



ReMeMaRe conference 2026

Restoring estuarine, marine & coastal habitats

Programme



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ReMeMaRe

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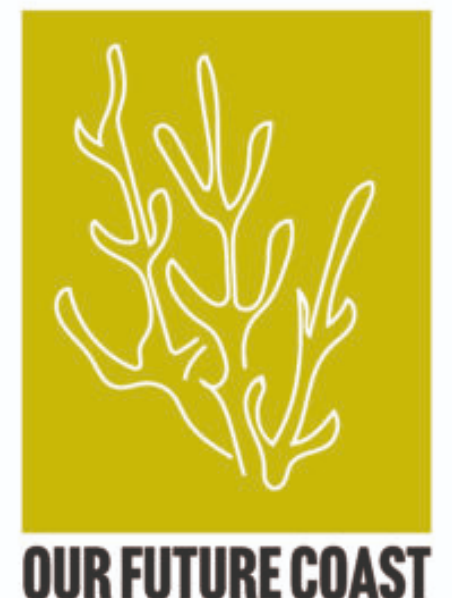


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ReMeMaRe 2026

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 online or in person 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.

[Buy tickets](#)

Your safety and comfort matter to us. If anything is giving you pause about joining us in person, please get in touch and we'll be happy to talk it through or explore what support we can offer - francesca@coastms.co.uk

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ReMeMaRe

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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Day 1 - Wednesday 8th July 2026: Session 1

8:30 **Registration opens**

10:00 **Welcome** The Environment Agency

Tony Juniper, Chair, Natural England

Followed by a conversation with:

Keynote

Caroline Price, Head of Environment & Nature (Marine), The Crown Estate

Jenni Balmer, Deputy Director for Nature Recovery, The Environment Agency

POLICY IN PRACTICE: ENABLING SCALED-UP RESTORATION

Regularly identified as one of the main hurdles to restoration project delivery, this session takes a deep dive into the current policy and regulation landscape across the UK. Speakers 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.

Chair: **Eve Leegwater**, Senior Advisor in the National Estuaries and Coasts Team: The Environment Agency

- **Fern Skeldon**, Marine Management Organisation; Supporting NBS through ways of working in Marine Licensing
- **Ness Smith**, Our Future Coast/Ness Smith Marine Consulting; Navigating the challenges of abandoned boats in tidal estuaries
- **Tara Hooper**, Natural England; Exploring options for strategic, spatial marine recovery planning at local scales
- **Matt Uttley**, Blue Marine Foundation; Coastal Comeback: Overcoming Policy Challenges to Restoration at Scale
- **Kerry Holbrook**, Cornwall Council; Fal Rivers to Reef: Nature Recovery from Source to Sea

Please note that all timings are subject to change

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Day 1 - Wednesday 8th July 2026: Session 2

Lunch

Presentation

Alexandra Bulgakova, Marine Conservation Society; Building Regenerative Seascapes with Communities: Early lessons from the Atlantic Coast Programme

RESTORATION IN ACTION

Highlighting practical experiences and lessons learned from hands on restoration projects across the UK and beyond, this session 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.

Chair: **Alison Debney**, Conservation Lead for UK Nature Recovery: Zoological Society of London

- **Milo Oliver**, Mossy Earth; Wilder Firths: Large-scale intertidal seagrass restoration in Scotland
- **Femke van Toor**, Oyster Heaven; Working Towards Scalable Restoration: Experiences from the Field
- **Thea Cox**, Zoological Society of London; Transforming the Thames: Planning and Delivery of a Seascape Recovery Project
- **Jenny Wright**, Solway Firth Partnership and Barbara Seel, RSPB; Scaling Saltmarsh Reinforcement in Dumfries & Galloway: A Collaborative SCAMP Approach
- **Jess Sennett-Seale**, Ulster Wildlife; Native oyster restoration in Northern Ireland, working towards ecosystem-scale restoration.

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Day 1 - Wednesday 8th July 2026: Session 3

Refreshment break

THE ARTS AS A TOOL FOR MARINE RESTORATION

Chair: **Penny Nelson**, The Environment Agency

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.

By showcasing and celebrating some of these examples across the two day conference, ReMeMaRe 2026 aims to highlight how creativity can open doors, spark conversations and connect with different audiences.

Further details to be announced

Closing remarks

17:30 Reception and poster exhibition

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Day 2 - Thursday 9th July 2026: Session 4

8:00 **Registration opens**

9:00 **Welcome** The Environment Agency

ACCELERATING RESTORATION THROUGH INDUSTRY: INNOVATION AND INVESTMENT

Marine industries offer unique opportunities for strategic restoration planning and delivery at scale. Bringing an industry perspective to restoration, this session explores how sectors such as offshore wind, ports and navigation, as well as fisheries and aquaculture, can play a pivotal role in driving forward effective, sustainable marine restoration.

Chair: **Jennifer Godwin**, CEO: Seabed User Developer Group (SUDG)

- **Jim Warner**, Harwich Haven Authority; Ports and Habitat Restoration (where coastal dreams and reality meet)
- **Audrey Jones**, Howell Marine Consulting; Developing a fund to help fast track Marine Nature Recovery
- **Peter Barham**, Seabed Users and Developers Group; Marine Net Gain - a template for delivering real restoration through partnership
- **Jacques Villemot**, Rewilding Britain; Harnessing offshore wind to enable rewilding in practice
- **Frits van den Boogaard**, Royal Smals - Smals Dredging UK Ltd; Saltmarsh Restoration Langstone Harbour; the Next Step
- **Samir Whitaker**, Ørsted - Delivering towards strategic nature targets through offshore wind

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Day 2 - Thursday 9th July 2026: Session 5

Refreshment break

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. This session will spotlight on the latest science and evidence documenting the key ecosystem services delivered by estuarine and coastal habitats, examining how to turn the latest evidence into a roadmap for recovery.

Chair: Bill Sanderson, Professor of Marine Biodiversity, Heriot-Watt University

- **Charlotte Worrall**, University of Essex; Seasonal variability in CO₂ and CH₄ fluxes for a restored saltmarsh chronosequence
- **Naomi Kennon**, Heriot-Watt University; Oysters at Work: How Europe's Reef Engineers Shape Species Diversity
- **Anita Franco**, International Estuarine and Coastal Specialists Ltd, UK; Harnessing Inshore Fish Data for Natural Capital Valuation: Maintaining and Restoring Ecology
- **Louise Martin**, Natural England; Wrecks, Reefs, and Nature Recovery: Exploring the Natural Capital Value of Marine Heritage
- **Nigel Pontee**, Jacobs; Unlocking Managed Realignment: Practical Funding Pathways for SMP Policy Delivery

Lunch

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Day 2 - Thursday 9th July 2026: Session 6

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?

Chair: Maija Marsh, Marine Ecology Principal Specialist: Natural England

- **Oli Burns**, Environment Agency; Making the most of our changing coast: Applying geomorphology to optimise coastal habitat restoration
- **Edmund McManus**, The Crown Estate; The Crown Estate: Strategic Opportunities Map
- **James Tempest**, Moffatt & Nichol; No Room to Retreat: Where are UK saltmarshes most vulnerable to sea level rise and alternative restoration pathways
- **Bill Sanderson**, Heriot-Watt University; Shifting shellfish goalposts: restoration with a 'window on the past' and a 'window on the future'
- **Joanne Preston**, University of Portsmouth; Prioritising waterbodies in England for Native Oyster (*Ostrea edulis*) restoration

15:15 **Conference close**

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Posters

Abstract #	Name	Surname	Organisation	Title
1	Gemma	Smith	International Estuarine and Coastal Specialists Ltd.	Marine Environments as Shared Social-Ecological Systems: A Case Study of Seagrass Restoration in the Tuscan Archipelago
2	Laura	Robinson	SeaGrown Limited / University of York	Ecosystem Services in Action: Seaweed and Shellfish for Coastal Water Quality Recovery
3	Jane	Pettitt	Historic England	Introducing the new ReMeMaRe Heritage Group
4	Kerr	Jeferies	Algapelago	Proving the scalability of ocean regeneration with Blue Forests
5	Lucas	Mignien	INRAE, UR EABX, Centre de Bordeaux	An Interactive Knowledge Explorer to Support Coastal Restoration Learning and Decision-Making
6	Lucy	Stainthorpe	The Environment Agency	Flux Tower Network for Quantifying Saltmarsh Greenhouse Gas Flux
7	Matt	Machouki	Groundwork North East	B.E.A.C.H.Esk project (Better Estuaries & Coastal Habitats) - Improving water quality and habitat in the River Esk
8	Monika	Smieja	Yorkshire Wildlife Trust	Future-Proofing Oyster Restoration: Spat-on-Shell as a Resilient Approach in a Dynamic Estuary
9	Carl	Green	Our Future Coast - Wyre Council	Fleetwood Beneficial Use of Dredged Material Trial

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Abstract #	Name	Surname	Organisation	Title
10	Alison	Debney	Zoological Society of London	Roadmap to scaling up <i>Ostrea edulis</i> hatchery production in Europe
11	Alasdair	O'Dell	Scottish Association for Marine Science	Higher germination rates and extended growth of cotyledons in <i>Zostera marina</i> nursery trials
12	Jemima	Wong	Orsted	Restoration of Saltmarsh using Biodegradable Elements for Starting Ecosystems
13	Luke	Jackson	Durham University	Saltmarsh sensitivity to short-term sedimentation rates and multi-annual sea-level change: using a high-resolution database to assess future marsh resilience.
14	Maria	Hayden-Hughes	Bangor University	Insights and results from the Connecting Conwy project: assessing the potential for seascape-scale recovery in North Wales
15	Alex	Croasdell	Director	In-situ Seagrass Seed Processing for Scalable Restoration
16	Tafara	Gomba	Newcastle University	Building a Digital Twin of the Tees Estuary to evaluate the resilience of nature-based solutions for nutrient (N & P) capture
17	Tori	Moore	Ulster Wildlife	Coastal Monitoring and Adaptation Planning (CMAP)
18	Martha	McKee	Queen's University Belfast	Back from the brink: Restoring the native European oyster in modified water bodies

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Posters

Abstract #	First	Surname	Organisation	Title
19	Oscar	Brown	Environment agency	Tees Tidelands: Future Proofing an Industrial Estuary Through Nature Led Design.
20	Rhys	Bowen	Project Seagrass and North Wales Wildlife Trust	Developing a tiered citizen science framework for seagrass monitoring in Wales.
21	Adam	Rounce	Tees Rivers Trust	Mussel Restoration Network: raising the national profile of mussel restoration
22	Rachael	Collins	Collaborative Environmental Advisers (CEA)	Increasing restoration possibilities for compensation by overcoming consenting barriers
23	Cecilia	Laverty	Athena Blue	Investment for Seagrass Recovery: Exploring viable pathways to finance seagrass restoration in Wales
24	Ben	Green	National Grid	AMPERES: Automating Marine Plant Ecosystem Restoration for Energy Supply.

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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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Spotlight on Scarborough

Concrete Coast and the North–South Bay shoreline

Just moments from the conference, Scarborough’s coastline offers an inspiring way to experience marine nature up close. The Concrete Coast project in North Bay, near the Sea Life Centre, showcases how coastal structures can be designed to support marine life and strengthen resilience. Delegates can take a leisurely walk between South Bay and North Bay, enjoying ever-changing sea views, rock pooling spots, and opportunities to see seabirds, porpoises, or even dolphins. For a more relaxed option, an open-top bus connects the two bays. Whether on foot or by bus, this route brings together science, design, and the everyday beauty of the Yorkshire coast.

Harbour, heritage, and living marine culture

Scarborough Harbour invites you to explore where past and present meet by the sea. A stroll through the harbour and old town reveals stories of the town’s rich maritime heritage, including its ‘tunny’ fishing past, alongside the rhythms of a busy modern coastline. Wildlife is an ever-present part of the experience, from kittiwakes nesting on Spa Bridge to seasonal sightings of dolphins offshore. Along the way, visitors can discover creative and cultural highlights, including the Rotunda Museum and coastal artworks such as the Sea Oak sculpture. It is an ideal place to experience how community, heritage, and marine life continue to shape one another.

Flamborough Head and Bempton Cliffs

For those with time to explore further afield, Flamborough Head and Bempton Cliffs offer an unforgettable coastal escape. Just a short journey from Scarborough, this dramatic stretch of chalk cliffs is home to thriving seabird colonies, with gannets, puffins, and kittiwakes gathering in spectacular numbers. Well-marked walking routes along the cliff tops provide sweeping views of the North Sea and a chance to experience this remarkable landscape at your own pace. It is a powerful reminder of the importance of protecting our coastal environments, and a memorable addition to any visit to the region.

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