

# Coastal Communities Adapting to Change (CCATCH) the Solent



*Photo courtesy of Hampshire County Council*

## The coast is changing!

Hampshire County Council is working in partnership with others to consider what these changes mean to local communities around the Solent.

The 'CCATCH - the Solent' project will focus on six discrete stretches of coast and will involve all sectors of the local community in developing a vision for their coastal area.

Key questions that will be addressed in the process to develop the plan are:

- How is your coast changing?
- How will this affect you in the future?
- How can we all minimise the potential detrimental effects, and adapt if necessary?

Community involvement will be vital to make sure that your views are heard and knowledge shared. There will be many opportunities for you to get involved, such as workshops, public exhibitions and demonstrations of resilience measures, as well as contributing to publications. The Solent Forum will be co-ordinating the three year work programme and will provide further information about how you can be involved as the project progresses.



## Why do we need this project?

The Solent comprises a densely populated low-lying area of rural and urban communities, which includes areas that are important for housing, nature conservation, recreation and industry. The coastal land surrounding the Solent is particularly affected by coastal change, as rising sea levels and coastal erosion affects coastal assets, infrastructure and the natural environment. Many locations that are vulnerable to coastal change may not be defended in the short or long term. Communities will need to be able to adapt to future changes by, for example, flood proofing buildings.

## Which communities will be included in CCATCH - the Solent ?

After a rigorous selection process six coastal locations have been chosen as demonstration sites within the project. These sites reflect a range of different communities and issues around the Solent.

Site	Reason for Selection
1. Beaulieu to Calshot	An area with a small number of large private landowners and includes Calshot Activities Centre and Lepe Country Park.
2. Southampton, Upper West Itchen	An area of mixed urban community with social housing, private landlords and owner occupiers. There are also numerous commercial waterside properties.
3. Netley and Royal Victoria Country Park	A small urban coastal community and a Country park which draws numerous recreational visitors.
4. Solent Breezes Holiday Park	A holiday park with some permanent residents, holidaymakers and numerous recreational uses, also includes farmland and utilities infrastructure.
5. Hayling Island and Langstone	A number of separate small rural communities with tourist and recreational assets at risk, and there is a potential opportunity for resilience.
6. Yarmouth	Small town with a working harbour and high levels of water-based recreation.

## What will the project do?

The project will work with the local communities to raise awareness and understanding of coastal change in their area. The aim will be to develop visions of how the community want their coast to look in the future and a strategy to help the community achieve that vision; this will help communities to adapt and become more resilient to future changes. This vision will in turn feed into future flood and erosion risk strategies developed by your Local Authority.



**CCATCH the Solent Site Locations**

1. Beaulieu to Calshot
2. Southampton, Upper West Itchen
3. Netley and Royal Victoria Country Park
4. Solent Breezes Holiday Park
5. Hayling Island and Langstone
6. Yarmouth

## Who is undertaking the work?

The project forms part of a larger European funded project led by the Environment Agency titled 'Coastal Communities 2150 and Beyond' (CC2150).

The project work programme is being steered by a Project Overview Group of national and local organisations who manage the marine and coastal environment. The CCATCH project partners are listed in the table below.

<b>CCATCH the Solent Project Partners</b>			
New Forest District Council	National Oceanography Centre	Southampton Solent University	Southampton City Council
Hampshire County Council	Havant Borough Council	Isle of Wight Council	Portsmouth University
Eastleigh Borough Council	Chichester District Council	Gosport Borough Council	New Forest National Park Authority
English Heritage	Natural Enterprise	Environment Agency	Fareham Borough Council
Natural England	Portsmouth City Council		

The Solent Forum will be undertaking a number of the tasks; the Forum is a coastal partnership group that has represented the Solent for the last twenty years. Members of the Forum include local government and agencies, non governmental organisations, trade associations, Ministry of Defence, recreational user groups and industry.

Local Engagement Groups will be set up at each of the six sites and will include key representatives of the communities, i.e. residents groups, who will help guide the local programme of activities.

The project website can be accessed at <http://www.solentforum.org/current/CCATCH/> and this will provide the latest project information and updates. For more specific enquiries, please contact Karen McHugh at the Solent Forum or Rachael Gallagher, overall HCC Project Manager, on 01962 846027 or email: [info@solentforum.org](mailto:info@solentforum.org).



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