

HURST SPIT TO LYMINGTON

PROJECT NEWSLETTER



Edition 1, March 2021

WELCOME

Welcome to the first edition of the Hurst Spit to Lymington Project e-newsletter.

The Hurst Spit to Lymington Project is seeking to explore a sustainable future for the coastline between Hurst Spit and the town of Lymington.

Climate change, rising sea levels and heavier rainfall threaten our coastlines, rivers and the people and wildlife that live alongside them. The recent impacts on Hurst Castle, although not the responsibility of the current project partners, are a timely reminder of the challenges facing this coastline.



The Environment Agency is working with New Forest District Council, Hampshire County Council, Natural England, engineers JBA Consulting and a number of local groups and partners on the project. We are assessing the risk and seeking opportunities to work with natural processes, so we can continue enjoying this environment now and in the future.

The project is in its early stages and is likely to be around 10 years before any works on the ground take place. One of the key challenges will be to source funding and investment into the project and without this there is a risk the project will go no further.

The aim is to try and create a future for this coastline that is acceptable to as many people as possible, whilst recognising that, at times, challenging decisions are likely to be required. We wish to keep you updated as the project progresses and work with you through engagement and consultation to help build a legacy we can all be proud of.

PROJECT VISION

The project team have been working with local stakeholders to create a project vision.

The project vision is:

A sustainable future for the Hurst Spit to Lymington frontage up to 2130.

Enabling communities, the environment, wildlife, heritage, recreation, tourism and business to adapt to climate change and sea level rise.

CURRENT WORK AND NEXT STEPS

The key to dealing with any challenge is to first understand the problem in detail.

We have been collecting data and analysing past records to fully understand the issues facing this stretch of coastline. This includes investigating the impacts that climate change will have on people, property and the local environment.

We have also been engaging with local stakeholders to understand what concerns they have about the future and what they value about this coastline. We have established a Stakeholder Advisory Group made up of professional partners, landowners and local community groups to help us have more detailed conversations about some of these topics.

Having developed a robust evidence base, identifying the problems facing the frontage, we have begun to look at how these issues may be managed. This includes looking at all possible options from “Do Nothing” right through to building higher walls or working with natural process and allowing sections to roll back naturally. The length of this coastline and its geographical uniqueness does make this a challenging project. It is likely that a suite of options will be required rather than a single option applied in all locations.

The next step will be to evaluate these initial high level options, considering how suitable they may be. This work will also assess what potential negative impacts may be associated with any option. Over the coming months, we will not be in a position to identify the final suite of options but will have a greater understanding for options that may or may not work. This work will help form a business case which will be put forward to secure Government funding for the next stage of the project. If we are successful with this we still have a number of years of technical work, planning, seeking investment and public engagement and consultation ahead of us before anything can be built.





Hurst Spit to Lymington PROJECT

NEW PROJECT VIDEO

A YouTube video has been produced to help introduce the project to wider audiences, including local schools. If you have suggestions of who might like to view it, please let us know, or forward the link directly.

To view the video please click on the following link

[Hurst Spit to Lymington project - YouTube](#)

HOW TO GET UPDATES?

We do have a project website which we will update as the project develops, so please check this out via <https://bit.ly/36FJY8b>.

You can also sign up to our distribution list through following the link on the website or through emailing us at:

Hurstspit2lymington@environment-agency.gov.uk

Alternatively, you can write to the Environment Agency at:
Environment Agency, Romsey Office, Canal Walk, Romsey,
SO51 7LP

or call us on 03708 506 506



BIRD SURVEYS

You may have seen our surveyors out and about over the last few months, undertaking wintering and migratory bird surveys. The marshes, lagoons, grazing marshes along the frontage provide a winter shelter to a large and diverse number of wading and wildfowl species. Survey highlights have included the spoonbills that arrived in Normandy Lagoon in February and a whimbrel in Keyhaven Marshes in March as well as the resident kingfishers, peregrine falcon and marsh harriers which were viewed on almost every survey. Whilst at times overwhelmed by the sheer number of birds to record and map, these surveys have been a winter highlight for each surveyor and a welcome break during lockdown! We will soon start to survey the breeding birds so you may see us out and about once again.

ONLINE QUESTIONNAIRE

Since January we have had a live online questionnaire to gather the concerns and values of the local community, as well as those who visit the area. The questionnaire remains available until end of April, therefore if you would still like to contribute please follow the link below.

<https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/HurstSpit2Lymington/>

MEET THE TEAM

Tony Haffenden

Tony is the Environment Agency Project Manager and is responsible for the day-to-day management of the project; planning upcoming work, managing budgets and controlling quality. Tony has spent the last four years managing a range of projects in Hampshire and Sussex for the Environment Agency including Shoreham Adur Tidal Walls and the Romsey Flood Alleviation Scheme. Outside of work, Tony enjoys getting out in the fresh air, playing golf and surfing when time (and conditions!) allow for it.

