local tourism bodies to become focused and efficient Destination Management Organisations (DMOs) which are led by and, increasingly, funded through partnership with the tourism industry.

A report recommending consultation into the principles of setting up a new DMO for the Island is before the council's cabinet member for the economy and the environment, for a delegated decision. If approved, consultations could begin with those involved in the tourism industry on the Island early in 2012.

The council has also put together a discussion document which sets out its proposals for setting up a company to act as the new DMO for the Island. Objectives include maximising the benefits of the visitor economy to the Isle of Wight by encouraging, supporting and stimulating the development of the tourism industry. Secondly, preparing, implementing and monitoring with appropriate partners a strategic plan for the development of tourism on the Isle of Wight and annual action plans to ensure its delivery.



Water White Paper Published

In December 2011, Defra published the Water White Paper, named 'Water for Life'. This paper describes a vision for future water management in which the water sector is resilient, in which water companies are more efficient and customer focused, and in which water is valued as a precious and finite resource. It also explains that we all have a part to play in the realisation of this vision.

The Paper makes clear that we must halt and reverse the damage we have done to water ecosystems. It takes forward a key message from the Natural Environment White Paper: that we all have an interest, and therefore a role, in protecting our water bodies.

One of the key reforms is the reaffirmation of the catchment approach to dealing with water quality and wider environmental issues. Defra and the Environment Agency will support catchment pilots across the country, the results of which will be evaluated in early 2013.

Defra will also publish a draft Water Bill for pre-legislative scrutiny in early 2012 and introduce a Water Bill as soon as Parliamentary time allows. It will also consult on a national strategy on urban diffuse pollution in 2012.

Download the Paper at <http://www.official-documents.gov.uk/document/cm82/8230/8230.pdf>.

HMS Alliance Restoration

Work has begun on the Silent Service's most treasured relic as a £6.5m project to restore submarine HMS Alliance gets under way. HMS Alliance is the centrepiece of the Royal Navy Submarine Museum in Gosport and is visited by around 50,000 people every year; she is badly corroded and sorely in need of a complete overhaul.

As well as being the museum's main attraction, more importantly Alliance serves as a memorial to 5,300 men 'on eternal patrol'.

But in the three decades she's been on show to the public the elements and birdlife have taken their toll of the boat. Museum staff were concerned that parts of the submarine might literally fall into the harbour which she sits above in a cradle.

The first stage of the challenging project involves building a permanent floor beneath Alliance which means visitors will be able to walk underneath her and makes it much easier for experts to work on her severely-corroded outer hull.

Earlier this year the Heritage Lottery Fund announced it was prepared to pump £3.4m into the restoration project; more than £2.5m has been raised through fund-raising and donations, but a further £1.5m is required to create a new Alliance gallery.

Snippets

- At its meeting in June 2011 the Joint Committee for the Partnership for Urban South Hampshire (PUSH) approved its Business Plan for 2011-13 and the associated Delivery Themed Action Plans. The business plan describes the direction of travel for the evolution of PUSHs governance structures, leading to new structures being adopted by March 2012.
- A set of new guidelines for tackling oil or chemical spills at sea has been published. The guidelines provide the principles upon which effective post-spill monitoring and impact assessment in UK waters will be based on and are supported by the 19 UK government partners involved in post-spill issues. Download the Guidelines from <http://cefas.defra.gov.uk/premium/guidelines.aspx>.
- From April 2012, the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) is required to licence all forms of dredging activities (including maintenance dredging), unless specifically exempted by Order, whether or not disposal at sea is also a requirement. The MMO will shortly launch a public consultation and host a number of stakeholder workshops in early 2012 to ensure that the public's concerns are taken into account.
- A draft report on relevant evidence and marine planning issues in the East of England was published for the first time in November by the Marine Management Organisation (MMO). The Evidence and Emerging Issues Report highlights current and future issues, including opportunities for a range of marine activities and users.
- Southampton has won the bid to host the return of the prestigious Clipper round the world yacht race. Race organisers have confirmed that the world's longest yacht race will finish at Ocean Village in July 2012.
- Environment Secretary Caroline Spelman has appointed James Cross as Chief Executive of the Marine Management Organisation (MMO).
- ABP Marine Environmental Research Ltd has prepared a Maintenance Dredge Plan on behalf of the River Hamble Harbour Authority (RHHA), in association with marina and boatyard owners on the river.
- A new production line for hovercraft has been officially opened in Southampton. Griffon Hoverwork, based in Woolston, has doubled its staffing in two years with almost all the orders coming from outside the UK. Currently 12 hovercraft for the Indian coastguard are being constructed.
- The refurbished National Oceanographic Library has been officially opened by renowned oceanographer Professor Walter Munk, at an event at the National Oceanography Centre Southampton. The library contains the UK's most extensive collection of oceanographic literature and is one of the largest marine science libraries in Europe.
- Business Minister Mark Prisk paid a visit to the PSP Southampton Boat Show on 18 September to meet with marine companies and launch a new strategy that could lead to £8bn growth in the British marine and maritime industry. The strategy has been developed by the recently created Marine Industries Leadership Council, which is inviting marine companies to show their support for the strategy by taking part in the 'UK Marine Industries Alliance'.
- Two simulators which helped develop the science of deep sea diving have been moved to a Gosport museum. The seven and 14 tonne diving chambers were previously used by the Royal Navy during and after World War II. One was used to train so-called "charioters", navy divers who acted as human torpedoes attaching underwater bombs to enemy ships.
- The RNLI are building a new lifeboat station in Cowes that will reduce response times by up to four minutes. Phase one of construction is the marine works which have now commenced. It involves using 18 tubular piles of between 10m to 13m in length to provide a solid foundation for the new lifeboat slipway deck. After these are in place some protective sheet piling will be deployed to enable dredging to commence without undermining the adjacent public slipway.
- The Marine Management Organisation (MMO) is changing how its districts work. It will move to a structure of four marine areas (Northern, Eastern, Southern, South West) roughly tying in with the IFCA areas. The Manager for each area will report to the Head of Coastal Operations based in Newcastle. There will be a hub office in each area and smaller outreach offices (these will be in locations where the MMO has an existing presence).
- South Boats, based in East Cowes, has signed a contract with Seacat Services to build another four vessels for the wind turbine market. The boats are specially designed to transport workers out to offshore wind farms.
- Relatives of passengers and crew on Titanic are planning to mark the 100th anniversary of the disaster by sailing to the spot where the liner sank. They will set off on 8 April 2012 from Southampton to retrace RMS Titanic's route across the Atlantic.
- Wightlink Ltd's application for replacement and upgrade of berthing facilities, and recharge and habitat creation works at Pylewell Bank have been granted consent by the Marine Management Organisation.
- The Forum would like to say thanks and farewell to one of the Solent Forum Officers, Amy Ruccoco, who is leaving in mid January to take up a new position with Scott Wilson.

Solent News

Solent Forum Celebrates 20 Years

The year 2012 sees the 20th anniversary since the Solent Forum was established. From small beginnings it has now grown to over 55 member organisation with two full time and several part time staff. It is one of the largest and most well known coastal partnerships in the country and runs projects that are at the forefront of coastal management. Funded by its members and project work, it has a long term self-sustaining future.

To celebrate this success and thank the Forum members for all their support over the last 20 years, the Forum will be holding a 20th anniversary celebration to which all member organisations will be invited. It will be held on 17th May at 6pm at the Island Sailing Club, West Cowes.

We would welcome recommendations for entertainment so if anyone has a hidden talent or favourite entertainer(s) please contact the Forum Office with suggestions.

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Since 1992, the Solent Forum has provided a platform to deliver Integrated Coastal Zone Management in the Solent sub-region of the southeast. It operates at a strategic coastal management level, providing a network for closer working relationships, information dissemination and discussion of topical coastal issues.

The Solent Forum members meet twice a year and will next meet on 14 March 2012.

Solent News is prepared and edited by the Solent Forum Officers. It is a biannual publication and issue 32 will be produced in summer 2012.

To find out more about the publication, how to submit articles or be included on the mailing list, please visit www.solentforum.org/publications/solent_news.

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