

SOLENT SEASCAPE PROJECT



Our Vision

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.



Project Workstreams

1. Better protection and management of existing habitats

1. Active Restoration

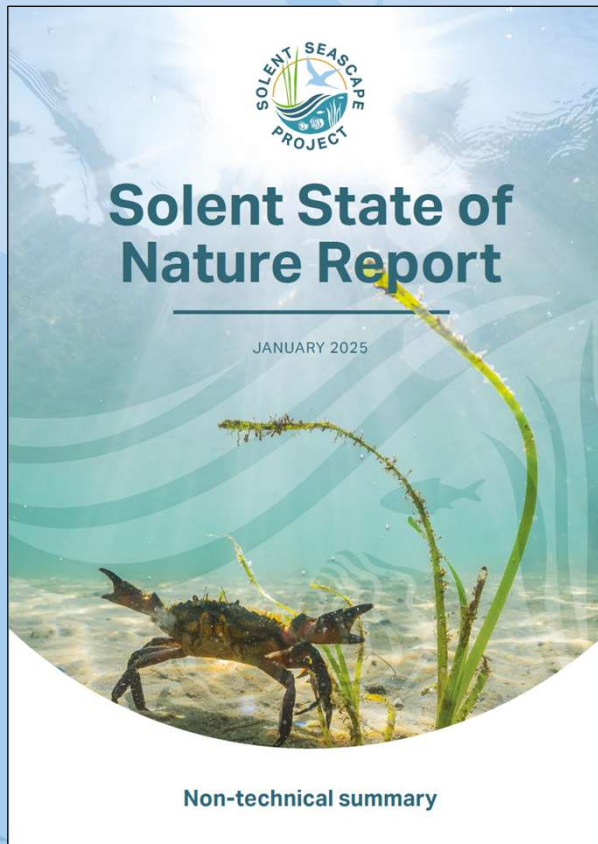
2. Scientific Monitoring

3. Policy Advocacy and Sustainable Financial Mechanisms

4. Community Engagement



Seascape Recovery Plan

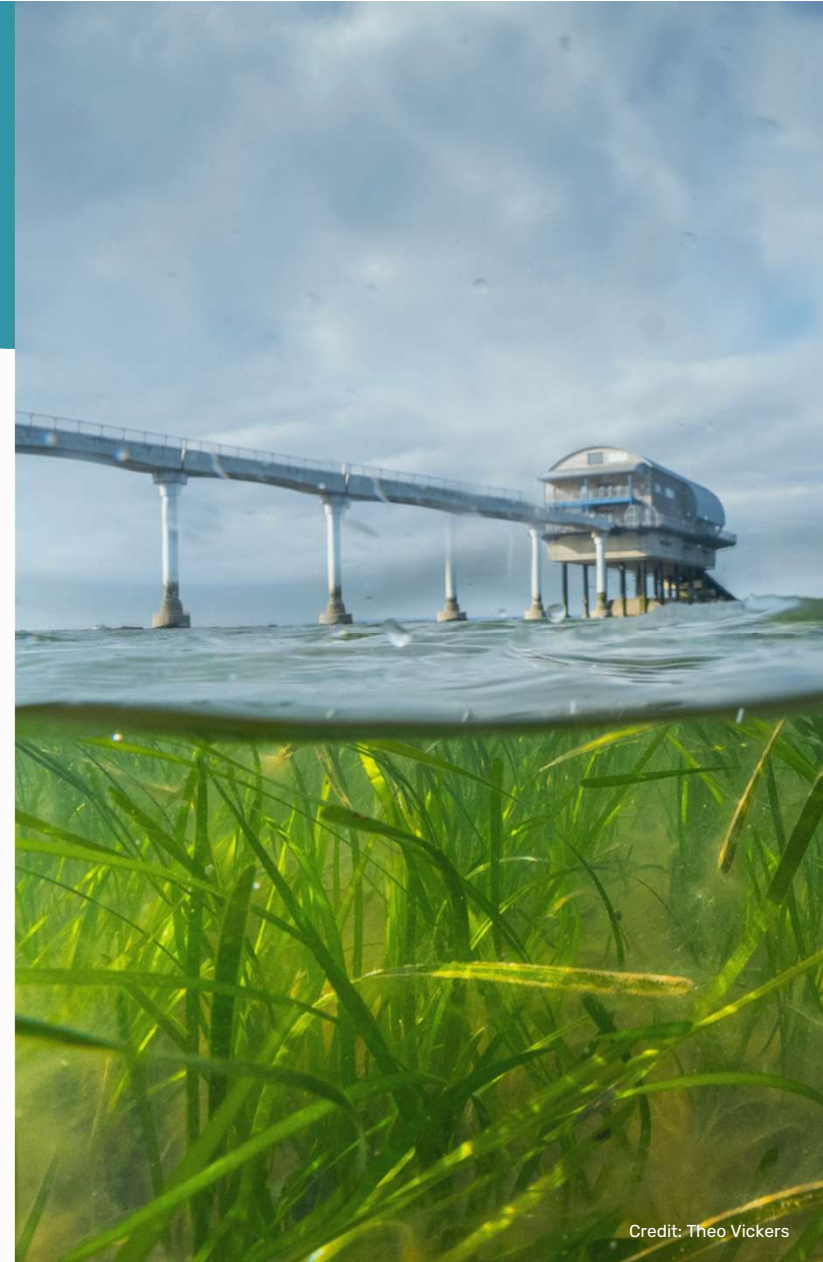
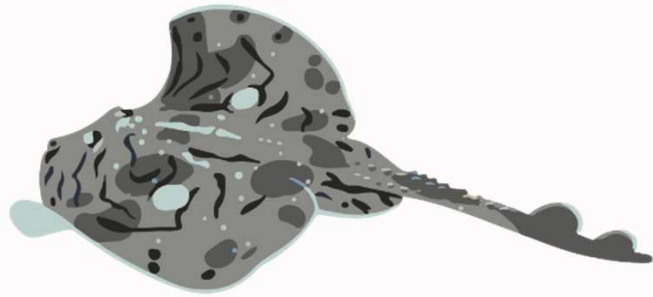


Workstream 1 - A long term seascape recovery plan has been co-created and implemented with key stakeholders supporting the better management of existing Solent habitats

- Solent State of Nature Report and GIS data portal created to provide stakeholders with best available evidence to base decisions upon.
- State of Nature Report launch marks the beginning of engagement work with workshops kicking off in March.
- The report is a solemn tale of the decline of nature in a highly designated MPA.
- The report also highlights efforts to protect and restore nature in the Solent

Headline:

Most of the Solent's habitats and species are struggling, with many having suffered dramatic declines

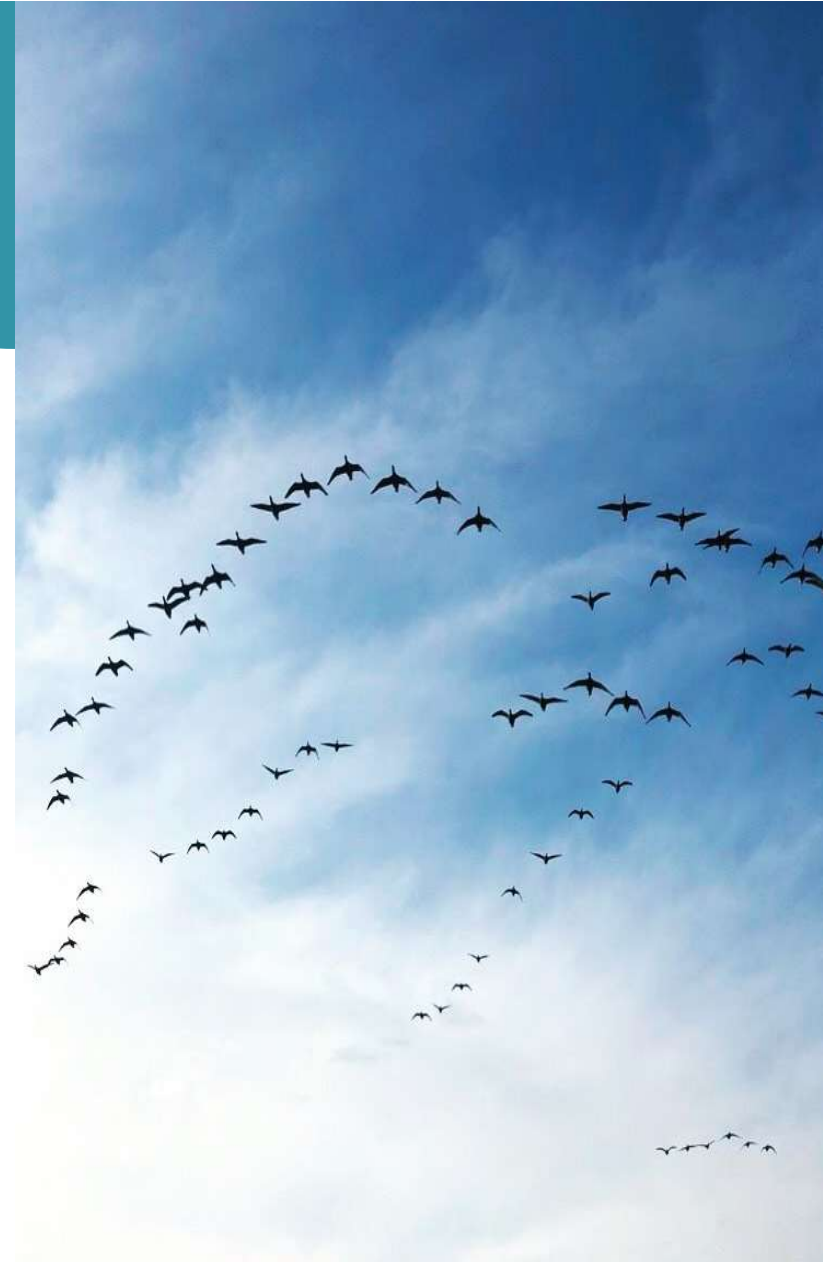


Credit: Theo Vickers

Headline:

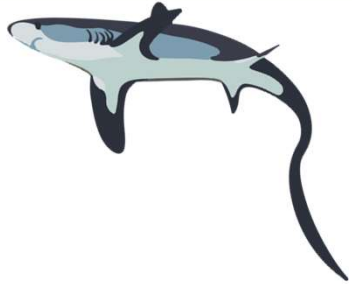


| Key habitat | Current mapped extent (ha) | Historic trend | Future trend (without restoration / further action) | Current condition of majority of Solent |
|--------------|----------------------------|----------------|---|---|
| Saltmarsh | 1,386 | ↓ | ↓ | Unfavourable |
| Mudflat | 8,362 | ↔ | ↓ | Unfavourable |
| Seagrass | 715 | ↓ | ↓ | Unfavourable |
| Oyster reefs | 0 | ↓ | — | Lost |

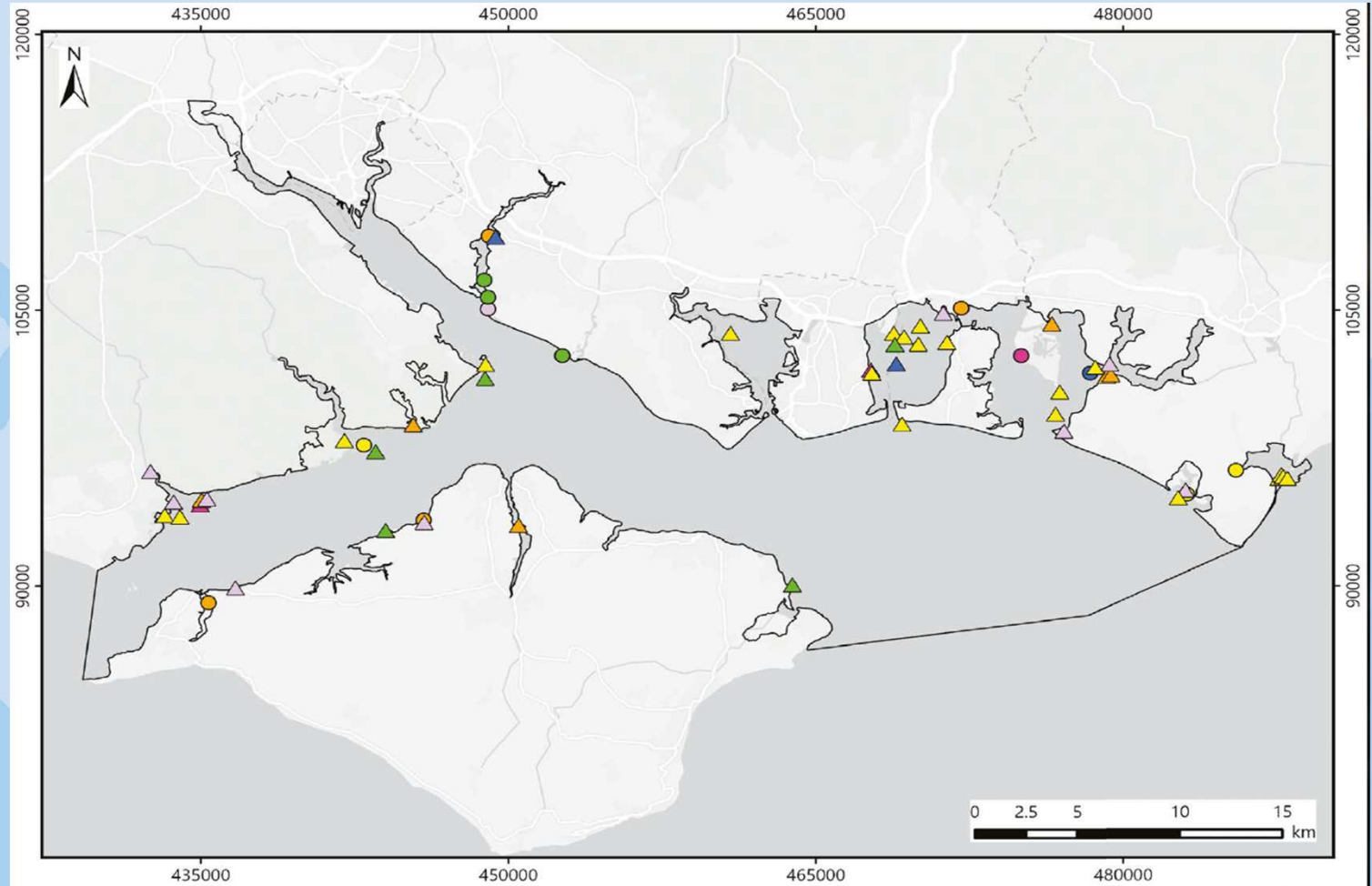
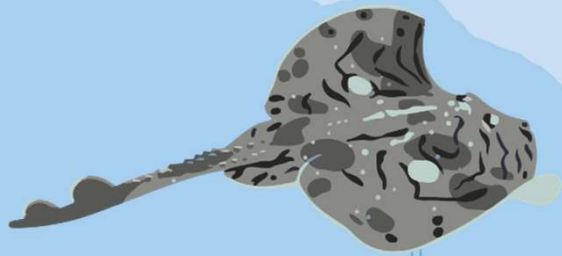


Headline:

| Key habitat | Current numbers | Historic trend | Future trend (without restoration/ further action) | Current condition of majority of Solent population |
|---------------------------------------|---|---|--|--|
| Non-breeding marine and coastal birds | 163,000 (5-year mean peaks, summed) | ↓ | ↓ | Mixed |
| Breeding seabirds (gulls and terns) | 11,700 (observed adults on nest, 2023) | ↓ | ↓ | Mixed |
| Fish | Unknown | ↓ | Unknown | Unknown |
| Seals | 80 (Harbour Seals, Solent colony); Grey Seals (visiting) unknown | Recent (30 years): ↑ Further back: ↓ | Unknown | Unknown |



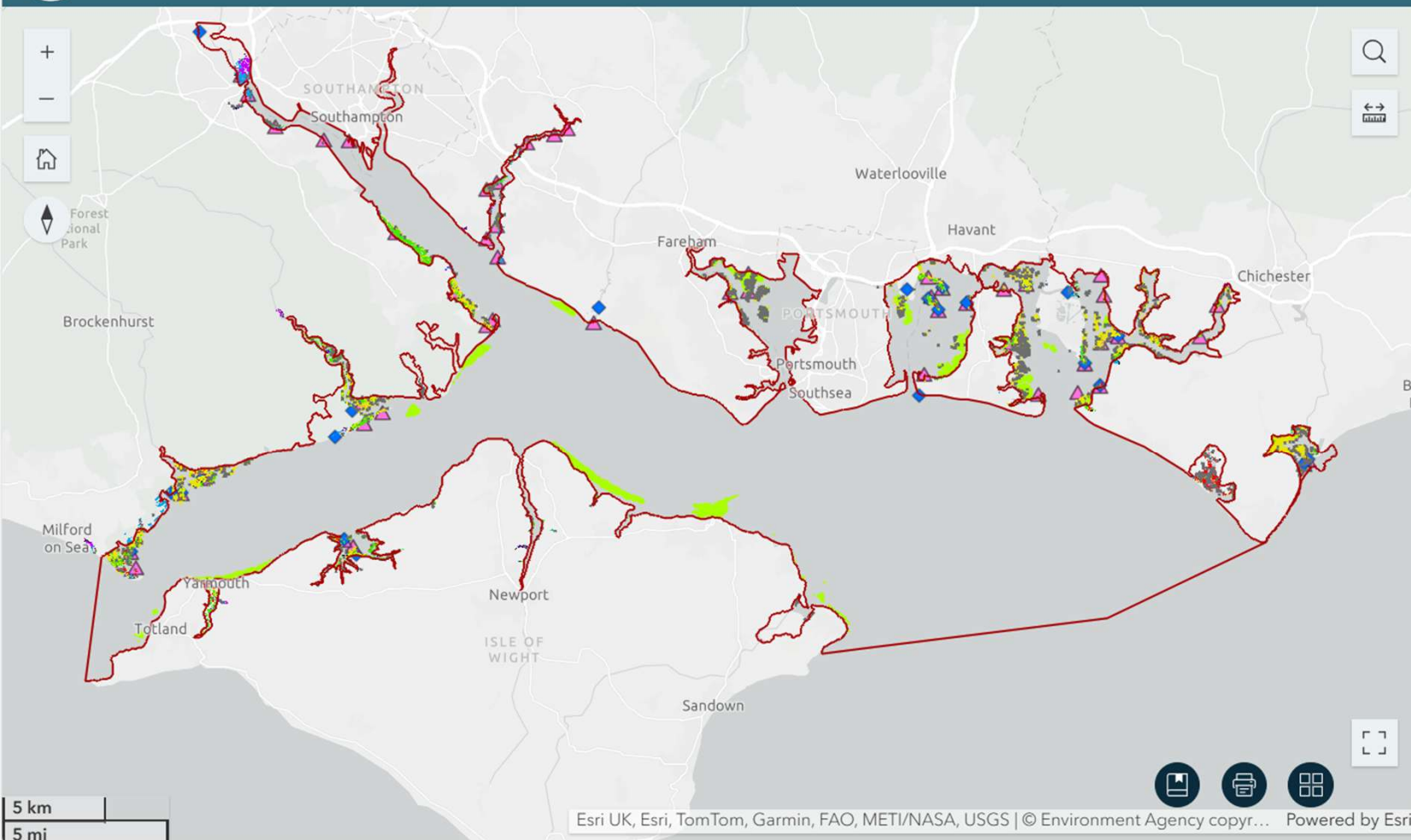
Restoration in the Solent



| Project area | Implemented schemes | | Potential/planned schemes | |
|--------------|---------------------|-------------------|---------------------------|-----------|
| | Mudflat | Saltmarsh/Mudflat | Mudflat | Saltmarsh |
| | Oyster reef | Seabird | Mudflat/saltmarsh | Seabird |
| | Saltmarsh | Seagrass | Oyster reef | Seagrass |

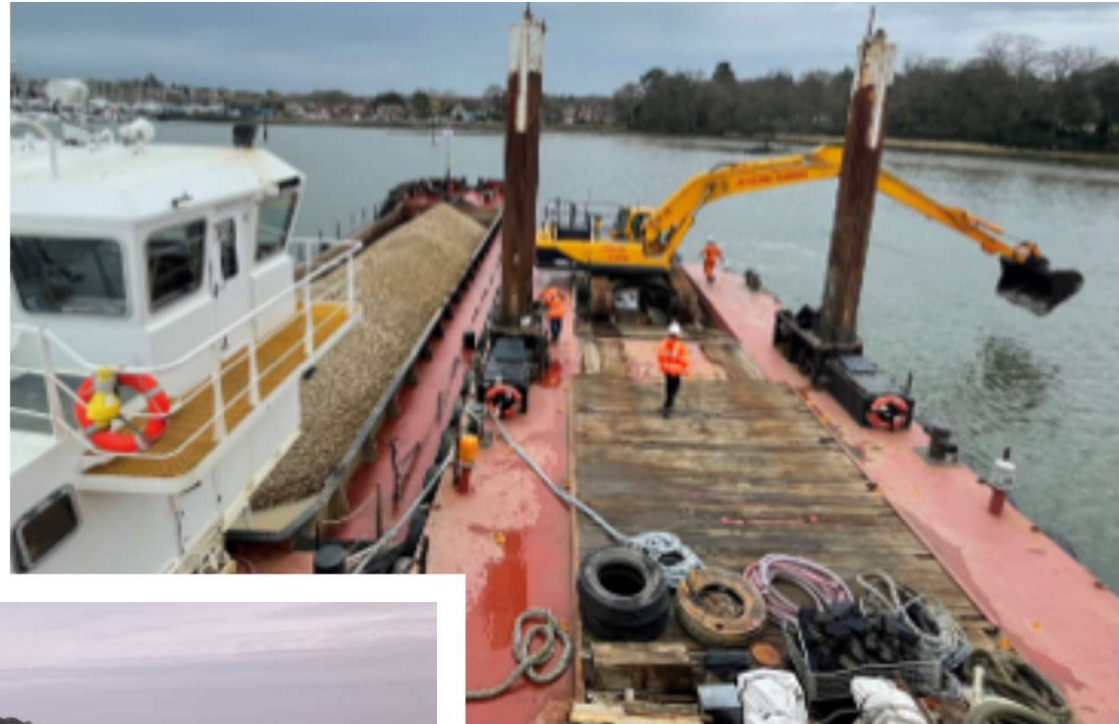
| Date | By | QA |
|-----------------------------|-----|-----|
| Dec 24 | HKG | CRO |
| Coordinate System | | |
| British National Grid | | |
| Projection | | |
| Transverse Mercator | | |
| Project No. 5340 | | |
| Fig_Restoration_Projects_A5 | | |

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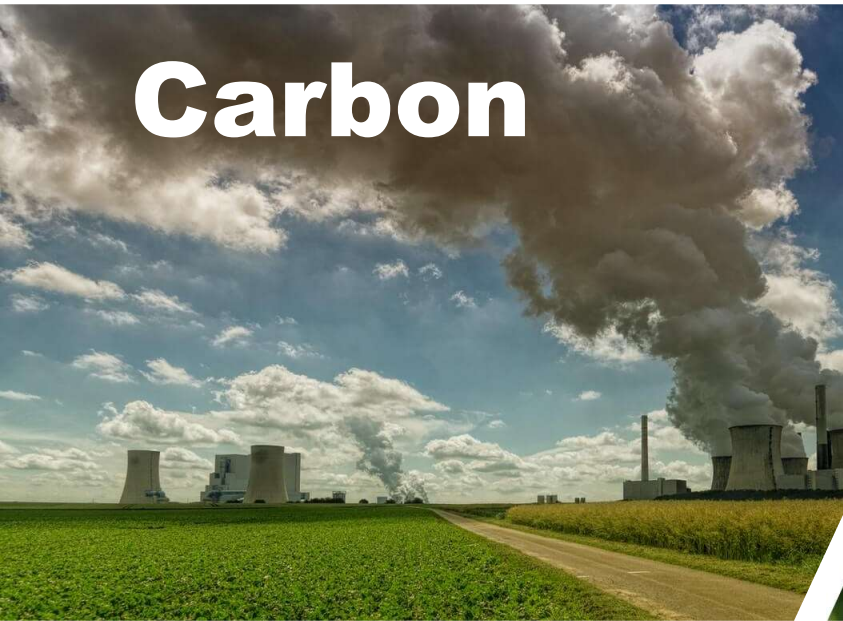


| Layers | Legend |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Priority Habitats Inventory England (© NE) ... |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Saltmarsh Zonation (© EA) ... |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Recent Saltmarsh Change (© EA, 2008-2020) ... |
| > <input type="checkbox"/> | Historic Saltmarsh (Partial Coverage, © CCO) ... |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | National Seagrass (© NE, EA) ... |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Seagrass (© HIWWT) ... |
| ∨ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Baseline Species ... |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Recent Breeding Seabird Locations (© Various) ... |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Recent Breeding Shorebird Locations (© Various) ... |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Key Marine Roosts (© Various) ... |





Carbon



eDNA



Telemetry



Fish surveys



Policy & Finance







56
applicants

Richard Walters

Five original songs inspired by and featuring the sounds of the Solent coastline, exploring themes of community, nature, history, industry and nostalgia. To be shared as a digital EP release via streaming/download sites, as well as an interactive 'music map' allowing listeners to experience the songs in situ.

8
shortlisted



**SONGS FROM
THE SOLENT**

Achievements so far...

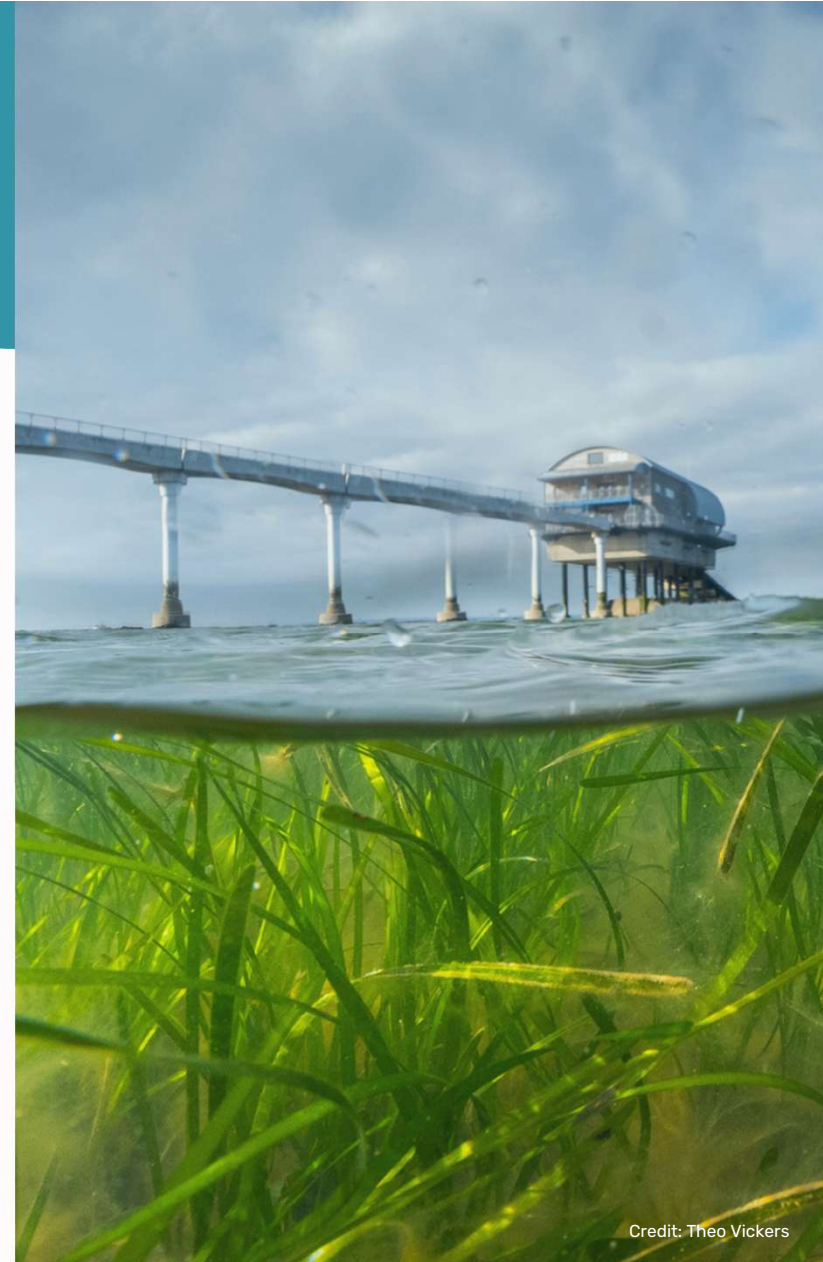
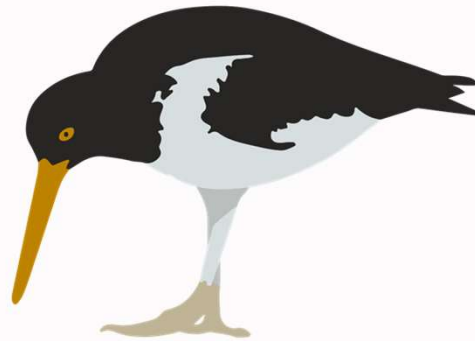


- **Active restoration of all 4 key habitats has now commenced – oyster (0.5ha), salt marsh (0.56ha), seabirds (10 sites), seagrass (4 sites).**
- **Vast scientific monitoring programme underway, including eDNA water samples collected at all current active restoration, control and reference sites.**
- **Created a central data system to enable change to be monitored.**
- **Released 4 films about our work so far...**
- **Become a pilot project for development of biodiversity credits.**
- **Established an amazing group of Marine Champions and volunteers.**
- **Produced a State of Solent Nature Report and GIS based data explorer.**
- **Launched the project website – www.solentseascape.com**
- **United Nations endorsement – UN Ocean Decade Action**

Policy challenge 1:

Feature based management

- Restoration only possible in area's mapped as being that specific habitat
- Management measures are not site-wide



Credit: Theo Vickers

Policy challenge 2:

Licensing and permitting



Policy question:

Where does responsibility lie when legally protected habitats and species decline?





THANK YOU

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