

Solent Seascape Project

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**Hampshire &
Isle of Wight**
Wildlife Trust



UNIVERSITY OF
PORTSMOUTH



Coastal
Partners



PROJECT SEAGRASS



Environment
Agency



CHICHESTER
HARBOUR
PROTECTION & RECOVERY
OF NATURE



ENDANGERED
LANDSCAPES
PROGRAMME



EAST HEAD
IMPACT
HEALTH • EDUCATION • PLANET



£5M

5 YEARS





Saltmarsh



Seagrass



Seabird habitat



Oysters

Some highlights so far....

- **Created 0.25 ha saltmarsh at Itchenor.**
- **Visited by HRH Princess Eugenie and SoS Therese Coffey.**
- **Built 0.25 ha oyster reef in the River Hamble.**
- **Constructed 4 new seabird breeding islands at Farlington Marshes.**
- **Created a central data system to enable change to be monitored.**
- **Released 2 films about our work so far.**
- **Become a pilot project for development of biodiversity credits.**
- **Marine Volunteer group established.**
- **Commissioned a State of Solent Nature Report.**





Our long-term vision is to protect and restore the Solent, tipping the balance of the Solent seascape from a degraded state to a naturally expanding, connected and productive ecosystem.

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1. Better protection and management of existing habitats

2. Active Restoration

3. Scientific Monitoring

4. Policy Advocacy and Sustainable Financial Mechanisms

5. Community Engagement



Seascape Recovery Plan

- **Remove or reduce anthropogenic pressures on existing habitats to promote recovery.**
- **Illustrate sites across the seascape suitable for active restoration.**
- **Co-designed with stakeholders.**
- **Underpinned by best available evidence and local stakeholder knowledge.**
- **Develop a series of “tools” to better protect habitats and manage activities.**
- **Created over the next 4 years.**



Data Portal and State of Nature Report

- **SSP has commissioned ABPmer to create a data portal.**
- **Relevant Solent data will be layered in one place, including gap analysis.**
- **Iterative creation process with each stage informing the next.**
- **Should reveal where habitats are, habitat condition, pressures affecting habitats, existing management measures and gaps.**
- **ABPmer will write a State of Solent Nature Report based on technical information gathered in the portal.**
- **State of Nature Report will form an integral part of the evidence base used by stakeholders when co-designing the Seascape Recovery Plan.**

ABP mer



Stakeholder Engagement Strategy

- **Time is the most precious thing of all.**
- **Large number of new initiatives in the Solent working to restore nature.**
- **Co-design is important for buy-in to the Seascape Recovery Plan, plan success and legacy.**
- **Working with Resources for Change we will work with stakeholders to see how *they* want to engage with us.**
- **Plan to work with other projects and initiatives, just like today, to gather stakeholder information concurrently and minimise stakeholder fatigue.**



Link to LNRS

- **Marine habitats not a statutory requirement for inclusion.**
- **Recognising the importance of the Solent for nature HCC and IoWC want to include a “Marine and Coastal” chapter in their LNRS.**
- **Outputs from today’s workshop will contribute to the marine and coastal chapter of the strategic LNRS draft document to be submitted to DEFRA in the spring.**
- **Solent Seascape Project will work with stakeholders over the coming years to develop the detailed, co-designed plan which will ultimately become the “marine/coastal proposals” included as part of the LNRS.**



An aerial photograph of a coastal area, likely the Solent in the UK. The image shows a large body of water in the foreground, transitioning into a wide, sandy beach and a town. The town is densely packed with buildings and is surrounded by green fields and some industrial areas. In the background, there are more waterways and a hazy horizon under a blue sky with scattered clouds.

Thankyou!
Any questions?

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