

BBS Hub Case Study Example template

Project Title: Bird-friendly pile cap

Project Objectives: To prevent the loss of a known nest site for oyster catchers on top of a mid-stream mooring pile. A bespoke pile cap was designed and fitted in March 2020 when the original flat-top timber pile was replaced with a steel pile. Instead of installing a standard white conical cap on the new pile, the pile cap was designed to a dish shape then filled with beach gravel. Within weeks, oyster catchers nested here. Improved future drainage design is under discussion with the manufacturers, but the intention is to use more of these to add biodiversity value to harbour structures.

Lead organisation and partners: River Hamble Harbour Authority, The Crown Estate, Conbury Composites, Baker Trayte.

Is the project part of a new development scheme or infrastructure upgrade? If yes, please specify. No, part of routing mooring pile replacement programme.

Project Drivers (e.g. is the project being used for mitigation, biodiversity net gain, education, general environmental improvement): Mitigation for loss of a known oyster catcher nesting site.

Funding source(s): The Crown Estate paid cost of £99 + VAT.

Did you use any guidance documents to help develop the proposals? If yes, please specify. No, just advice from NEG contacts (ESCP & RSPB).

Geographical Location (postcode or grid reference if possible): Pile B17, Hamble Estuary. NGR: SU487061

Consents and Licences required: None

Coastal Environment where Project Located (e.g. harbour, estuary, open coast): Hamble Harbour

Project Timescale: 1 day.

Successes and Lessons: Oyster catcher nested here for 40 days within weeks of installation. Future design to repositioned drainage holes to drain external to the pile.

Any Planned Monitoring: Observational only.

Any Maintenance or Operational Guidance produced: n/a

Project Image: (already supplied)

If you have a project image, please insert below or email to: info@solentforum.org.