

Natural Environment Group

Summer Newsletter 2024



The Forum have been progressing NEG project work throughout 2024, and we look forward to updating you at the next on-line NEG meeting scheduled for 20th November 2024.

NEG Funded Projects

Each year NEG provides up to £4,000 in awards to projects that seek to improve environmental outcomes in the Solent.

Projects Funded for 2024/25:

- Exploring and recording the underwater habitats of Langstone and Chichester Harbours (Portunus)
- When is a wading bird not a wading bird? The case of the European Starling (UoP)

Updates will be provided at the next NEG meeting.

NEG Meeting

The next NEG meeting will be held on **20th November 2024**, an agenda and paper will be sent out in October.

The agenda this year will include an update on Solent Marine Sites actions for NEG; an update on NEG funded projects; an update on the Solent Seascape Project: Recovery workstream; and presentations on several subjects.

Please let Karen know of any projects you would like to present.

SEMS Actions to NEG

We have been working on the SEMS actions set for NEG in 2023; a full report will be presented at the NEG November 2024 meeting. Ongoing work is as follows:

- Solent Forum (NEG Secretariat) continues to chair the Solent Recovery working group which is producing the Solent Recovery Plan and a data portal to map pressures and habitats.
- Littering and especially plastics - [Clean Solent Shores and Seas \(CSSS\)](#) continues to signpost resources on littering and many other water quality issues.
- NEG has been monitoring the [Catchwise project](#) outcomes. The project will report early in 2025.
- The impacts and management options for paddlesports in the Solent (IMP). Chichester Harbour Conservancy are piloting a 2-year survey methodology, and provided year 1 results for NEG – see [presentation](#) on NEG website. Year two results are expected shortly.

Solent Forum Hubs and Webpages

The Solent Forum have several hubs and webpages on our websites to signpost information of relevance to the Solent's natural environment which can be found under the 'services and projects' tab on its website.

Information Hubs:

- [Biodiversity and Net Gain](#)
- [Blue Carbon](#)
- [Building Biodiversity into Infrastructure](#)
- [Cleans Solent Shores and Seas](#)
- [Habitat Restoration](#)
- [Natural Capital](#)
- [Solent Catchments](#)
- [Solent Plastics Pollution Hub](#)

Other important resources include:

- [Solent Nature Recovery](#)
- [Solent Biosecurity Plans](#)

Please contact [Karen McHugh](#) for any further information on the work of NEG.