Orders of magnitude variation in denitrification rates across intact English saltmarsh habitats:
The importance of vegetation zones and coastal location

Mike Perring (UKCEH)
&
Dan Aberg (Bangor University)

ReMeMaRe 2025
Scarborough Spa
July 9th and 10th

mikper@ceh.ac.uk / d.aberg@bangor.ac.uk

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Acknowledgements

Funders

Additional Authors

Paula Maria de la Barra **(UKCEH)**; Joanna Harley **(UKCEH)**; John Spill **(UKCEH)**; Simon Oakley **(UKCEH)**; Victor Ebuele **(UKCEH)**; Inma Lebron **(UKCEH)**; Susan Tandy **(UKCEH)**; Annette Burden **(UKCEH)**; Hannah Mossman **(Manchester Metropolitan University)**; Lucy McMahon **(MMU)**; Sophie Marshall-Potter **(Bangor University)**; Tree Oswald **(BU)**; Christian Dunn **(BU)** & Angus Garbutt **(UKCEH)**
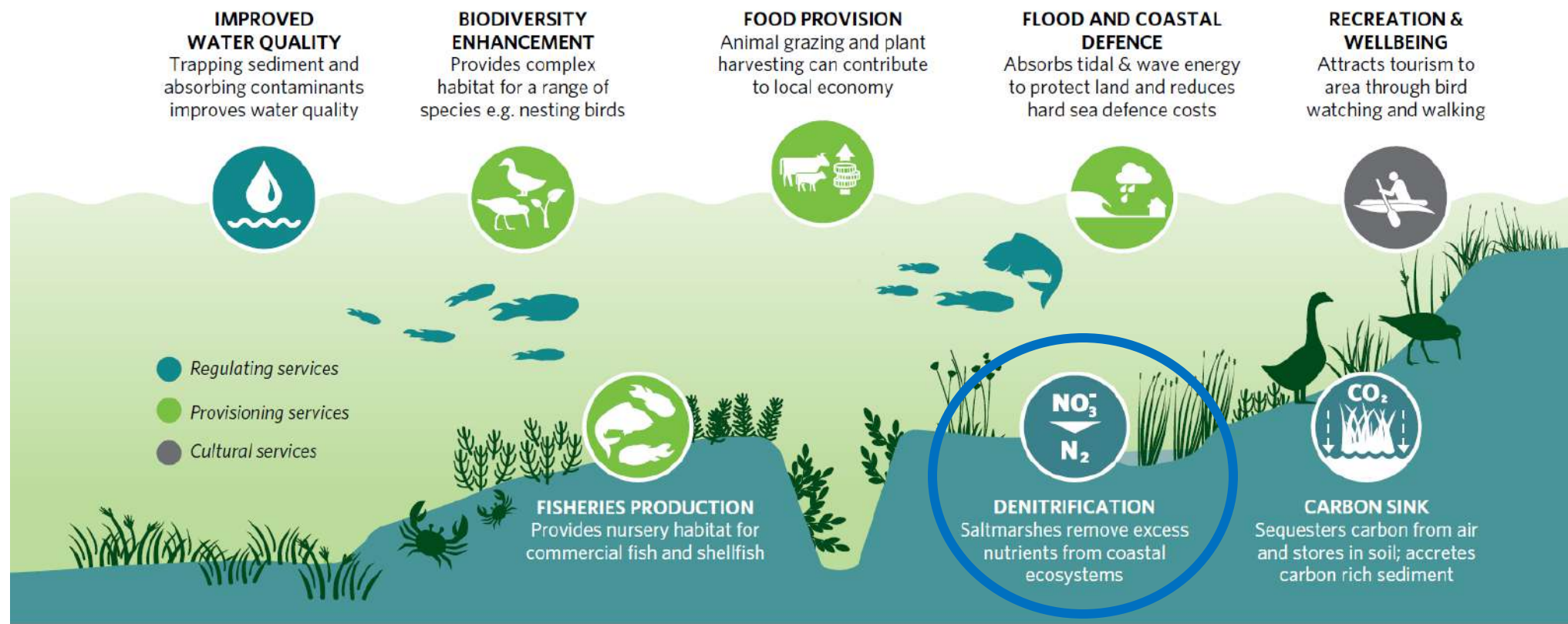
Nutrient pollution: A threat to biodiversity and water quality
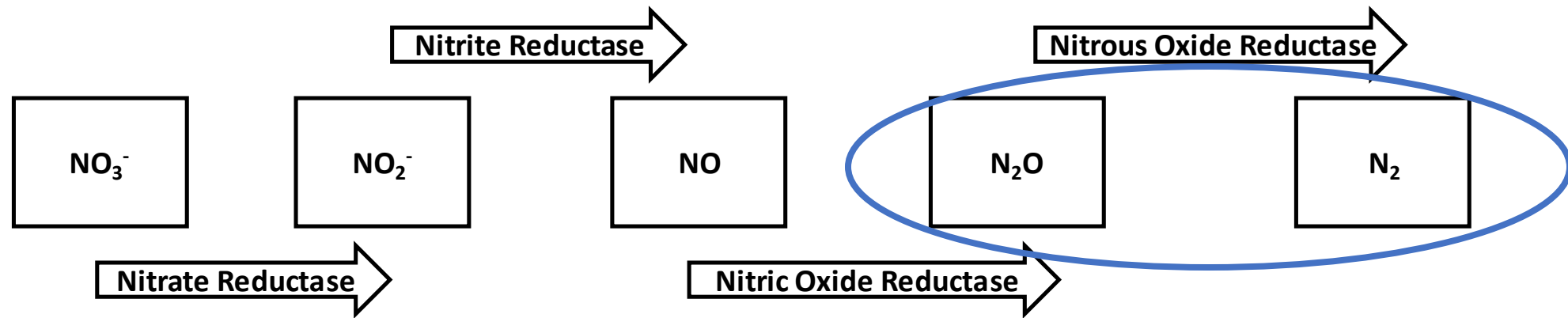

Photo credit: Sue Burton, Environment Agency

- **Nutrient pollution can threaten biodiversity**

- **Affects water quality, ultimately leading to hypoxia and marine dead zones**

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Part of the solution? Denitrification in saltmarsh systems

IMPROVED WATER QUALITY
Trapping sediment and absorbing contaminants improves water quality

BIODIVERSITY ENHANCEMENT
Provides complex habitat for a range of species e.g. nesting birds

FOOD PROVISION
Animal grazing and plant harvesting can contribute to local economy

FLOOD AND COASTAL DEFENCE
Absorbs tidal & wave energy to protect land and reduces hard sea defence costs

RECREATION & WELLBEING
Attracts tourism to area through bird watching and walking

- Regulating services
- Provisioning services
- Cultural services

FISHERIES PRODUCTION
Provides nursery habitat for commercial fish and shellfish

DENITRIFICATION
Saltmarshes remove excess nutrients from coastal ecosystems

NO_3^-
N_2

CARBON SINK
Sequesters carbon from air and stores in soil; accretes carbon rich sediment

CO_2

SALTMARSH RESTORATION HANDBOOK
UK & IRELAND

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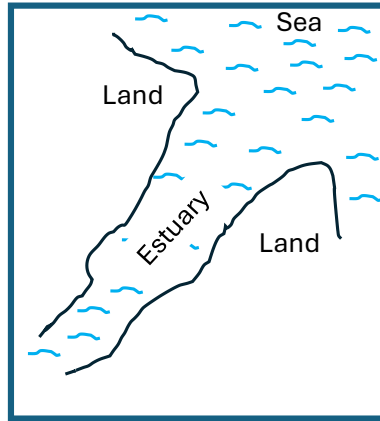PRIFYSGOL BANGOR UNIVERSITY

What is denitrification?

After Choudhary et al. 2022

3 Key Measures of Denitrification

- **Complete Denitrification:**   N released as N_2: "Environmentally Benign"

- **Total Denitrification:**   N released as N_2 and N_2O: Water Quality Improvement but N_2O component could contribute to Climate Change

- **Denitrification Ratio:**   (Complete Denitrification) / (Total Denitrification)

  Values → 1: Total N released Environmentally Benign

  Values → 0: Contributes to Water Quality Improvement but could exacerbate Climate Change

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Providing benchmarks in the English context

6 x Estuaries

Pioneer/Low

Low-mid

High

Complete Denitrification: NO$_3$ to N$_2$
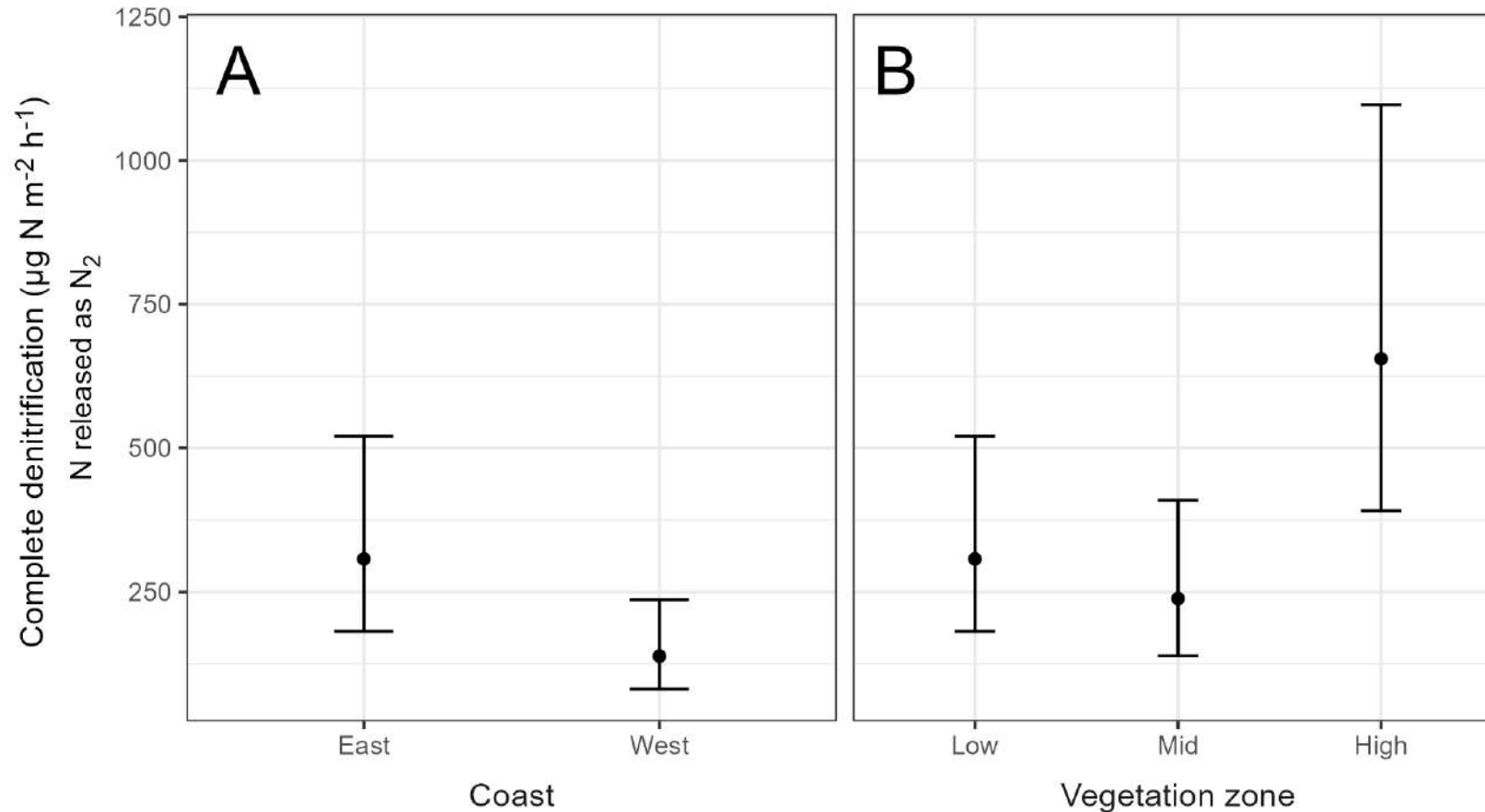

- **Orders of magnitude variation**

- **43 – 1037 µg N m^{-2} hr^{-1}**

- **South and east coast saltmarshes:**

  441 µg N m^{-2} hr^{-1}

- **Northwest coast saltmarshes:**

  188 µg N m^{-2} hr^{-1}

Vegetation zone — Low — Mid — High

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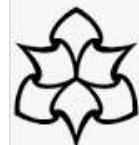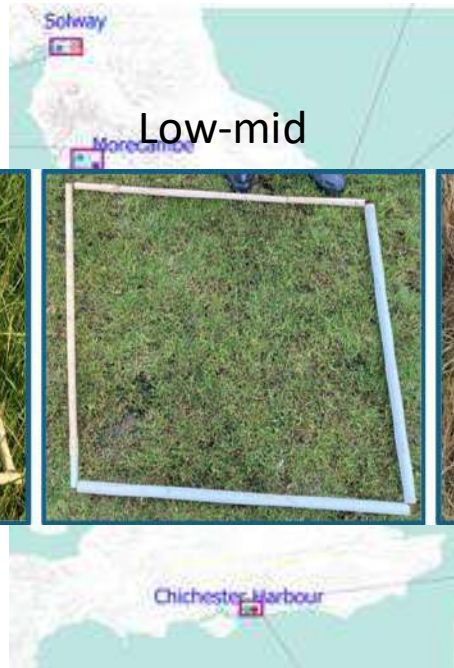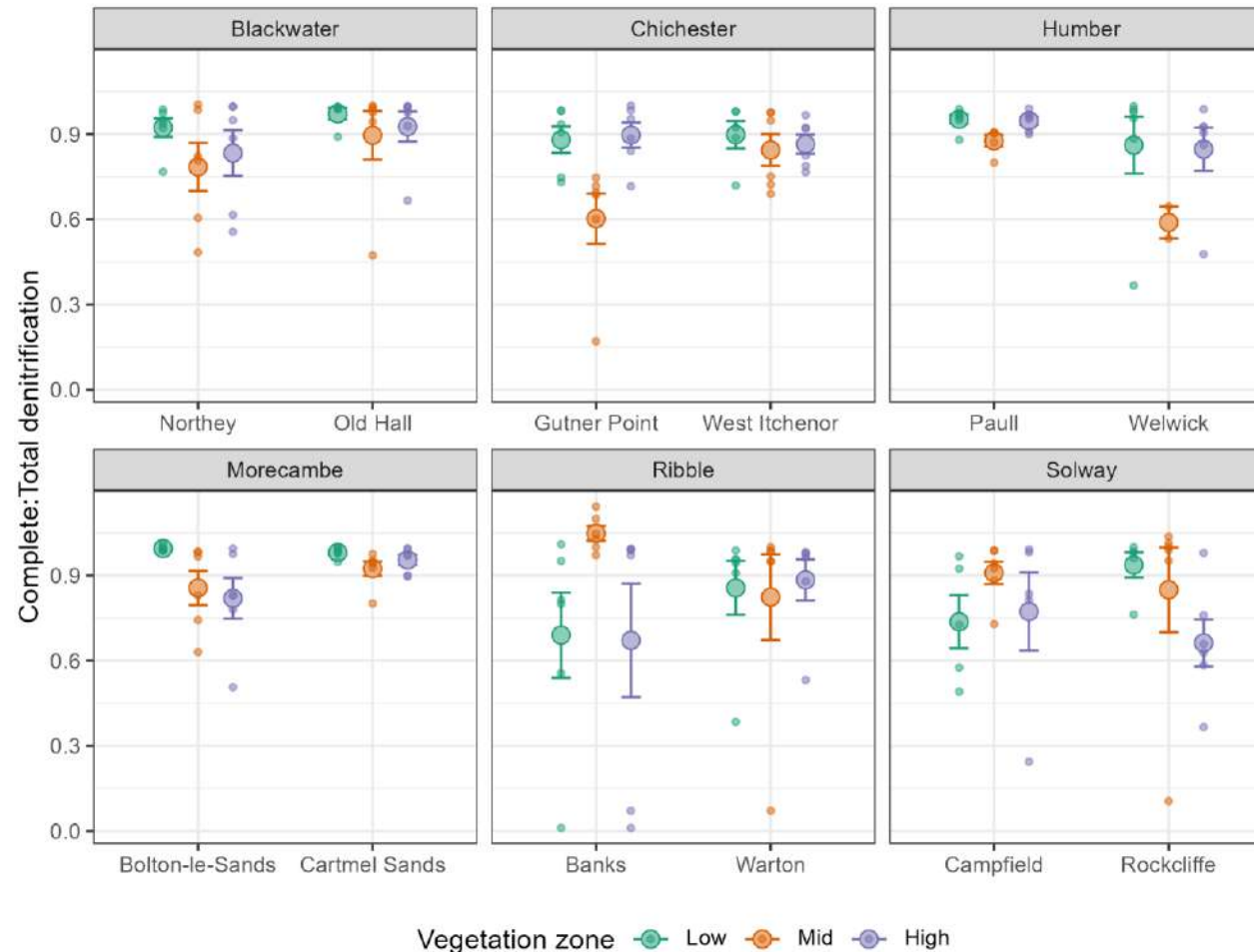
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Complete Denitrification: NO$_3$ to N$_2$

- **Model predictions**

- **West coast saltmarsh:**

  Denitrify at 45 % the rate of the south and east coast marshes (p = 0.056)

- **High saltmarsh:**

  Denitrify at 140 % the rate of pioneer/low ("Low") or low-mid ("Mid") marshes

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Denitrification Ratio: Complete / Total

- **Most denitrification goes to completion**

- **Average ratio: 0.86**

- **Coast and/or vegetation zone unable to explain variation**

- **Sizeable number of cores show release of N_2O – sometimes substantial**

Future Prospects: Scaling Results – Understanding Drivers

- Scaling these results requires, at minimum, an understanding of seasonal variation (and, preferably, among year variation).

- These results are benchmarks from 'intact' saltmarshes. Investigations in restoring saltmarshes, and how they denitrify, and whether this changes over their development trajectory, required.

- Understanding (potential) drivers of saltmarsh denitrification may help with scaling.

- Investigating whether and how the saltmarsh denitrification process changes under exposure to additional nutrients is required – especially given literature evidence that additional nitrate can lead to a greater proportion of N_2O emissions within total N released.

- Data can inform policy developments around e.g. Water Environment Regulations & Saltmarsh Code

A Thought to End On...

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Trapping sediment and absorbing contaminants improves water quality

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SALTMARSH RESTORATION HANDBOOK
UK & IRELAND

AUGUST 2023
Editors: Rachel Hudson, Joe Kenworthy, Mike Best
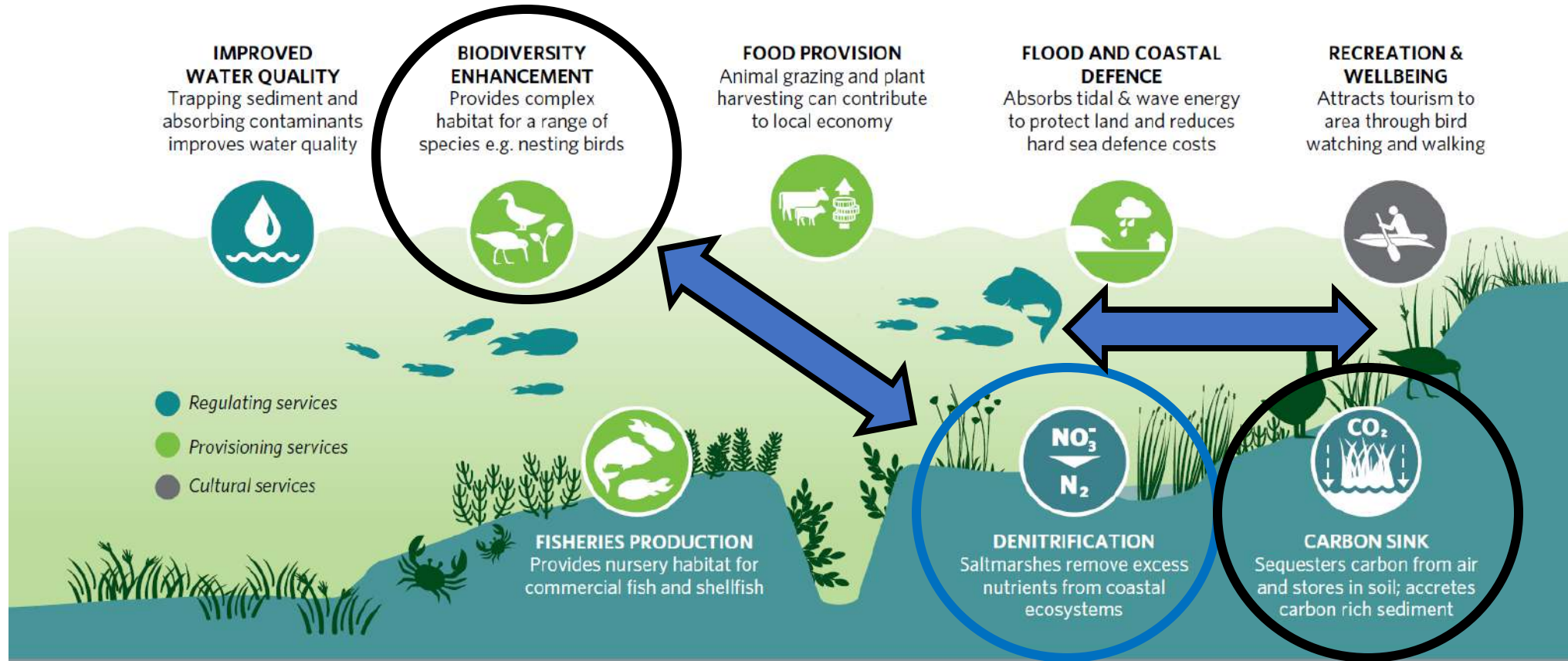
Thank You For Listening
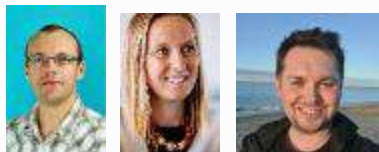
Our Vision

- To determine novel and policy relevant pluralistic values for marine biodiversity

- and apply these values to co-develop green investment options,

- leading to a transformative shift in our understanding and utilisation of the economics of biodiversity.

The Team

SEA THE VALUE
MARINE BIODIVERSITY BENEFITS FOR A SUSTAINABLE SOCIETY

PML | Plymouth Marine Laboratory

Nicola Beaumont
Olivia Rendon
Stefanie Broszeit
Stephen Watson
Jenny Lockett
Anthony Ndah
Heidi Tillin
Claire Szostek

Daryl Burdon Ltd.

eftec economics for the environment

Ian Dickie
Rob Tinch
Mark Collar

UNIVERSITY OF PORTSMOUTH
CENTRE FOR BLUE GOVERNANCE

UNIVERSITY OF ABERDEEN

THE SOLENT FORUM
Working in partnership for the future

Gordan Watson
Jo Preston
Andrew VanDerSchatteOlivier

Tavis Potts
Jeremy Anbleyth-Evans

Coastal Partnerships Network

MORAY FIRTH COASTAL PARTNERSHIP

Environmental and ecological economics
Marine ecology
Human geography
Governance
Finance
Impact
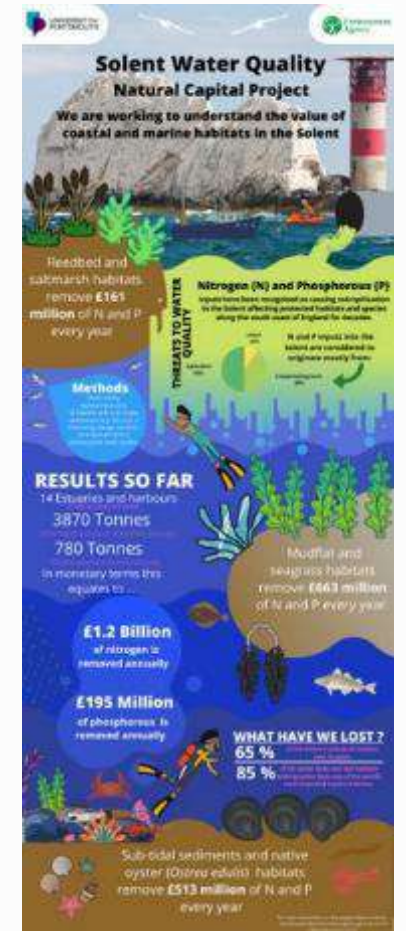Communications
Extensive research users / interested parties

Programme Steering Group:
Academic, Government and ALB, NGO, Industry and commerce

The Focus

Carbon sequestration and storage (CCS)

Bioremediation of waste

- Moray Firth
- The Solent
- Scale to National

Interdisciplinary Excellence

WP 4 Co-development and capacity building	**WP1** Linking biodiversity, ES & Nat. Capital
Task 4.1 Stakeholder co-ordination	
Task 4.2 UK Wide Training	**WP2** Determining pluralistic values
Task 4.3 Capacity building	
WP 4.4 Impact	**WP3** Connecting values to decision making

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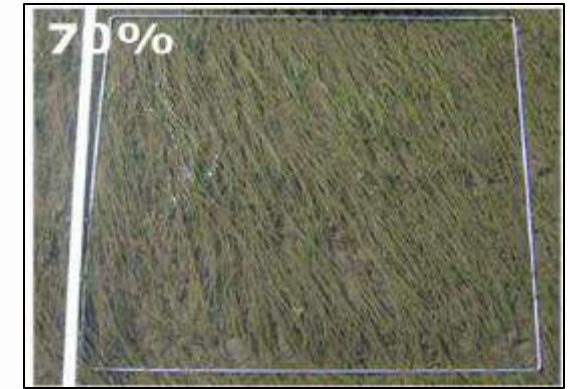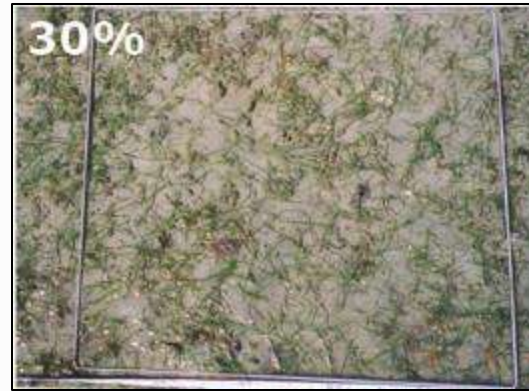MARINE BIODIVERSITY BENEFITS
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1a. Field Work

Habitat images

Map of sites

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Bioremediation of nitrogen: Denitrification rates (compared across habitats) sites combined.
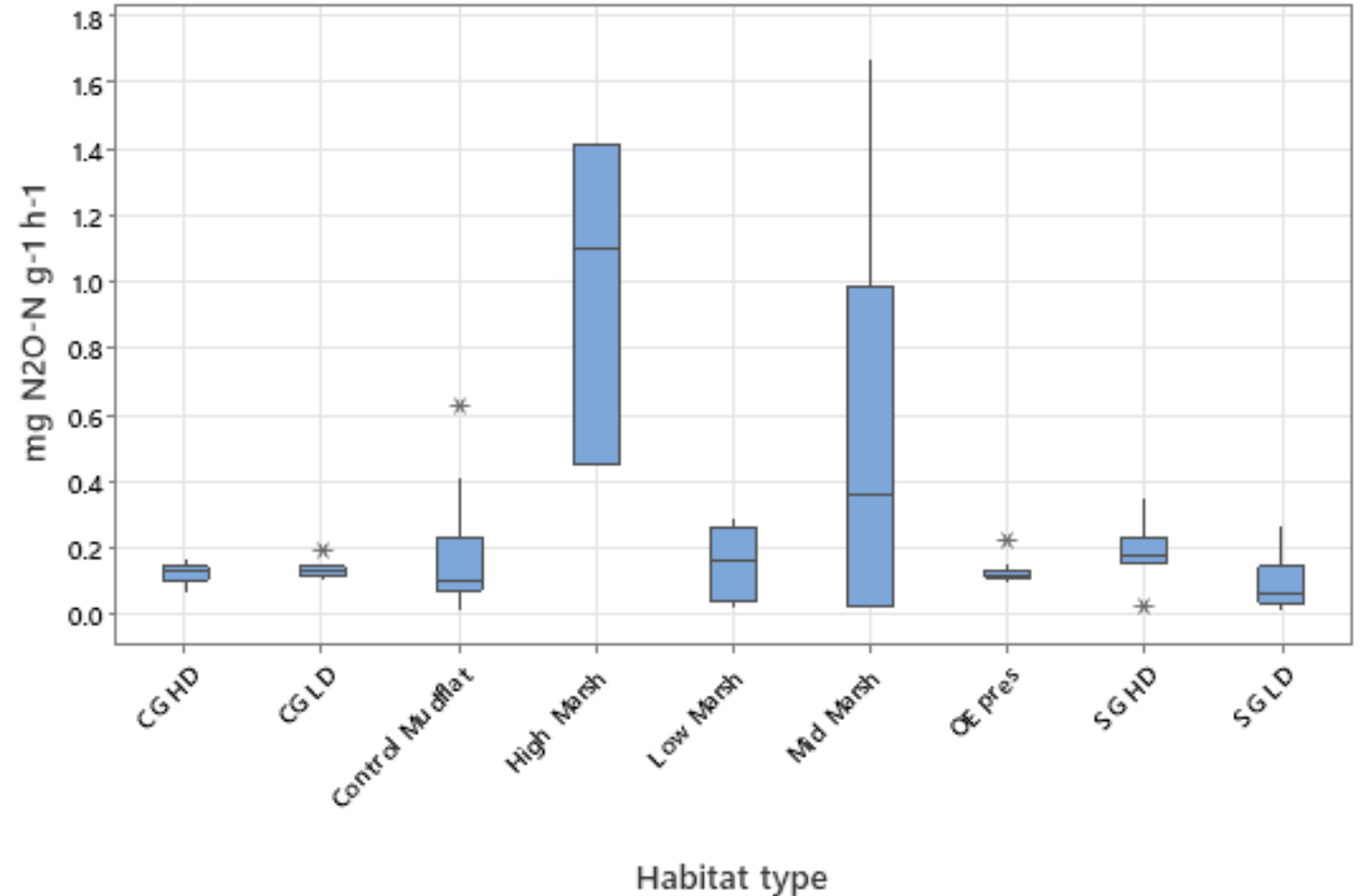
CG: Pacific oysters

LD/HD: low and high density oysters and seagrass plants

Control mudflat: combination of samples from bare mud next to each habitat

Marsh: saltmarsh at different tidal heights

OE pres: native oysters present plus pacific oysters

SG: seagrass

Organic content (amount of carbon in sediment) (compared across habitats) sites combined
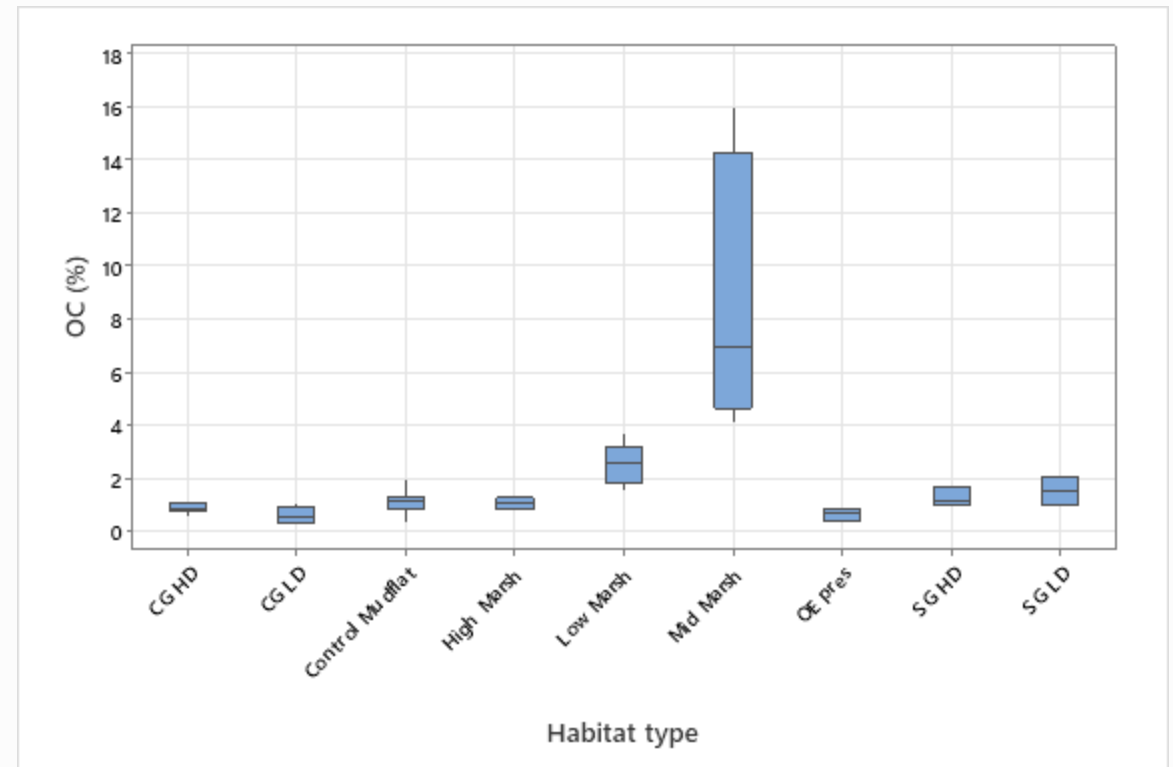
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Risk Register: Asset maps combined with activity maps

Supported by existing national tools developed by Defra ALBs

Cromarty Firth Risk Assessment

Activity map

Subtidal sediment condition from exposure to activity (based on exposure x sensitivity)

Likely Condition	Abrasion	Penetration	Extraction	Physical change seabed	Physical change sediment	Smothering & siltation rate: Heavy	Smothering & siltation: light	Change in suspended solids
Maintenance dredging	Degraded	Poor	Poor			Poor	Poor	Fair
Port and harbour structures: Maintenance	Degraded	Poor					Poor	Fair
Vessel moorings	Poor	Very poor		Very poor				
Dredge and spoil disposal	Degraded			Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor	Fair

Risk Assessment overview
Little evidence for activities across site: dredge disposal, moorings, shoreline infrastructure and operations

Saltmarsh, seagrass and mussel beds are the most sensitive habitats to physical disturbance from these activities but exposure and hence risk is low. Ecosystem services are likely to be largely unaffected.

Areas of **sublittoral sediment** are likely to be in poor/very poor condition from mooring and dredging and dredge disposal (using combined exposure and habitat sensitivity to estimate condition as shown in table).

Associated ecosystem services: carbon storage, nutrient remediation capacity within the extraction and disposal footprint are likely to be reduced but with low overall impact (based on small extent within the Firth)

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Solent Risk Assessment

Activity map
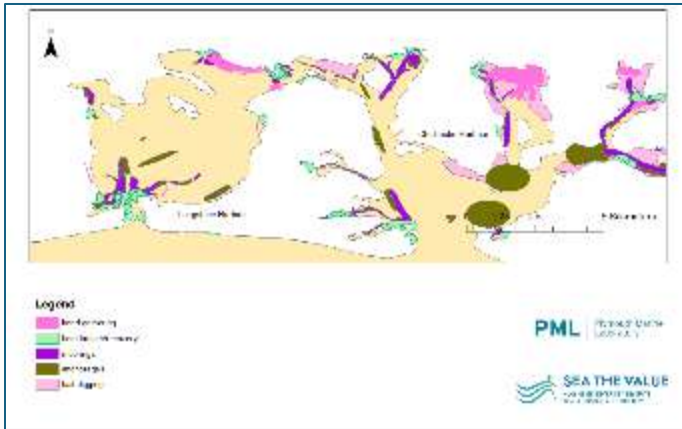
Mudflat condition estimated from exposure + sensitivity (resistance and recovery) is better- compared to estimate based on habitat resistance (to pressure). Resistance more realistic assessment for chronic exposure.

Habitat Risk	Abrasion	Penetration	Extraction	Removal of ta	Removal o	Physical change seabed
Harvesting	Fair	Fair	Poor	Fair	Fair	
Powerboa	Fair	Fair				
Sailing wi	Fair	Fair				
Vessel an	Fair	Fair				
Vessel mo	Fair	Fair				Very poor

Habitat Risk	Abrasion	Penetration	Extraction	Removal of ta	Removal o	Physical change seabed
Harvesting	Fair	Poor	Very poor	Poor	Poor	
Powerboa	Fair	Poor				
Sailing wi	Fair	Poor				
Vessel an	Fair	Poor				

Risk Assessment overview
Activities widespread throughout site: hand gathering (bait/shellfish) anchoring, mooring and boat launch/recovery sites. Associated physical disturbance pressures (abrasion, penetration, extraction are cumulative- see condition table)

Saltmarsh, seagrass and oyster beds are most sensitive habitats to physical disturbance, but activity exposure (and risk) is lower compared to less sensitive **mudflat.**

Mudflats:
- Exposed to cumulative pressures across large extents
- MarLIN MarESA sensitivity is low but based on high recovery-
- *Resistance* to pressures is low and mudflat likely to be degraded or in poor condition from chronic pressures -> an important facet of sensitivity to consider.
- Restoration of mudflat to more sensitive seagrass and oyster habitats would be impeded unless activities are managed
- Associated ecosystem services including carbon storage, nutrient remediation capacity are likely to be reduced

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# Why use Participatory Approaches in Restoration?

- **Driven by stakeholders** at all stages of the process.

- Creates a shared **common language**.

- **Captures local knowledge** and generates digital data.

- Generates **outputs for coastal communities**.

- **Improves understanding** of the links between natural features and benefits.

- **Supports organisations** to assess their own reliance on natural capital features.

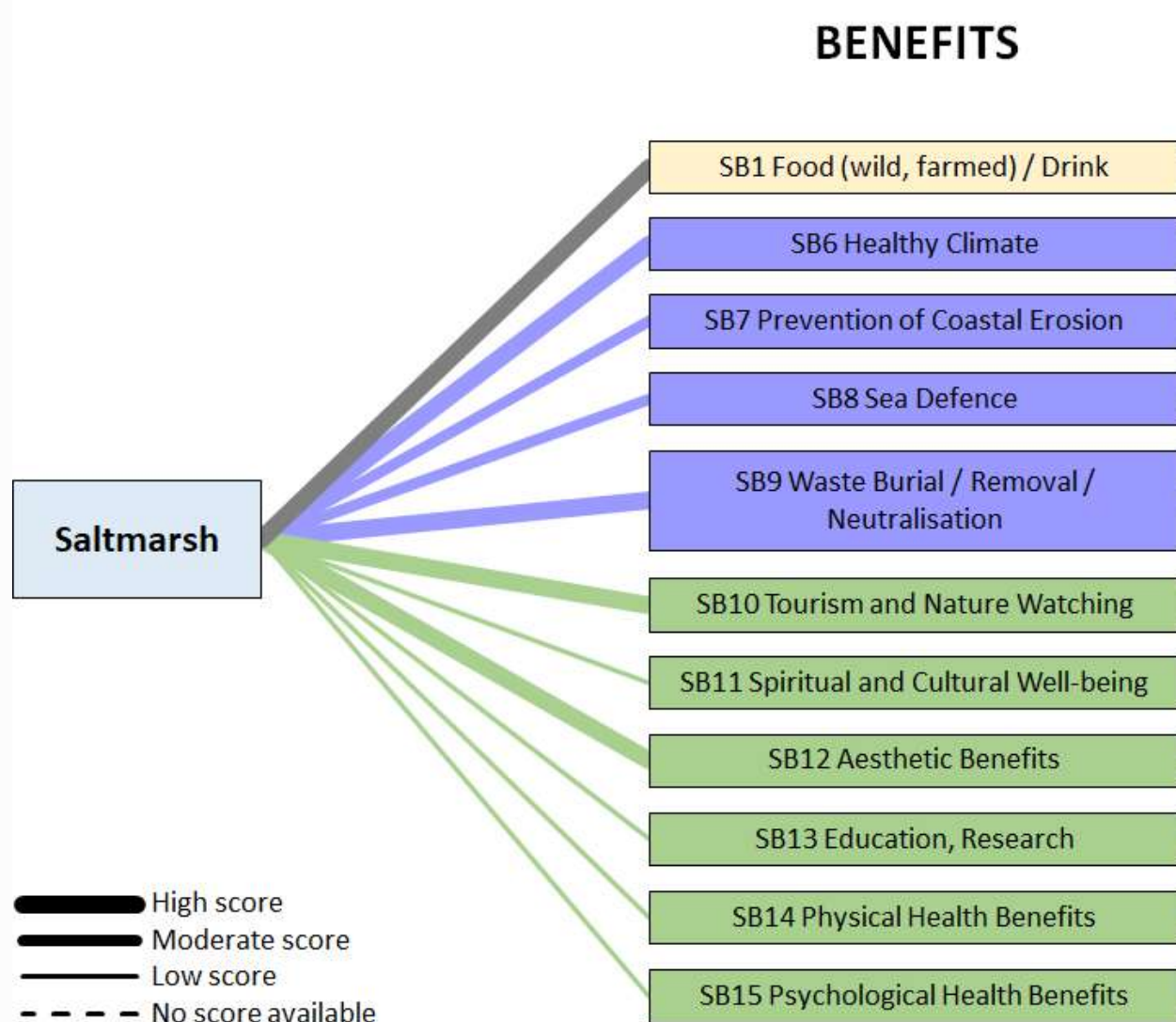- **Identifies shared reliance** on natural capital features and their benefits.
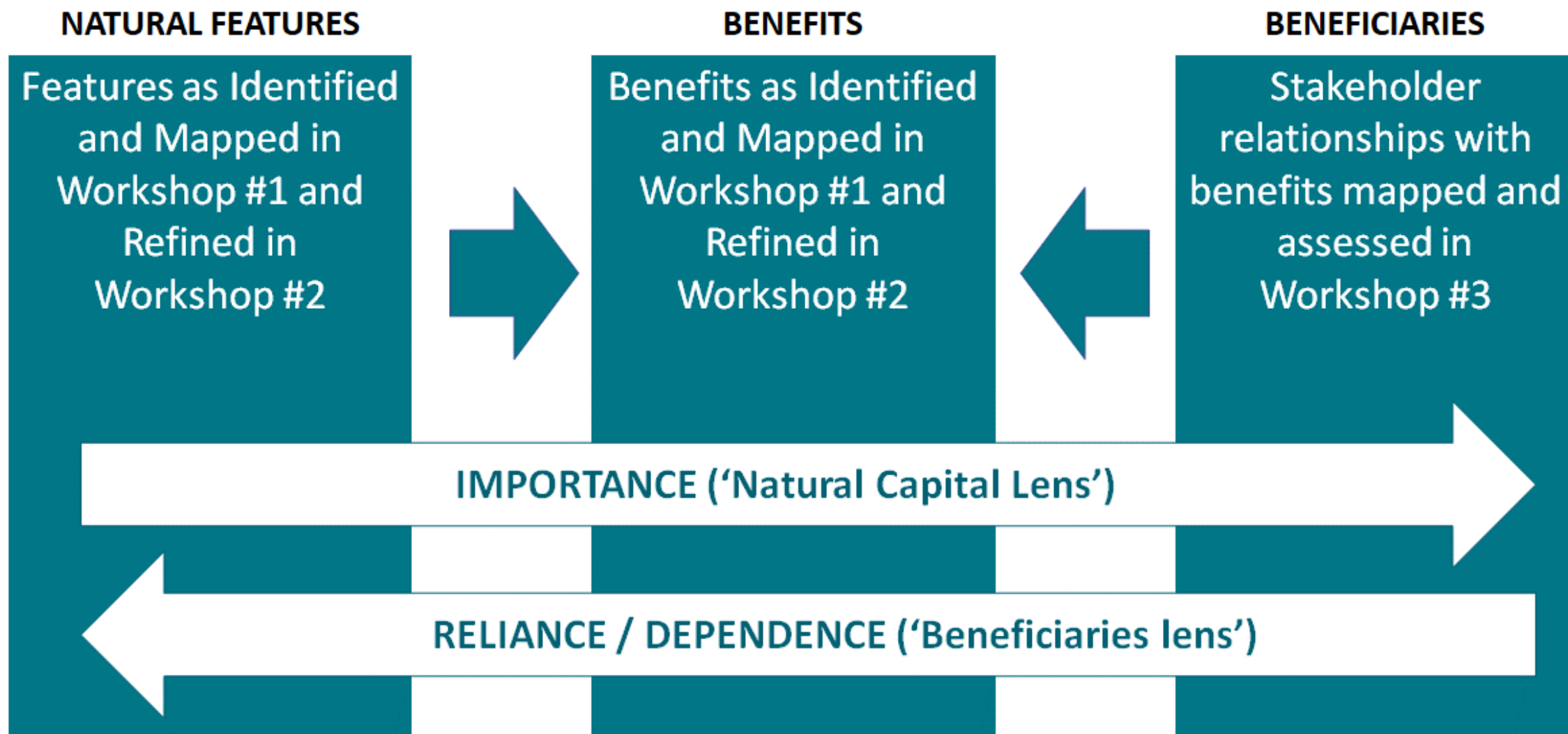
Logic chain structure to be populated during the participatory mapping workshop series

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Natural capital logic chain focussing on saltmarsh restoration in the Cromarty Firth.

Sector	Non-Governmental Organisations	
Cromarty Firth		
Solent		

Burdon et al., submitted. *Participatory mapping to support coastal communities to 'Sea the Value' of marine restoration initiatives.* Submitted to People and Nature.

Values in monetary terms arising from restoration actions in saltmarsh and seagrass habitats in the Solent

Ecosystem service	Valuation approach	Unit	Central estimate	Range in values	Driver in variation
Biodiversity	Stated preference survey	£ million, PV 60	170	20 – 1,120	Habitat match, Beneficiary households, timing of benefits
Carbon regulation	Marginal abatement costs		50	10 – 150	Carbon sequestration rate, timing of benefits, permanence uncertainty
Restoration cost	Market prices		(130)	(110 – 240)	Capital expenditure, Management of pressures/drivers of degradation

Carbon regulation valuation:
- Multiple of saltmarsh and seagrass restoration zone (hectares) and rate of carbon sequestration (tCO_2e/hectare/year)
- Non-traded carbon values (DESNZ, 2023) represent costs needed to meet UK Government's emissions reduction targets.
- A process for adjusting the value of carbon offsets (Groom & Venmans, 2022) to reflect uncertainty of permanence reduces benefit values significantly.

Biodiversity:
- Saltmarsh and seagrass restoration zone (hectares) assumed to improve species abundance (biodiversity proxy) from "low" to "moderate".
- Uses annual household WTP (£/hh/yr) for these improvements, transferred from stated preference study with Discrete Choice Experiment component (eftec et al., 2024).
- Scaling preferences across English or local area (e.g., Hampshire) population ("who's benefits?") generates wide value range, alongside timing of benefit (i.e., when species re-appear).
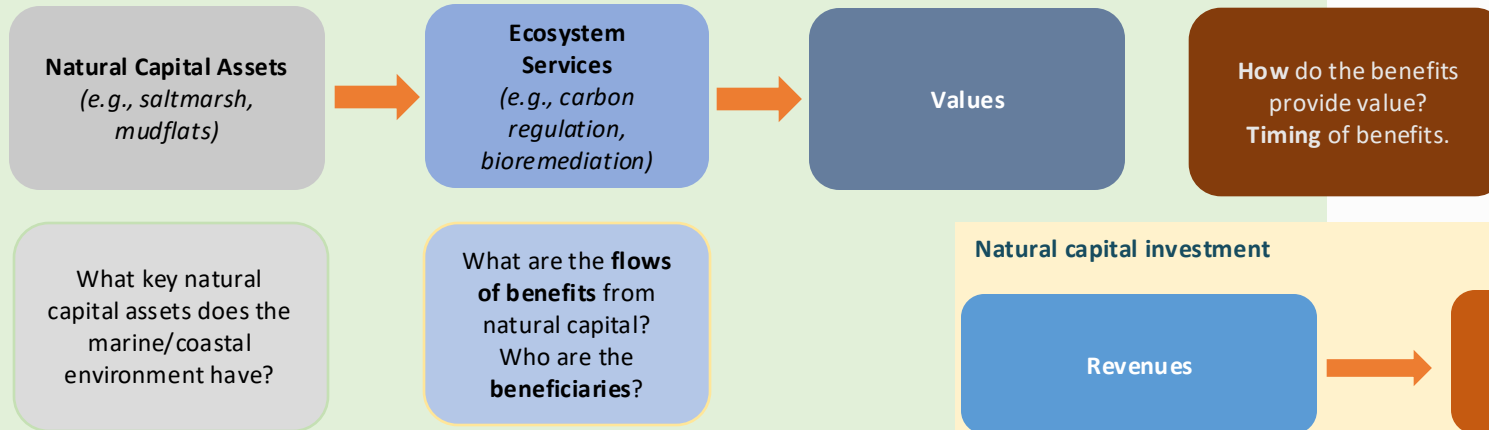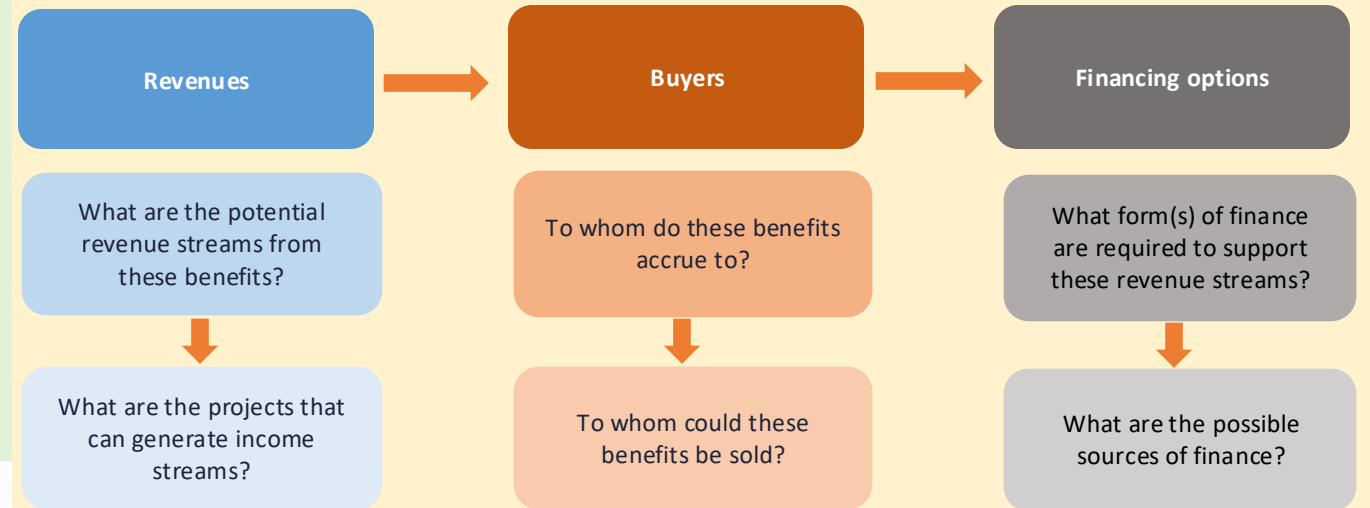
Work package 1: Habitat maps and baseline condition support natural capital asset register. Combined with condition-linked ecosystem services (ES) delivery, these data support the valuation of existing habitat and possible ES delivery under restoration scenarios.
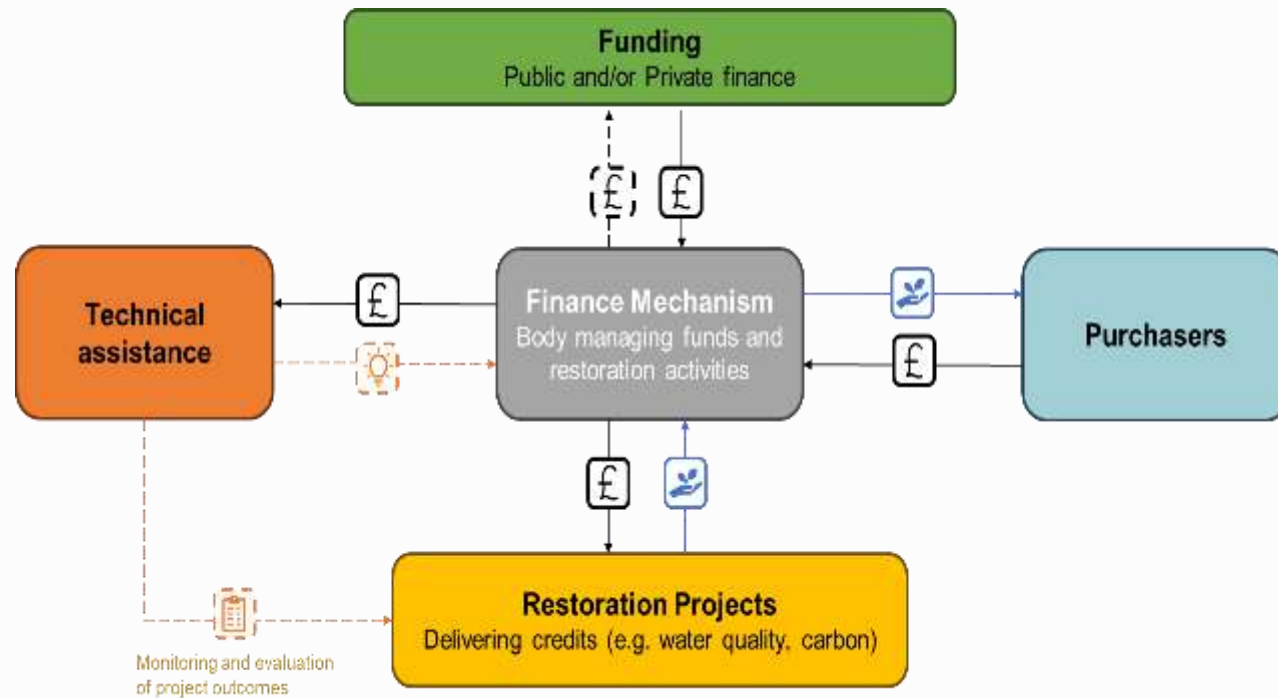
Work package 2.1: Participatory mapping identifies social preferences for natural capital benefits and highlights trade-offs between stakeholders.

Natural capital approach to marine and coastal restoration

Natural Capital Assets *(e.g., saltmarsh, mudflats)*

Ecosystem Services *(e.g., carbon regulation, bioremediation)*

Values

How do the benefits provide value? **Timing** of benefits.

ReMeMaRe data complements habitat data and stakeholder knowledge to highlight feasible opportunities for habitat creation in the Solent.

What key natural capital assets does the marine/coastal environment have?

What are the **flows of benefits** from natural capital? Who are the **beneficiaries**?

Natural capital investment

Revenues

Buyers

Financing options

What are the potential revenue streams from these benefits?

To whom do these benefits accrue to?

What form(s) of finance are required to support these revenue streams?

What are the projects that can generate income streams?

To whom could these benefits be sold?

What are the possible sources of finance?

- Nature market credits generate revenues to repay investment in marine ecosystem restoration…

- …but project and policy uncertainty reduces the value of credits, increasing investment risk.

- There are possible solutions:

  - Shorter lifetime credits.

  - Bundling/stacking.

- Combing environmental, social, and economic data therefore shapes better **investment options** for marine restoration:

  - identifying parties that can fulfil the necessary roles in financing marine and coastal restoration

  - estimating market size; and

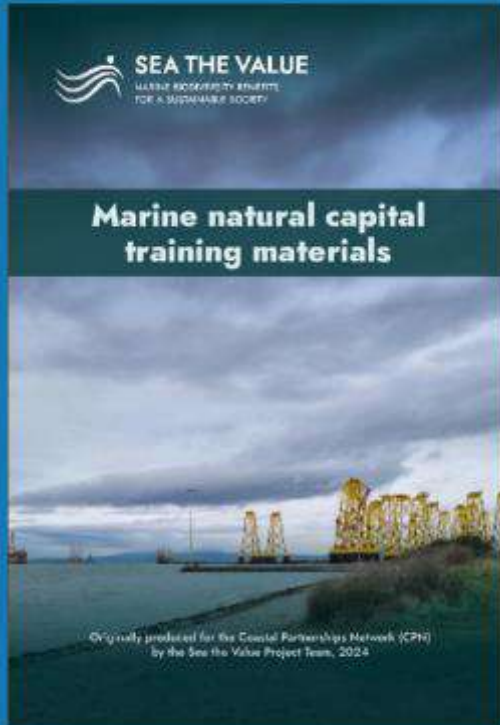 - the design of financing contracts

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Marine natural capital training materials

Originally produced for the Coastal Partnerships Network (CPN)
by the Sea the Value Project Team, 2024

Training materials are available to download.
Scan to visit our webpage

Comments from attendees:
'I found it extremely interesting and useful to attend.'
'Very useful, really thought provoking'
'Absolutely brilliant session, really interesting and I can see how this would fit in clearly with our work.'

Additional highlights

- Co-funding from Blue Marine to undertake the co-benefits and finance mechanisms review

- Interdisciplinary in person meetings

- Scaling and Economics workshops

- Programme Steering Group

- Endorsed as a UN Ocean Decade Project

- Presentations, posters and publications

REWRITE
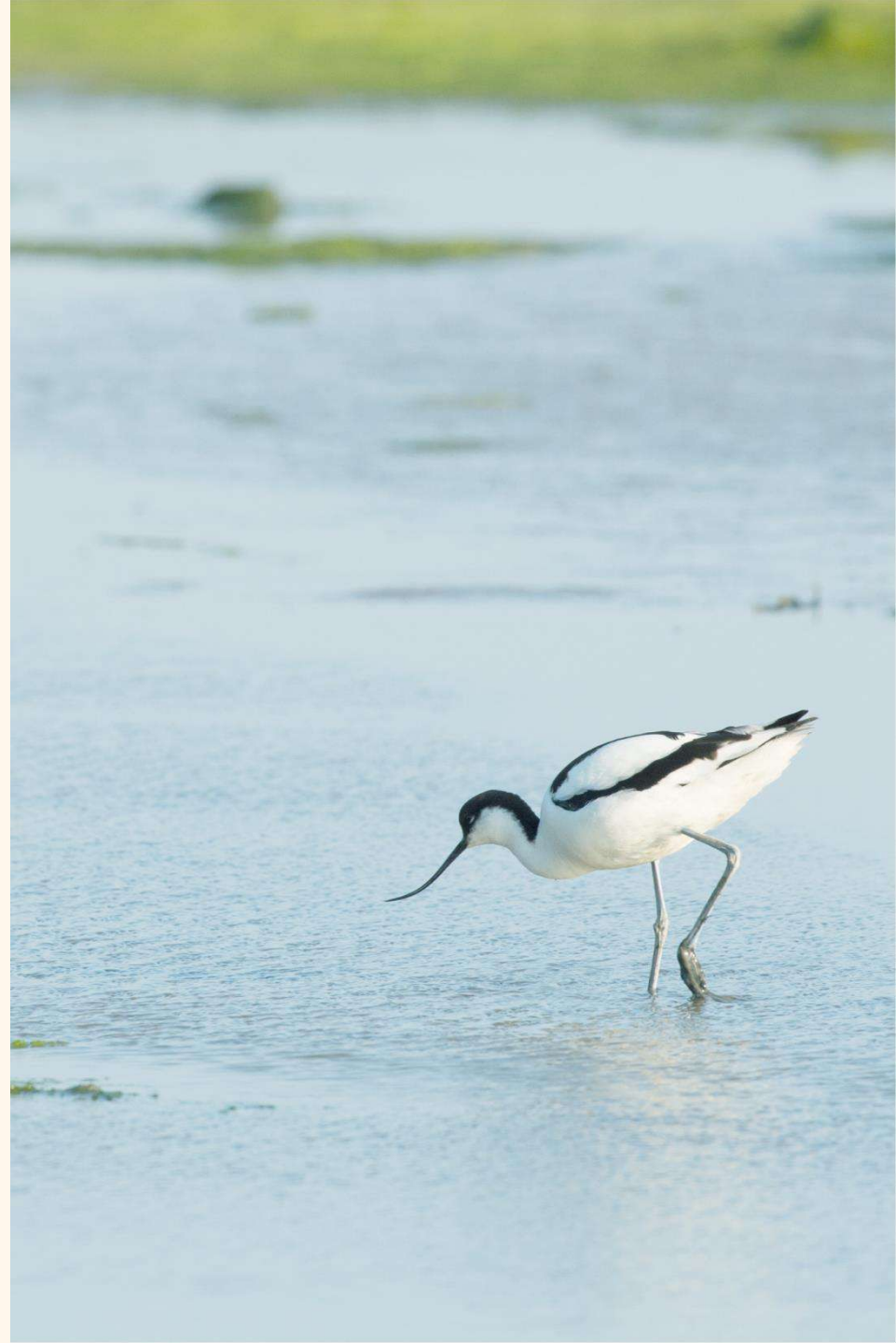
Governing Restoration

gina.reinhardt@essex.ac.uk
https://rewriteproject.eu/

What is *governance?*

Governance is the system that operates and controls a particular issue, and by which people and organisations are held to account.
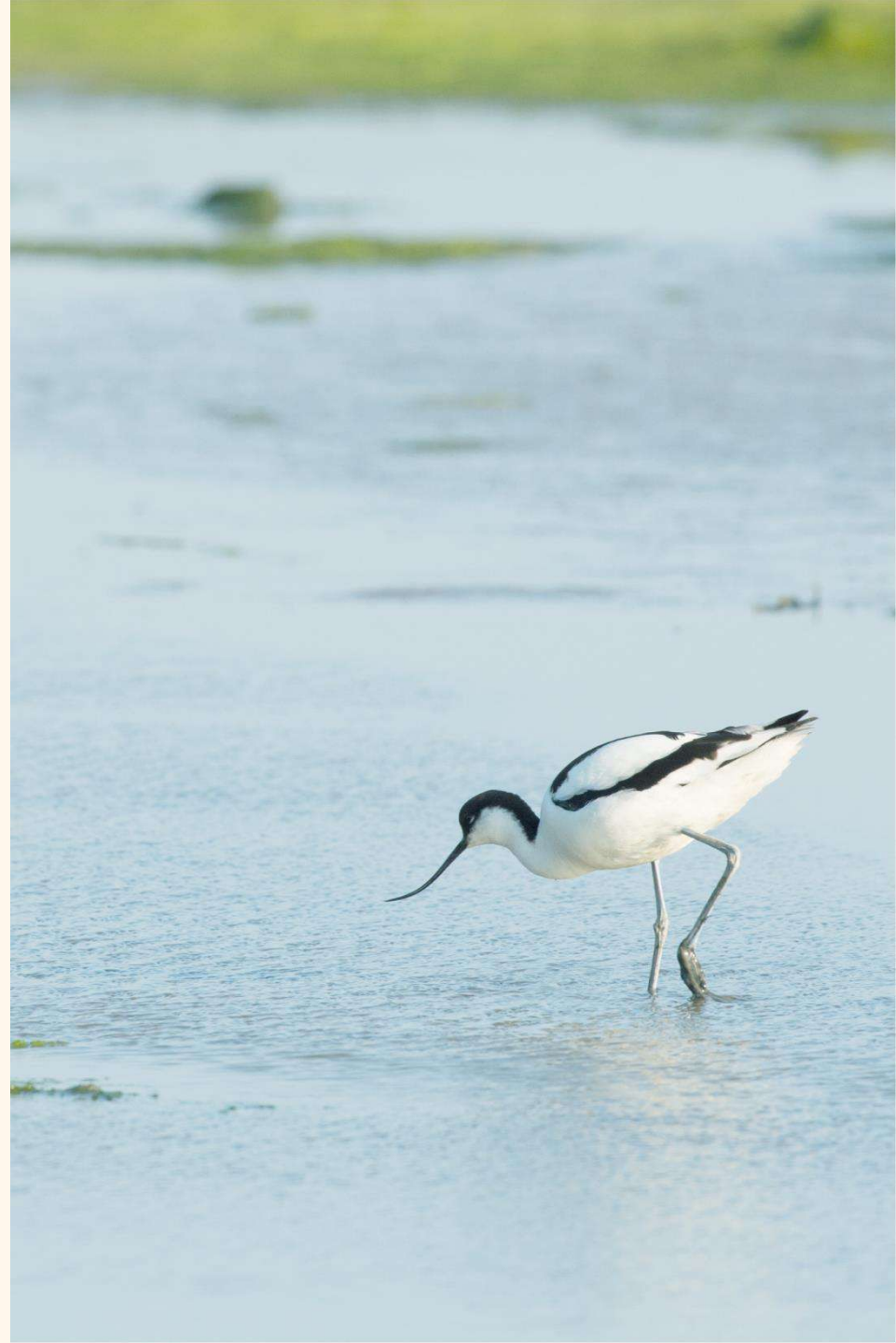
What is *governance?*

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- People
- Organisations
- Rules
- Regulations
- Policies

- Norms
- Ethics
- Risk management
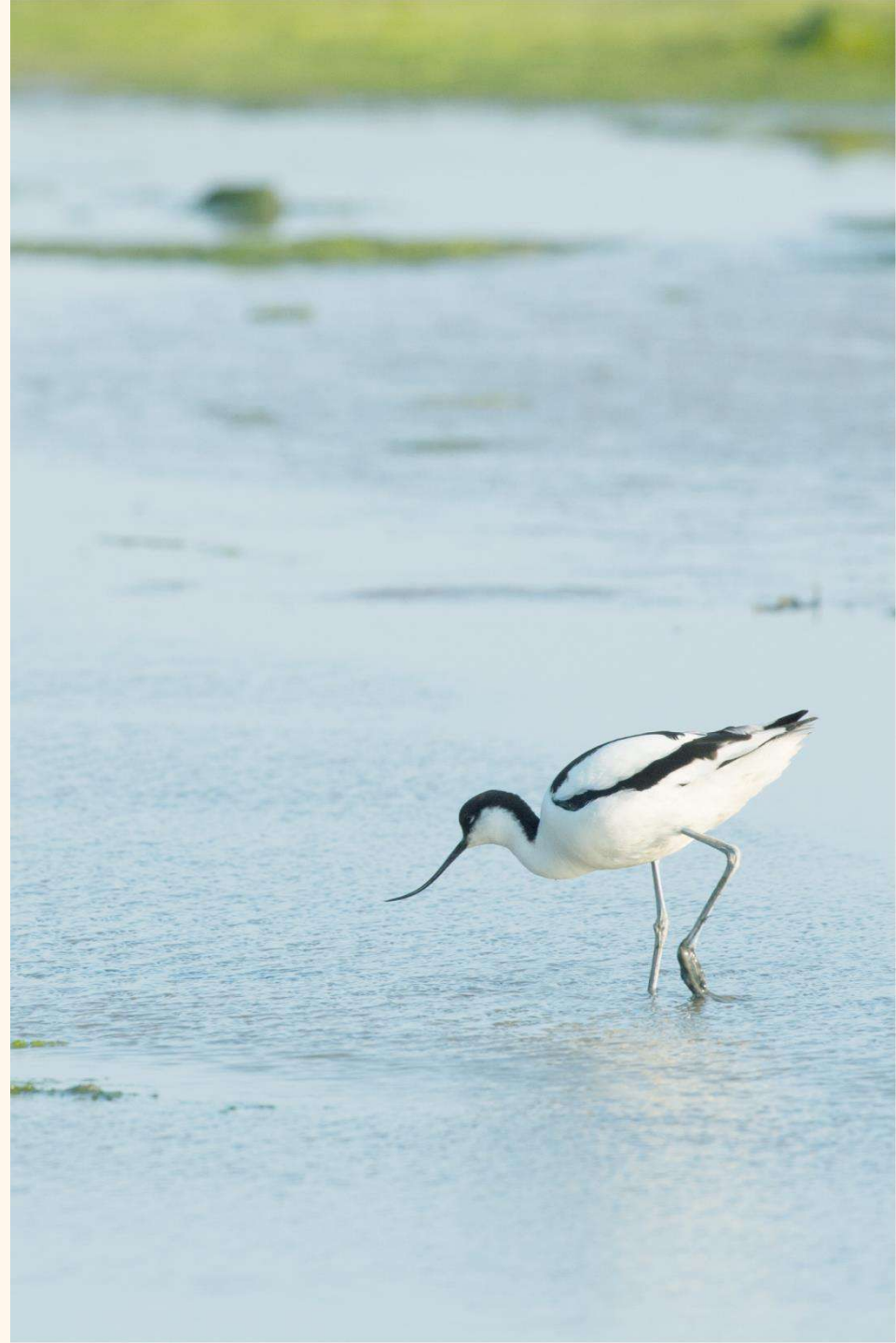- Monitoring and evaluation

REWRITE

Anything can be governed!

We care about the governance of re-wilding in each of 10 demonstrator sites across Europe and North America.

gina.reinhardt@essex.ac.uk
https://rewriteproject.eu/

REWRITE

Aims

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1. Map the re-wilding governance structures of our demonstrator sites (DMs) and how they differ across DMs.

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2. Evaluate the extent to which governance structures are related to outcomes for estuaries in terms of **coastal flooding, nature / habitat compensation and restoration.**
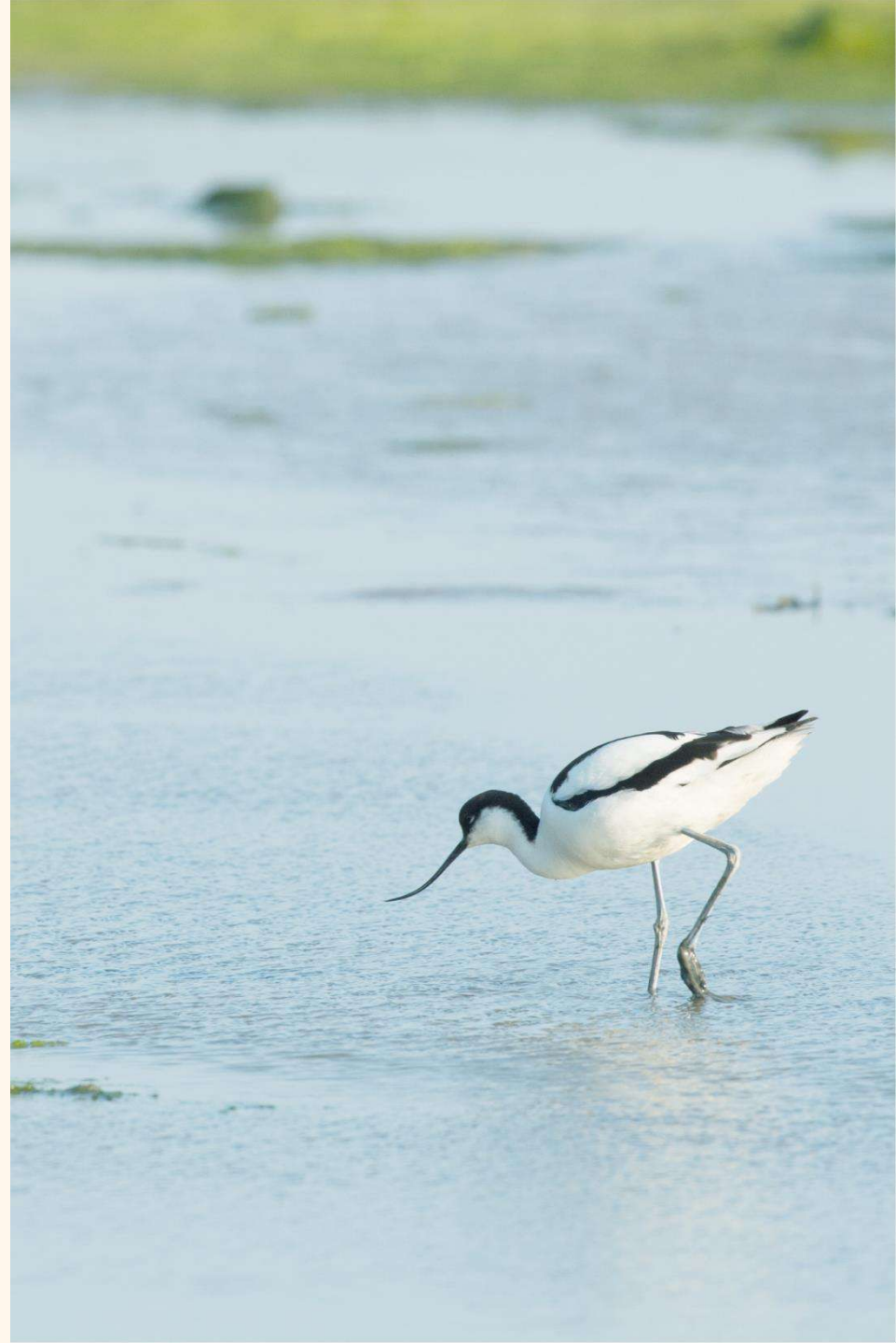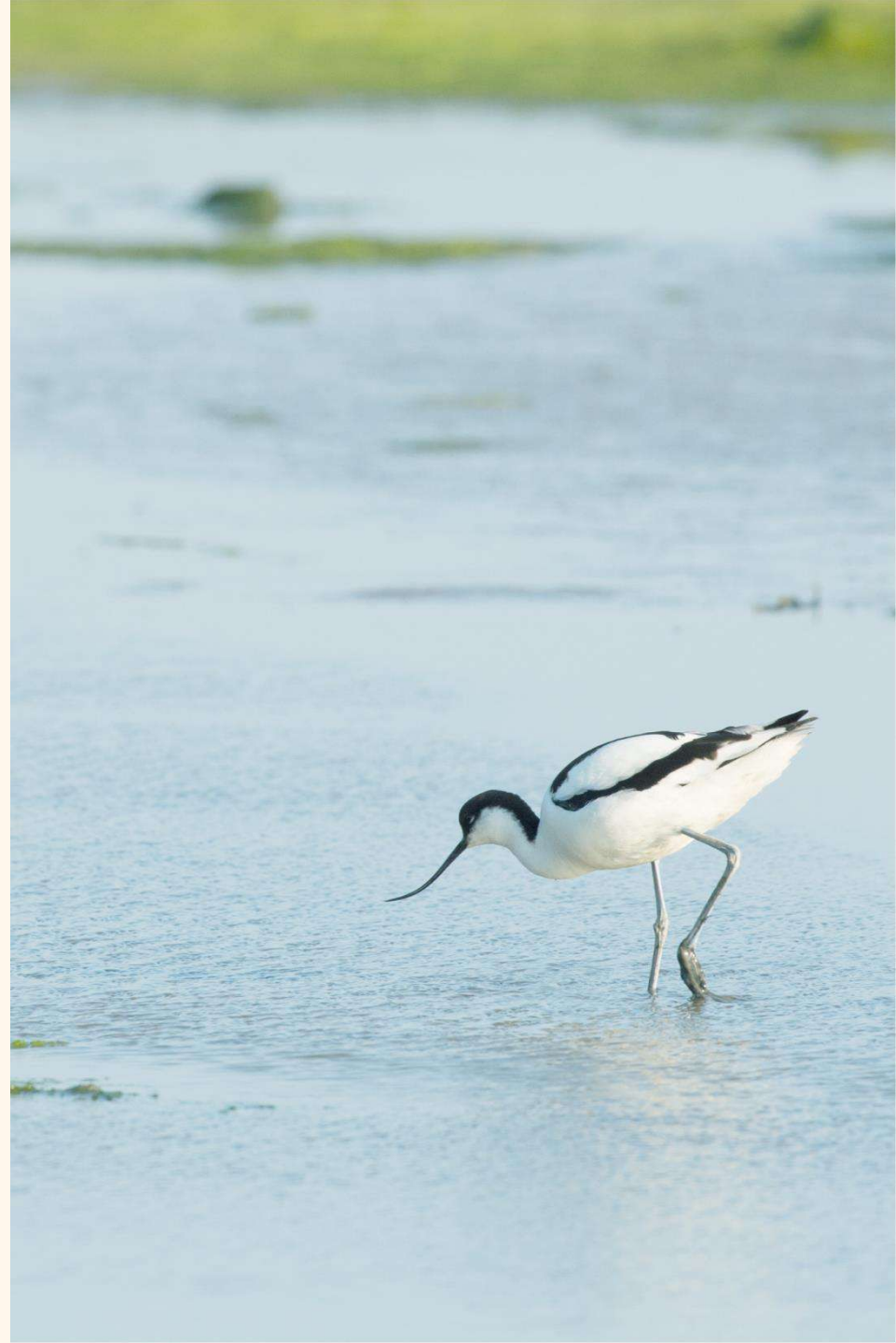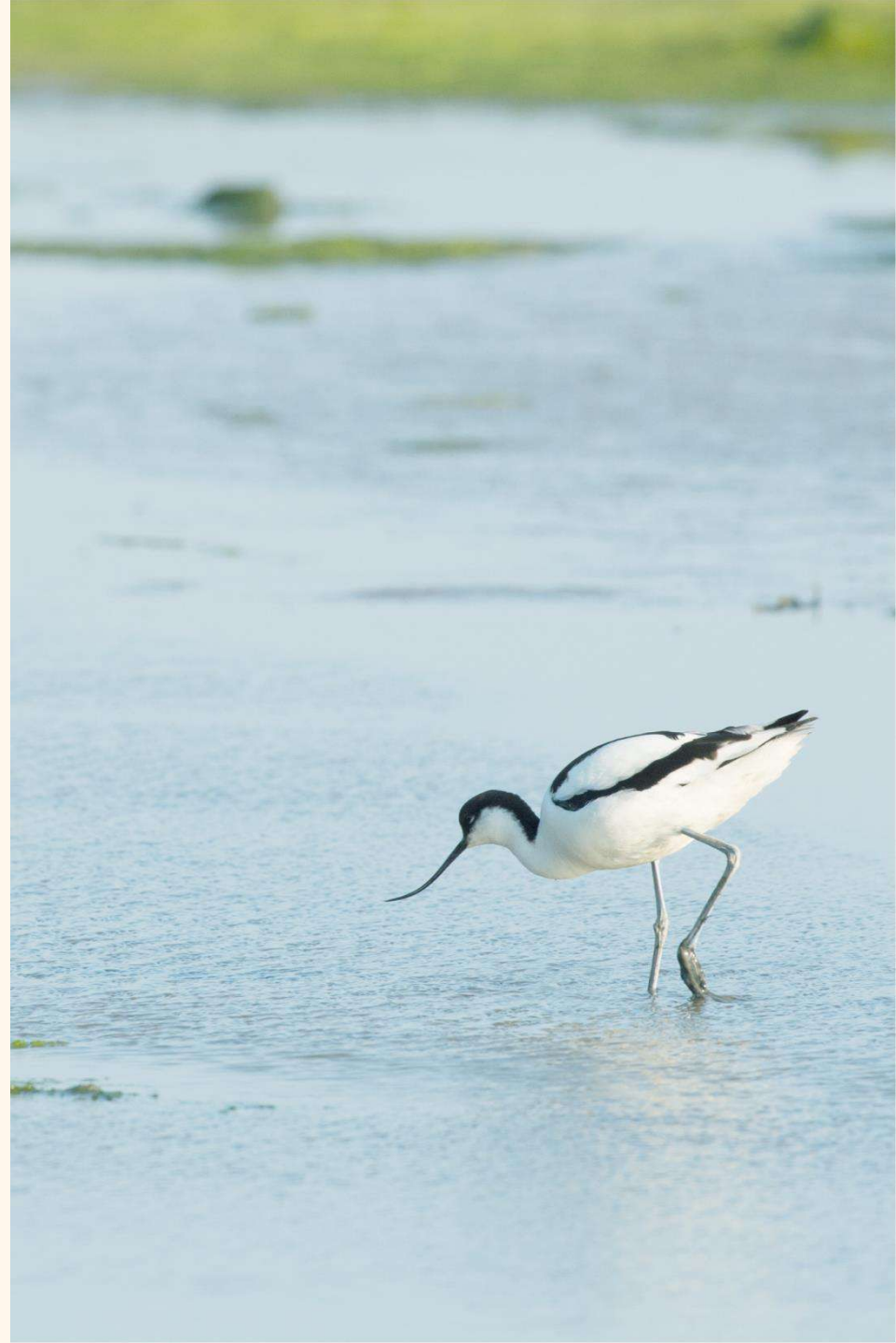
Aims

1. Map the re-wilding governance structures of our demonstrator sites (DMs) and how they differ across DMs.

2. Evaluate the extent to which governance structures are related to outcomes for estuaries in terms of **coastal flooding, nature / habitat compensation and restoration.**

3. Develop recommendations/advice regarding any opportunities to navigate or alleviate governance pressures related to restoring and rewilding intertidal soft sediments.

Mapping the governance framework for each case (DM)

- Corpus
  - policy and legal documents
  - grey and academic literature
  - interviews with national, regional, local experts

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  - Key agencies (and sub-agency units) involved at varying administrative levels for each issue area

REWRITE

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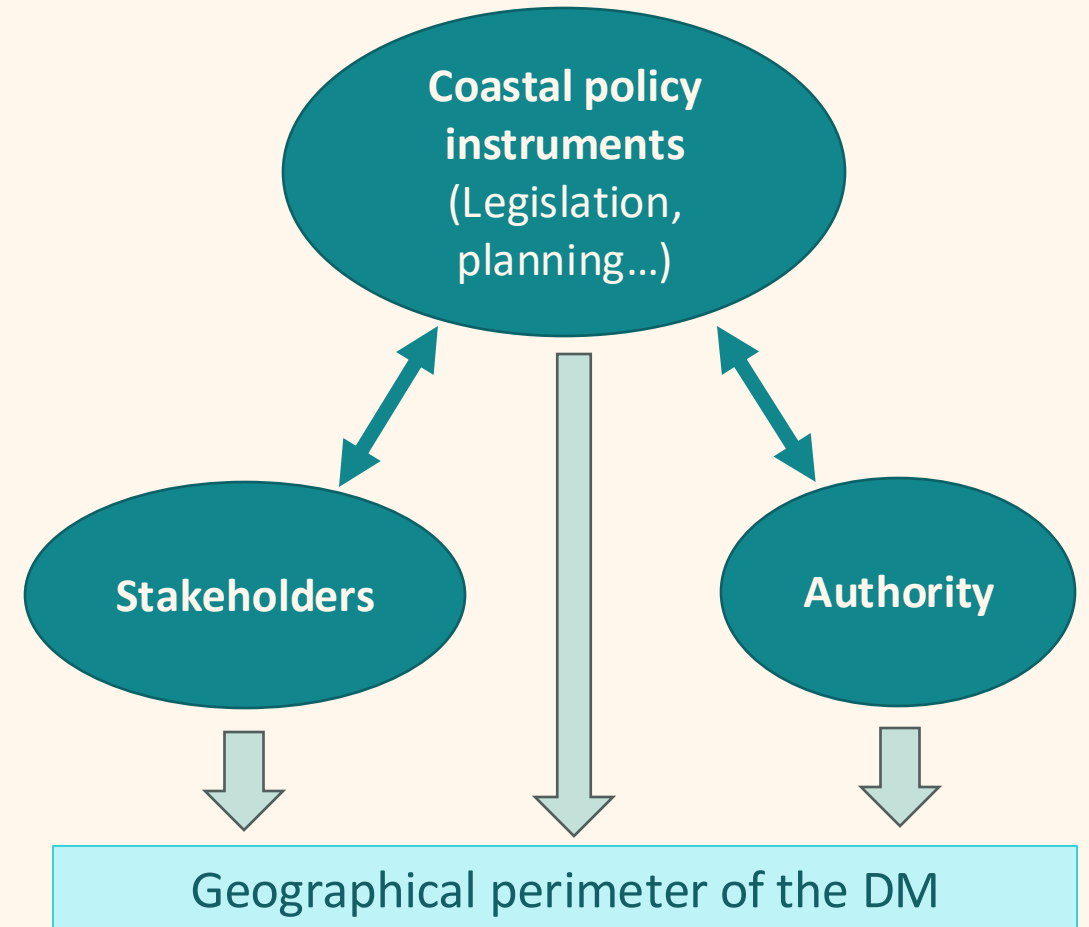
Research questions – 3D Framework

How do governance structures correlate with restoration outcomes?

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Devolution - At what administrative levels are decisions made?

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Diffusion - Who can change outcomes and how much overlap of function exists?

Research questions – 3D Framework

How do governance structures correlate with restoration outcomes?

Devolution - At what administrative levels are decisions made?

Diffusion - Who can change outcomes and how much overlap of function exists?

Discretion – How much flexibility exists in their decision making?

What is an acceptable rubric?

A *rubric* is a definition of how to measure, assess, or code a particular attribute that we want to assess.

A rubric does not have to involve quantitative information, but it does have to have categories – ideally 3-5.

Categories must be **clearly defined**.

Categories must be **mutually exclusive**.

Categories must be **jointly exhaustive**.

The 3D Framework: Devolution

Devolution

What: *Administrative level at which decisions are made regarding the issue areas we care about.*

Why: Higher administrative levels are often unaware of local power inequities and histories. Lower levels can offer more opportunities for direct engagement and trust building, as well as avenues for outcomes to differ from one locality to another.

Devolution – Where is the power?

Conceptual definition:

Administrative level at which decisions are made.

Research Question(s):

At what level is the ***critical*** decision regarding a change of use?

Operational definitions:

- **Devolution$_1$**: the lowest level where the critical decision is made.
- **Devolution$_2$**: the highest level at which a veto can be given.
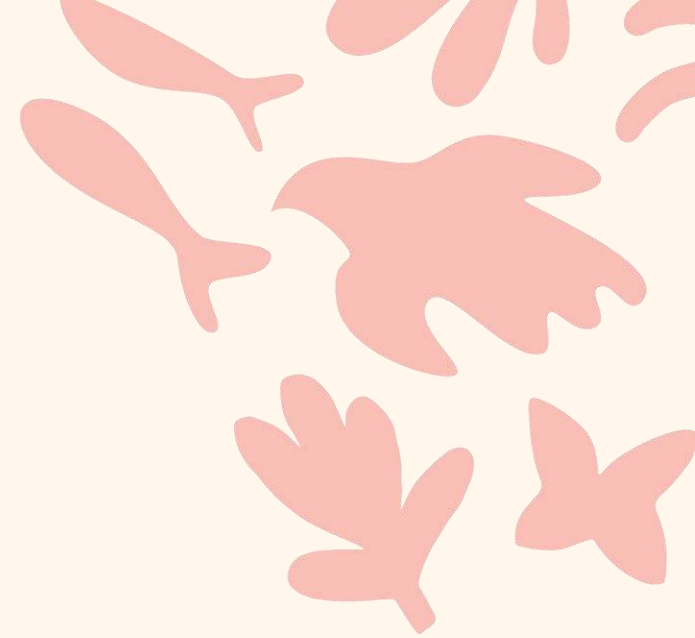
Devolution Rubric

Level	Measure $Devolution_1$ - positive
1	The decision is made at the lowest possible administrative level. (local level)
2	The decision is made in between the local and national levels. (provincial/regional level)
3	The decision is made at the highest possible administrative level. (national/supernational level)

Devolution Rubric

Level	Measure $Devolution_1$ - positive	Measure $Devolution_2$ - negative
1	The decision is made at the lowest possible administrative level. (local level)	A decision made at the local level cannot be vetoed by any higher-level body.
2	The decision is made in between the local and national levels. (provincial/regional level)	A final veto decision is held at a regional level and cannot be vetoed by any higher level.
3	The decision is made at the highest possible administrative level. (national/supernational level)	A national/supernational entity can veto a decision.

Devolution – Example

Decision regarding change of use from unused land to farmland

	UK	France	Netherlands
Devolution	2	6	3
Diffusion			
Discretion			

Example

Decision regarding change of use from unused land to farmland

	UK	France	Netherlands
Devolution	2	6	3
Diffusion			
Discretion			

Assessment:
- In the UK, we expect decisions may vary from one location to another; stakeholders have local access to influence decision makers

- In France, we expect decisions about all localities to conform to traceable national/international standards

- In the Netherlands, we expect decisions about change of use to be contextually variable, within a defined range of potential decisions

REWRITE

The 3D Framework : Diffusion

Diffusion

What: *Number of decision makers.*

Why: A single decision maker is easier to identify and hold to account; multiple decision makers can affect efficiency and spread accountability confusingly.

Diffusion – How many have the power?

Conceptual definition:

Number of decision makers involved.

Research Question(s):

How many people/organizations contribute to the critical decision?

Operational definitions:

- **Diffusion$_1$:** the number of people/organizations involved in making the decision (positive).
- **Diffusion$_2$:** the number of people/organizations able to veto or overturn the decision (negative).

Diffusion

Level	Diffusion$_1$ - positive
1	One person makes the decision.
2	The decision is made in collaboration with multiple people who sit in exactly one organization.
3	The decision is made in collaboration with multiple people who sit in more than one organization.

Diffusion

Level	Diffusion$_1$ - positive	Diffusion$_2$ - negative
1	One person makes the decision.	Veto power rests with exactly one person.
2	The decision is made in collaboration with multiple people who sit in exactly one organization.	Veto power rests with one organization, in which multiple people could influence the decision.
3	The decision is made in collaboration with multiple people who sit in more than one organization.	Veto power rests with multiple people who sit in more than one organization.

Example

Decision regarding change of use from unused land to farmland

	UK	France	Netherlands
Devolution	2	6	3
Diffusion	5	6	3
Discretion			

Assessment:
- In the UK and France, we expect it to be difficult to discern who is responsible for decisions

- In the Netherlands, decision makers can be identified, though it may be possible for some decision makers to attribute responsibility to others, with no means of verifying those claims

REWRITE

The 3D Framework : Discretion

Discretion

What: *Amount of flexibility a decision maker has.*

Why: More flexible policies leave space to adapt to changing circumstances; more circumscribed policies eliminate personal responsibility and reduce effects of personal bias.

Discretion – How free is the power?

Conceptual definition:

Amount of flexibility held by decision maker

Research Question(s):

To what extent can a decision maker insert their own preferences, interests, or bias into a decision?

Operational definitions:

- **Discretion$_1$**: amount of flexibility or freedom the critical decision maker has.
- **Dicretion$_2$**: amount of flexibility or freedom the ultimate veto player has.

Discretion

Level	Discretion$_1$ - positive
1	The decision maker has highly circumscribed paths to enact decisions.
2	The decision maker has non-exclusive descriptions of deciding factors.
3	The decision maker has no restrictions on how/when decisions can be made.

Discretion

Level	Discretion$_1$ - positive	Discretion$_2$ - negative
1	The decision maker has highly circumscribed paths to enact decisions.	The ultimate veto power has clear directives on when veto is possible.
2	The decision maker has non-exclusive descriptions of deciding factors.	The ultimate power has a non-exclusive list of acceptable occasions when veto may be exercised.
3	The decision maker has no restrictions on how/when decisions can be made.	The ultimate power can exercise the veto under any circumstances.

Example

Decision regarding change of use from unused land to farmland

	UK	France	Netherlands
Devolution	2	6	3
Diffusion	5	6	3
Discretion	6	2	3

Assessment:
- In the UK, we would expect change of use decisions to vary greatly from one decision maker to another, and one location to another

- In France, we expect change of use decisions to be standardised and traceable to policy directives

- In the Netherlands, we expect change of use decisions to be guided by policy and informed by contextual differences

The Way Forward

- Policies have been collected
- Beginning with English-language documents
- Identify exactly which policies we want to score according to our rubrics.
- Solidify and validate rubrics.
- Code collected documents according to chosen rubrics.
- Test inter-rater reliability, revise rubrics if necessary.
- Score governance across our sites.

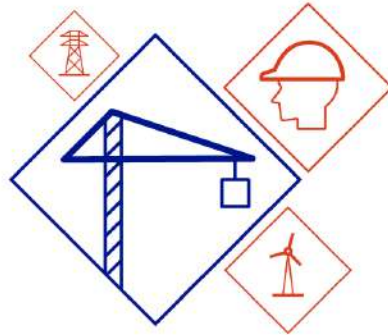**REWRITE**

Our structure

nationalgrid
In the UK

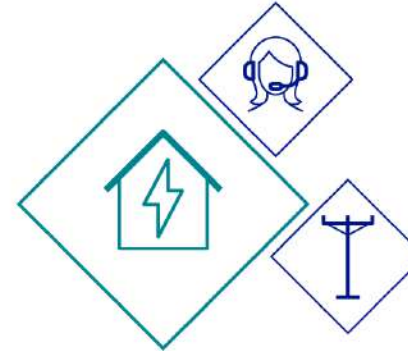**National Grid Electricity Transmission**
Owns and manages the high voltage electricity transmission system in England and Wales.

National Grid Strategic Infrastructure
Delivers major strategic UK electricity transmission projects, focused on connecting more clean, low-carbon power to England and Wales.

National Grid Electricity Distribution
Owns and operates the electricity distribution networks for the Midlands, the South West of England and South Wales.

National Grid Ventures
Operates and invests in large scale energy projects, technologies and partnerships to help accelerate the transition to clean energy. Ventures runs separately from National Grid's core regulated operations.
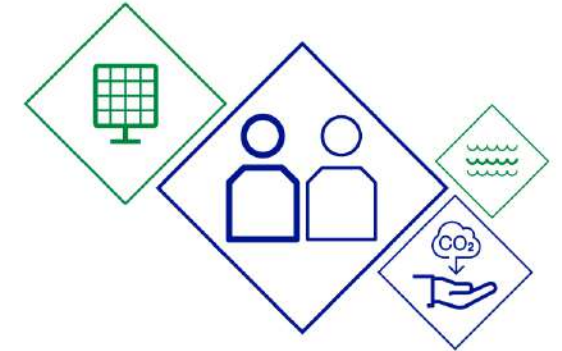
The Great Grid Upgrade
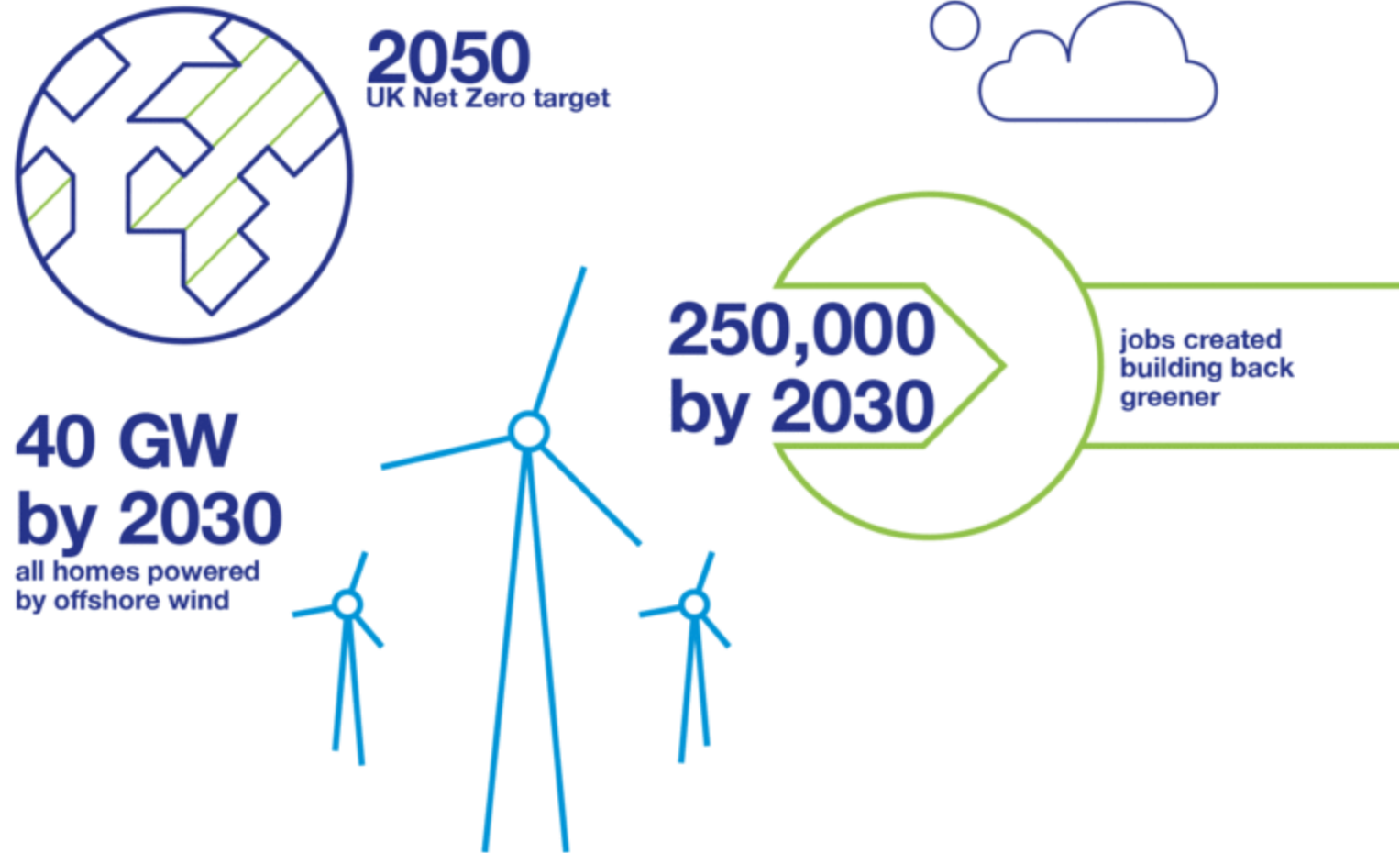
- The Great Grid Upgrade comprises **17 major infrastructure** (ASTI) projects that will both scale up the grid and update our existing networks.

- It will enable us to carry more clean, secure energy from where it's generated – like out in the North Sea by wind turbines – to where it's needed.

2050
UK Net Zero target

40 GW by 2030
all homes powered by offshore wind

250,000 by 2030

jobs created building back greener

Offshore ASTI projects

Legend:
- Eastern Green Link 1
- Eastern Green Link 2
- Eastern Green Link 3
- Eastern Green Link 4
- Eastern Green Link 5
- Sea Link
- England-Scotland maritime border
- Existing circuits
- Existing substations

EGL2
EGL3
EGL4
EGL1
EGL5
Sea Link

* Cable landfall in Scotland to be confirmed

nationalgrid

What are our aims?

To **improve the marine environment** in the areas where we are developing our projects

To develop **the knowledge, skills and infrastructure** to deliver strategic marine restoration outcomes in future

To work in **partnership with key stakeholders** to deliver marine restoration and enhancement benefits
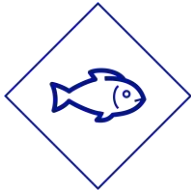
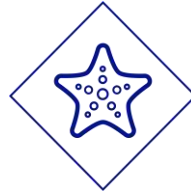To inspire, **educate and attract future generations** into this exciting and critical sector

Building a pioneering marine restoration action plan

Stakeholders

Delivery

Project Approaches

Action Plan
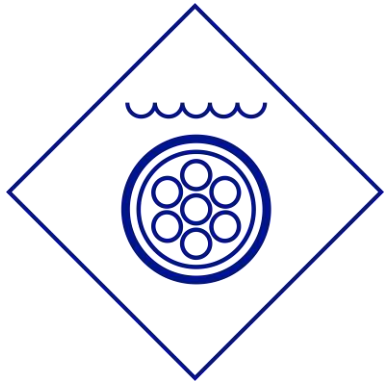
Funding

Restoration funding pathways

There are four potential routes for funding voluntary marine restoration to 2031.

Apply for uncommitted Sustainability Innovation or Social Value Funding from ASTI projects with consents granted (EGL 1, EGL 2) through a competitive bid submission.
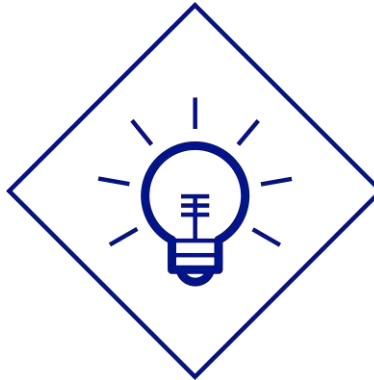
Ofgem Innovation Funding is available for research-focused projects in T3 (Network Innovation Allowance, NIA and the Strategic Innovation Fund, SIF) with academia.
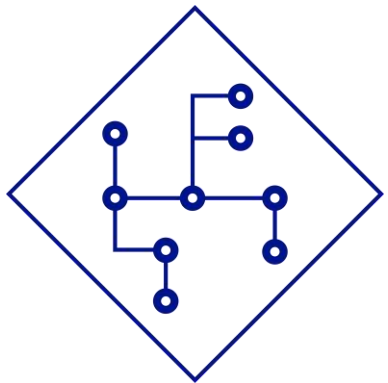
Ringfence Sustainability Funding for ASTI projects awaiting consent at project assessment stage, with Ofgem agreement (EGL3, EGL4, Sea Link, future projects).
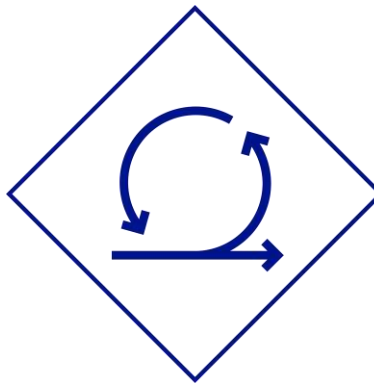
Funding for marine restoration through a RIIO-T3 Net Zero Reopener, if Ofgem agree if it is a suitable approach. Alternatively look to plan for RIIO-T4.

Potential Funding Windows

ASTI projects	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031

EGL1 — Social Value & Carbon Innovation Funds

Eastern Green Link 2 — Sustainability Innovation Fund

Sea Link — Sustainability Funding TBC

Eastern Green Link 3 — Sustainability Funding TBC

EGL4 — Sustainability Funding TBC

Eastern Green Link 5 — Sustainability Funding TBC

Ofgem Innovation Funding (NIA/SIF) — Network Infrastructure Allowance (NIA) and Strategic Innovation Funding (SIF)

Marine restoration project approaches

There are six categories of project we could fund through the delivery pathways:

Ocean Conservation Trust

1) Continuation of funding for existing projects

2) New active restoration projects

Econcrete

3) New enhancement projects

Ocean Conservation Trust

4) Restoration trials of new methods

Tees Rivers Trust

5) Support for scaling up & skills

6) Research & innovation

Restoration Delivery Pathway

Do nothing

Purchase credits

Open funding calls

Partnership Delivery

In-house Delivery

Funding Pathway

Bid into existing Sustainability Innovation Funding

Ringfence Sustainability Funding at Project Assessment

Apply for Ofgem Innovation Funding

RIIO-T3 Net Zero Reopener

Associated Projects/Funds

EGL1 — EASTERN GREEN LINK

Eastern Green Link 2

Eastern Green Link 3 — EGL4 EASTERN GREEN LINK

Eastern Green Link 5

Sea Link

RIIO-T3 Innovation Funds

Ofgem approval

Project Approach & associated RAG risk

(1) Continuation of funding for existing projects

(4) Restoration trials of new methods

(5) Support for scaling up & skills

(2) New restoration projects

(3) New enhancement projects

(4) Restoration trials of new methods

(5) Support for scaling up (SeaLink)

(6) Research and Innovation

(2) New restoration projects

(3) New enhancement projects

- Initial marine restoration projects for **EGL1 & EGL2** will be low risk and small scale.
- They will build expertise and infrastructure to support more ambitious future projects.

Next steps

- Summer 2025: Submit applications for marine restoration projects from EGL1 and EGL2 SIF funds.

- Autumn 2025: Identify projects ringfence funding for Sea Link, starting ~mid-2026

- December 2025: NIA Innovation Funding opens for bid submissions.

- Early 2026: Engage with Ofgem to ringfence EGL3 & EGL4 sustainability funding for marine restoration.

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