

HURST SPIT TO LYMINGTON

STRATEGY NEWSLETTER



MARCH - 2022 - ISSUE #2

Welcome

Since our last edition in [March 2021](#), we have been continuing work on the **Hurst Spit to Lymington Strategy**. The former project has now evolved into a strategy to better adapt with some of the key elements identified early on, including defences requiring work at different points in time within the next 100-years. The Strategy will continue to investigate how to respond to the significant challenges facing this area of coastline now and in the future. It will outline a programme of future projects whilst also providing the high levels justification for that future work.

As our work develops, we have identified the need to work collaboratively with the Christchurch Bay and Harbour Strategy, which borders our Strategy area to the west. The two strategies are linked by Hurst Spit, an important coastal feature and landmark of the area. By working collaboratively, Hurst Spit can be fully integrated into both strategies. You can read more about this joint working [here](#).

The aim is to complete the Hurst Spit to Lymington Strategy by summer 2024. During this time there will be key milestones where we will wish to consult with the wider community and interested stakeholders. This will be a chance for others to view, comment and input into the options for the various sections of coastline. This opportunity to contribute will be via several routes including face to face workshops, drop in exhibitions and online consultations. We look forward to welcoming you to these sessions and speaking to you about the Strategy work. The first of these engagement sessions will be later this year where we will introduce the short list of options.



Next Steps



Launch new website to help support ongoing communications and engagement.



Begin environmental baseline that will inform the Strategic Environmental Assessment.



Establish the 'Do nothing' scenario which looks at what would happen if no further work was to take place including future maintenance.



Review options against the 'Do nothing' baseline.



Consult with stakeholders on short list of options for each management unit

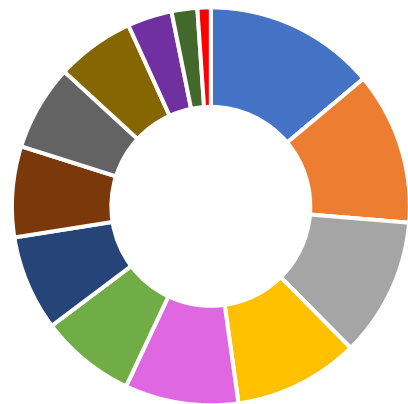
Questionnaire Results

Thank you to everyone that participated. We received a total of 766 responses!

In the last issue we asked you to complete an online questionnaire. The feedback we received will help inform the Strategy going forward, as it provided great insight into what you value and are concerned about at this coastline. Some highlights of the results are below but if you would like to see more detail, please view a full summary [here](#).

- **78% of residents and 76% of visitors stated a loss or impact to wildlife as their greatest concern.**
- **74% of organisations stated flood risk and sea level rise (respectively) as their greatest concern.**
- **44% of respondents support engineered management, however access to the coast was raised as an associated concern.**
- **68.7% of respondents valued wildlife with 45.6% highlighting Hurst Castle.**

What do you value about this coastline?



- Wildlife
- Habitats
- Hurst Castle
- Landscape views
- Access to the water
- Local rivers
- Other
- Access along the coast
- Hurst Spit
- The Sea
- The lagoons
- Open Space
- Community and businesses



Meet the Strategy team



My name is Rhian Edwards and I am the Environment Agency (EA) lead for the Strategy. I am originally from Cardiff but have lived on the South Coast since going to university in Southampton back in 2002. I have been with the EA nearly 10 years and enjoy being part of an organisation that truly wants to make a

positive difference to the environment around us. With regards to the Hurst Spit to Lymington Strategy I am responsible for ensuring that the communities that are involved have their voices heard. I work closely with those communities, EA internal teams, external stakeholders, and project partners to pull all the views together to ensure a positive result at the end.

In my spare time I enjoy various gym classes, crafting and cheering on the Welsh rugby team... C'mon Cymru! Some of the most exciting things I've ever done were snorkelling with whale sharks off the west coast of Australia and my parachute jump over Franz Josef glacier in New Zealand.



New Forest Show

This year we will have a stand at the New Forest & Hampshire County Show 26 to 28 July and it would be great to see some of you there. Please feel free to drop by to say hello and learn more about the Strategy as well as wider Environment Agency work.

For More Information

Check out our [Hurst Spit to Lymington Strategy information page](#) for updates. If you would like to sign up to our distribution list and receive strategy updates, please email us via the following email address:

Hurstspit2lymington@environment-agency.gov.uk

Alternatively, you can write to the Environment Agency, Romsey Office, Canal Walk, SO51 7LP or call us on 03708 506 506

To make sure you are prepared for a flood:

- 1) Find out if your property is at risk www.gov.uk/check-flooding
- 2) Sign up to receive free flood warnings www.gov.uk/sign-up-for-flood-warnings
- 3) Create a personal flood plan by clicking [here](#) to find out how you can prepare ahead of flooding, or by calling Floodline on 0345 988 1188

Hurst Spit Expert Panel

Hurst Spit is a key feature of the Strategy, and it is essential that we understand the potential change to the spit over time. To support this, we commissioned an independent panel of experts to review the potential evolution of Hurst Spit if beach management and maintenance was stopped. This is an essential first step as it forms the baseline from which assessments of the various options can be made. The expert panel consisted of academics and consultants with extensive experience of working in the field of evolving natural environments.

The panel were tasked with answering 'What is the range and most likely future development of Hurst Spit over the next 10, 50 and 100 years if maintenance and recharge are withdrawn now?'. The expert panel were asked to review a range of different data sets and provide predictions of the potential changes. A meeting was held to discuss and agree the position of the panel. A non-technical summary of the outputs from the panel discussion can be found [here](#).

It is important to note that the Strategy will not be based upon outputs of this piece of work alone but will be combined with input from local expertise as well as further analysis to support any decisions made. The predictions and opinion presented in this report do not reflect the position of the strategy team, which is still to be determined.

Strategy Management Units

To support with developing and consulting on future options, we have broken the coastline into smaller sections known as management units. These can be seen on the map below.

