

# Solent News

The newsletter of the Solent Forum

Issue 44: Summer 2018

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Stalked jellyfish, photo courtesy of Polly Whyte. Seahorse and seagrass, photo courtesy of Julie Hatcher.

## Secrets of the Solent Awarded Heritage Lottery Funding

Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust are excited to announce that they have been awarded £600,400 from the Heritage Lottery Fund to deliver their 'Secrets of the Solent' project, which will help to protect the Solent's important natural marine heritage.

We know that, although thousands of people live and work alongside the Solent and many more visit every year, very few people are aware of the incredible, hidden life under the surface. Many people think our local seas are devoid of life not realising that there are some precious underwater landscapes just off our coast, including seagrass meadows, chalk reefs and rocky sponge gardens. They are home to sea bass, seals, colourful anemones, sea squirts and cuttlefish.

The Solent is under real pressure from plastic litter, pollution and other activities and marine wildlife has declined rapidly in recent years. Through this project, the Trust will work with a wide range of partners and a large team of volunteers, to make sure that more people appreciate, understand and support the Solent. The Wildlife Trust hopes this will lead to:

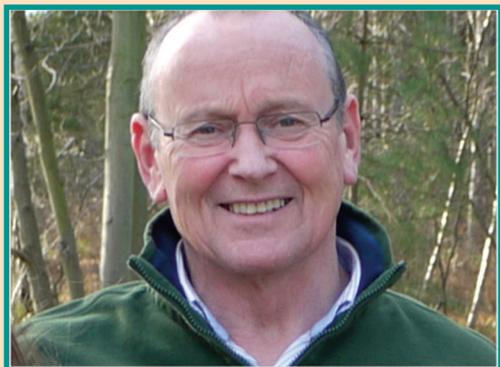
- Less pollution and plastic litter in our seas.
- More information about the local under-water wildlife, gathered through 'citizen science' and used to secure better management of sensitive areas of the Solent.
- More sustainable seafood, produced by local fisheries and available in local restaurants and shops.

Over the next few months, the Trust will be recruiting staff to take this project forward. Once they have started, they will be in touch with partner organisations to introduce themselves.

For further information, please contact Ali Fowler at email: [ali.fowler@hiwwt.org.uk](mailto:ali.fowler@hiwwt.org.uk).

# News from the Forum

## Chairman's Column



**Peter Barham**

At last, the Government has launched the consultation on the final tranche of Marine Conservation Zones. Although this proposes 41 new sites nationally, there are only three in the Solent area, Yarmouth to Cowes, Selsey Bill and the Hounds and Bembridge. However, if selected it does mean that in addition to the European Marine Sites in the Solent and surrounding areas, the richness and importance of the Solent marine area will be better protected.

Additionally, Defra's 25 Year Environment Plan, launched at the beginning of 2018 by Theresa May, emphasises that protection of the marine environment is not enough. We need to reverse some of the damage done to the environment by taking positive action to make improvements. Everyone should welcome this, there are great opportunities for industry, regulators, conservation bodies and communities to work together to make this happen. Solent Forum will clearly have a role in bringing the expertise of the team to assist in this work. There are opportunities for the Forum to help initiate joint action which we will be discussing with members in the near future.

Alongside the Marine Conservation Zone consultation and the 25 Year Environment Plan, the Government has also made it clear that important European legislation, such as the Habitats and Birds Directives, will continue to be applied (even though elements will have to be transferred to UK legislation). This will be very important in maintaining the protection that has been created over the last 25 years.

All this bodes well for the Solent marine area, but as always it requires work to be done and, as we know, this is done better by people working together. This is where the Forum will continue to help both in its day to day work and through specific projects, such as the Beneficial Use of

Dredgings. This is looking at innovative ways of using dredged material as a resource which could be used in ways to benefit the environment.

Importantly, and to help with all this work, we are pleased to welcome Kate Chesman as the new Solent Forum Officer to the team. She will replace Carolyn Francis who is retiring. Since becoming Chair, I have been hugely impressed by the commitment of Carolyn to the work of the Solent Forum and while we thank her and wish her the best of luck for the future, she will be missed.

## Natural Environment Group

The Solent Forum Natural Environment Group (NEG) continues to develop the evidence base and deliver actions to support the Solent European Marine Sites (SEMS) Scheme of Management. NEG met in April to review its work programme and received a presentation from Natural England on the newly released condition assessments for the Solent Maritime Special Area of Conservation. The minutes of the meeting and the presentation can be found at: [www.solentems.org.uk/natural\\_environment\\_group/NEG\\_Meetings/](http://www.solentems.org.uk/natural_environment_group/NEG_Meetings/).

There is a developing suite of evidence on the impacts from the activities surveyed for the SEMS Management Scheme. For example, the Marine Management Organisation and Natural England have published a study on the impacts of marine recreational activities in Marine Protected Areas (NECR242). NEG continues to liaise with the Solent Recreation Mitigation Strategy partners and Bird Aware Solent on concerns about the impacts on birds from coastal dog walking.

The effects of marine litter in the Solent is an issue that continues to be raised by SEMS Relevant Authorities. NEG has established a project group, which aims to review the issues and impacts of marine litter in the Solent. The project, called 'Clean Solent Sea and Shores' is currently being developed and funding is being sought.



*Photo courtesy of Southern Water*

## GDPR

To comply with the new General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), the Forum has been contacting all the people on its mailing lists to ensure they want to remain as subscribers.

For distribution of this newsletter, we hold a database of names and postal addresses. If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter then please send your name and address to [info@solentforum.org](mailto:info@solentforum.org).

The Forum has published its data privacy policy at: [www.solentforum.org/membership/data\\_protection/](http://www.solentforum.org/membership/data_protection/).

# News from the Forum

## Beneficial Use of Dredgings in the Solent Project (BUDS)

The Solent Forum continues to make progress on the Beneficial use of dredgings in the Solent project (BUDS). The aim of the project is to:

*'Bring about beneficial use of dredging within one or more Solent sites, using an incrementally phased approach to scope and cost sediment sourcing and sediment receiver sites, building a system of protocols and guidance.'*

The project is being developed in a phased approach. Phase 1 included project scoping and partnership working and was completed earlier this year, view the findings at [www.solentforum.org/services/buds/](http://www.solentforum.org/services/buds/). Phases 2 and 3 are currently being developed and will include detailed feasibility plans and partnership working. A Water Environment Grant bid has been made for funding for phases 2 and 3. An announcement on whether it is successful will be made in August; if funding is allocated, the project will run from September 2018 to March 2020.

### Phase 2 and 3 Feasibility Study and Detailed Cost Benefit

Feasibility and detailed cost benefit will involve developing options for beneficial use project(s) within a set time period. For preferred options, full feasibility plans will be developed for beneficial reuse at key sites. These plans would detail the exact timings and costs of the sediment sources needed to match with receiver sites. The licences and permissions which would need to be obtained will be scoped and any Environmental Impact Assessments conducted.

### Phase 2 and 3 Partnership Working

The latter phases will involve working with stakeholders to develop strategic guidance and protocol. This part of the work will be led by the Solent Forum using workshops and stakeholder meetings. Specifically it will:

- Explore future funding opportunities and develop tender material.
- Develop and understand lessons learned on maintenance dredge and disposal licensing. This could lead to a protocol and guidance.
- Feedback nationally the mapping of Solent dredge locations and disposal sites with other areas of potential value for recharge work, to provide guidance on detailed matching analysis.

## Welcome to the New Solent Forum Officer

The Solent Forum is welcoming Kate Chesman as the new Solent Forum Officer.

Kate graduated with a First Class Honours Degree in BSc Marine Geography in 2005, including a successful year in industry working for the Port of Dover in the hydrographic and environmental departments. After completing her degree, she worked in the marine aggregates industry as a GIS Coordinator and as a Hydrographic Surveyor for Associated British Ports, Southampton.

In 2012, Kate took a career break due to a family move to Connecticut, USA. She has been busy as a stay at home mum to her two boys as well as volunteering for various committee and charity roles including a local mother's club, Parent Teachers Association and most recently as Treasurer of Winchester Sea Cadets.

She has been passionate about coastal management from a young age. She is looking forward to returning to this world of work and applying her broad theoretical and practical experience to her role in the Solent Forum.

## SEMS Monitoring and Bursary Award

The Solent European Marine Sites (SEMS) Management Group (MG) completed the annual online monitoring survey of activities this spring. The results can be found at: [www.solentems.org.uk/publications/](http://www.solentems.org.uk/publications/).

The Solent Forum is analysing the data gathered and preparing the SEMS Annual Management Report for the MG annual meeting on 20th September 2018. That meeting will set out and track actions that need to be addressed in relation to the issues raised. For more information on SEMS please visit: [www.solentems.org.uk/](http://www.solentems.org.uk/).

This year, Emily Harris was awarded the Professor Mike Clark bursary for her dissertation on 'The level of integration between coastal and terrestrial planning systems in Local Authorities in Havant, Portsmouth, Chichester and Arun through the use of questionnaires and interviews'. Emily will be invited to give a short talk on this topic at a future Solent Forum meeting.

Recent topics and further information can be found at [www.solentforum.org/services/Professor\\_Mike\\_Clark\\_Award/](http://www.solentforum.org/services/Professor_Mike_Clark_Award/).

# Plastics & Litter

## Environment Agency's New 'Plastics and Sustainability Team'

The Environment Agency's new 'Plastics and Sustainability team' was formed after a £750,000 government investment in tackling plastic pollution was announced in January. Based in the southwest, the team will cover the entire coast of England and will perform litter checks alongside the Agency's regular water quality sampling. The project follows the government's pledge to eliminate avoidable waste and plastics in the UK by 2042.

More than 500 beaches will be checked weekly in a bid to tackle the "scourge" of discarded plastic. The Team will log the amount and type of plastic found in each area. The Agency hopes to identify the worst-hit beaches and use its findings to better regulate the problem.

The Plastics and Sustainability Team also wants you to get involved in a Global Plastics Challenge this summer. Wherever you go around the world, they would like you to take photographs of discarded plastic, so we can all learn and tell the global story. They would also like pictures that show good practice such as great recycling and local initiatives that look to reduce litter.



*Photo courtesy of Southampton City Council*

Please send the photo and details of where it was taken to email: [plasticsandsustainability@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:plasticsandsustainability@environment-agency.gov.uk). The Team will develop an interactive map from the data and will share it later this year.

## #2minutebeachclean

The #2minutebeachclean is run by The Beach Clean Network Limited, a not for profit organisation, that was set up in 2009.

They conceived the idea of the beach clean station in Bude in 2014 as a way of making it easier for everyone to do their bit. The first station was set up at Crooklets beach in Bude in September 2014.

By September 2015, the amount of litter collected on monthly clean ups was reduced by sixty one percent compared with the same period in the previous year. Since then over 250 beach clean boards have been set up across the UK and Ireland.

In the Solent, boards are currently located at Bayside Cabin, Stokes Bay Road and at Freshwater Bay. If you are interested in getting a board for your location, please get in touch with Nicky Green at [beachcleanshop@gmail.com](mailto:beachcleanshop@gmail.com) for guidance and pricing.

In 2017, the network launched an App that helps people to record beach clean finds easily and quickly. It also enables direct posting to Instagram or Twitter. The App will also tell you the location of your nearest beach clean station.

Follow progress on Twitter at [#2minutebeachclean](https://twitter.com/2minutebeachclean) and watch the 2minutebeachclean film at [https://www.youtube.com/watch?time\\_continue=82&v=YNGhAERqxLA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=82&v=YNGhAERqxLA).

## Microbeads Ban Comes into Force

A ban on the sale of products containing microbeads has come into force as part of the Government's efforts to prevent plastic entering the marine environment.

Retailers across England and Scotland will no longer be able to sell rinse-off cosmetics and personal care products that contain microbeads, the tiny pieces of plastic often added to products such as face scrubs, soaps, toothpaste and shower gels.

Just one shower alone is thought to send 100,000 microbeads down the drain and into the ocean. The announcement follows January's ban on the manufacture of products containing microbeads.

The ban forms part of Defra's 25 Year Environment Plan commitment to eliminate avoidable plastic waste. This sits alongside the Treasury's call for evidence, on how changes to the tax system could be used to reduce single use plastics.

With the microbeads ban now in place, the Government is exploring how other microplastic sources enter our marine environment. Funding of £200,000 was pledged to scientists at the University of Plymouth to explore how tiny plastic particles from tyres, synthetic materials like polyester, and fishing gear (such as nets, ropes and lines) enter our waterways and oceans.

# Environmental Quality

## Beachbuoy - Storm Water Release Notification

Southern Water is currently developing a new in-house release reporting system called “Beachbuoy” that will upload up-to-date storm water spill release notifications for Langstone and Chichester harbours to the company’s website. This information will allow harbour users to make an informed decision about whether or not to go into the water.

The Beachbuoy system is intended to replace the email notifications that are sent to the Langstone Harbour Board and Chichester Harbour Conservancy. In the past, these organisations uploaded these release notifications to their websites. In the future, harbour users will be able to access Southern Water’s website directly to seek information about when a release of stormwater has been made from one of its assets.

Southern Water is piloting this new system ahead of a much wider roll-out to bathing waters in our region. Langstone and Chichester harbours have been selected as priority areas for the trial even though they are not bathing waters; they have been chosen in recognition of their amenity value as recreational waters. People will also be able to sign up for real-time notifications via email from the Southern Water website.

The releases of stormwater that Southern Water makes to the Harbours are regulated by the Environment Agency which sets the conditions under which they can be made. The Agency also specifies the equipment Southern Water needs to install, such as screens and/or a volume of storm storage that needs to be available and filled before a release can be made. It also requires Southern Water to regularly report on the performance of its assets.

## Southern Water’s Plastics Policy

Microplastics in the environment is a key issue that many organisations are beginning to tackle. Southern Water is funding research at the University of Southampton, so it can gain a better understanding of this issue and how the amount of microplastics released into coastal waters can be reduced.

It is working with researchers to develop methodologies to see where and how it can remove plastics from the environment. This work includes co-funding ongoing PhD research at the University of Southampton, which is investigating microplastics within wastewater treatment.

It is also funding research as part of the nationwide water industry group, UK Water Industry Research (UKWIR), which is seeking a better understanding of the characteristics of microplastics, the influence of wastewater treatment on microplastic releases and quantifying microplastics in treatment works’ flows. The results of these investigations will be used to ensure future investment correctly targets the areas of greatest impact and concern.

In March, Southern Water published its own Plastics Policy. This commits the business to minimising its use of plastics with the intention of beating the government’s own national target of eliminating avoidable plastic waste before the end of 2042.

This Plastics Policy has been published at: <https://www.southernwater.co.uk/PlasticsPolicy>. It is very happy for other companies and groups to use the Policy’s words as the starting point for their own Plastics Policy.

## Clean Air Strategy and Shipping

The Environment Secretary, Michael Gove, has published a Clean Air Strategy. This aims to cut air pollution, backed up through new primary legislation. The new strategy is a key part of the Defra 25 Year Environment Plan.

As part of the Strategy, the government is committed to driving down emissions from ships and reducing the impact of emissions from the maritime sector on the environment and public health.

In 2016, domestic shipping (ships that start and end their journey in the UK) accounted for eleven percent of the UK’s total domestic nitrogen oxide emissions, two percent of PM2.5 and seven percent of sulphur dioxide. In addition, international shipping (ships that go to or come from international destinations) emissions have a significant impact on air quality in the UK due to shipping lanes and engine operation while at UK ports.

Environment will be a key theme of the government’s Maritime 2050 Vision. As part of the vision, Defra will work with stakeholders to develop, by spring 2019, the first UK Clean Maritime Plan. This plan is expected to set out a parallel number of policies to reduce greenhouse gases and pollutant emissions from shipping, and to underpin the long-term vision of zero emissions shipping.

See: <https://consult.defra.gov.uk/environmental-quality/clean-air-strategy-consultation/>.

# Fisheries

## Oyster Spat Found in Bid to Boost Solent Stocks

The Solent Oyster Restoration Project made an encouraging discovery in March. The very first baby oyster (spat) was found on settlement plates put out by the team. The discovery was made at the Land Rover Ben Ainslie Racing (now INEOS Team UK) pontoon. The spat provides further evidence that the novel 'broodstock cage' system is working.



*Photo courtesy of the Blue Marine Foundation*

The Blue Marine Foundation, alongside the University of Portsmouth and MDL marinas, set up the cage system in order to increase the number of breeding oysters in the Solent. Due to a combination of factors including overfishing, disease and habitat loss, oyster populations have been declining, and occurring at lower densities. Due to oysters' reproductive behaviour, it is important for them to occur in dense populations. Since 2016, the Solent Oyster Restoration Project have restored 20,000 oysters from the Solent to broodstock cages.

It is not only the presence of spat that has gained attention in these cages since the project began but also the plethora of marine life found making their home on or around the oysters. To date, 95 different species have been identified, including over 35 sightings of European eel and a juvenile seahorse.

The discovery of the oyster spat is another step towards restoring native oysters and the ecological services they provide to the environment in the Solent. The Blue Marine Foundation is hoping that the Solent will become a leading example around both the UK and Europe for marine habitat restoration. The ongoing support from the Solent Forum is greatly appreciated. If you want to get involved and volunteer, email Project Coordinator, Jacob Kean-Hammerson, at: [Jacob@bluemarinefoundation.com](mailto:Jacob@bluemarinefoundation.com).

Follow the project's progress at [www.bluemarinefoundation.com/project/solent](http://www.bluemarinefoundation.com/project/solent).

## Shellfish Valuation

Recent research on the Solent's shellfish has estimated they are worth approximately £1.5million per year as a product for human consumption, based on recent harvests.

In 2017, only one out of the 18 shellfish waters in the Solent was confirmed as meeting the standards required under the Water Framework Directive. There is a historical lack of evidence on the economic benefits provided by shellfish, which is required to drive the action needed to improve water quality and protect their viability.

In response to this, the Environment Agency worked with the Sussex and Southern Inshore Fisheries & Conservation Authorities (IFCAs) to commission the New Economics Foundation to value the Solent's shellfish. Beginning in Chichester Harbour, and then expanded to the wider Solent, the valuation assessed the wider economic benefits along the shellfish supply chain including depuration and transport. The findings suggest these wider economic benefits are worth more than double the initial sale value. The project also produced a model that will enable valuation of other shellfish waters and scenarios.



*Photo courtesy of the Environment Agency*

Opportunities are also being explored to improve and build on this research, including valuing shellfish ecosystem services that so far have only been described qualitatively, for example water filtration and fish habitat. The reports and models can be found via the following links:

- Solent - [www.southern-ifca.gov.uk/research-and-evidence-reports](http://www.southern-ifca.gov.uk/research-and-evidence-reports)
- Chichester Harbour - [www.sussex-ifca.gov.uk/chichester-harbour](http://www.sussex-ifca.gov.uk/chichester-harbour)

# Marine Industries

## Wightlink's Green Manifesto

Wightlink has launched a Green Manifesto, pledging to make its operations as environmentally friendly as possible. This includes welcoming its new hybrid energy flagship, Victoria of Wight, which was launched at the Cemre shipyard in Turkey on 7 February 2018.

Steel cutting at the shipyard began on the ferry company's new flagship in November 2016. Cemre will complete construction work following the launch before the ship travels to home waters. Victoria of Wight will be seen around the Solent for several weeks as crew are trained to operate her before she enters service this summer.

Wightlink will embark on a programme to train her crews, to make the most of the opportunities offered by the innovative hybrid battery technology to reduce noise and emissions before introducing her to the schedule.

Other initiatives, under the manifesto, include chargers for electric cars at Fishbourne, reducing the use of plastics whenever possible and 25p discounts for people using reusable cups or mugs at all Wightlink outlets.

Wightlink has also teamed up with Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust to educate customers about the marine life of the Solent through entertaining interactive presentations onboard ferries. The Trust's 'Secrets of the Solent' project will include sessions held on board Wightlink ferries by enthusiastic volunteers.



Photo courtesy of Wightlink

## Solar Energy for ABP

ABP Southampton has completed a major milestone in its programme to invest more than £1 million in solar energy on its buildings.

This latest phase of investment has seen more than 2,000 roof-mounted solar panels installed on Ocean Terminal, the port's largest cruise terminal. With its new carbon neutral status, the building is now generating more electricity than it is consuming.

Working in partnership with Carnival UK, whose cruise brands include P&O Cruises and Cunard, this major milestone is one part of the wider plan for the port's investment in renewable energy and commitment to further improving the port's overall environmental performance.

The energy generated by the solar panels equates to an average of 584KW per hour.

## Maritime 2050

Earlier this year, the Department of Transport invited evidence to support a long term strategy to secure the future of the UK maritime sector (Maritime 2050). The strategy will look at the long term direction of this sector.

It needs to answer questions on how the sector can best meet the challenges and opportunities, both global and domestic, which may arise over the next 30 years. Six key themes have been identified:

- Trade
- Environment
- Technology
- Infrastructure
- People
- Security

See more at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/maritime-2050-call-for-evidence>.

# Coastal Management

## Coastal Defences at Hill Head Completed

The new coastal defences at Hill Head were completed in December 2017. The £1m project, funded by Fareham Borough Council, will protect the coastline from the effects of extreme weather and sea level rise. The Council's coastal engineers at the Eastern Solent Coastal Partnership (ESCP) carried out the project.

The project has involved construction of a new and improved seawall, beach replenishment, extensive timber groyne maintenance and an improved amenity area.

Beach levels have fallen at Hill Head since 2012, exposing the seawalls to additional wave action. Records show that storm frequency is increasing with 18 storms in the last three years. This is likely to continue in the future, contributing to beach erosion and seawall deterioration. As a result, the old seawall had reached the end of its serviceable life and was no longer able to withstand this increased wave action, failing regularly and leading to expensive repairs.



*Photo courtesy of the Eastern Solent Coastal Partnership*

The foreshore is a designated RAMSAR, Special Protection Area, Site of Special Scientific Interest and an important site for wading and waterfowl birds. Rare species of bird visit this coastline as they migrate across Europe and internationally. To minimise bird disturbance to overwintering birds, the construction period was limited, with works only permitted between the 1st April and the 30th November.

Find out more at: [www.escp.org.uk/news/Hill-Head-Phase2](http://www.escp.org.uk/news/Hill-Head-Phase2).

## Ecological Enhancement of Defences

The Solent Forum has been working with the Environment Agency to help publicise work on the ecological enhancement of coastal defences.

An ecological or biodiversity enhancement is an action that improves habitat in the local environment. Enhancements should increase opportunities for local biodiversity, and go beyond normal business practice or predetermined planning and construction conditions.

In many cases, hard structures are poor ecological surrogates for the natural shoreline often supporting few dominant, opportunistic species. In addition to changing the type of substratum available for colonisation, structures also influence the surrounding environment by altering the wave climate and modifying sedimentation. These broader considerations need to be considered in the wider ecological assessments undertaken as part of any new scheme and in the replacement of existing structures.

To aid with this process, the Environment Agency have produced a guidance document that discusses the idea of 'ecological enhancement' of hard coastal structures and how it can be embedded in the design and planning process, from conception through to construction.

See: [www.solentforum.org/solent/managing\\_our\\_coast/coastal\\_defence/Ecological\\_Ehancement/](http://www.solentforum.org/solent/managing_our_coast/coastal_defence/Ecological_Ehancement/).

## UK's First Sandscaping Project

Coastal erosion is a growing problem in the UK, with both critical infrastructure and coastal communities becoming under threat. This is a particularly pressing problem along the east coast of England, where Royal HaskoningDHV has been tasked with designing coastal protection for the nationally important Bacton Gas Terminal.

After a storm surge in December 2013, the land between the Bacton Gas terminal and the sea was eroded by 10 metres, leaving just 15 metres between it and the sea. Royal HaskoningDHV was approached by the terminal operators to find an urgent solution to protect the terminal from coastal erosion.

Taking inspiration from the Dutch, a sandscaping solution has been designed. It is the first such project in the UK outside of the Netherlands.

This sustainable solution uses the power of the sea to naturally shift large quantities of sand down the coastline, providing flood and coastal protection to critical infrastructure and also to neighbouring communities.

Implementing this project will not only protect the terminal from cliff erosion in a 1 in 10,000 per year storm, but it has the added benefit of protecting local villages. It could lead to similar approaches being implemented elsewhere along the UK coastline in the future.

# Recreation & Leisure

## New Wheelyboat Launched at Lymington

Her Royal Highness, The Princess Royal, visited Pebble Beach restaurant in Barton on Sea on 11th May where she named Lymington SailAbility's new Wheelyboat. This is a wheelchair accessible motor boat which will give disabled people the chance to get out on the water.

Lymington SailAbility, founded in 1996, has introduced an enormous number of disabled people to boating over the past 22 years. The charity has proved that sailing and powerboating can be both accessible and affordable regardless of circumstance. It is a completely self-funding charity which relies on the generosity of others. The donations generously given allows the organisation to expand every year.



*Photo courtesy of David Hill, Sunny 16 Photography*

Lymington SailAbility currently operates twice a week with the support of a dedicated team of volunteers and will be adding an additional day a week to provide powerboating opportunities.

Find out more at: <http://lymingtonsailability.com>.

## Campaign Underway to Renovate D-Day Footpath

A major fundraising push to reinvigorate one of the New Forest National Park's most popular walking routes is underway. The Lepe Loop, on the New Forest's southern coast, crosses beaches where troops left for the D-Day landings more than 70 years ago. Currently almost impassable during wet weather, the loop is in need of surface improvements as well as new signage and information boards to tell walkers of its wartime past and fascinating wildlife.

The push, to raise the £25,000 needed for the footpath, is being spearheaded by the New Forest National Park Authority and Hampshire County Council with help from Friends of Lepe. The fundraising is part of the nationwide 'Make One Million' campaign, run by the British Mountaineering Council (BMC), which is aiming to raise £1million to renovate footpaths in all 15 of the UK's National Parks.

Online donations are now being accepted, with fundraising continuing for the next six months, with a variety of initiatives planned:

- Events at Lepe Country Park.
- Guided and sponsored walks round the Loop.
- Summer crowdfunding campaign offering 'money can't buy' experiences for donations.
- Opportunities for visitors to Lepe to donate when they visit.
- There will also be a contribution to the campaign from the BMC's fundraising nationally and grant funding will be sought locally.

The money raised will be used to improve the surface of the route so that it is more accessible throughout the year. It will also be used to replace the fingerposts and interpretation boards, making the route easier to follow and allowing walkers to learn about its history and wildlife.

To donate to the campaign and watch the video visit: [mendmountains.thebmc.co.uk/new-forest](http://mendmountains.thebmc.co.uk/new-forest).

# Conservation

## Marine Engagement Trailer

This summer, Natural England will be showcasing the amazing marine world found in Hampshire, Dorset and the Isle of Wight, using their specially designed Marine Engagement Trailer.

Working in partnership with the Southern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority and the local Wildlife Trusts, the trailer has been designed to educate and engage visitors about their local fisheries, protected areas, species and habitats.

The trailer will also show the work each organisation does to help secure the future of local marine life.

Look out for the trailer and team at events including the New Forest Show, Dorset County Show and Marine Wonders at Leppe Country Park throughout the year.



## Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ) Tranche 3 Consultation

Defra want to know what you think about its proposals to designate a further 41 MCZs around the UK. It is also seeking your views on plans to add new features to 12 existing MCZs. MCZs are areas of sea which protect rare or important features. The closing date for the consultation is 20th July 2018. Use the Magic map to find site locations - <http://magic.defra.gov.uk/magicmap.aspx>.

Sites proposed in the Solent include:

- Yarmouth to Cowes
- Selsey Bill and the Hounds
- Bembridge

## Governance Structures and Requirements for MPAs

As part of the UK SEAS project, WWF in partnership with Natural England, commissioned reports to form a toolkit on how to determine governance structures and requirements for Marine Protected Areas (MPAs). The objective was to collate existing guidance and recent projects in the UK to produce a toolkit of information on the following:

- How to go about identifying options for local and regional governance models for MPAs or groups of MPAs
- Analysis of options
- How to best engage with stakeholders to determine future structures
- Writing management plans
- Up to date evidence on the value of coordinated management with concrete examples where governance systems have led to effective work on the ground/improvements in condition

In 2017, the toolkit published the reports listed below, these will be updated at the end of the UK SEAS project, in order to incorporate learnings and experiences.

- Summary
- Evidence on the value of coordinated management
- Governance structure
- Techniques for engaging stakeholders
- Writing management plans

Download the reports from: [www.wwf.org.uk/what-we-do/projects/uk-seas-project](http://www.wwf.org.uk/what-we-do/projects/uk-seas-project).

# Heritage

## The National Museum of the Royal Navy invests almost £33million in Portsmouth

Details of how The National Museum of the Royal Navy is to invest almost £33million in Portsmouth Historic Dockyard and the wider city over the next two years have been set out.

Nearly £100,000 has been invested in three exhibitions. 'Silent and Secret' at Gosport's Royal Navy Submarine Museum will focus on the 50th anniversary of the Royal Navy's first Polaris nuclear ballistic missile submarine. Portsmouth Historic Dockyard is hosting a major new temporary exhibition for 2018; Tattoo: British Tattoo Art Revealed. In March, 'Shipyard' by Lachlan Goudie was opened. For the last seven years, renowned Scottish artist Lachlan Goudie, has been sketching and painting in the BAE shipyards on the Clyde and Forth capturing aircraft carrier HMS Queen Elizabeth and the newest destroyers. Also announced is a major new £1million permanent gallery on Coastal Forces, the Spitfires of the Sea, which will open in 2019 at Gosport's Explosion Museum of Naval Firepower.



*Photo courtesy of the National Museum of the Royal Navy*

Over the next two years, the visitor experience on site will also be boosted by a brand new Royal Marines Museum and the creation of the country's newest national museum collection in the newly-named Storyhouse 12: The Navy Unlocked. Over two million artefacts, currently kept in 30 separate stores within 14 buildings across nine sites, will be relocated and made accessible to visitors in a bold move to revolutionise the way the epic story of the Royal Navy is told. Both projects have received funding totalling £18 million from the National Lottery.

Work is also underway on the project to re-support HMS Victory, this work is part of the ship's larger £35 million, 15 year conservation project. Awarded to BAE Systems, this ambitious engineering feat is seeing 134 props installed to arrest the movement of the ship's hull within the dry dock where she has been since 1922.

National Lottery support of £2.6million has also enabled the restoration of the bulwarks on HMS Warrior 1860. These restoration works are part of a wider project called 'HMS Warrior 1860: Revealing the Secrets of Shipwrights and Sailors.' It will allow for the digitisation of the archival collections and enhance the visitor experience to the ship with exciting new interpretation.

## New Forest Knowledge

Since its launch in 2012, the 'New Forest Remembers' website has recorded the archaeology, history, memories and untold stories of World War One and Two with help from local community groups, enthusiasts and professionals.

Now this unrivalled collection has transferred to the New Forest Knowledge website to sit alongside material and articles from all eras of the Forest's past. This move marks the end of the New Forest Remembers website, which has seen over 70,000 visitors from around the world view over 400 articles on topics from bouncing bombs, to dog training in WWI trenches to D-Day preparations on the coast.

The photographs, videos and oral history recordings are now easily reachable using a map-based search system on the New Forest Knowledge site, providing a multi-media journey into the Forest's past.

The site's collection is also set to expand further, with groups, societies and individuals invited to contribute material to help preserve the area's fascinating history. Users can upload articles, photographs, new information or add to existing material. Local groups can also register themselves and create a unique page on the website allowing them to curate their own content and promote their activities.

New Forest Knowledge is part of the Heritage Lottery Fund 'Our Past, Our Future landscape' partnership scheme, led by the New Forest National Park Authority in conjunction with 11 key partners. The content can be viewed at: [www.newforestheritage.org](http://www.newforestheritage.org).

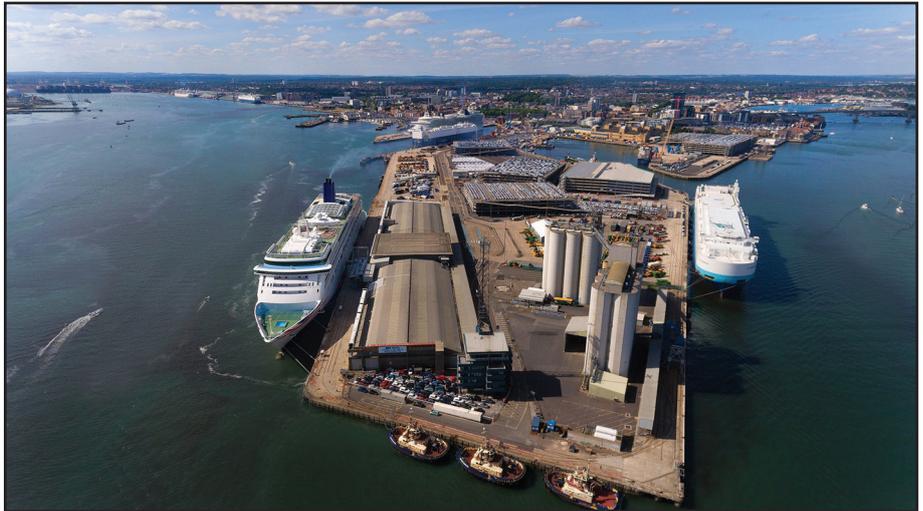
# Harbours & Business

## ABP Southampton Launches Air Quality Strategy

ABP Southampton has launched its new Air Quality Strategy. This sets out a package of proposals to accelerate improvements in air quality around the port. It is working with cruise line partners, shipping lines, port users and tenants and energy suppliers to deliver cleaner air.

The Strategy aims to accelerate progress to deliver clean air in the city working with Southampton City Council and the Government. The proposals set out plans to continue the trend of reducing emissions in the city without the need for a city-wide charging regime. Areas of work identified are:

- Management and monitoring
- Shipping
- Transport and access
- Plant and equipment, including renewable energy



*Photo courtesy of ABP Southampton*

Southampton City Council is responsible for monitoring air quality in the city. It has found levels of nitrogen dioxide are above objectives set by the European Union Air Quality Directive (2008) in some areas of the city. Based on these monitoring results, it has developed a Clean Air Strategy for 2016 - 2025 to work with residents and businesses to clean up the city's air. In addition, the government has asked all ports to produce air quality plans by spring 2019.

To view the full report please download from: [http://www.southamptonvts.co.uk/Port\\_Information/Sustainability/](http://www.southamptonvts.co.uk/Port_Information/Sustainability/).

## Red Funnel Launches Red Jet 7

Red Jet 7, Red Funnel's new Hi-Speed passenger catamaran has entered the water for the first time in East Cowes on the Isle of Wight.

The £7m addition to Red Funnel's Red Jet fleet was ordered from Wight Shipyard on the Isle of Wight in August 2017, following an international tender. The new 277 seat Red Jet is a sister ship to Red Jet 6 which was also built by Wight Shipyard in 2016.

The final fit out and commissioning of on-board systems will take place with the vessel alongside at East Cowes. This will be followed by extensive sea trials and crew training in the Solent.

Red Jet 7 will be named at a special public ceremony at Trinity Parade in Cowes on 24th July 2018, and she will enter regular service between Southampton and West Cowes thereafter.



*Photo courtesy of Red Funnel*

# More News

## The Economic Role and Contributions of the Maritime Sector in the Solent LEP Area

Economic output from the Solent maritime sector has increased fourteen percent over a five-year period, a new report by Maritime UK and the Solent LEP has found.

The report found that over five years the Solent maritime sector had experienced an increase in GVA contribution to a total £5.5 billion and now supports a total of 120,000 jobs.

The vital role of the Solent's maritime sector in supporting international trade is also revealed. More than £77.5 billion worth of exports and imports are moved through the major ports of Southampton and Portsmouth every year. The research by Cebr (Centre for Economics and Business Research) highlights the Port of Southampton's location and infrastructure as being especially beneficial to the region's reputation as a worldwide maritime gateway.



Photo courtesy of ABP Southampton

The study found that of the total goods moved through Solent ports, £42.8 billion are exports and eighty five percent of these are routed through Southampton to non-EU trading partners, the highest proportion of any UK port.

Export trade from the Solent maritime sector, including to key developed and emerging markets, generates an estimated annual contribution of at least £20 billion for the UK economy.

On top of this are the benefits to hospitality and tourism from cruise liners using Southampton, with more than two million cruise passenger movements in 2017.

The research, commissioned by Solent Local Enterprise Partnership and Maritime UK, looked in depth at the Solent's shipping, ports, services, engineering and leisure marine industries and the contribution of the Portsmouth Naval Base. View at: [https://solentlep.org.uk/media/2319/cebr\\_solent\\_lep\\_report\\_may-2018.pdf](https://solentlep.org.uk/media/2319/cebr_solent_lep_report_may-2018.pdf).

## Environment Agency's Fish Monitoring Report

The Environment Agency has published its Fish Monitoring Report for 2017. This annual report features all of the freshwater and estuarine fish surveys that were completed across Hampshire and East and West Sussex in 2017.

Highlights from the report include:

- Eel Index monitoring on the Itchen and Sussex Ouse
- The first results of the new National Drought Monitoring Network fish surveys
- Principal Brown Trout surveys across the Meon
- Transitional and Coastal (TrAC) surveys in Southampton Water and the River Adur estuary

The report also provides a forward look on proposed surveys for 2018, which the Agency would be keen to deliver with partners again. It also includes advice on the improvement measures required for different water bodies.

If you would like more information about this work, then please email: [Georgina.Busst@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:Georgina.Busst@environment-agency.gov.uk).

## National Parks & AONB Review

Environment Secretary, Michael Gove, has committed to conserve and enhance England's most cherished landscapes as a new review launches into the nation's National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs).

Nearly 70 years after the country's National Parks were first established, opening up the countryside and allowing more people to connect with nature, an independent panel will look at how these iconic landscapes meet our needs in the 21st century. This will include reviewing whether there is scope for the current network of 34 AONBs and 10 National Parks to expand.

The review, led by writer Julian Glover, will also explore how access to these landscapes can be improved, how those who live and work in them can be better supported, and their role in growing the rural economy.

Undertaking this review is one of the key commitments of the Defra's 25 Year Environment Plan.

# More News

## The Corrosion of Sacrificial Zinc Anodes in the Solent

Anodes are used in all water bodies to protect the metal components on a range of submerged structures (boats, ships, wind turbines, pontoons etc.) from corrosion; the idea being that the anode sacrificially corrodes instead of the component. Typically, zinc anodes are most commonly used in seawater and magnesium in freshwater, though aluminium is another option for brackish waters. The replacement of anodes is recommended annually by which time forty to sixty percent of the anode should have corroded. Corrosion therefore acts as an input of the metal into the water body, with a recent study carried out by PhD student Aldous Rees of Solent University investigating the dissolution of zinc anodes as a source of zinc into the Hamble estuary. Jointly funded by the Hamble Harbour Board, the International Zinc Association, the Solent Protection Society, and the University, the study also addressed a commonly held view by local boat owners that the anodes corrode quicker in the Hamble than elsewhere.

The study carried out a survey of boat owners in the estuary which found that there was a degree of misunderstanding regarding their use of anodes as a result of conflicting advice and incorrect information being given to boat owners. Some boats for example, were found to be using magnesium anodes, something that could lead to significant corrosion of a vessel in seawater, whilst others were using the anodes for considerably longer than the recommended period of a year. One had the same anodes attached for six years, indicating a poor electrical connection with the vessel, meaning that the anodes were not doing their job. In addition, the perception of enhanced corrosion rates were linked to stray currents, or the many metal items in the river including the railway bridge, none of which should cause detrimental corrosion rates, particularly as there was no cathodic connection.

The research focussed largely on a scientific analysis of the zinc loading within the estuary, including a determination of the range of physical and chemical factors that affect the rate of dissolution. With over 3,000 boats moored in the estuary, it was found that Zinc anodes release 6.95 tonnes/year of zinc into the Hamble, representing the largest source of zinc into the water body. The sewage works contributes the next largest source at 0.12 t/y. Compared to the estimated release of 56.16 t/yr from approximately 24,000 vessels in the Solent, the study found that anodes do not corrode quicker within the Hamble estuary. However, zinc levels in high density boat areas did reach 20-25 µg/l, well in excess of the Environmental Quality Standard of 7.9µg/l, thereby having potential management implications. One possible solution might be that boat owners in brackish conditions, such as Bursledon, could be encouraged to try aluminium anodes, which might suit their vessel better, and lead to lower zinc input. A summary poster of the work is available to download at <https://www.hants.gov.uk/thingstodo/riverhamble/duesmoorings/sacrificialanodes>.

## Coastal Recreational Visits

Research has revealed for the first time that around 271 million recreational visits are made to marine and coastal environments in England. Conducted by the University of Exeter Medical School and published in the journal *Marine Policy*, the research found that the most common activity on these visits is walking. The study also revealed that most people head to these 'blue' environments for relaxation and social reasons.

Whilst walking (either with or without a dog) was the most popular activity, the analysis showed that coastal walks were more likely to be made by females and older adults, suggesting the coast may play a particular role in supporting physical activity in these groups.

A growing body of research has shown links between spending time in nature with improvements in health and wellbeing. The findings of this latest study demonstrate the importance of the UK's coasts for people's wellbeing at a time when the government is calling for greater protection of, and access to, natural spaces.

Other popular activities were sunbathing and paddling, taking place on a quarter of visits to the beach and amounting to 40 million dips a year. Seaside trips were not affected by socio-economic status however, hinting that spending time in these environments appeals to people across the social spectrum.



# News & Snippets

## CoastXplore App

CoastXplore is an app you can install on your mobile phone on either Android or iOS devices.

It has been designed by CoCoast which represents a unique collaboration between a wide range of organisations concerned with understanding and conserving marine biodiversity. It has 'Training Hubs' at seven university, research and conservation organisations around the country. The Hub for the Solent is based at Portsmouth University.

The app collects information on how we use our coastlines, and hopes to gain good data on the number of people participating in coastal activities. This information is important for the conservation and management of our coastline. When you are next by the coast, they ask that you get out your phone and complete a quick five minute survey using the app.

The information that you submit will be anonymous and will be added to a national database. The data can be accessed by organisations who look after our coast, to inform decisions they make about our coastline's management.

Find out more at: <https://www.capturingourcoast.co.uk/>.

## Waterbird Survey's Platinum Anniversary

The joint BTO/RSPB/JNCC Wetland Bird Survey (WeBS), one of the longest running citizen science surveys in the world, is celebrating its 70th anniversary. For World Migratory Bird Day on 12th May, the latest WeBS report, *Waterbirds in the UK 2016/17*, was released, reporting on 110 waterbird populations.

Beginning as the National Wildfowl Counts in the winter of 1947/48, in response to apparent declines in the numbers of ducks and geese, seventy years later the scheme has expanded to include all wintering waterbirds, counted every month by 3,000 volunteers around the UK.

Understanding the status of waterbird species is vital to help guide conservation action. Waterbird counts from WeBS have long been the cornerstone of UK policy and protection for wetland birds, from informing wetland management and wildfowling consents, to identifying important areas for designation as protected sites.

Waterbird distributions are already adapting to climate change. Looking to the future, waterbird counts will be critical for assessing impacts of changes in climate, habitat and conservation measures.

Access the survey at: <https://www.bto.org/volunteer-surveys/webs/publications/webs-annual-report/waterbirds-in-the-uk>.

## Snippets

- New navigational lights have been installed to help night sailors on the Beaulieu River, as part of ongoing investment in the services and facilities for mooring holders and visitors at Buckler's Hard Yacht Harbour.
- Portsmouth based cargo operator, MMD Shipping Services, has secured a 10-year agreement with international manufacturer MHI Vestas Offshore Wind. The new deal, with Danish based manufacturer MHI Vestas, involves handling wind turbine blades, which measure 80m long and weigh 35 tonnes.
- Two Hampshire sailing clubs, Warsash Sailing Club and the Royal Lympington Yacht Club have achieved the standard to become the country's first British Youth Sailing Recognised Clubs. This new scheme celebrates excellence in developing the sailing stars of the future.
- Natural England is considering using its byelaw-making powers to protect SSSIs at a local level. You can read the proposals and comment on them at <https://consult.defra.gov.uk/natural-england/byelaws-for-sssis/>.
- A new study has predicted that future global warming will lead to an increase in 'extreme sea levels', with consequent flood risks to coastal infrastructure and human populations. The National Oceanography Centre was part of the international research team that published this new research in the scientific journal *Nature Communications*. The most startling result was that extreme sea level events that occur, on average, once every 100 years at the present day, would occur almost annually along most global coastlines by the end of the century.
- Britain's INEOS TEAM UK, representing Royal Yacht Squadron Racing, have officially entered the 36th America's Cup in their bid to win sports oldest international trophy for Britain in 2021.
- A steering group of government marine representatives led by Defra marine policy and evidence have set up two Marine Pioneer projects in Devon and Suffolk. Find out more at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/marine-pioneer/marine-pioneer-achievements>.
- The Environmental Audit Committee has launched an inquiry into the Government's proposals for a new environmental watchdog and for bringing environmental principles into UK law after leaving the EU.

# Solent News

## River Basin Management Plan Consultation

The current river basin management plans were published in February 2016. These outlined the actions needed to protect and improve the water environment.

The Environment Agency has just launched the 'Working Together' consultations for eight River Basin Districts: Anglian, Humber, North West, Northumbria, Severn, South East, South West and Thames. This is the first phase of public consultation to review and update the current plans. The consultation seeks your views on:

- How you can get involved in the review and update of the plans
- The proposed timetable and content of the programme of work to review and update the plans
- How other plans and strategies affect, or are affected by, the river basin management plans
- Whether all relevant stakeholders have been identified

View the consultation at: <https://consult.environment-agency.gov.uk/environment-and-business/river-basin-management/>.

## The Solent Forum

Since 1992, the Solent Forum has provided a platform to deliver Integrated Coastal Zone Management in the Solent sub-region of the southeast. It operates at a strategic coastal management level, providing a network for closer working relationships, information dissemination and discussion of topical coastal issues. The Solent Forum members meet twice a year and will next meet on 10 October 2018.

Solent News is prepared and edited by the Solent Forum Officers. It is a biannual publication and issue 45 will be produced in winter 2018. To find out more about the publication, how to submit articles or be included on the mailing list, please visit [www.solentforum.org/publications/solent\\_news/](http://www.solentforum.org/publications/solent_news/).

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The following organisations steer the work of the Solent Forum.

