



ReMeMaRe conference 2026

Restoring estuarine, marine & coastal habitats

Programme



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8 & 9 July 2026 | Scarborough Spa, England & Online



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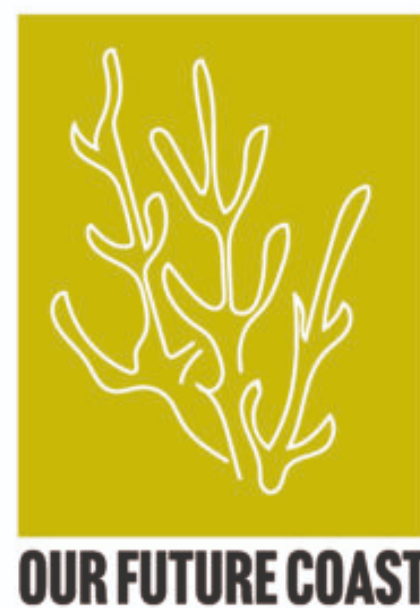


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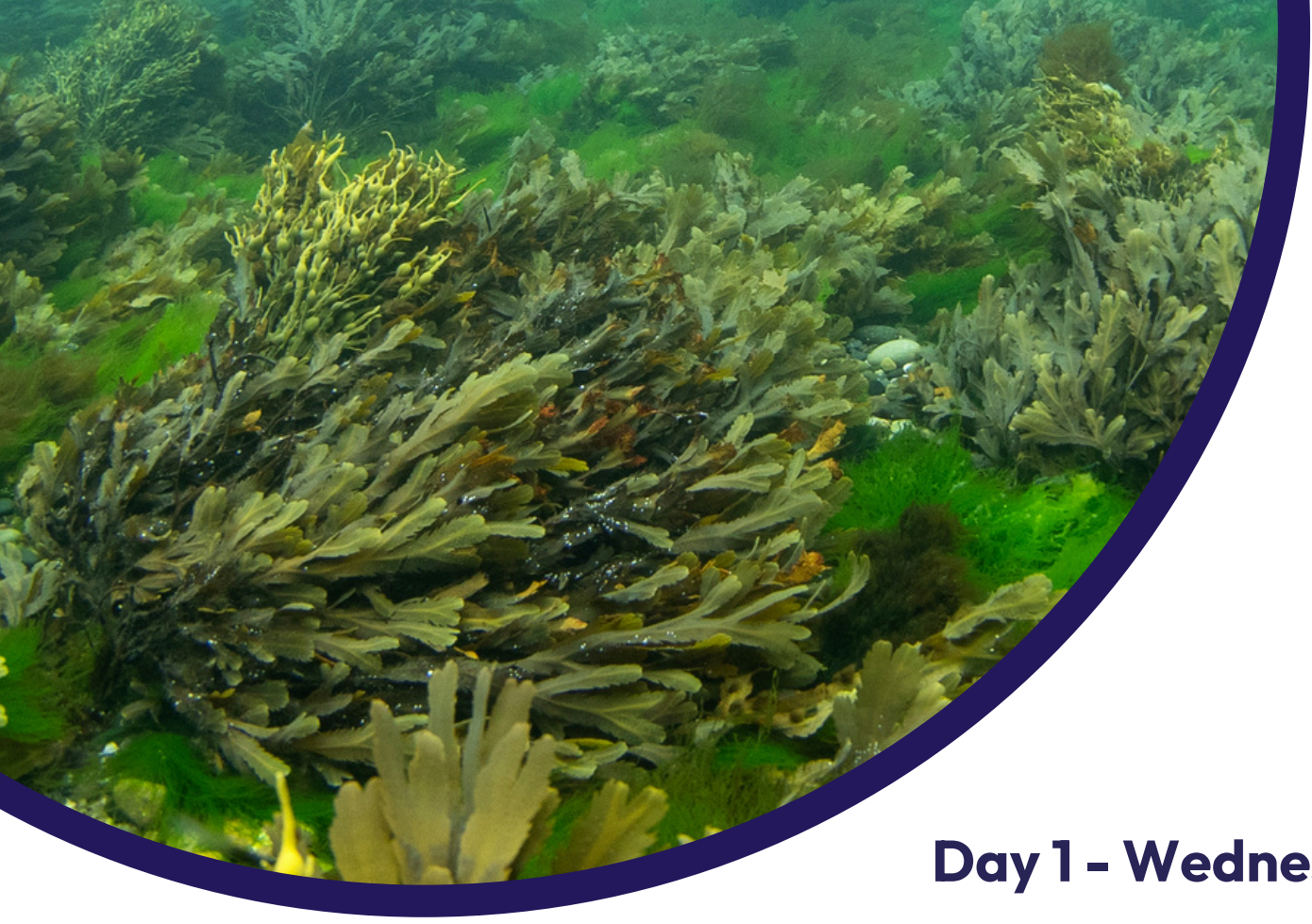
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Day 1 - Wednesday 8th July 2026: Session 1

8:30	Registration opens	
10:00	Welcome	Roger Proudfoot , Head of Estuaries and CoastThe Environment Agency
		Professor Clare Fitzsimmons , co-chair of Natural England’s Science Advisory Committee (NESAC)
10:10	Video address & panel discussion	Followed by a conversation with: 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.

10:55	Chair: Eve Leegwater , Senior Advisor in the National Estuaries and Coasts Team: The Environment Agency
	• Matt Uttley, Blue Marine Foundation; Coastal Comeback: Overcoming Policy Challenges to Restoration at Scale • Ness Smith, Our Future Coast/Ness Smith Marine Consulting; Navigating the challenges of abandoned boats in tidal estuaries • Fern Skeldon, Marine Management Organisation; Supporting NBS through ways of working in Marine Licensing • Tara Hooper, Natural England; Exploring options for strategic, spatial marine recovery planning at local scales • Kerry Holbrook, Cornwall Council; Fal Rivers to Reef: Nature Recovery from Source to Sea

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Day 1 - Wednesday 8th July 2026: Session 2

12:20 **Lunch**

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

13:30

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

15:10 **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.

15:45

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.

Live showcase featuring; music, short films, dance performances and more.

Panel discussion:

- **Simon Read**, Deben Estuary Partnership
- **Heather Davison-Smith**, Yorkshire Marine Nature Partnership
- **Angus Garbutt**, UK Centre for Ecology & Hydrology
- **Rhianna Parry**, Bangor University

Closing remarks

17:30 Reception with poster and arts 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)

- 9:10
- **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

10:40 **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

- 11:10
- **Charlotte Worrall**, University of Essex; Seasonal variability in CO₂ and CH₄ fluxes for a restored saltmarsh chronosequence
 - **Laura Robinson**, Seagrown: Title TBC
 - **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

12:35 **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

13:30

- **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

15:00 **Closing remarks**

15:15 **Conference close**

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