



# Restoring the Solent's seascape for people, nature, and climate

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Foundation**



# Presentation overview

- Project overview
- Where we are working
- Plan of action
- Licence requirements
- Monitoring the project
- Phase 1
- Questions







**Aim: to reconnect the Solent into a functioning seascape by improving the condition, extent, and connectivity of key marine coastal habitats, using protection and restoration initiatives.**

**\$5 million initial grant  
10 Key partners**

**Actively restore saltmarsh, seagrass, oysters and breeding seabird nesting sites.**

# Hackett's Marsh

- River Hamble
- Lincegrove and Hackett's Marshes Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) – also LNR, Ramsar, SPA, SAC
- 4ha site
- Mostly HCC or CE land/intertidal
- Not overly accessible for large plant equipment

1870 -1971 – 32% loss

1971 – 2014 – further 20% loss (3% of this 2007-2014)

**1870** – 101,113m<sup>2</sup>

**2014** – 55,218m<sup>2</sup>



Bray et al., 2016





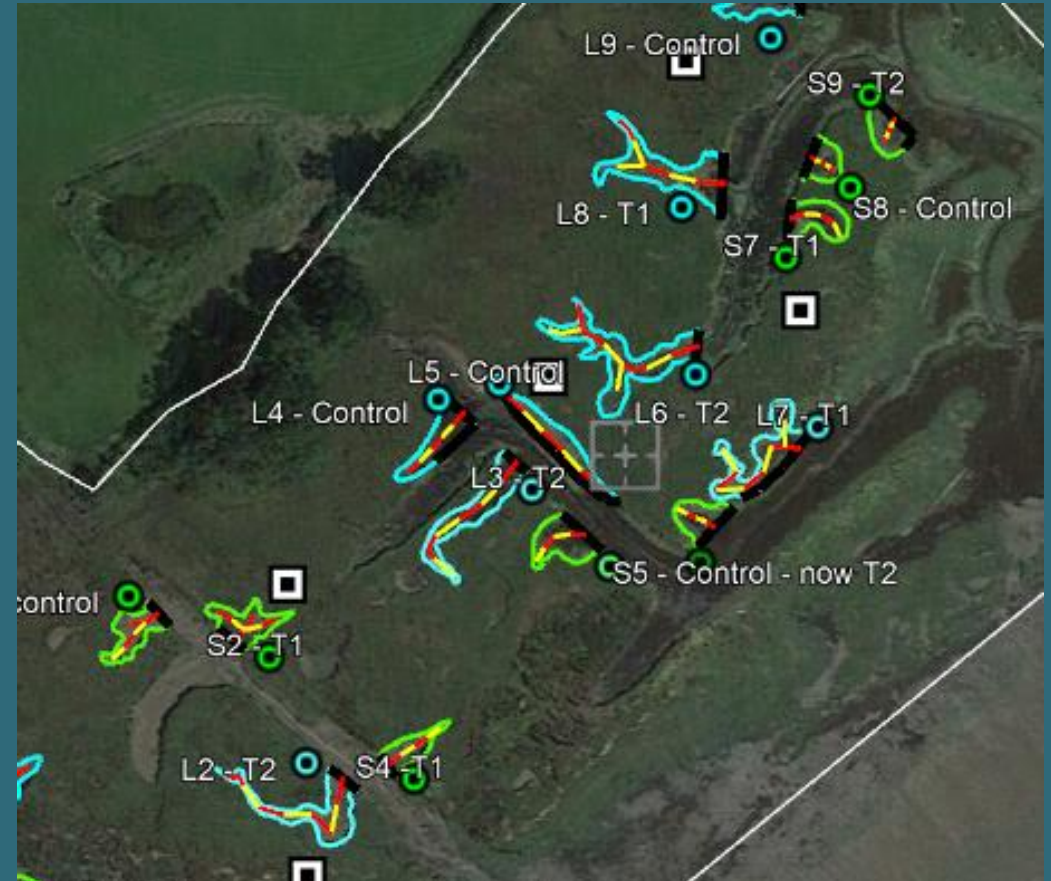
# “Fast-track” restoration?

- ELSP requirement – novel approach
- Site not suitable for BUDS but many creeks
- Developing on trials and techniques
- All materials to be biodegradable
- **Two treatments and one control:**
  - Treatment 1: Barrier, coir erosion blanket, plugs of marsh species
  - Treatment 2: Barriers, coir erosion blankets
  - Control: no action, only monitoring
- Two sizes of creek:
  - small (50-70m<sup>2</sup>) and large (70-120m<sup>2</sup>)



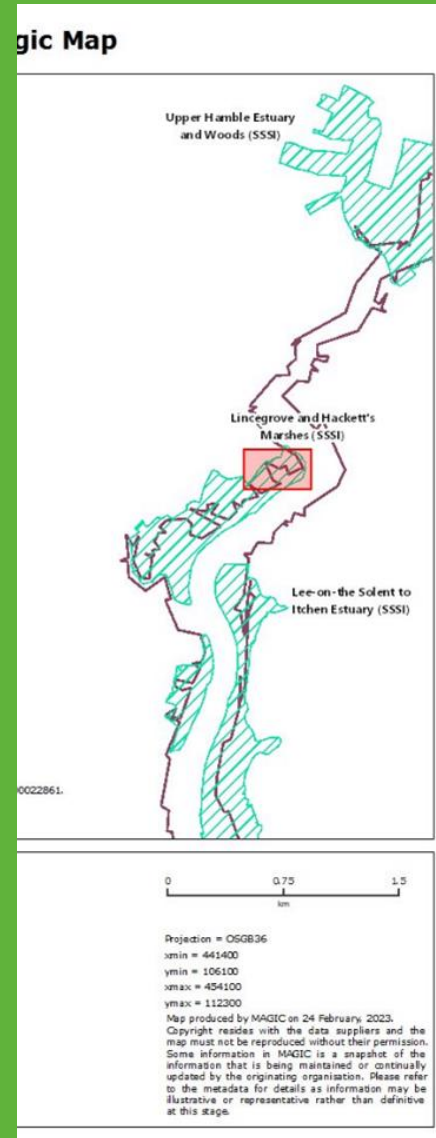
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# Licences/permissions

- Approval to undertake works from the Landowner Hampshire County Council.
- Private landowner permission to access the site where no "active" works are being undertaken (control sites).
- Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) consent from NE via the landowners at Hampshire County Council – via River Hamble Harbour Authority.
- Small habitat activity licences from the Crown Estate
- Approval to undertake works under River Hamble Byelaw no.36.
- Special thanks to Alison Fowler at RHHA
- No Marine licence from MMO needed 🤗  
(done by hand/foot)





# Data collection

## Baseline

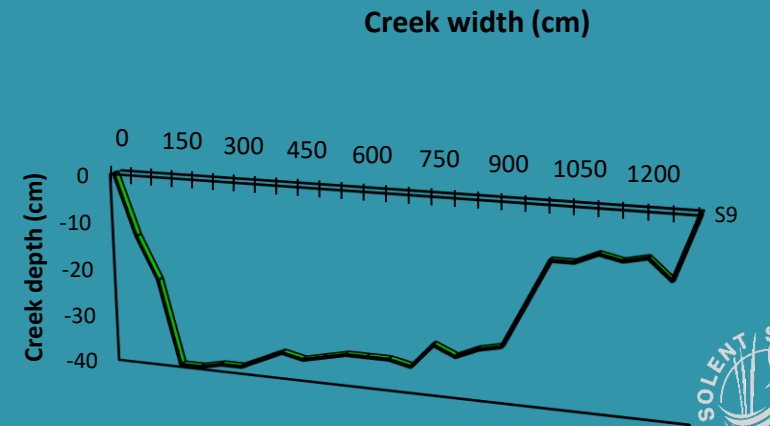
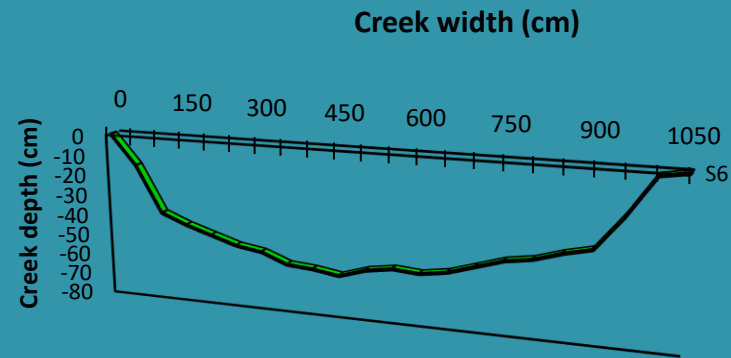
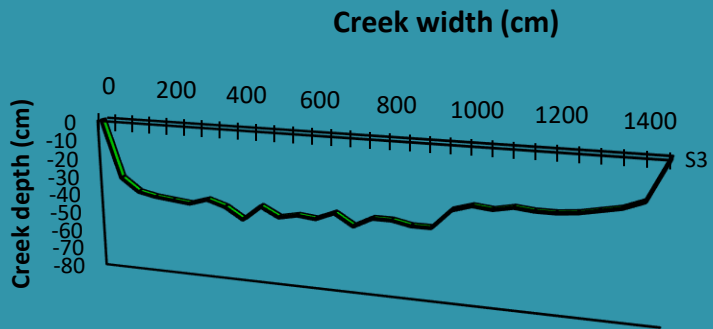
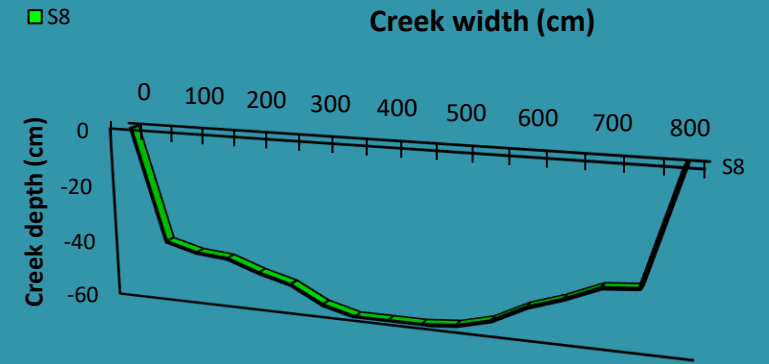
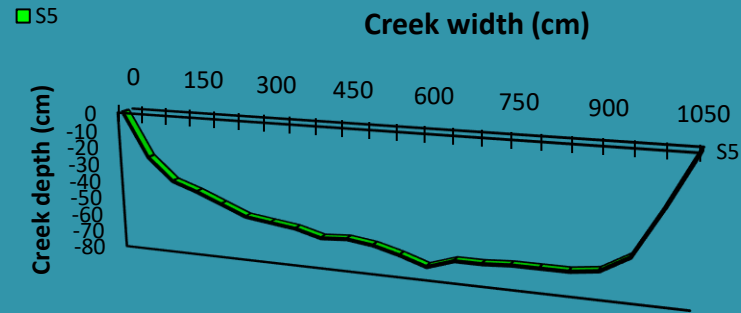
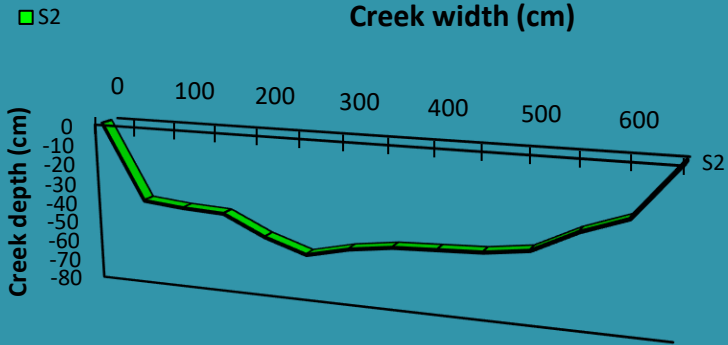
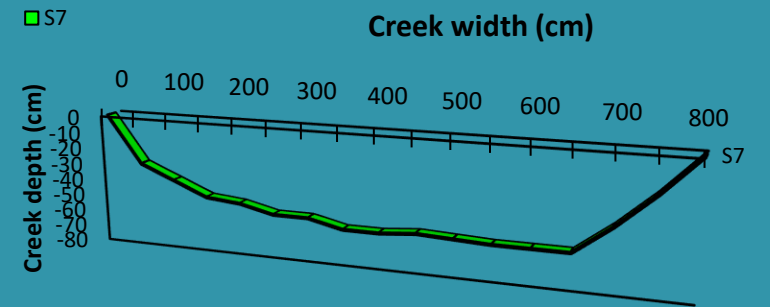
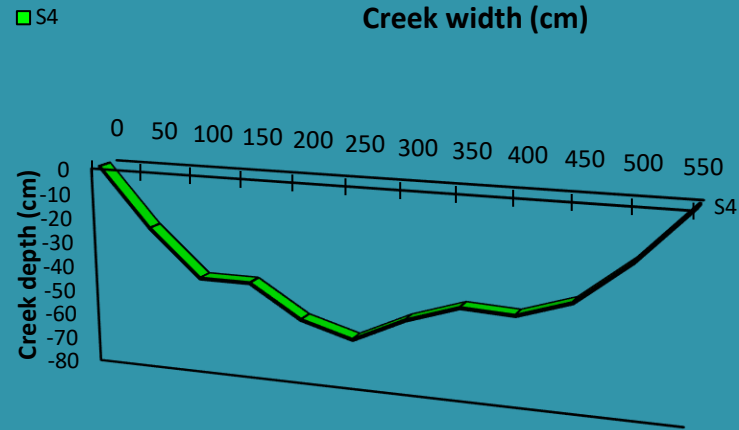
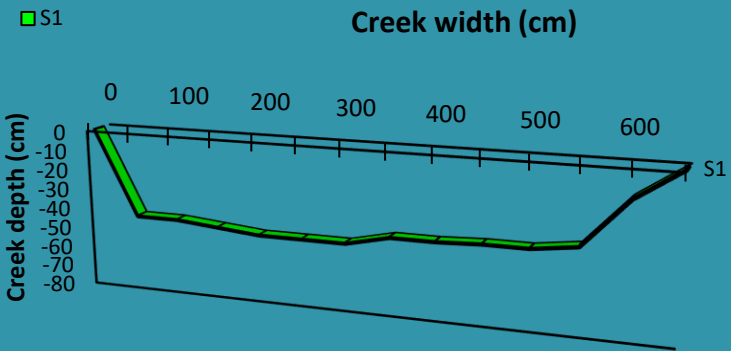
- Creek profiles – to calculate barrier height and assess how this changes with intervention.
- Marsh coverage and species assemblage down the centre of each creek.
- Aerial mapping of total marsh extent (4ha) and volume changes in creeks over time.

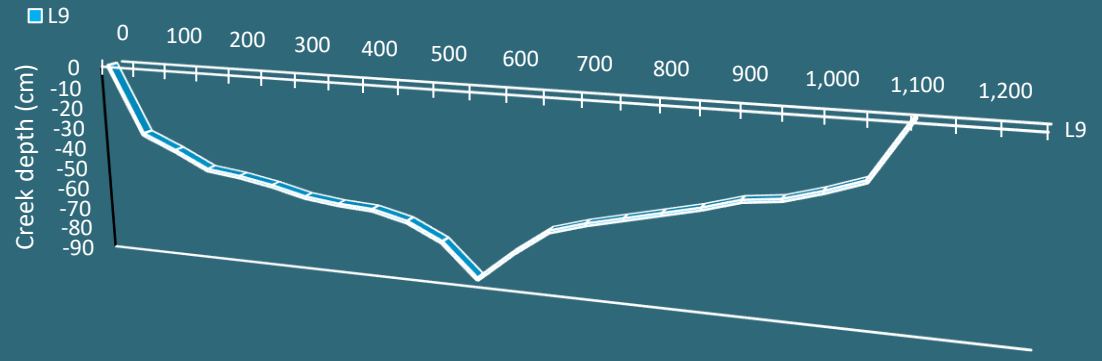
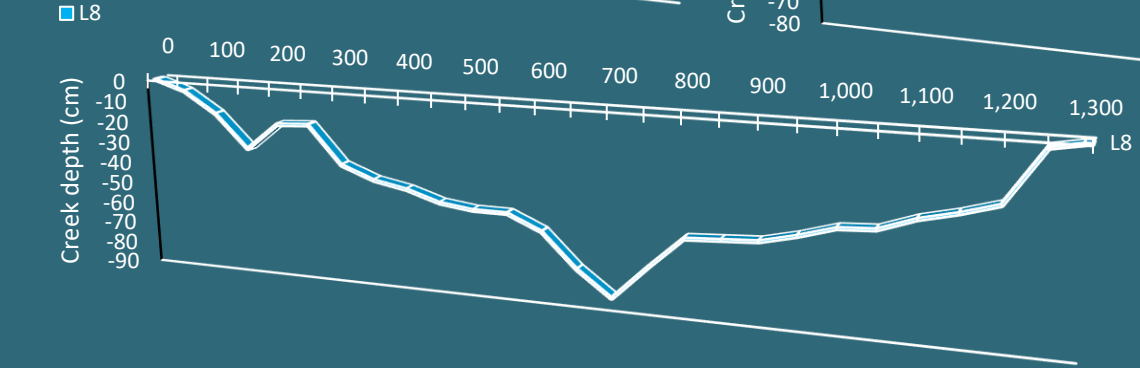
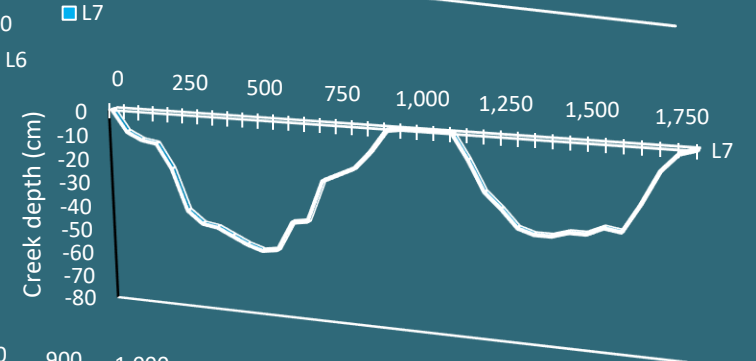
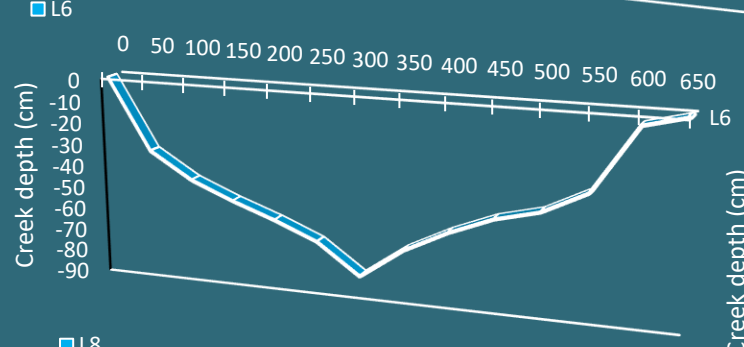
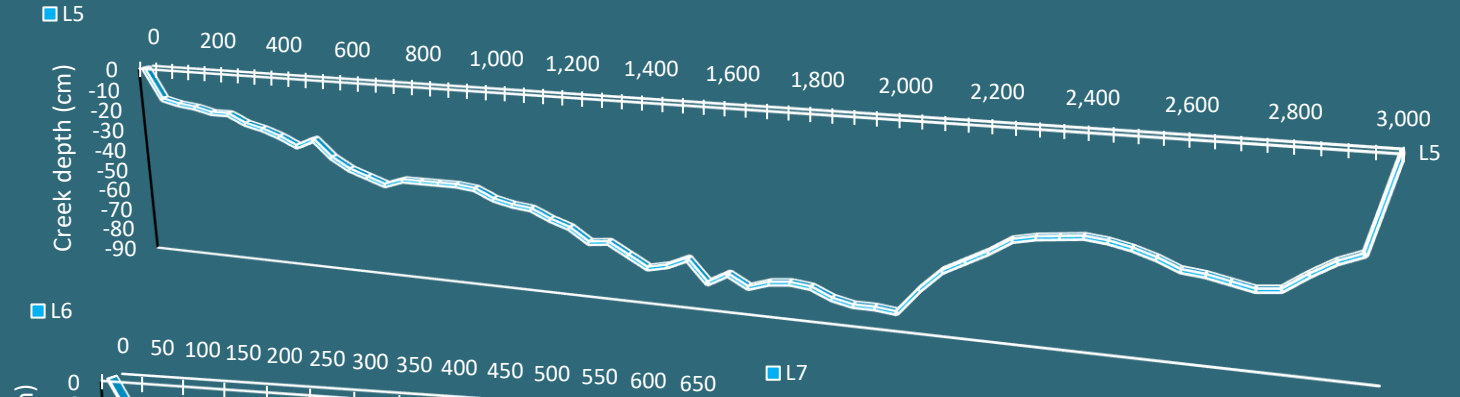
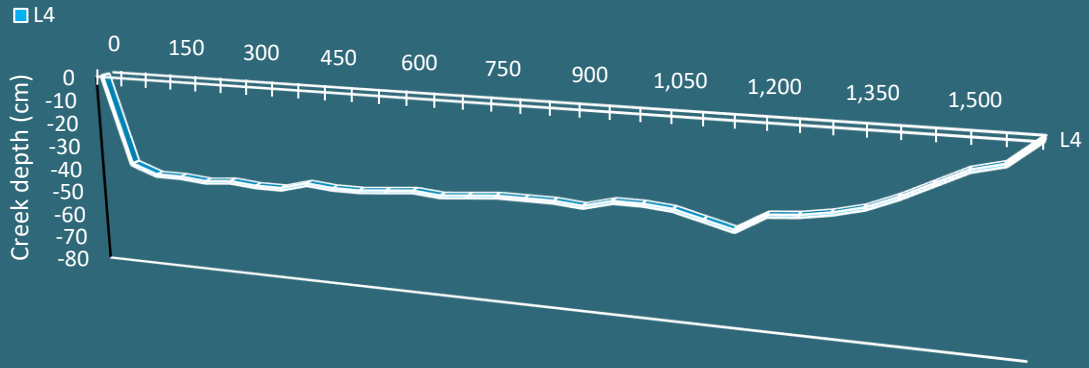
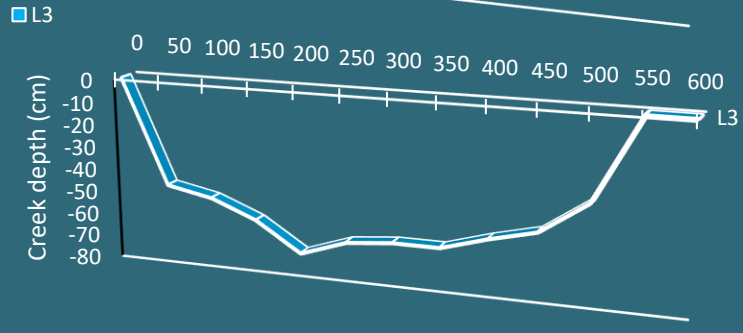
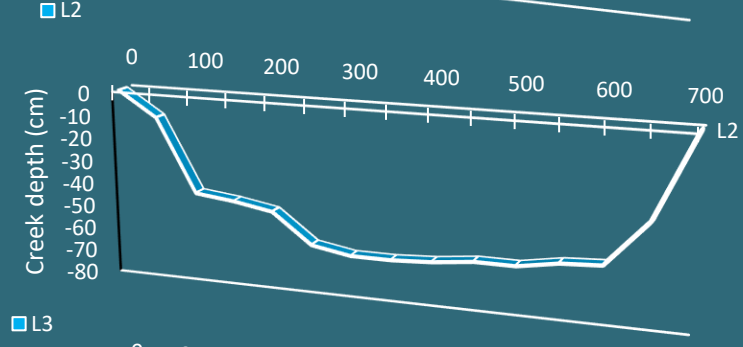
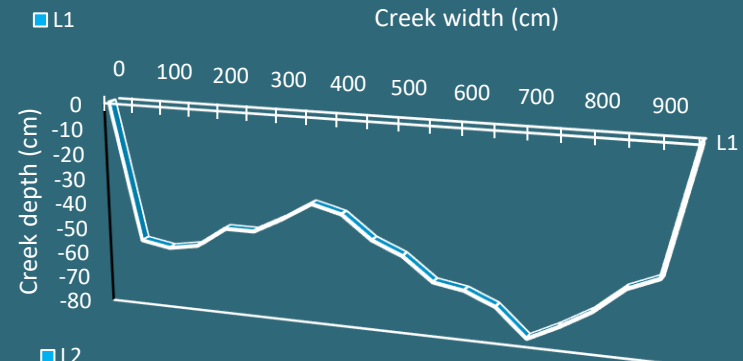
## Moving forward

- Repeat surveys annually
- Addition of total suspended solids – in creek, in main marsh channels outside creeks and main river channel









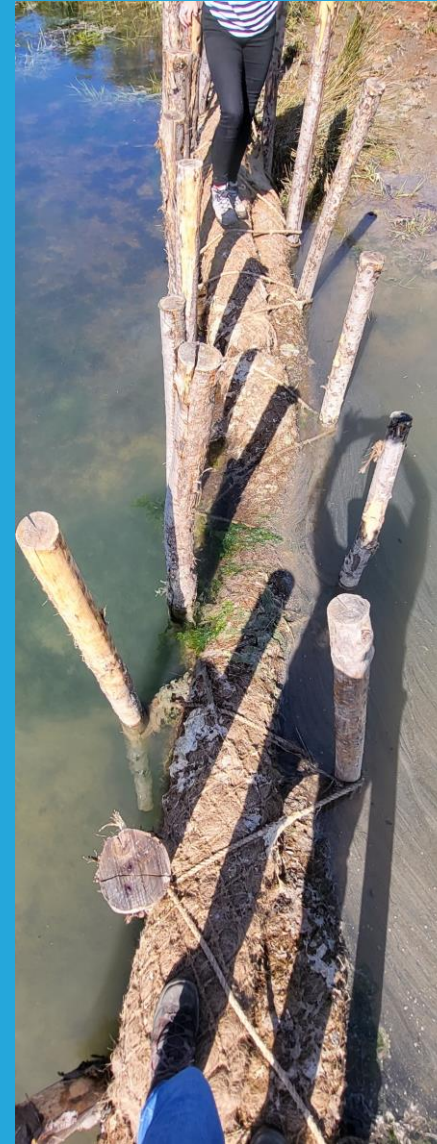


# Barrier installation

- Phase 1:
- Blue Marine, University of Portsmouth, Coastal Partners, RSPB and HCC
- Five days total – one trial day Luke and Eric only
- 107 coir rolls (3m each)
- 333 chestnut stakes
- ~400m manila rope
- 107m of barrier created

Next steps:

- Allow for sediment to build up behind them
- Phase 2: Install erosion blankets and plant plugs







Any questions?



# How can you help?

Become a Marine Champion  
- Sign up to the HIWWT programme

Volunteer events

- Seagrass seed collection & sorting
- Seagrass monitoring
- Oyster biosecurity days
- RSPB bird surveys and monitoring

Are you a diver? Get your local club involved in  
BSAC Operation Oyster

Spread the word!

Follow us on socials – Facebook, Instagram, X, LinkedIn

**For all information visit the project website:  
[www.solentseascape.com](http://www.solentseascape.com)**

