



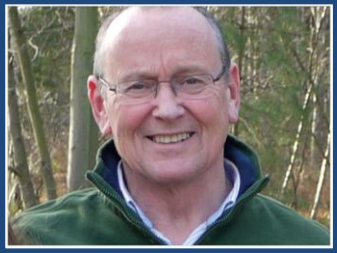
SOLENT FORUM UPDATE

March 2025

www.solentforum.org



Solent Forum Staff



- Peter Barham – Solent Forum Chair until March 2025

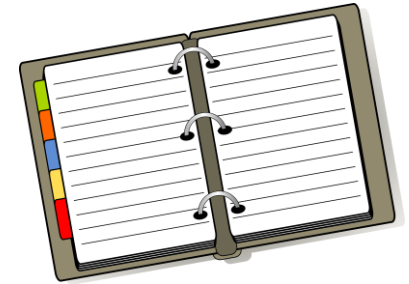


- Phil Horton - Solent Forum Chair March 2025 to 2028



- Kate Ansell – Solent Forum Manager

Diary Dates



- Solent Marine Sites Survey is live – deadline 4 April 2025.
- Next edition of Solent News will be published Summer 2025 deadline is 27 June 2025. 16 page bi-annual newsletter.
- Members Survey and Horizon Scanning 2025 – please watch out for this in summer 2025.
- The next Solent Forum meeting will be held on 15th October 2025 in Cowes.
- Monthly enews service – please send your news/events/consultations by second Friday of the month (circl. 600).

Annual Survey and Horizon Scanning



Members' Survey and Annual Horizon Scanning July 2025

Please help us to develop our work programme and have your say on what the Solent Forum should be doing to help us to deliver the best service for our members.

Section 1

...

Respondent's details

1. Organisation name:

Enter your answer

2. Respondent's name:

Enter your answer

3. Type of Organisation

- ☐ Local government
- ☐ Port or Harbour Authority
- ☐ Government Agency

Business Plan and Annual Report



Solent Forum Business Plan 2025 – 2030



Solent Forum Annual Report: 2024 - 2025

The Solent Forum is an established coastal partnership that promotes and delivers integrated coastal and marine management around the Solent. Established in 1992, it provides advice on strategic coastal and marine matters and facilitates communication and information exchange amongst its [members](#). Its work is steered by a group of key organisations, who also guide the work of the Forum Manager.

This report sets out what the Forum has achieved in the 2024/25 financial year and what it plans to deliver in 2025/26. The long term aims and objectives of the Forum are set out in its [Business Plan](#), that covers the period 2025 to 2030.

The Forum has three categories of work that it undertakes; core partnership work that is ongoing each year, specific project work that runs for a defined time period and the servicing of subgroups. It both leads and works as a partner in externally funded projects.

The Forum hosts regular events as part of its core service, both alone and in partnership with others, to support project work and disseminate information on important Solent issues.



Solent Forum Aims

The aims of the Solent Forum are:

- To promote, facilitate and support integrated planning and sustainable management of the Solent.
- To provide a broad based consultative forum.

Solent Forum Members

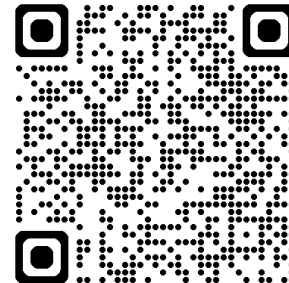
The Forum has a wide ranging membership from many coastal and marine sectors. [Members](#) are professional bodies and organisations such as local government, harbour authorities, marine businesses, user groups, trade associations and NGOs. The Forum is not open to individuals, local residents associations or issue specific lobby groups. It is politically neutral and independently chaired.

Membership benefits include:

- Access to the [Solent News Service](#);
- Free attendance at biannual [Solent Forum meetings](#) and free or reduced entry fee to other Forum events;
- Access to Forum reports, data and the Forum's [Solent Information Database](#);
- Use of the Solent Forum network to communicate with other authorities, organisations and user groups;
- Opportunity to undertake partnership work and influence the direction of future Forum project work;
- Opportunity to join Forum Subgroups: [Natural Environment](#) and [Solent Marine Sites](#) (Relevant Authorities only);
- Use the Forum network to assist with project work via letters of support for bids, stakeholder engagement, event hosting and legacy output management.



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[solentforum.org](https://www.solentforum.org)



Core Membership Services

1. Information Hubs:

- Beneficial use of Dredgings - NEW
- Clean Solent Shores and Seas
- Solent Nature Recovery
- Habitat Restoration
- Biodiversity and Marine Net Gain; Blue Carbon; Natural Capital; Solent Catchments

2. Member Services

- Solent News Service
- Solent Biosecurity Planning Resources
- Solent Plastics Pollution hub (community litter picking)
- Seascape Restoration Inventory
- Forum staff attendance and input on key work in the Solent such as Solent Seascape Project, LNRS' and Hurst Spit to Lymington FCERM scheme

3. Partnership Resources

- Partnership working opportunities and Research needs webpage
- Greater Solent Project Tracker hosted (who is doing what and where)
- Funding opportunities page (grants and government schemes)

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Biosecurity Plans for the Solent

Red Ripple Bryozoan © Chris Wood, MBA



Wireweed © John Bishop, MBA



Slipper limpet © John Bishop, MBA



Pacific oyster © John Bishop, MBA



Trumpet tube worm © John Bishop, MBA



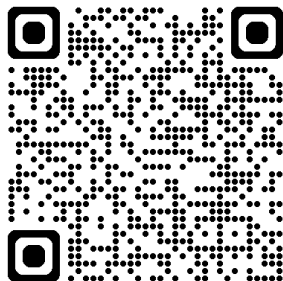
Wakame © John Bishop, MBA



Carpet sea squirt © John Bishop, MBA



Asian Date Mussel © Kate Dey, UoP



Invasive Species Week 2025 (12th – 18th May)

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Beneficial use of Dredgings

THE SOLENT FORUM

Working in partnership for the future

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THE SOLENT

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SERVICES & PROJECTS

LIBRARY & FORUM PUBLICATIONS

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

BENEFICIAL USE OF DREDGINGS (BUDS)

There is a strong desire amongst Solent Forum members to find solutions to the many barriers which are preventing the effective use of dredged material to augment Solent intertidal sites and provide other benefits associated with restoration work (especially enhanced coastal protection). To find these solutions, in 2017 the Solent Forum convened a project working group of interested parties and initiated the BuDS Solent project. This project ran from 2017 to 2024. A final report provides a summary of the work that was undertaken. One final outcome of the process, was that unfortunately, the MMO were unable to proceed with the Marine Licence application. The concern was not with the activity itself but the practicalities of overseeing the multiple conditions and monitoring commitments which would have accompanied such a consent. The Solent Forum are not in a position to lead such ongoing commitment and on this basis withdrew the application, this means that the application can be taken forward by others in the future as this type of work evolves.

The project group will now look for new opportunities in the Solent and will next meet in March 2025 to look at the potential barriers in more detail and how to support small scale BuDS projects in the Solent. The Group will be facilitated by the Solent Forum.

BuDS Projects in the Solent

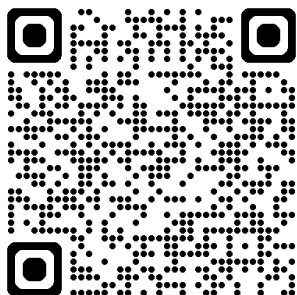
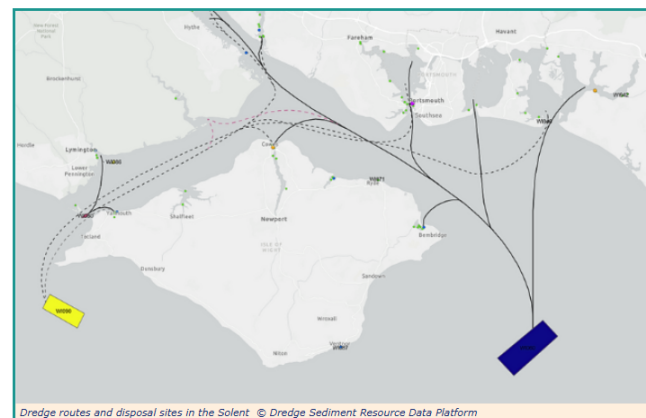
- Saltmarsh Restoration Trial Project – West Itchenor, Chichester Harbour
- BuDS Solent areas identified for beneficial use recharge
- Werrar Marsh, Medina Estuary

Lymington Harbour

Following several successful trials, since 2014 Lymington Harbour Commission has been placing up to 10,000 tonnes of sediment dredged from the harbour each year within a bay at the exposed seaward edge of the saltmarsh. The purpose was to create a sacrificial reef that will shelter the marsh behind from wind wave action and provide a source of sediment to 'feed' the marsh in the immediate vicinity. By August 2023 surveys showed that an area of mud of around 17,000m² had been raised by around 1.5m in height and its presence was slowing down erosion of the marsh behind.

While the technique described above has been successful at reducing erosion to the saltmarsh behind, the barges cannot get mud high enough in the tidal frame for new saltmarsh to grow. LHC worked with partners Land & Water / Earth Change, a marine contractor specialising in environmental enhancement projects, and Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust to trial a new technique to move a significant quantity of the previously placed and consolidated sediment higher up the tidal frame onto adjacent lower lying areas of decaying saltmarsh. The aim is to raise the trial area to the same level as supports the surrounding healthy high marsh to encourage new high marsh growth.

In December 2023, the Marine Management Organisation granted Lymington Harbour Commission a ten-year licence to trial new techniques and in 2024 the Environment Agency awarded Lymington Harbour grant funding from the DEFRA Water Improvement Fund to trial the new technique in August and September 2024. While the trial did not move as much sediment as was hoped due to difficult ground conditions contributing to equipment issues, and an unseasonably windy period, the technique showed considerable promise and a number of lessons were learned that will improve results for future schemes. The trial area will now be monitored until autumn 2025 and then reviewed in due course.



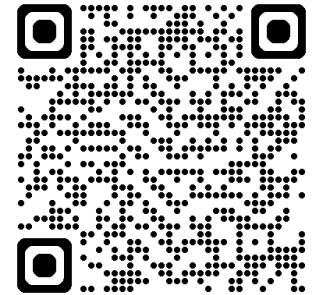
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Solent Forum Sub-Groups

1. Solent Marine Sites (SEMS) Non-licensable Activities

- Online survey currently live until 4th April
- Annual Management Group meeting in September (17th Sept 2025)
 - Annual Management Report – published each September
 - SF Officer has regular telecoms with other national MPA Officers



2. Natural Environment Group

- Next meeting 23 April 2025
- Report on two projects funded for 2024/5:
 1. When is a wading bird not a wading bird? The case of the European Starling (UoP);
 2. 'Portunus' - Exploring and recording the underwater habitats of Langstone and Chichester Harbours – citizen science project with a local sub aqua club
- NEG funding for 2025/26 projects deadline is **21 March 2025**

3. BuDS Solent

Project group will meet 25 March 2025 to explore BuDS opportunities in the Solent and discuss national barriers to delivery.

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External Projects

We provide members with letters of support, stakeholder engagement services and web hosting (including legacy hosting). Current projects supported include (lead in brackets):

- Solent Seascape Project (Blue Marine Foundation)
- Itchen Plastic Pollution Project (Evolve Consulting)
- Solent Cluster (Solent LEP)
- Three Harbours – Pagham/Chichester/Langstone (Southern Water/RSPB)

Please contact the Forum Office if you would like help/support with your coastal or marine project or project bid. Also see section 7.3 of the Business Plan – principles and case studies

Project Scenarios in Business Plan

Project Funding Charging Scenarios

Scenario 1 – Delivering local project work

A government agency asks the Forum if it can help deliver a piece of work that has been identified as a need in the Solent. The Forum agrees as the agency is a Solent Forum member and the work fits in with its aims and objectives. As part of the membership fee Forum staff help to publicise the work via its news service, provide input to the project steering group, facilitate consultation with Solent Forum members and host the material on its website once finalised. Additional staff time would be charged for developing content and any attendance required at delivery events.

Scenario 2 – Event support

A local authority asks the Forum to help organise and facilitate a coastal workshop. The Forum agrees as the authority is a Solent Forum member and the work fits in with its aims and objectives. Solent Forum staff help to publicise the event using its stakeholder contact lists, help to source speakers and a venue and provide facilitation services at the workshop. The local authority pays for the venue and catering costs and Solent Forum chairperson expenses (if requested).

Scenario 3 – Supporting research

An academic institution is making a research bid that requires civic partners. The Forum agrees to assist as the institution is a Solent Forum member and the bid fits in with its aims and objectives. Forum staff provide guidance on the bid preparation, a letter of support and help with publicity via its news service. A staff charge will be made for any additional work that is required if the bid is successful.

Scenario 4 – Project management

A large scale partnership project is proposed across the Solent that has been identified as a need by Solent Forum members. The Solent Forum agrees to project manage and charges a twenty percent management fee. Additional staff time is charged for deliverables and events that are outside of core project management.

Thank You

**If you would like an individual briefing/discussion then please
contact the Solent Forum Office**

Any Questions?

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