



# SOLENT FORUM UPDATE

**March 2023**

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



# Solent Forum Staff

- Peter Barham – Solent Forum Chair
- Karen McHugh – Solent Forum Manager
- Kate Ansell – Solent Forum Officer

# Core Services

- Next Steering Group meeting will be on 13<sup>th</sup> September 2023.
- The next Solent Forum meeting will be held on 11th October 2023 in Southampton.
- Next edition of Solent News will be published Summer 2023 deadline for articles is 23 June 2023.
- Solent News Service. Monthly E Newsletter (c. 400 recipients). We monitor Twitter feeds daily and like/retweet relevant information – 402 followers. Forum members can use our news services for free.
- Student Mike Clark Bursary Awards - call for projects will be April 2023. Five awarded in 2022.
- Solent Information Database – ongoing population as part of our news service. Please send your research/reports to us for inclusion.

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# Sub-Groups

- **Solent Marine Sites (SEMS) Secretariat** Kate Ansell
  - Online survey of activities takes place in March/April
  - Annual Management Group meeting in September
  - Annual Management Report – published to SEMS website
  - SF Officer has regular telecoms with other national MPA Officers
- **Natural Environment Group** Karen McHugh
  - Next meeting 26 April 2023. Discussions will take place on actions arising from SEMS Annual Survey and Management Report
  - Key project for NEG = Solent Seascapes Project Working Group to produce Solent Pressure and Activity Mapping (delivers Solent Bird Sensitivity and Activity Mapping Project)
  - Three projects funded 2022/23. Fathom Ecology, Intertidal Seagrass Restoration in the Solent; HCC Recoding Snipe on coastal site using one thermal imager; HCC equipment to capture Snipe at Lymington/Keyhaven
  - NEG funding for 2022/23 three bids currently being assessed
- **Bathing Water Quality Awards** Karen McHugh
  - 2023 awards published early March 2023.

# Members Services

- **Clean Solent Shores and Seas**

Hub to signpost a range of issues and sectors to improve water quality in the Solent. Sections now complete on: Littering, Microplastics, Nutrients, Governance, Habitats/Species and Boating. Next section to finalise – Amenity and Public Health and Marine Invasive Species.

- **Building Biodiversity in the Solent Hub**

Information hub to collate work in the Solent (and nationally) on improving the biodiversity of coastal infrastructure. SF keeping up to date with national work on this topic, including attendance of the Marineff working group (national group promoting this topic being led by Bournemouth University).

- **Habitat Restoration Hub**

Collating information and links on habitat restoration initiatives such as REACH and ReMeMare, Local Nature Recovery Strategies, natural capital, blue carbon, Solent seagrass and net gain.

- **Solent Plastics Pollution hub**

Initiated as part of the Environment Agency's Preventing Plastics Pollution Project. SF will maintain web resources and Facebook page until 2028.

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# Projects and Events

- Beneficial use of Dredgings in Solent (BUDS)

Phase 2 complete. Phase 3 – Bottom Placement of dredgings project commenced April/May 2021. Project due to be completed March 2023. Phase 4 – Saltmarsh Restoration requires funding.

- Solent Marine Nature Recovery

Solent Forum has led a series of meetings with key stakeholders to assist with the joining up of the marine space with the forthcoming Local Nature Recovery Strategies being produced by Hampshire County Council, West Sussex and Isle of Wight. A webpage has been produced and a scoping document drafted to assist. [Solent Forum - Solent Nature Recovery Scoping](#)

- Solent Marine Invasives and Biosecurity Planning

Working with Natural England, APEM Ltd and the Marine Biological Association to raise awareness of marine invasives in the Solent and developing biosecurity measures.

Three workshops planned - Book online via the Forum's website. [Solent Forum - Biosecurity](#)

## [Workshops](#)

1. Portsmouth: 15<sup>th</sup> March at the Royal Maritime Club
2. Southampton: 22<sup>nd</sup> March at the National Oceanography Centre
3. Isle of Wight: 30<sup>th</sup> March at the UK Sailing Academy

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# Externally Funded Project Support

We can provide members with letters of support, stakeholder engagement services and web hosting for externally funded projects. Current projects supported include (lead partner in brackets):

- Dynamic inventory of seascape restoration activities in the Solent to Sussex Bay area (University of Portsmouth) 3Cs funded project. Jan to March 2023. Solent Forum is a partner in this project and will help design the inventory database to be hosted on the SF website.
- Preventing Plastic Pollution in the River Itchen Estuary (Environment Agency) - 5 year project commenced 2023.
- Three Harbours technical summit (Southern Water). Ongoing.
- Solent Seascapes (Blue Marine Foundation). From 2022 to 2027.
- 'Sea the Value' (University of Portsmouth). Nov 2022 to August 2025.
- Solent Cluster (Solent LEP).
- Solent Water Quality and Boating (Environment Agency and Natural England). Ongoing, ad hoc.

**Thank You**

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