

ReMeMaRe Conference

2024

Restoring Estuarine & Coastal Habitats
10 – 11 July 2024





ReMeMaRe Conference 2024

Policy, Planning and Sustainable Finance Session

Chair: Eve Leegwater, Environment Agency

- **Marja Aberson**, Environmental Resources Management
- **David Spray**, Marine Management Organisation
- **Marina Pugh**, Natural England
- **Nigel Pontee**, Jacobs
- **Rosalie Wright**, Blue Marine Foundation



ReMeMaRe Conference 2024

Policy, Planning and Sustainable Finance Session

Marja Aberson, Environmental
Resources Management
Consenting Challenges for Restoration in the UK





Consenting Challenges for Restoration in the UK

AN ERM PERSPECTIVE

GRACE LEYTON-SMITH
MARINE CONSULTANT - CONSENTS
MARINE RENEWABLES & INFRASTRUCTURE

Sustainability is our business

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Image © The Wild Oysters Project

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The Wild Oysters Project



BLUE MARINE
FOUNDATION



PRIFYSGOL
BANGOR
UNIVERSITY



WHY

- Native oysters create **biodiverse habitats**, supporting healthy **fisheries**, and **clean seas**
- Populations have declined by 95% across Europe since the 1800's largely as a result of **habitat loss, pollution** and **disease**
- The Wild Oysters Project aims to restore the health of our coastal seas through restoration of the **native oyster, *Ostrea edulis***

HOW

- **Broodstock cages** are used in **oyster nurseries** to:
 - Hold **adult oysters** to release **larvae** into the water column
 - **Grow juvenile oysters** for release at a restoration site
- An ideal **reef site** is identified for restoration is selected
- **Cultch** (shell/local gravel) is deposited to provide ideal substrate for oysters to anchor
- **Native oysters** are released at the reef site
- The site is **monitored** to measure oyster recruitment



For further information:
<https://wild-oysters.org/>

ERM's Involvement with The Wild Oysters Project

ERM supported The Wild Oysters Project in securing a Marine Licence at two site locations:

1. **Tyne & Wear**, North East England
2. **Conwy Bay**, North Wales

This involved submission of a **Marine Licence Application** (MLA) the respective statutory bodies for each site:

1. **The Marine Management Organisation** (MMO) - Tyne and Wear
2. **Natural Resources Wales** (NRW) - Conwy Bay



The Roadmap to Consent

England and Wales



**Production and
Submission of MLA
Pack**

4-6 weeks



**Allocation and
Technical Assessment**

4-6 weeks



Consultation

4 weeks



**Review and Draft
Decision**

2 weeks



**Determination and
Consent**

13 weeks

Challenges

Production and Submission of MLA Pack

Discrete statutory environmental assessments

- **Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ) Risk Assessment**
 - Berwick to St Mary's within 0.3km of Tyne and Wear site
 - Coquet to St Mary's within 0.3km of Tyne and Wear site
- **Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA)**
 - Conwy Bay site is within the The Y Fenai a Bae Conwy/Menai Strait and **Conwy Bay SAC** and **Liverpool Bay / Bae Lerpwl SPA**
- **Water Framework Directive (WFD) assessment**

Marine Licence band selection

- Conwy Bay Band 2
- Tyne and Wear Band 2b



Challenges

Allocation and Technical Assessment

Tyne & Wear

- Reallocation of licence band and fees
 - Originally submitted under **Band 2b**
 - Due to **complex case characteristics** the MMO determined an **appropriate assessment** was required for the HRA
 - The case was moved up to **Band 3**
 - Additional time, fees and assessment required by **Cefas**

Conwy Bay and Tyne & Wear

- Although both small projects, case officers noted their complexity, saying - *"it was a novel one to review"*



Challenges

Consultation

Conwy Bay and Tyne & Wear

- Fisheries consultation queries and feedback
- Impacts to spawning and nursery grounds
- Site selections and avoidance of inshore fishing areas
- Fisheries data used to inform the assessment

Solutions

Consultation

Address concerns by providing further information, evidence of consultation and justification of data sources used.

Maintain **clear, open and transparent** lines of communication throughout the project.

It is important to undertake early consultation with stakeholders as part of **site identification**



Challenges

Review and Draft Decision

Conwy Bay

- Draft licence conditions
- The Project proposed to use **grab sampling** methods to **monitor** the oysters post deployment
- Native oyster is a **Section 7 species** in Wales, under the **Environment (Wales) Act 2016**
- This placed **restrictions** on grabbing close to protected species/habitats

Solutions

Review and Draft Decision

After close consultation with NRW the restrictions on grab sampling were removed from the draft licence.



Thoughts for the Future

Important for future Marine Net Gain opportunities

- Tailoring the marine licence process will make it easier to achieve consent and restore our seas

Streamline the consenting process for restoration

- It is important that environmental impacts are assessed for all projects, however where positive effects for the environment are the end goal this should be taken into consideration

More accessible data

- Sharing across organisations and projects to provide greater insight into the marine environment

Regulators may wish to consult consultancies as well as SNCBs when seeking advice

- Allow for a sense check and to critically analyse advice provided



Thank you

Grace Leyton-Smith
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ReMeMaRe Conference 2024

Policy, Planning and Sustainable Finance Session

David Spray, Marine Management Organisation

Facilitating coastal and marine restoration
through English Marine





Marine
Management
Organisation

English Marine Planning:

Facilitating coastal and marine restoration

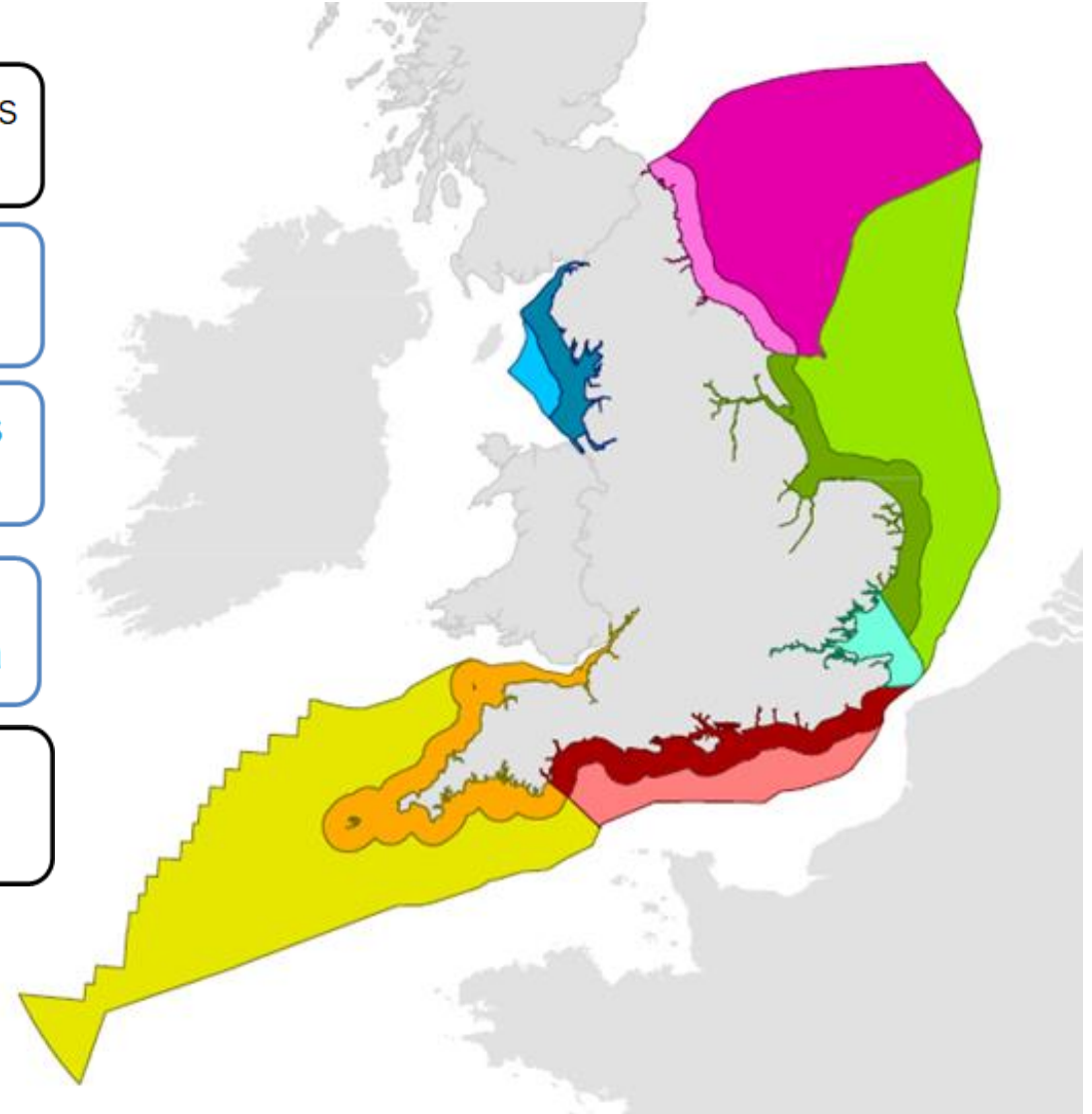
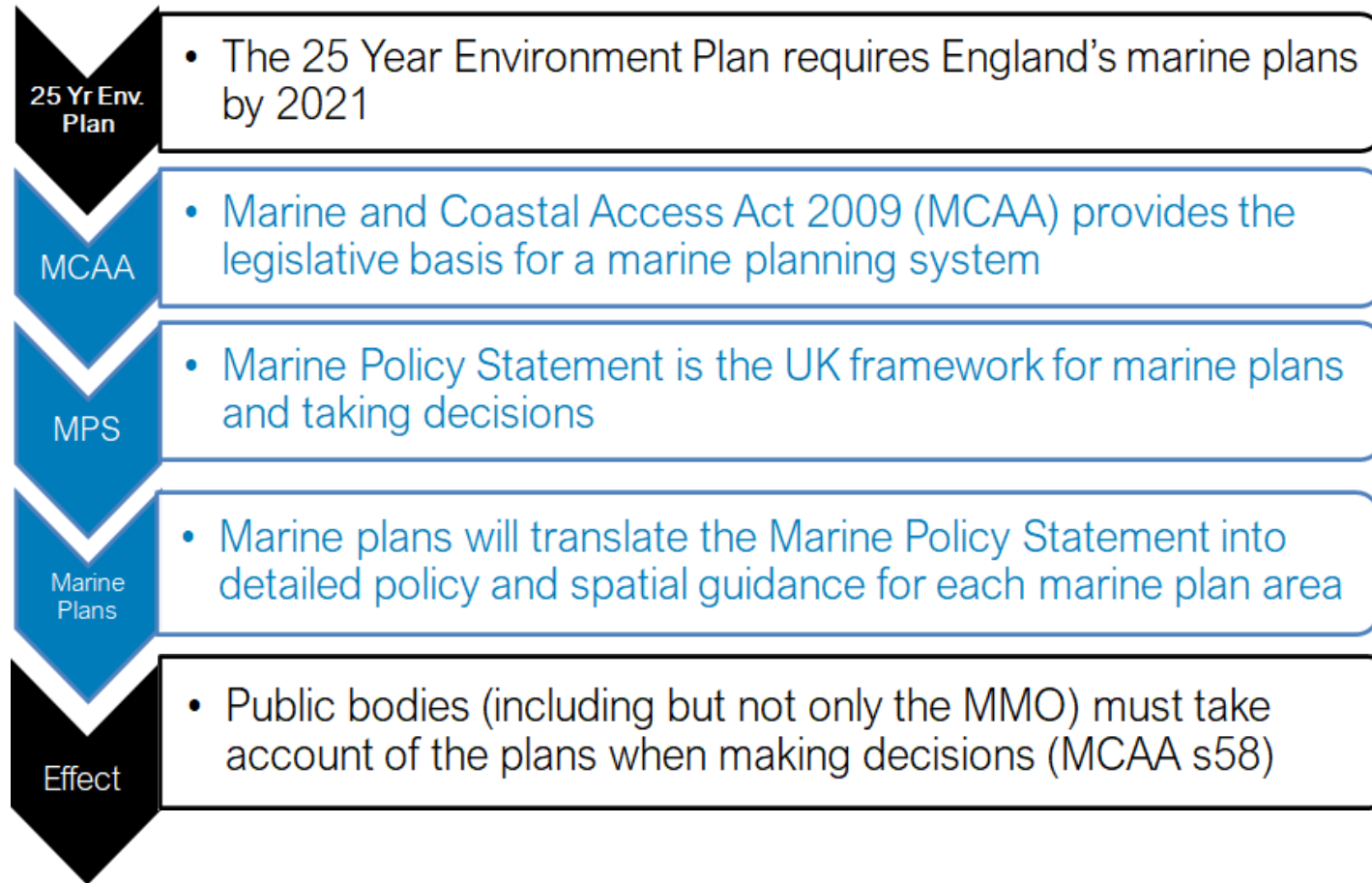
David Spray, *MMO Marine Planner*

Dr Rachel Brown, Sian McGuinness, MMO Marine Planning

...ambitious for our seas and coasts

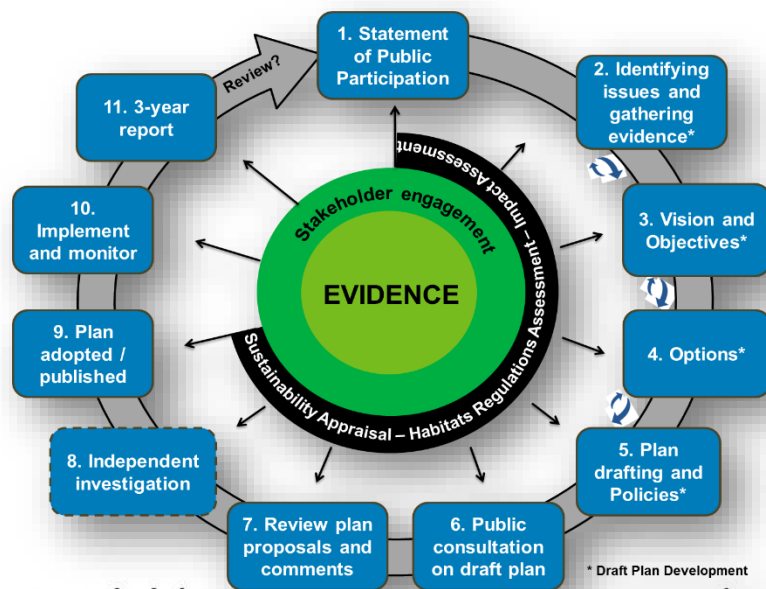


Marine Planning in England



...ambitious for our seas and coasts

What have we done to date



Three-year report on the East Marine Plans
(For the period 2 April 2014 - 1 April 2017)

Presented to Parliament pursuant to Section 61 of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009

Three-year Report on the East Inshore and East Offshore Marine Plans
For the period 2 April 2017 – 1 April 2020

Presented to Parliament pursuant to Sections 54 and 61 of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009

March 2020

Three year report on the South Inshore and South Offshore Marine Plan
For the period 17 July 2018 to 16 July 2021

Presented to Parliament pursuant to sections 54 and 61 of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009

March 2021

Three-year report on the East Inshore and East Offshore Marine Plans

For the period 2 April 2020 to 1 April 2023

Presented to Parliament pursuant to Sections 54 and 61 of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009

March 2023

2nd South Report and 1st Report for the NE, NW, SE and SW Marine Plans

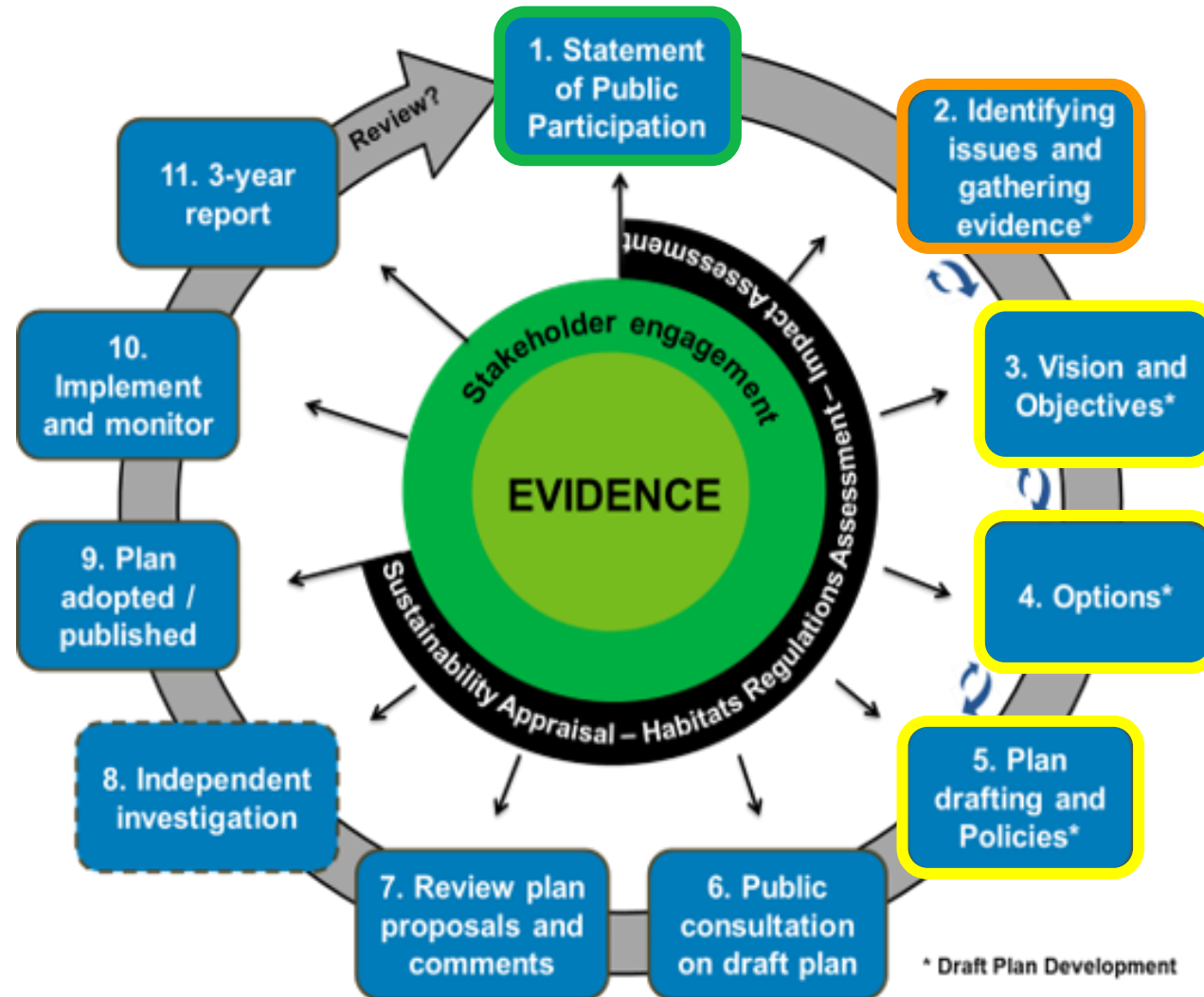
...ambitious for our seas and coasts

Where we are going and what we need

- New East Marine Plan
- Spatial prescription and prioritisation
- Getting ready for Marine Net Gain
- Reviewing licensing for restoration
- Changing seas and species
- Supporting biodiversity alongside development



Where we are going and what we need!



Thank you and getting involved





ReMeMaRe Conference 2024

Policy, Planning and Sustainable Finance Session

Marina Pugh, Natural England
Changing Fortunes at the Coast – introducing
Coastal Stewardship options 2024-25



Changing Fortunes at the Coast

Introducing Coastal Habitat Stewardship Options



Marina Pugh
Senior Specialist Coastal Habitats
Natural England

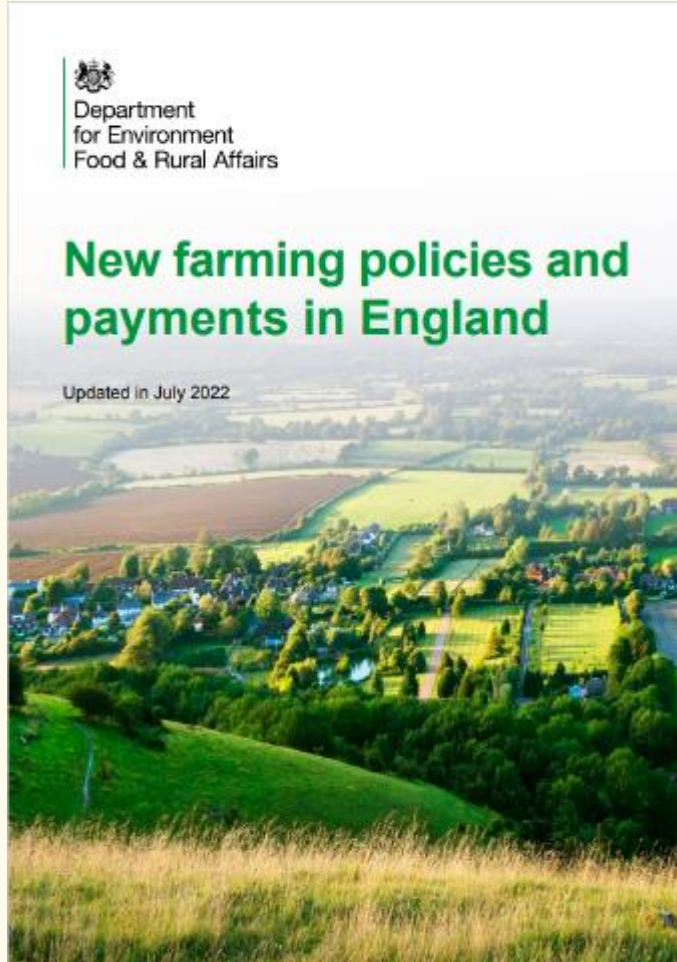


Where are we heading? EIP (2023)



- Restore 75% of terrestrial and freshwater Protected Sites to Favourable Condition by 2042.
- Halt the decline in species abundance by 2030, and then increase abundance by at least 10% to exceed 2022 levels by 2042.
- Restore or create > 500,000 ha of wildlife-rich habitat by 2042, alongside our international commitment to protect 30% of our land and ocean by 2030.
- Restore 75% of our water bodies to good ecological status.
- Reduce N, P and S from agriculture to the water environment by 10% by 31 January 2028
- Interim: restore or create 140,000 ha of a range of wildlife-rich habitats outside protected sites by 31 January 2028, compared to 2022 levels.
- All SSSIs to have an up-to date condition assessment; and for 50% of SSSIs to have actions on track to achieve favourable condition by 31 January 2028.
- For 70% of designated features in Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) to be in Favourable Condition by 2042 with the remainder in recovering condition, with a new interim target of 48% of designated features to be in favourable condition by 31 January 2028, in line with the trajectory required to achieve the long-term target
- Double the no of Natural Flood Management (NFM) projects.
- Implement mandatory BNG from Jan 2024 for most developments planned for 2025
- Through ReMeMaRe - 480 ha Compensatory inter tidal habitat restoration to be delivered by 2027
- National Adaptation Pathway (NAP) targets

Environmental Land Management



The Sustainable Farming Incentive focuses on making agricultural activities more sustainable and will pay for actions that all farmers can choose to take.

Countryside Stewardship will pay for more targeted actions relating to specific locations, features and habitats. There will be premium payments for high priority actions that deliver the greatest environmental benefits.

Landscape Recovery will pay landowners or managers who want to take a more radical and large-scale approach to producing environmental and climate outcomes through land use change and habitat and ecosystem restoration.

The intended outcomes for these schemes include:

- bringing soil under sustainable management
- reducing agricultural emissions
- woodland creation
- halting the decline in species
- reducing the main agricultural pollutants that enter watercourses
- restoration of rivers, lakes and other freshwater habitats

ELM at the Coast – what`s changed?



We are improving the existing offer by:

- introducing a new action to manage and restore maritime cliffs and slopes
- splitting the existing into separate actions for managing and restoring sand dunes and vegetated shingle to make it clearer which action to do and simplify the actions
- simplifying and updating payment rates for making space for new coastal habitat.
- expanding eligibility for creating intertidal and saline habitat
- expanding eligibility for the coastal vegetation supplement so it can be used with all coastal habitat actions

Existing capital items will continue to be available, e.g. to plan and undertake major works to support priority habitats.

In addition, we are scoping the viability to introduce a new capital item for fenceless grazing.

Manage and restore habitat actions

- Coastal habitats are restored and kept in good condition while allowing natural processes to function
- 5-year agreement



Coastal saltmarsh - **£483 / £724**
per hectare per year



Coastal sand dunes - **£620**
per ha per year



Coastal vegetated shingle - **£583**
per ha per year

Creating intertidal and saline habitat

- Payment for natural reversion of terrestrial / freshwater habitats to saline (e.g. by breach)
- Updated rate of £494 per ha per year
- 20year agreement



Intertidal and saline habitats are created, with transition areas between saltmarsh and neighbouring habitats following managed/unmanaged breach or overtopping of flood defences

- On arable land - **£812** per ha per year
- On intensive grassland - **£494** per ha per year
- By non-intervention - **£494** per ha per year

Restoring clifftop habitats

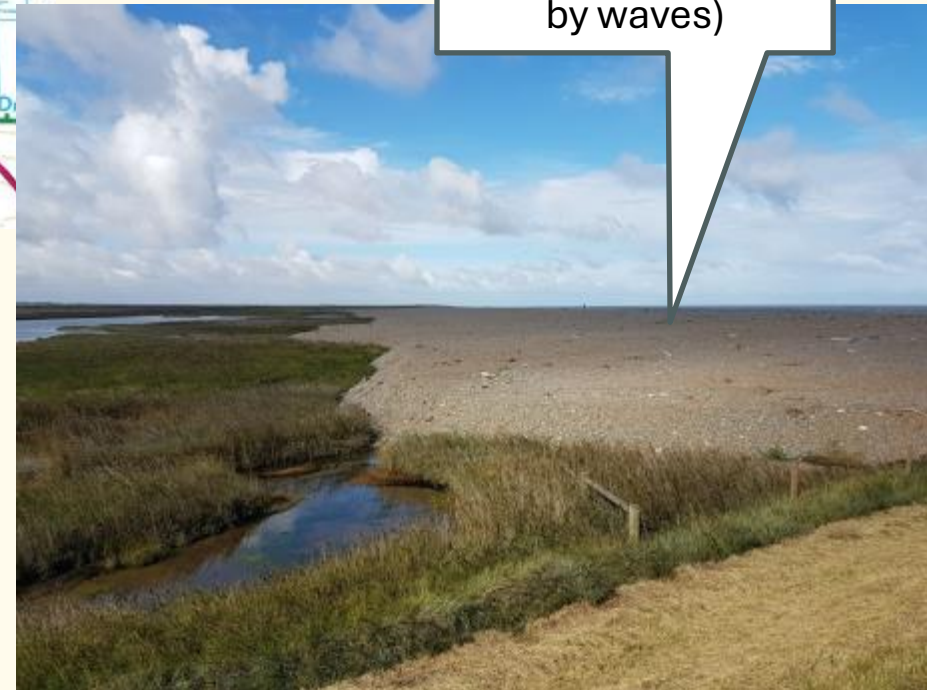
Example: Covehithe, Suffolk

Maritime cliff and slope habitat is restored and kept in good condition through appropriate management and allowing natural processes to function

- **5-year agreement**
- **£791 per ha per year**



New option: Make space for new coastal habitat



Natural coastal processes are restored to create and maintain long-term coastal habitat on land next to existing priority coastal habitat (including sand dunes, vegetated shingle and maritime cliffs and slopes)

- **20-year agreement**
- **£773 per ha per year**

How could the new CS options be applied?

Promote change in land management at cliff top, moving away from intensive arable in favour of restoring natural habitat

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Working on an East Yorkshire cliff edge: 'I have no choice', says farmer

An East Yorkshire farmer has captured a part of his land falling off a cliff.

Marcus Heald's family farm in Atwick has lost 17 acres of farmland in 30 years due to coastal erosion.

He says working the land close to the edge is "terrifying" and would not do it if he had the choice.

Humberside • 30 December 2019

20b: Actions for maritime cliffs and slopes

Action	Action type (action code)	Duration	Annual payment	Action's aim
Manage and restore maritime cliffs and slopes	New	5 years	£791 per ha	Maritime cliff and slope habitat is restored and kept in good condition through appropriate management and allowing natural processes to function

20a: Actions to create and manage new coastal habitat and vegetation

Action	Action type (action code)	Duration	Annual payment	Action's aim
Make space for new coastal habitat	Updated CS (CT2)	20 years	£773 per ha	Natural coastal processes are restored to create and maintain long-term coastal habitat on land next to existing priority coastal habitat (including sand dunes, vegetated shingle and maritime cliffs and slopes)

Further announcements

<https://defrafarming.blog.gov.uk/subscribe/>

Summer 2024

More information on this year's Countryside Stewardship Higher Tier offer will be published setting out:

- who is eligible
- how to apply and request specialist advice for Higher Tier actions
- details of each Higher Tier action available to apply for

If eligible to apply for Higher Tier actions, applicants may need specialist advice before they start their application, which will normally be provided through Natural England or Forestry Commission.

Applicants may need additional advice from Historic England or the Environment Agency.

Later this summer

Applicants will be able to start working with Natural England or Forestry Commission to prepare to apply. This includes any feasibility studies or plans you may need to complete.

Winter 2024

Applicants will be able to submit an online application for Higher Tier this winter, with the first agreements starting from early 2025.

Applications will then stay open throughout the year, so applicants can choose when to apply. Agreements will normally start the month after your application is approved.



www.defrafarming.blog.gov.uk/subscribe

Thank you



Slide credits: Lily Booth, Oli Burns & Becky McAllister (Environment Agency) and Lu Webb (Natural England)



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Nigel Pontee, Jacobs

Modelling the blue carbon finance case for
managed realignment projects

SLIDES REMOVED POST CONFERENCE



ReMeMaRe Conference 2024

Policy, Planning and Sustainable Finance Session

Rosalie Wright, Blue Marine Foundation

Trialing Sustainable Financing Mechanisms for
Seascape-scale Restoration



Solent Seascape Project

Trialling Sustainable Financing Mechanisms for
Seascape-scale Restoration

Rosalie Wright

Solent Seascape Project Co-ordinator

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Credit: Theo Vickers, Paul Adams

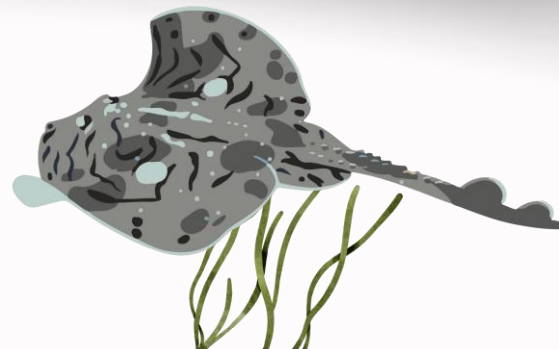
Overview

- Our Vision 01
- The Project 02
- Policy & Finance 03
- PV Nature 04
- Monitoring 05
- Challenges & Opportunities 06



Our Vision

Our long-term vision* is to protect and restore the Solent, tipping the balance of the Solent seascape from a degraded state to a naturally expanding, connected and productive ecosystem.



200,000
NATIVE OYSTERS
DEPLOYED



16

FOOTBALL
PITCHES OF
SALTMARSH
RESTORED

12,000
PAIRS OF BREEDING
SEABIRDS SUPPORTED

14

FOOTBALL
PITCHES OF
SEAGRASS
RESTORED

EXISTING SEAGRASS,
SALTMARSH AND
OYSTER HABITAT
IMPROVED ACROSS
THE SOLENT

10

SEABIRD NESTING
HABITATS RESTORED

3

TYPES OF CREDITS
CREATED FOR
CARBON,
NITRATES AND
BIODIVERSITY

We are a collaborative initiative to restore multiple marine and coastal habitats in the Solent

Our key aims to help reconnect the Solent are:



ACTIVELY RESTORE
four key habitats



COLLABORATE
with the Solent community
to co-create a long-term
Seascape Recovery Plan



DEVELOP
mechanisms for upscaling
restoration by working with
government and regulators



ASSESS
vital ecosystem
service benefits



EMPOWER
the local community by sharing
knowledge, building capacity and
increasing involvement in
seascape recovery

10

PROJECT
PARTNERS
(PUBLIC,
PRIVATE, NGOS,
ACADEMIA)

500
VOLUNTEERS

& 100
MARINE CHAMPIONS



www.solentseascape.com

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[X @solentseascape](https://twitter.com/solentseascape)

4. Policy & Finance



Sustainable Finance

Develop a stacked credit / certificate scheme for biodiversity, carbon and nutrient benefits.



Policy Barriers

Deliver case studies and engage with decision-makers to improve restoration licensing processes.



Plan Vivo



Certification body for:

- PV Climate and
- Plan Vivo Biodiversity Standard (PV Nature)

60%

to local communities



PV Nature certificates:

- Non-offsetting
- Community-focused
- Third-party verified

PIVOTAL

Monitoring



Themes

Natural capital

Ecosystem services

Socioeconomic

Sub-themes

Species Ecosystem function Habitats

Regulating Abiotic

Capacity and education Economic

Indicators

Species

- 2.3 Oyster recruitment and population size frequency
- 3.1 Marine biodiversity associated with target habitats
- 3.2 Seabird abundance and productivity

Ecosystem function

- 2.4 Habitat use by mobile fauna (fish & transient molluscs/crustaceans)
- 3.3 Diversity and biomass of juvenile fish

Habitats

- 1.2 Area of target habitat types with improved condition through passive restoration & reduction of pressures
- 2.1 Area and condition of seagrass and saltmarsh
- 2.2 Oyster habitat and oyster density

Regulating

- 3.4 Carbon stock assessment
- 3.6 Nutrient fluxes (N&P)

Abiotic

- 3.5 Water quality and clarity assessments

Capacity & Education

- 1.1 No. stakeholders engaged with and using the Seascape Recovery Plan
- 5.1 Number of individuals and communities reached through project education and engagement activities
- 5.2 Reported rates of different behaviours affecting the marine environment

Economic

- 4.1 Number of organisations which have bought into stacked credit/certificate scheme



Sampling Sites

- BRUV Surveys
- eDNA Surveys
- Small Fish Surveys

Challenges

Opportunities

Methodology development
& cost



Consistent KPIs, long-term
funding

Benefit sharing



Engagement & community
focus

Policy barriers



First marine trial

Acknowledgements

Kaija Barisa, Jo Preston, Hayley Craig, Zoe Morrall, Louise MacCallum, Luke Helmer, Eric Harris-Scott, Jenny Murray, Maddie Millington-Drake, Appin Williamson

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BLUE MARINE
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THANK YOU

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ReMeMaRe Conference 2024

Discussion Panel, Chair: Eve Leegwater, Environment Agency

- **David Spray**, Marine Management Organisation
- **Marina Pugh**, Natural England
- **Nigel Pontee**, Jacobs
- **Rosalie Wright**, Blue Marine Foundation

Slido for extra questions
QR code or www.slido.com
Code: **4741966**

