

SOLENT FORUM UPDATE ON NEG AWARDED PROJECTS UPDATE

Both projects below were awarded March 2020 and delayed due to Covid

Using height markers on lamp columns to raise flood awareness and encourage climate action in Portsmouth Portsmouth City Council

The majority of the design phase work for the project has been completed. We have created a [map](#) showing over 150 potential locations to affix the stickers to lampposts. The height of each sticker (0.25m, 1m, 2m or 3m off the ground) has also been calculated based on 3m of flood water, which reflects a 1 in 200 year flood event. A mock [design](#) of the stickers has been created ready for printing onto weather resistant stickers. Due to the impact of the pandemic we have invested more time in creating a [website](#) and [climate risk document](#). This will provide more context around the threat of flooding and impact of climate change. Residents, should therefore be more receptive to the messaging and campaign. The installation date for the stickers has been revised due to the lockdown restrictions. We have an approximate launch aimed for the end of June; although this could be changed to align with the national COP26 event in early November. The COP26 launch would align with other events planned in the area, and also allow more leeway should further lockdown restrictions be implemented.

Salt marsh passive regrowth promotion – Lands End, Old Bursledon. AQASS partnering with SAND Geophysics

The project has begun and will take approximately 12 months. Drone flights every 3 months, hopefully quick walkover ecological survey every month, aiming to end say March 2022.

The aim being to passively assist sediment accretion and marsh pioneer species recolonisation. Following a drone flight in June 2020 from which spatial data analysis of the marsh morphology was undertaken using photogrammetry techniques, a formal baseline drone survey flight was undertaken in March 21. From this initial drone flight, Natural England have allowed further 3 monthly follow up flights from which we can look at spatial / temporal change in pioneer marsh species (*Spartina* / *Salicornia*) as the structures put in place have effect on sediment retention.

Structures comprise coir fibre rolls held in place with chestnut posts and hessian roping, all used to enable degradation over time. Further to this, hessian sacking with brushwood is employed to create within creek structures designed to facilitate localised sediment accretion, in addition to the coir rolls partial blocking of the creek entrance. The creek is being targeted as its erosion will result in a major area of the lower marsh being cut off from the land, and will likely exacerbate further erosion / loss which appears to be a combination of algal smothering (noted in the June 2020 flight), sea level rise, and possibly vessel wash, though the main channel is some distance away.

From the initial placement, spatial and temporal drone surveys, and ground-truthing, will aim to assess sediment action, pioneer species establishment (or otherwise) and marsh health as smothering algae is hopefully kept back from developing pioneer marsh.