



# **Solent Forum**

**11 March 2026**

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



# Solent Forum Staff



Phil Horton - Solent Forum  
Chair from March 2025



Kate Ansell – Solent  
Forum Manager from  
Feb 2025

## Steering Group Members:



SUPPORTED BY



UNIVERSITY OF  
PORTSMOUTH



# Host Changing



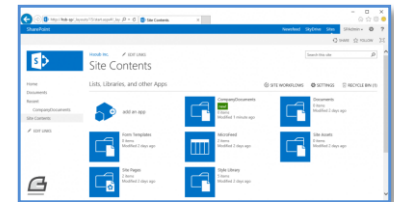
- The Solent Forum will be changing host on 1 April 2026.
- The Forum will be hosted by Partnership for South Hampshire (PfSH) with Southampton City Council providing the operational host.
- The Forum's constitution will not change.
- Member contributions for 2026/27 will be sent from Southampton City Council as our accountable body.
- The Solent Forum website is hosted independently by Geodata so there will be no change (same for SEMS website and SEMS Survey).
- Please continue to use [info@solentforum.org](mailto:info@solentforum.org) email address.

# New Operational Host



Location of Solent Forum Manager post:

**Environment and Sustainability Team  
Growth and Prosperity Directorate  
Southampton City Council**





# Personal Data

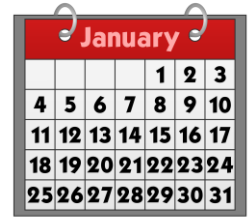
With the change of hosting the personal data we hold for you (name and postal/email address) will be moved from Hampshire County Council to Southampton City Council.

If you do not agree to your data being moved, then please could you notify the Forum office at [info@solentforum.org](mailto:info@solentforum.org).

Our privacy notice is available on our website.



# Future Dates



- The next Solent Forum meeting will be held on 15 October 2026 at National Oceanography Centre, Southampton (Natural Environment Group directly after).
- Next edition of biannual [Solent News](#) will be published Summer 2026 deadline is 26 June 2026. Articles – 300 words+image.
- Solent News Service – Enews going out monthly, 430 direct subscribers, lots more forwarding on. Please email [info@solentforum.org](mailto:info@solentforum.org) to be included. Now global!
- Please remember to send us details of reports and research to include in our [Solent Information Database](#).
- Members Survey 2026 (June) – please let us know how the Forum can help you and opportunities/concerns.
- Solent Marine Sites Annual Survey deadline **3 April 2026**.

## Recent Examples of Work

- New web hub being developed on blue health - being populated (raised in member survey).
- Member of the national BuDS and Marine Protected Area working groups.
- Support letters for member funding bids and inputting to draft bids.
- Helping to populate biodiversity duty reports of local authorities.
- Sit on IoW Local Nature Partnership, looking at how we can help deliver coastal measures in the Local Nature Recovery Strategy.
- Supporting the work of the Solent Seascape project on Solent nature recovery.
- Working with other partnerships around the Solent for mutual benefit.
- Building LinkedIn profile.

# Annual Report 2025 to 2026 Published

## Solent Forum Annual Report: 2025 - 2026

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 2025/26 financial year and what it plans to deliver in 2026/27. 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.



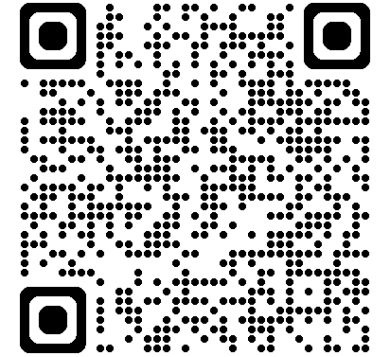
### Solent Forum Aims

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.



# Core Membership Services

## 1. Website Resources (9k visitors in Feb to Forum's website):

- Information hubs
- Forum projects – current and completed
- Biosecurity plans
- Solent Information Database

## 2. Member Support

- Solent News Service – publicise your work and events
- Support for statutory duties like biodiversity reporting and LNRS delivery
- Solent Plastics Pollution hub (community litter picking)
- Support for your project work – bids, letters of support, publicity, hosting legacy material
- Forum staff attendance and input at your coastal/marine meetings and events, incl. chairing and facilitating

## 3. Partnership Working and Resources

- Forum staff attendance at other partnership meetings to facilitate collaboration
- [Solent Project Tracker](#) (who is doing what and where)
- Funding opportunities page (grants and government schemes)

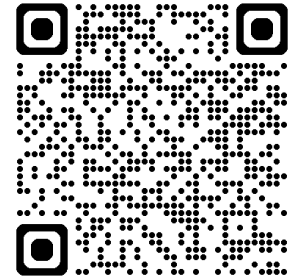
# Solent Forum Sub-Groups

## 1. Solent Marine Sites (SEMS) for Relevant Authorities (assesses activities)

- Online survey currently live until 3rd April
- Annual Management Group meeting in September Annual Management Report – published each September
  - SF Officer has regular telecoms with other national MPA Officers

## 2. Natural Environment Group

- Next meeting 29 April 2026
- NEG funding for 2026/27 projects deadline is **20 March 2026**



## 3. BuDS Solent

Project group explores BuDS opportunities in the Solent and discuss national barriers to delivery. Meets on an ad hoc basis. Solent Forum Manager sits on national BuDS working group.

# Project Updates

- Beneficial use of Dredgings in Solent (BUDS) phase 4, commissioned August 2025. Draft licence documents currently with Solent Forum/Cowes Harbour/Lymington Harbour. Plan is to secure Marine Licence by October 2026 at Cockleshell Bay, Lymington.
- Supporting the national Coastal Partnership Network to establish a framework for coastal partnerships across the UK (Championing Coastal Coordination bid was successful). Deadline May 2026.
- Natural Environment Group funded project – a study of pharmaceutical drug accumulation in Solent fish, University of Southampton. Brief overview at NEG meeting in April and full presentation at Oct 2026 meeting.

**Thank You**  
**Questions?**

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

