



# ReMeMaRe conference 2026

Restoring estuarine, marine & coastal habitats

## Outline Programme & call for abstracts



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# ReMeMaRe

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### Restoring Estuarine & Coastal Habitats



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# ReMeMaRe 2026

**We look forward to welcoming you to the Restoring Meadow Marsh and Reef Conference 2026 on 8-9th July. We return to Scarborough to unite restoration practitioners, government leaders, industry innovators, academia and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) under a single mission: the large-scale recovery of our coastal and marine environments.**

Join us to share knowledge, spark new partnerships, and grow the momentum and action to restore our estuaries and seas. The conference provides an energetic space to discuss and exchange knowledge with those at the forefront of the latest developments in coastal restoration science, practice and policy. We hope you will join us.

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# ReMeMaRe 2026

## About

**ReMeMaRe Restoring Meadow, Marsh and Reef (ReMeMaRe)** (pronounced “re-memory”), is an ambitious habitat restoration initiative, which aims to address baseline shift and reverse centuries of decline of three of our priority estuarine and coastal habitats: seagrass meadows, saltmarshes and European native oyster reefs. By restoring these precious estuarine and coastal ecosystems, we are enhancing society's connection to the natural world, whilst delivering Nature-based Solutions (NbS) that address issues such as climate change, loss of biodiversity, sustainable food, health and well-being, as well as the socio-economic benefits of recreation and tourism that can help to alleviate deprivation in coastal towns.

**Ocean and Coastal Futures** is on a mission to improve coastal and ocean management. We do this through convening, connecting and spreading knowledge. We are the home of OCF news, jobs and events, including the long-running Coastal Futures conference, which have been focal points for the UK ocean, coastal and water sectors for over three decades. Together with the Environment Agency, we have hosted the annual ocean restoration conference series since 2019.

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# Call for Abstracts

**Submission deadline: 17:00 GMT, 20 April, 2026**

We have a selection of individual themes which will be explored across our four focus habitats: seagrass, saltmarsh, native oysters, and kelp. We invite the submission of abstracts for both posters and talks that align with any of this year's themes, including the overarching crosscutting topics such as source to sea or seascape restoration.

Interwoven throughout this year's conference is a strong emphasis on the use of the arts as a communication tool—and the role creative practice can play in restoration projects, especially in raising awareness and engaging coastal communities.

As part of this focus, we're launching an arts competition to highlight how creativity can open doors and spark conversations about restoration. If you've used visual art, writing, or music to connect with people who might find scientific language a barrier, we want to see your work. Share any examples where you've helped bring the story of meadows, marshes, or reefs to new audiences through the arts. We'll provide details on how to submit your entry soon.

## 2026 Themes

1. Restoration in Action
2. Policy in Practice: Enabling Scaled-Up Restoration
3. Accelerating Restoration Through Industry: Innovation and Investment
4. Ecosystem Services in Focus: From Evidence to Action
5. Future-Proofing Restoration: Designing for climate resilience and sustained protection

[Submit Abstract](#)

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# Outline themes

## 1 - Restoration in Action

Restoration in Action highlights practical experiences and lessons learned from hands on restoration projects across the UK and beyond. This theme brings forward case studies that demonstrate restoration in practice, highlighting innovative approaches within individual habitats as well as projects working across the wider seascape or spanning multiple habitats. It will share valuable insights and best practices from throughout a project lifecycle, from site selection to delivery, to inspire and guide future restoration endeavours.

## 2 - Policy in Practice: Enabling Scaled - Up Restoration

Regularly identified as one of the main hurdles to restoration project delivery, this session theme takes a deep dive into the current policy and regulation landscape across the UK. We will take a close look at current frameworks across the UK, examining where new policies and regulations are genuinely enabling progress and helping to unlock the scale of restoration required. We particularly invite work that compares different approaches, encouraging reflection, shared learning, and momentum for positive change.

## 3 - Accelerating Restoration Through Industry: Innovation and Investment

Marine industries offer unique opportunities for strategic restoration planning and delivery at scale. This theme brings an industry perspective to restoration, and exploring how sectors such as offshore wind, ports and navigation, as well as fisheries and aquaculture, are contributing to blue growth through mechanisms such as compensation and biodiversity net gain. It will highlight innovative collaborations that are enabling positive action to take place alongside day-to-day operations, while also balancing the needs of other coastal users. Together, these examples demonstrate how industry can play a pivotal role in driving forward effective, sustainable marine restoration.

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## Outline themes

### **4 - Ecosystem Services in Focus: From Evidence to Action**

Understanding the benefits and services provided by our marine habitats is essential evidence to attract investment, reduce uncertainty, and communicate future change with local communities. Understanding ecosystem services is no longer just a scientific exercise; it's the essential evidence needed to give funders confidence that their investment returns measurable benefits for people and wildlife. This theme explores the latest science and evidence documenting the key ecosystem services delivered by estuarine and coastal habitats. Focus will be given to how this evidence can inform restoration design, innovative monitoring methods and standards (including financial markets) and how data can be translated into meaningful information. From funding projects, tracking progress, and identifying the research gaps we must fill, we'll examine how to turn the latest evidence into a roadmap for recovery.

### **5- Future-Proofing Restoration: Designing for climate resilience and sustained protection**

This session explores the different measures needed to ensure the restoration efforts remain protected and resilient in the years ahead. We'll dive into the dual toolkit of formal protection using legislation, byelaws, and regulatory tools and adaptive design restoration planning. How do we locate and build habitats that don't just survive today, but thrive in the environment of 2050 and beyond?

Hear from the experts on the frontlines about safeguarding habitats from harmful activities while balancing the needs of other coastal users. Join us to discover how to move from active delivery to long-term resilience, ensuring our restoration efforts become a lasting legacy for our UK marine ecosystem and coastal communities.

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# Key deadlines for abstracts

## **Presentations (deadline for abstract 17:00 GMT, 20 April, 2026)**

If you would like to give a presentation at the conference which relate to any of the themes, please complete the abstract template via the link below.\*

## **Posters (deadline for abstract 17:00 GMT, 20 April, 2026)**

We would encourage anyone to submit a poster abstract which fits within our session themes, especially those within early career/research roles. If you only wish to submit one abstract, please complete the abstract template via the link below.\*

\*If you wish to submit more than one abstract - or are submitting multiple abstracts for an organisation - please email the abstracts direct to **conference@coastms.co.uk**, rather than utilising the link above.

Posters will be displayed at the venue throughout the event for people to view and discuss with presenters to help generate further ideas, collaborations and partnerships. There will be a reception for delegates on the first day of the conference to further stimulate the creative process. Speakers and poster presenters will be informed of the outcome of their submission in May.

[Submit an abstract](#)

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# ReMeMaRe 2026

## Venue

The conference will once again take place next to the waves, overlooking the beach, at the historic Scarborough Spa. A reception for delegates at the end of the first day will allow an opportunity for informal and lively discussions, as well as a chance to meet with old and new colleagues.

Throughout the two days, you will also have the chance to meet our sponsors and view the posters on display. The town is served by regular trains running between London & Edinburgh, changing at York, and lines from Birmingham, Manchester and the South West.

Scarborough Spa, South Bay, Scarborough, North Yorkshire, YO11 2HD.  
View the location [here](#).

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