



Coast-R
Network

Small Grants Fund Projects

Dr Malachy Buck, London South Bank University
Planning for Uncertainty: Building Adaptive Coastal
Planning Capacity in England and Northern Ireland

Dr Louise Hunt, University of Plymouth
Fishfingers & Fresh Ideas (FFI): A blueprint of good
practice to share Social Innovation from Sea to Shore

Dr Steven Forrest, University of Hull
Shifting Shores: A Serious Gaming Toolkit for Coastal
Resilience

Dr Matthew Howell, Swansea University
Engaging with the Coast: Facilitating Community
Dialogue around Usage of and Access to Coastal
Shared User Pathways

Dr Melanie Biauxque, Geological Survey of Northern
Ireland

Co-creating Coastal Resilience: combining research and
citizen science to monitor nature-based solutions

Dr Jajati Mandal, University of Salford
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Insights to Policy



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Planning for Uncertainty

Building Adaptive Coastal Planning Capacity in England and Northern Ireland

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Dr. Linda McElduff (Co-I) | Ulster University



Planning and Coastal Management

“The single most repeated item for immediate action raised by Coast-R members was that SMPs must be made statutory and better integrated into NPPF and Local Plans”

— *Coastal Change and Transition in the UK* (McDonagh et al., (2026:16)

REC2

An improved planning framework must be developed and adopted to support a shift from coastal risk management (by RMAs) to land-based coastal adaptation (by planners, land managers and others). SMPs must be made statutory and more fully integrated into local planning. Planning policies need to be strengthened to reduce the risk of land value appreciation for sites identified for relocation. Adaptation plans (also called transition plans) must be developed for Coastal Change Management Areas and supported with adequate funding for proactive land-based adaptation. This requires a change in the funding algorithm for Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management, which should be remodelled to include wider benefits (e.g. health and wellbeing, ecosystems, amenity and heritage, avoided costs).

McDonagh et al., (2026:24)



The Problem: Policy and Funding Uncertainty

A challenging environment for planners

Inadequate and uncertain FCERM funding across the UK: even where 'Hold the Line' is in place, there are uncertainties in longer-term funding (CCC, 2018)

No formalised coastal management framework in Northern Ireland (McElduff & Richie, 2020)

There are challenges for planners to effectively implement and deliver coastal change policy: with implications for long-term resilience and addressing socio-economic weaknesses (Kirby et al., 2021; Fiorentino et al., 2024).

The Research Design

How do planners in coastal communities interpret and manage uncertainty in coastal management policy; and what lessons can we draw across nations?

WP1 — Policy & Literature Review

February – May

- ▶ Systematic review of planning & coastal planning literature
- ▶ Analysis: SMPs, Local Development Frameworks, national policy
- ▶ Findings inform scenario design for WP2 workshops

WP2 — Practitioner Workshops

June - September

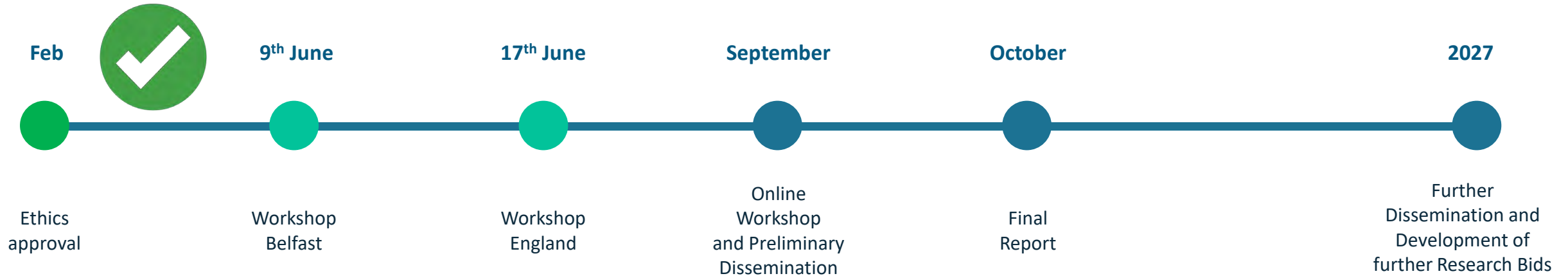
- ▶ London and Belfast workshop (June, in-person)
- Invited participants: coastal councils (planners and/or coastal management responsibility, national stakeholders; third-sector organisations)
- Feedback/discussion on WP1; scenario exercises; identifications of shared priorities and research gaps
- ▶ Online synthesis (Sept): interim findings, consensus building, shared priorities

WP3 — Synthesis & Dissemination

June – November (and onwards)

- ▶ Practice-oriented report and policy recommendations
- ▶ Coast-R blog, webinar, conference presentations

Outcomes



Enhanced practitioner and academic knowledge

Planners in both nations better equipped to navigate coastal policy uncertainty and development pressure

Addressing key research gaps

Accessible recommendations contributing to stronger coastal planning frameworks

Strengthened networks

Relationships built across English and Northern Irish stakeholder and between practitioners/policy-makers and research community.

Developing shared research priorities, with collaborative follow-on funding led by Dr Malachy Buck

Why Compare England & Northern Ireland?

Comparative research and transferable lessons across the UK

Cross-national comparison supports wider understanding of the challenge: there are shared issues across the UK (and beyond)

Comparing helps to identify what difference policy frameworks for planners addressing coastal change and flooding in different context

Very limited existing research on coastal resilience policy and practice Northern Ireland, with significant research gaps in England existing.

REC1

Urgent action is needed to strengthen and broaden collaboration between UK nations, and to address significant research and policy gaps between land-based, coastal, and marine systems. Integration would be further assisted by the creation of a coastal minister and the development and adoption of 'resilience standards'.

McDonagh et al., (2026:24)

Thank you for listening, any questions?

References

Committee for Climate Change (CCC) (2018) Managing the coast in a changing climate. Available at: <https://www.theccc.org.uk/publication/managing-the-coast-in-a-changing-climate/>

Fiorentino, S., Seiler, F. and Tomaney, J. (2024) 'Coastal towns as "left-behind places": economy, environment and planning', Cambridge Journal of Regions, Economy and Society, 17(1), pp. 103–116.

Kirby, J.A., Masselink, G., Essex, S., Poate, T. and Scott, T. (2021) 'Coastal adaptation to climate change through zonation: A review of coastal change management areas (CCMAs) in England', Ocean & Coastal Management, 201, p. 105445.

McDonagh, B., Smith, K., McLelland, S., Bailey, D., Davies, S., Hopkins, C., Hughes, G., Jones, S., Lyddon, C., Madonald, N., Naylor, L., Plater, A., Simpson, K. and Sturt, F. (2026) Coastal Change and Transition in the UK: A report prepared by the Coast-R Network team. doi: 10.5281/zenodo.18940927.

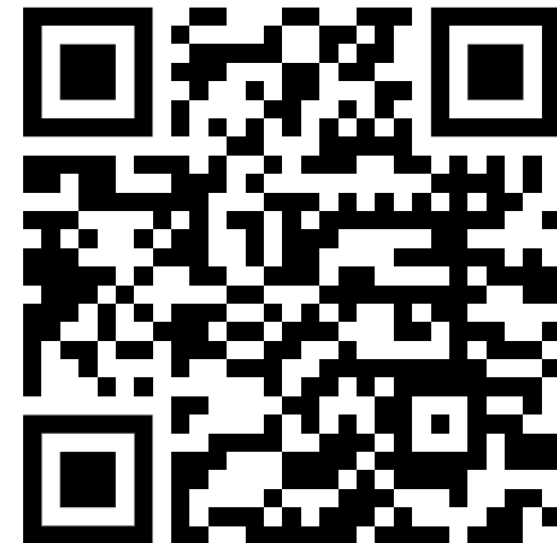
McElduff, L. and Richie, H. (2020) 'Regulating Coastal Zones – United Kingdom', in The International Journal of Marine and Coastal Law.

Sayers, P., Moss, C., Carr, S. and Payo, A. (2022) 'Responding to climate change around England's coast — The scale of the transformational challenge', Ocean & Coastal Management, 225, p. 106187.

Please do get in touch to hear more!

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[Scan the QR for my LinkedIn](#)



Fish Fingers and Fresh Ideas

Louise Hunt
University of Plymouth

Our Team





What is the Plymouth Fish Finger?





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Looking for coastal voices!

Shifting Shores: A Serious Gaming Toolkit for Coastal Resilience and Community Dialogue

Dr Steven Forrest

Senior Lecturer in Flood Resilience

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Shifting Shores: Focus

- Coastal regions in the UK face accelerating risks of flooding and coastal erosion
- Building resilience needs meaningful dialogue between communities and authorities about what matters most, what is at risk, and what adaptive futures are acceptable
- Despite extensive consultations, local authorities lack structured qualitative evidence on how residents understand and value coastal change



Shifting Shores: Translating Local Experiences into more useable evidence



- Serious game-based Coastal Resilience Toolkit that integrates policy frameworks and community engagement to produce usable social science evidence
- What is serious gaming?



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Serious Gaming

“Games which are not meant to be played solely for entertainment” (Aubert et al., 2018:64; Savic et al., 2016))

“experi(m)ent(i)al, rule-based, interactive environments, where players learn by taking actions and by experiencing their effects through feedback mechanisms that are deliberately built into and around the game” (Mayer, 2009:825)

Chess | Military Drills | Medical Rehabilitation
| CBRNE Emergency Training Scenarios



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Serious Gaming becoming more widespread

- Sustainability
- Urban planning
- Water resource management
- Climate change adaptation
- Environmental governance and management
- Disaster management
- Cultural Heritage
- Exploring Current Issues

Multi-method research into flood recovery



Knowledge Exchange & Research Project

Team: Giles Davidson, Pip Betts, Steven Forrest, Cecilia De Ita, Kate Smith, Amy Richardson, David Ovuakporie, Ross Langthorp, and Bella Yerikho.

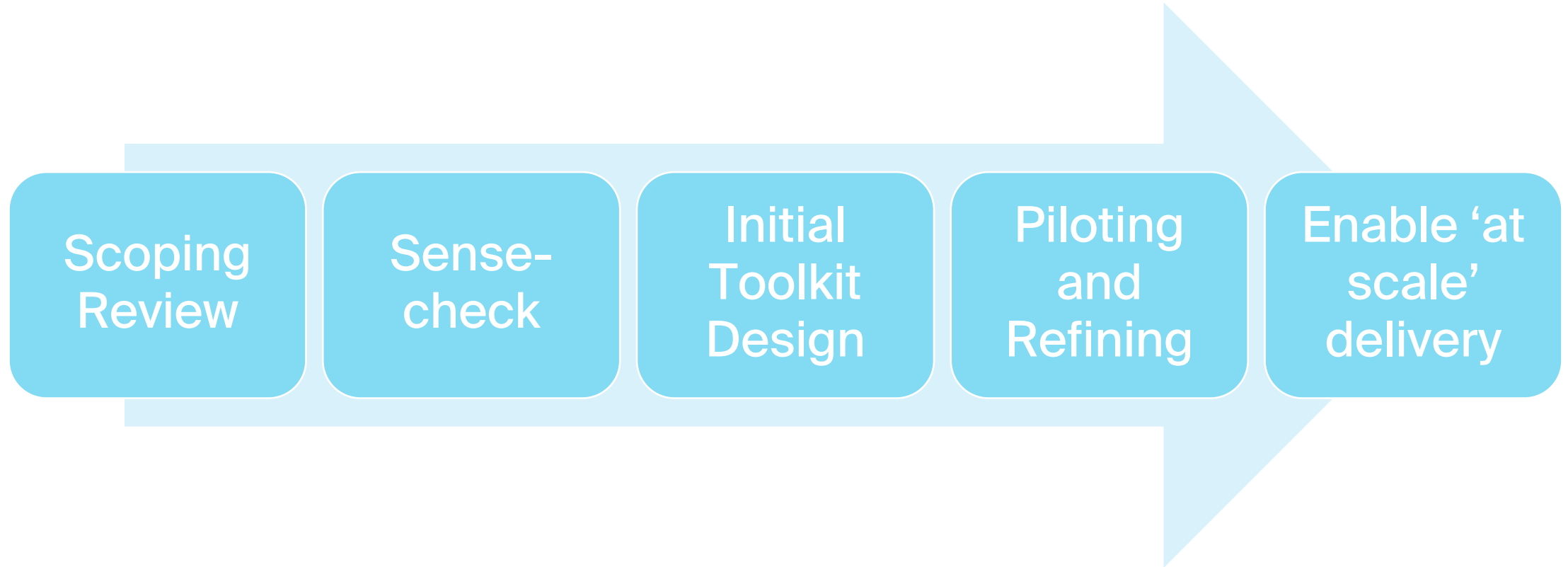


Potential for Shifting Shorelines

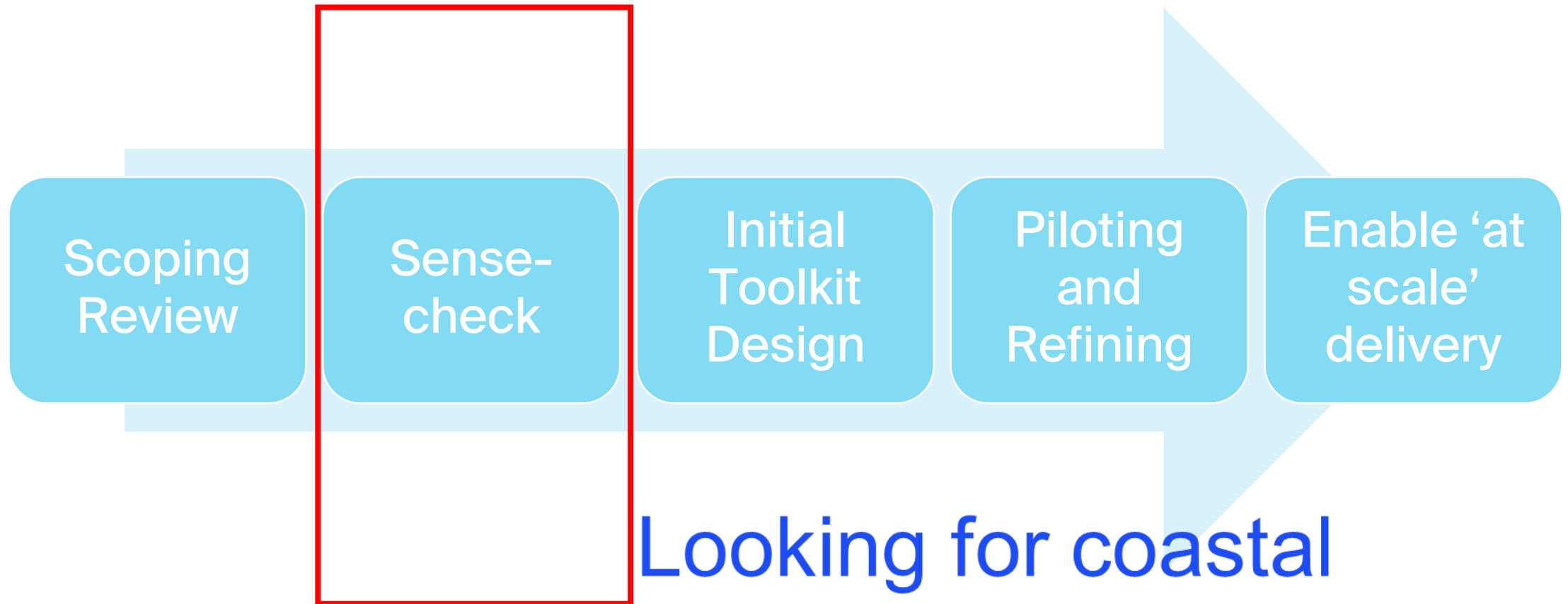
- Initiating dialogues & Communication
- Social learning & capacity building
- Supporting Practice
 - Exploring potential options and future pathways
- Feed-in to policy development
- Educational tools



Shifting Shores: Approach



Shifting Shores: Approach



Looking for coastal voices!



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Looking for coastal voices!

Shifting Shores: A Serious Gaming Toolkit for Coastal Resilience and Community Dialogue

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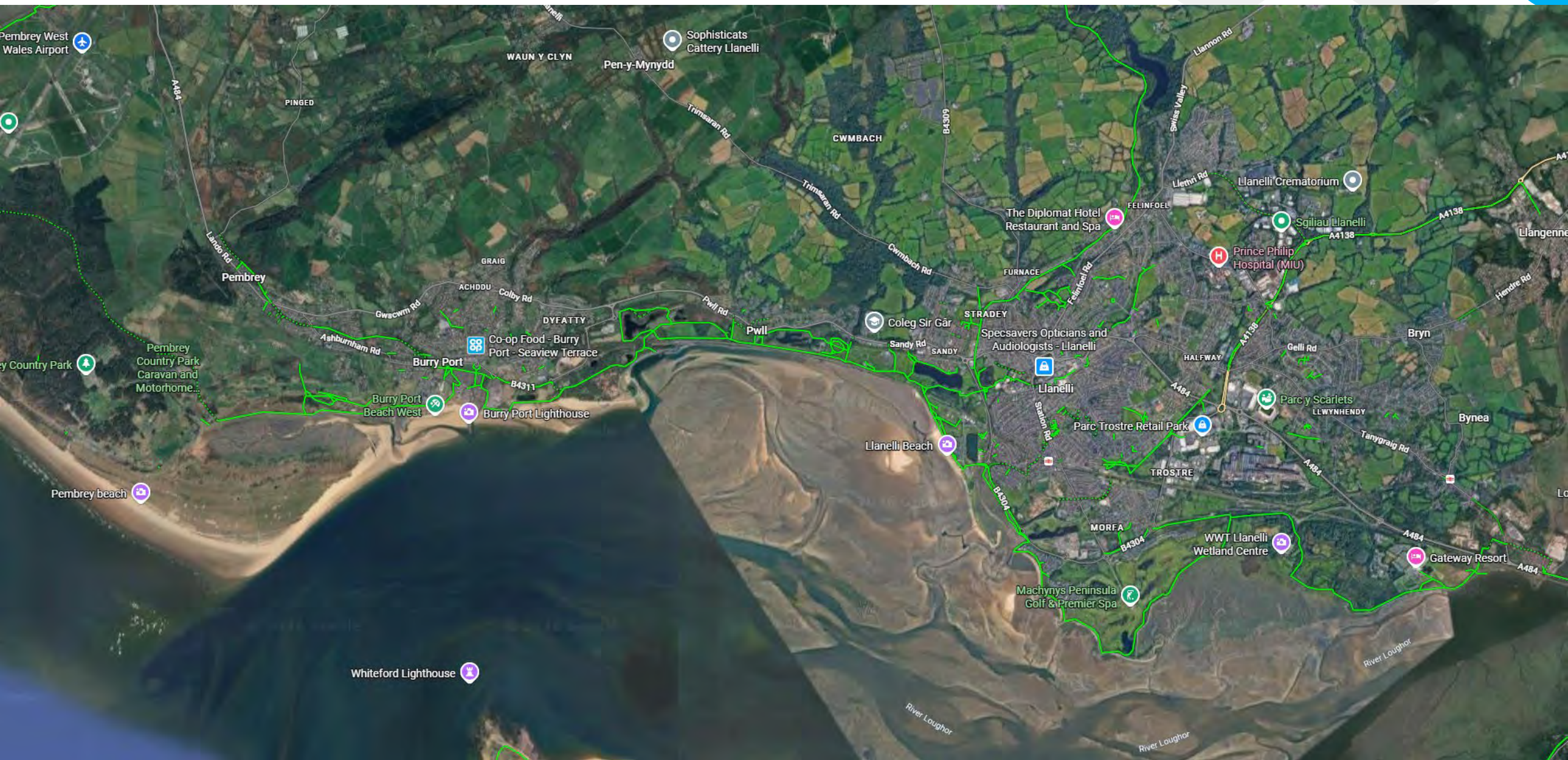
Engaging with the Coast: Facilitating Community Dialogue around Usage of and Access to Coastal Shared User Pathways

Matthew Howell, Swansea University

Origins of the Project

- July 2025 – community dialogue in Swansea around Shared User Pathways ([Howell, 2025](#)).
- Increased usage following Active Travel (Wales) Act 2013 funding stream.
- Findings indicated that people loose confidence using these spaces due inconsistent etiquette.





Shared User Pathways (SUPs)

“dedicated off- street paths shared by non-motorists. SUPs are becoming popular for pedestrians, inline skaters, roller skaters, skateboarders, wheelchair users, electric bicycle riders, and scooters, among others” (Kutela, Das & Sener, 2023, p.1).

“A path designed to accommodate the movement of both pedestrians and cyclists, where users either mix freely within the same space (unsegregated) or are allocated space through markings or physical features (segregated)” (Dalaney, 2017, p. 1)

Some people experience the spaces as being sites of anticipation, anxiety, and conflict (Kutela, Das, & Sener, 2023; Dalaney, 2021).



Why are they Important?

- Access to blue and green spaces is beneficial to physical and mental health (Mahindru et al., 2023; Smith & Merwin, 2021; Pouso, 2021).
- Using these routes for active travel are key to reducing our individual carbon footprint (Srivastrava et al, 2025).
- Evidence indicates that those who access these spaces less – or not at all – are:
 - women, older people,
 - those in poor health,
 - people of lower socio-economic status,
 - from an ethnic minority,
 - living in socio-economically deprived areas (Boyd et al., 2018; Stewart and Eccleston, 2020)



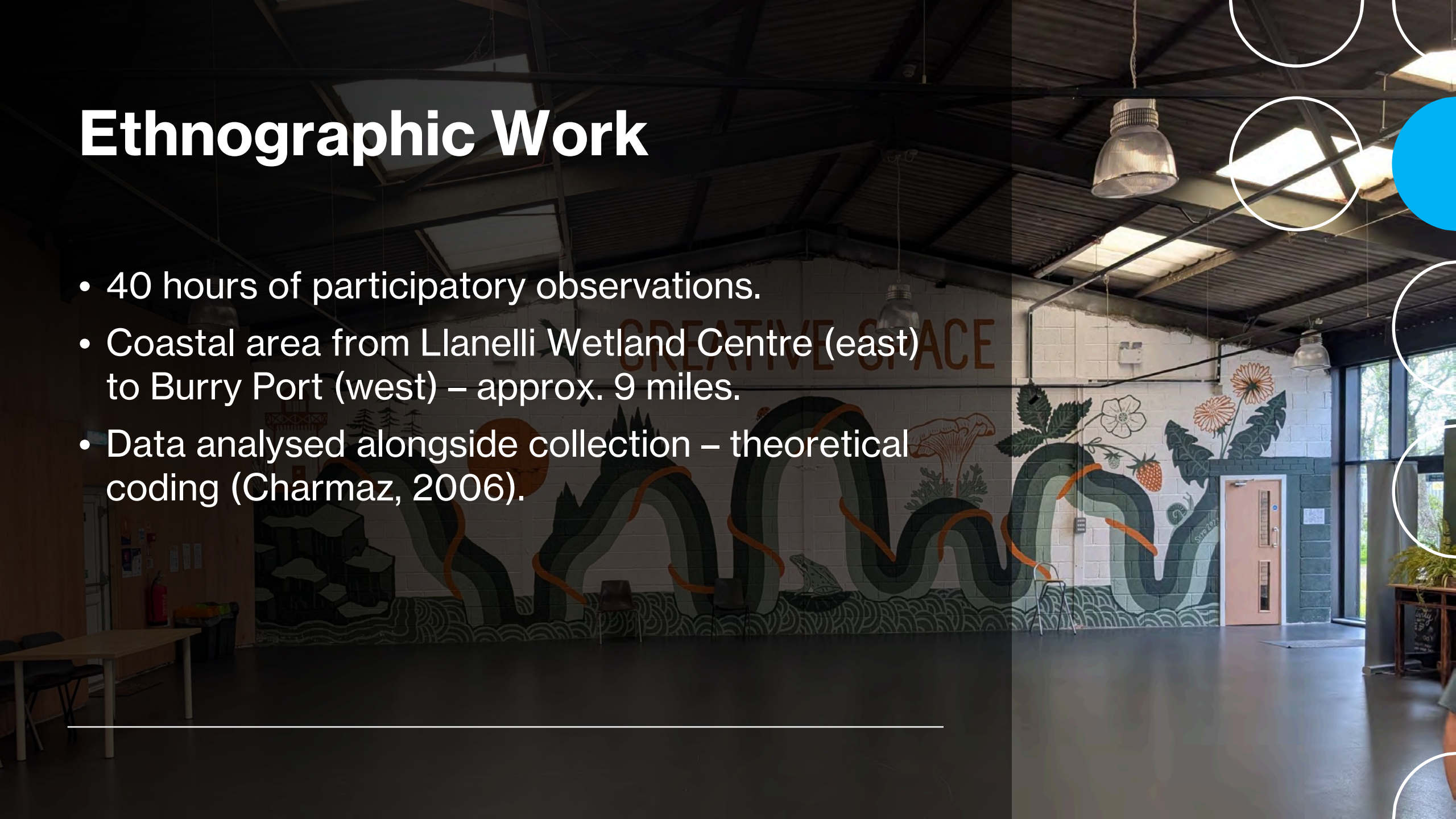
Methodology

- Exploratory qualitative, co-productive research.
 - Combines micro-ethnographic observation with participatory and co-creative community methods.
 - Using an inductive, iterative analysis to centre lived experience and marginalised user voices.
-



Ethnographic Work

- 40 hours of participatory observations.
- Coastal area from Llanelli Wetland Centre (east) to Burry Port (west) – approx. 9 miles.
- Data analysed alongside collection – theoretical coding (Charmaz, 2006).



Stakeholder Consultation

- Carmarthenshire Council - Active Travel Team
- Dyfed Police – PCSO
- Transport for Wales (TfW)
- Llanelli Ramblers
- Age Cymru Dyfed
- Canal and River Trust
- Nordic Walking Group



A photograph of a community engagement event taking place outdoors on a grassy field. In the foreground, a man in a black t-shirt and jeans sits on a folding chair, looking towards a woman in a light blue dress who is pointing at a large map on an easel. The map is titled 'OUR COMMUNITY' and shows a detailed street layout. A red thermos and a water bottle are on a table in front of them. To the right, a woman in a colorful, patterned dress stands near a table covered with a red cloth. In the background, there are residential houses, trees, and a clear blue sky. A large blue circle is visible on the right side of the image.

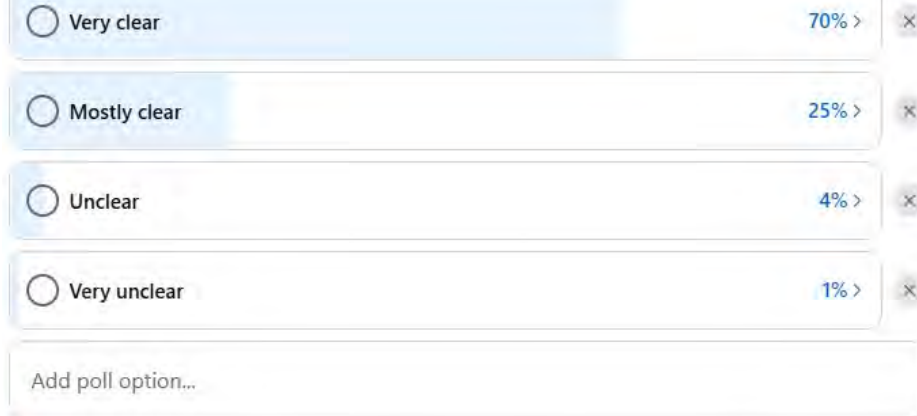
Community Engagement

- Participation - Shared Community spaces (e.g., Llanelli Township, Men's Shed, & Cetma).
- Contribution – Llanelli Annual Spring event

Live Survey

- Draws upon the main themes from ethnographic and community engagement – safety, inclusivity, community, maintenance, facilities, and hierarchy, etc.
- Medium length survey - 35 questions.
- Distributed among local Facebook community groups – participation is voluntary, resulting in a self-selected convenience sample.
- Currently at 130 respondents – still live.

How clear is it to you how the path should be used?



5

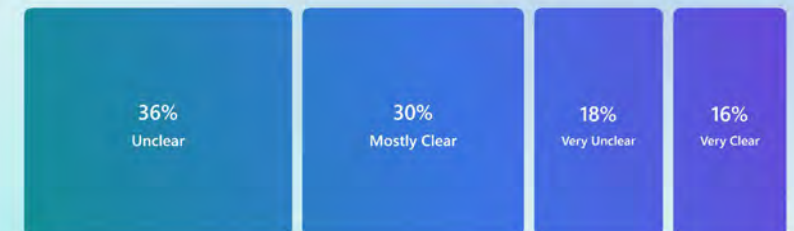
Like

Comment

142 votes 11 comments

Share

How clear is it to you how the path should be used?



Common Complaints

- Lack of toilets
 - Need for bin
 - A need for more benches
 - Dogs on leads
 - Problems with pathways
 - More places to lock bikes
 - Speeding cyclists
-



Emerging Themes – Space

Lack of Pathway Etiquette: Users are often unaware of informal or expected norms.

Limited Awareness of Official Guidance: Few users knew about any formal rules or signage.

Confusion Around Usage: Ambiguity in how the space should be used led to tension and miscommunication.

Uncertainty about Ownership: global, national, or local.

Hierarchy of Users: Some groups dominate the space at different times.





COAST-R Network Webinar _ April 2026

CO-CREATING COASTAL RESILIENCE (COCOR)

M. BIAUSQUE, K. PARKER & K. LEMON



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British
Geological
Survey

CO-creating COastal Resilience: combining research and citizen-science to monitor nature-based solutions

- Led by Melanie Biausque
mbiau@bgs.ac.uk
- GSNI, Newry, Mourne and Down District Council and Mourne Gullion Strangford Geopark
- Based on the work done by volunteers at Tyrella Beach, Co. Down, NI



The Challenge at Tyrella Beach

A Coastal System Under Pressure....

Location:

- Tyrella Beach, County Down, Northern Ireland
- 2 km sandy beach with ~25 hectares of mature sand dunes
- Supports a diverse and valuable coastal **ecosystem**, natural **defence** against natural hazards

Key Issue:

- 2018 assessment found dune system in **unfavourable condition**
- Need for improved management and restoration

TYRELLA BEACH LOCATION



The Challenge at Tyrella Beach

Nature-based restoration already underway:

- Fencing
- Grazing management
- Dune grass planting

The Problem:

- No structured monitoring programme
- Limited data on:
 - Dune changes over time at Tyrella
 - Effectiveness of restoration efforts

This project will:

1. Develop monitoring programme
2. Engage local communities in data collection
3. Improve understanding & awareness of coastal conservation



Aims and Objectives

Coastal monitoring



- Monthly DGPS surveys



- Photogrammetry

Community engagement and citizen science



- CoastSnap: to take photos of the shoreline



- Measures of beach profile and vegetation line at existing pole

Education and outreach



- Public events at the beginning and end of project



- Days at the beach and targeted interventions in local schools



Coastal Monitoring

PRINCIPLE OF PHOTOGRAMMETRY

From field capture to 3D model

1 IMAGE ACQUISITION IN THE FIELD

Take overlapping photos from different positions around the target.

2 GEOTAGGING WITH GPS

Record the position of each camera location using a GPS receiver.

3 PROCESSING IN SOFTWARE

Photos are aligned, and a 3D point cloud, mesh and texture are reconstructed.

4 RESULTS

Georeferenced 3D outputs ready for analysis and monitoring.



Photogrammetry:

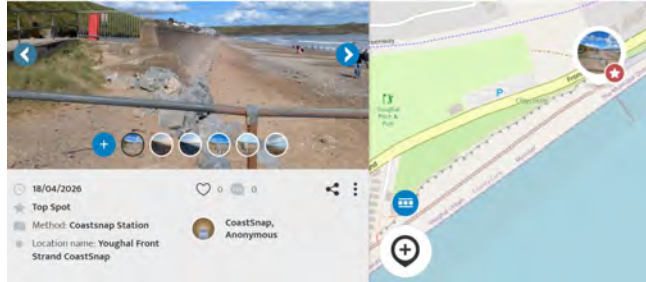
- Land-based
- Air-borne based
- Seasonal



DGPS surveys:

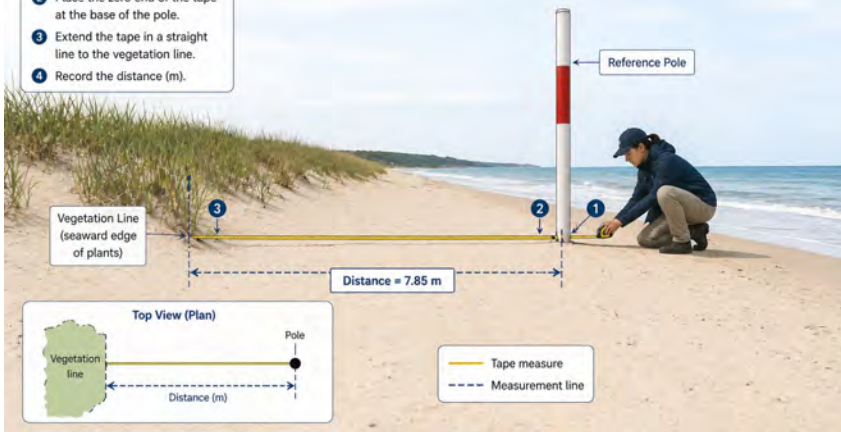
- Monthly and after storms
- 13 cross-shore profiles along the restored beach
- Vegetation line

Citizen science



Measuring the Distance Between Vegetation Line and Reference Pole

- 1 Identify the vegetation line (seaward edge of plants).
- 2 Place the zero end of the tape at the base of the pole.
- 3 Extend the tape in a straight line to the vegetation line.
- 4 Record the distance (m).



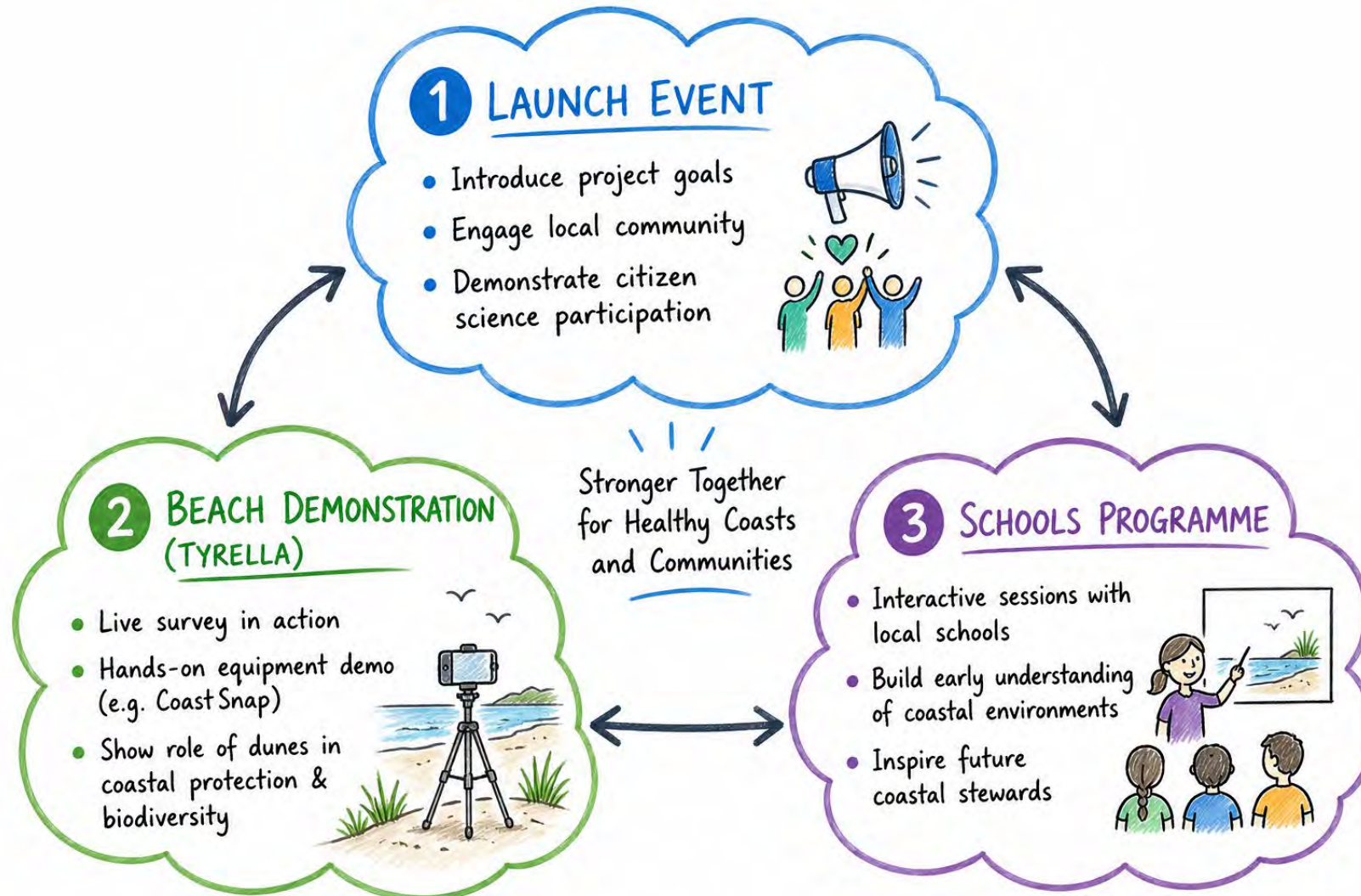
CoastSnap:

- Cradle to take stationary photos
- Send photos via QR code
- Study shoreline evolution

Citizen-based surveys:

- Measure vegetation line using measuring tape: distance between vegetation and existing pole
- Measure beach profile using old groynes

Education and outreach





COCOR

Impacts and legacy

Shaping a Coastal Legacy

Expected Impacts:

- Provide the first integrated geomorphological and ecological dataset for Tyrella Beach
- Establish a long-term, low-cost monitoring network supporting adaptive coastal management
- Empower communities to understand and contribute to climate resilience at the coast.

Shaping a Coastal Legacy

Expected Impacts:

- Provide the first integrated geomorphological and ecological dataset for Tyrella Beach
- Establish a long-term, low-cost monitoring network supporting adaptive coastal management
- Empower communities to understand and contribute to climate resilience at the coast.

Long-Term Legacy :

- Continued CoastSnap monitoring and community participation beyond the project's lifetime.
- Multigenerational stewardship through strengthened local awareness of coastal environments.
- Evidence base informing future coastal management decisions.
- Scalable framework for replication across other NI coastal sites.

COCOR

Thank you for your
attention

mbiau@bgs.ac.uk

SEAS: Shrimp-Environment Assessment Study in Morecambe Bay



Rationale

Reported decline in the number and size of shrimps

Limited up-to-date info on the shrimp fisheries

Objectives

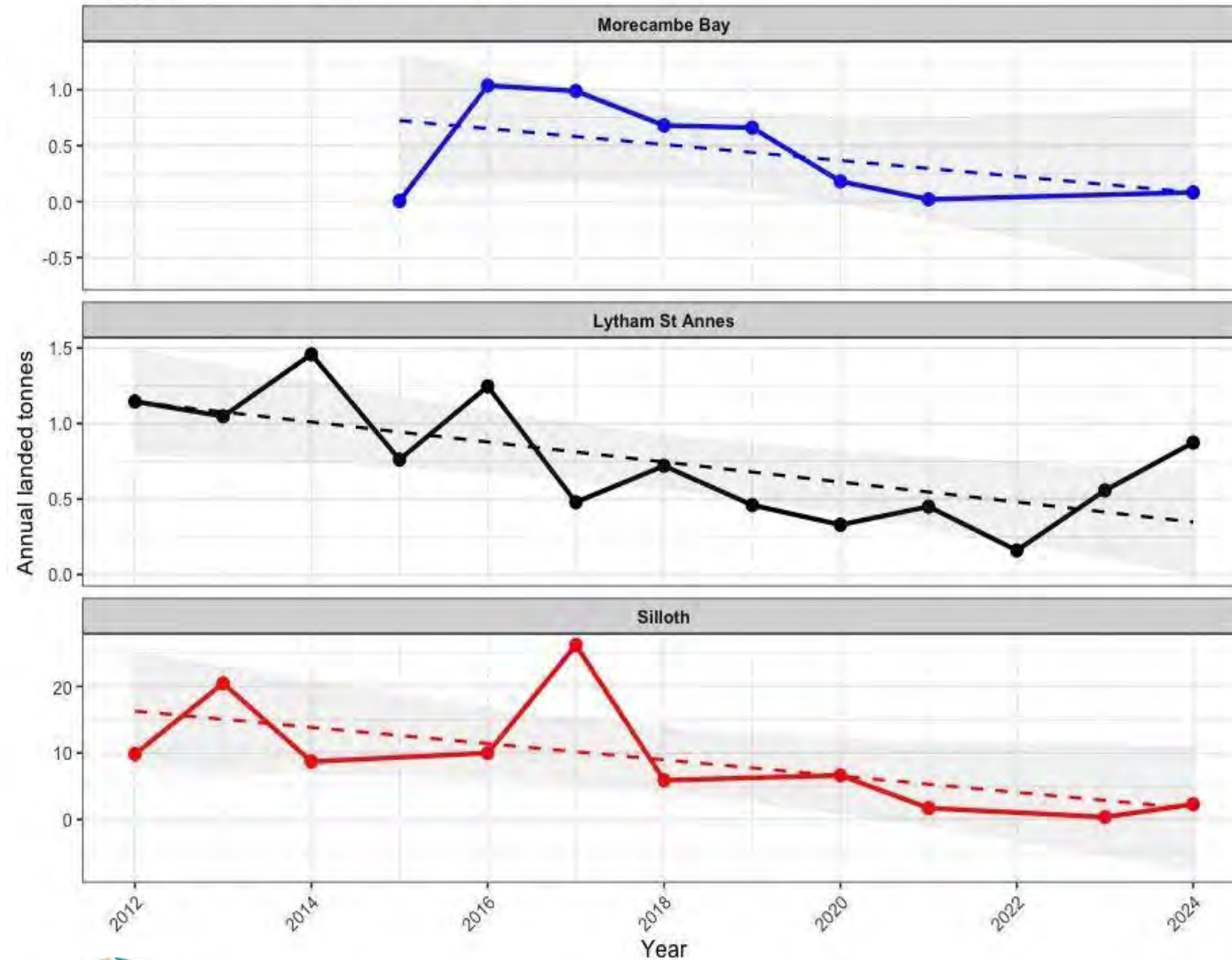
- ✓ To strengthen stakeholder engagement, with knowledge exchange and dissemination of outputs
- ✓ To start a monitoring program on brown shrimp size and density, across and beyond the duration of the project.
- ✓ To assess contaminant levels (e.g., heavy metals and organics) in sediments, water and shrimp
- ✓ To examine climate stressors influences (e.g., changing sea temperature, salinity), contributing to habitat degradation and contaminant mobility.



Trends in the shrimp Landings...

Annual shrimp landings: Morecambe Bay(8 years), Lytham St Annes (13 years) & Silloth (10 years)

Free y-axis | Dashed = linear trend $\pm$ 95% CI



- All three landing sites: Morecambe Bay, Lytham St Annes, and Silloth... show a declining trend over their respective recording periods.
- Silloth has the largest absolute landings (up to ~25 tonnes) but has fallen sharply since a peak around 2018.
- Lytham St Annes and Morecambe Bay show lower but similarly downward trajectories.
- The decline is not local to one port: it is happening across the entire northwest coastline simultaneously.

Data Source: Marine Management Organisation (MMO)



Coast-R Network

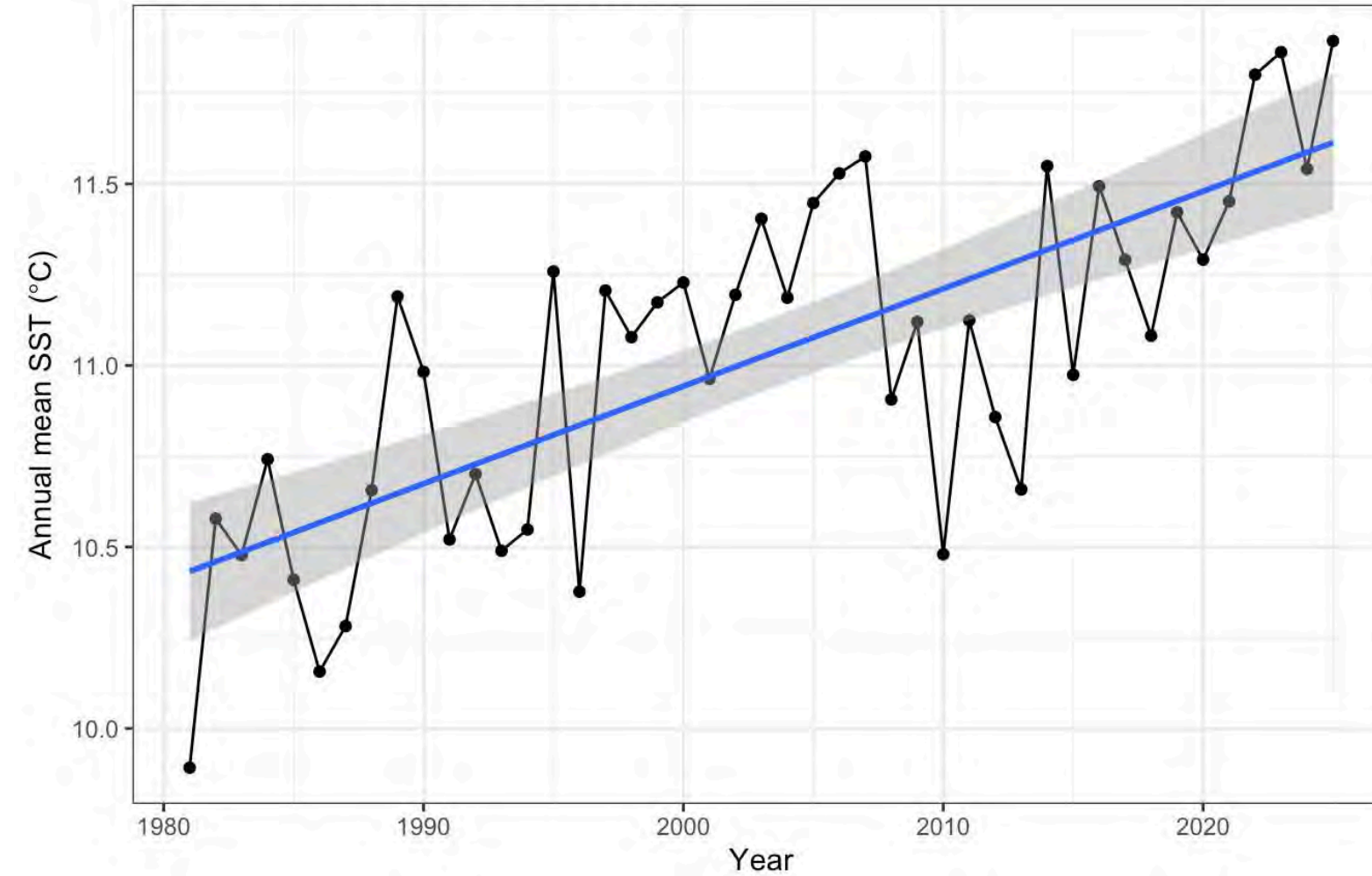


Cefas MERSEY GATEWAY ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST

Trends in the Sea Surface Temperature...

Copernicus OSTIA annual mean SST

MK $p = 2.05 \times 10^{-7}$ | Sen slope = 0.0277°C/yr



- ✓ The Mann-Kendall test on annual SST confirms a **highly significant monotonic warming trend** ($\tau = 0.537$, $p = 2.05 \times 10^{-7}$)
- ✓ Sen slope: **$+0.0277^\circ\text{C}$ per year ($+0.277^\circ\text{C}$ per decade)** across the 44-year record.

Data Source: Daily SST at 0.05° resolution
Integration: satellite (IR + microwave)
Coverage: 01/10/1981 – 18/12/2025

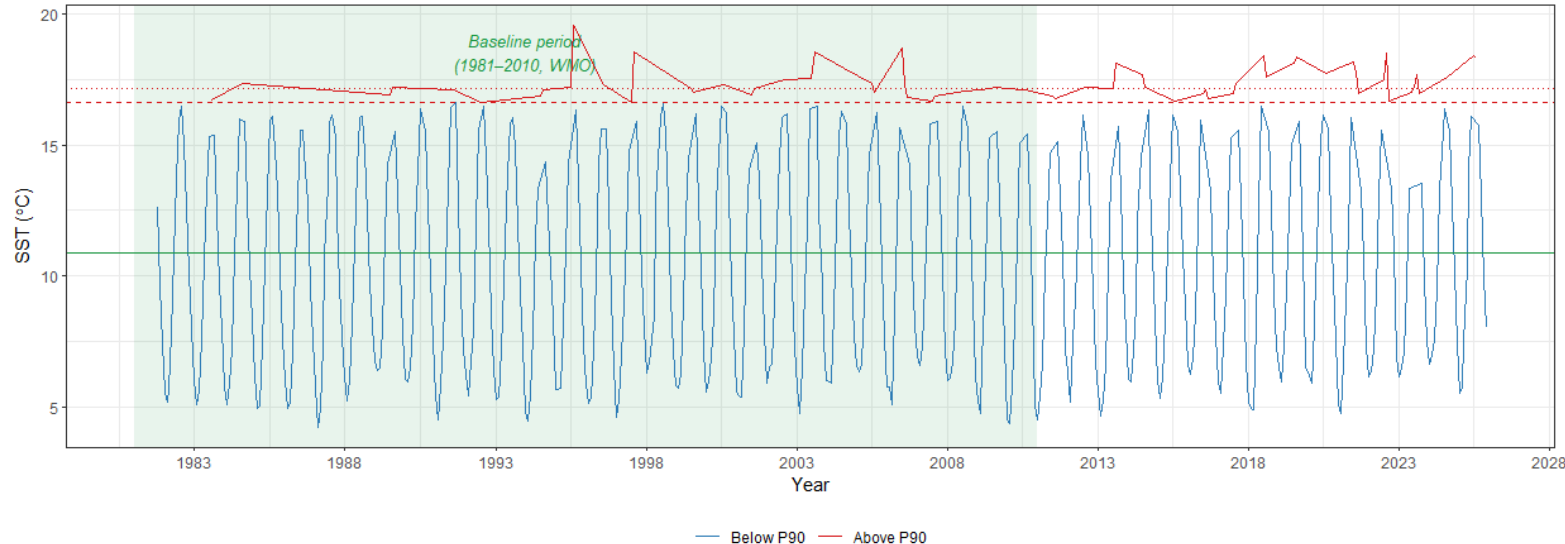


Trends in the Sea Surface Temperature...

SST - Baseline (1981–2010) & Era Comparison

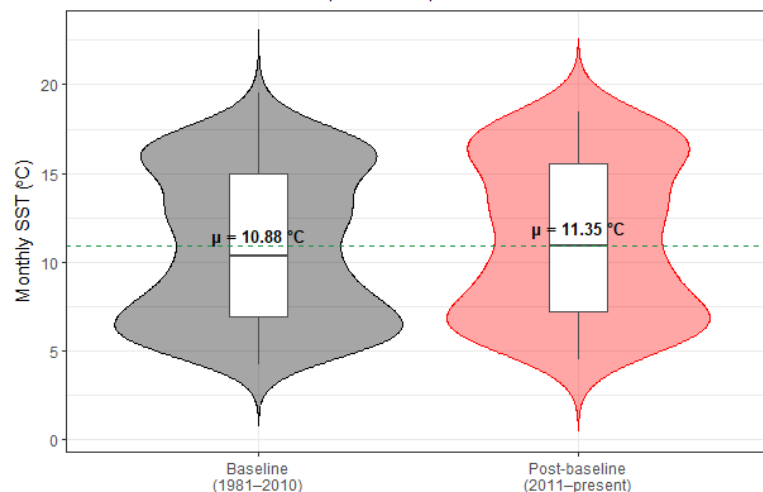
Monthly SST - Morecambe Bay

Green shading = WMO baseline period (1981–2010) | Green line = baseline mean (10.88 °C) | Red dashed = P90 | Red dotted = P95



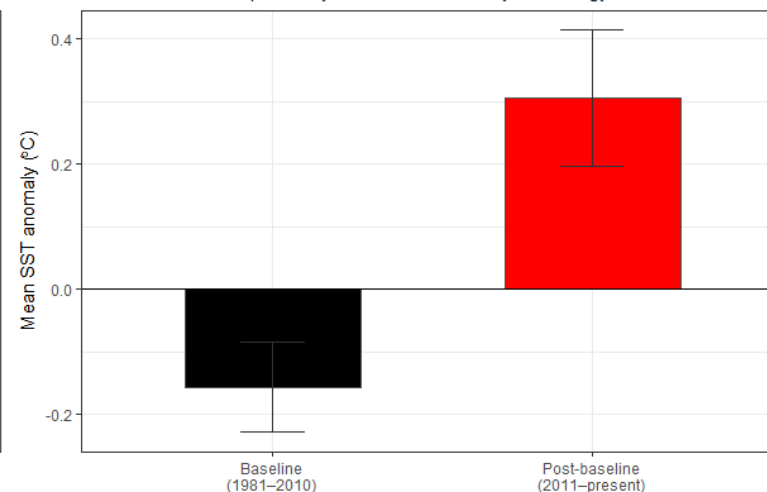
SST distribution by era - Morecambe Bay (baseline 1981–2010)

Green dashed = baseline mean | Box = IQR | Violin = full distribution



Mean SST anomaly by era - Morecambe Bay (baseline 1981–2010)

Error bars = 95% CI | Anomaly relative to full monthly climatology

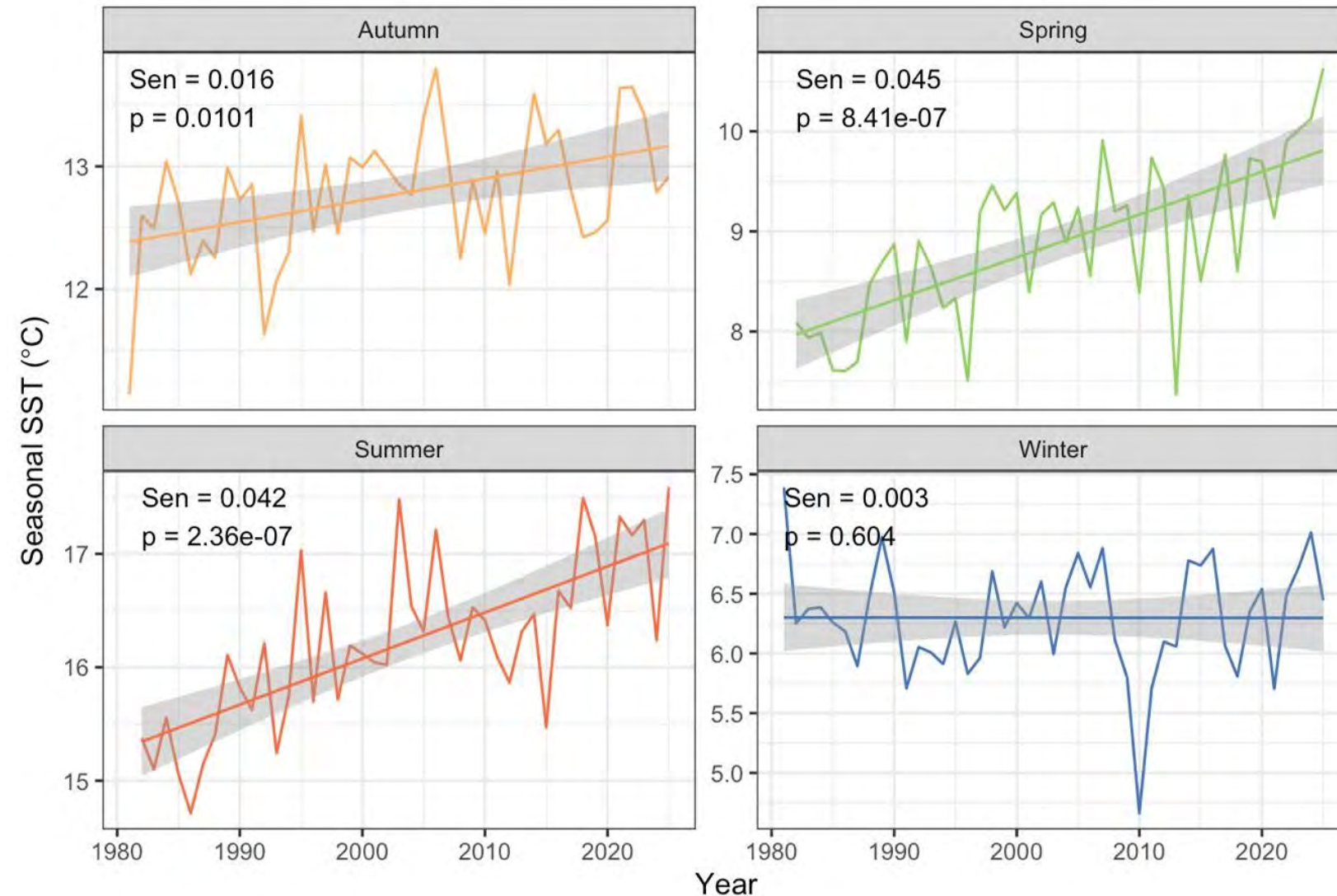


WMO standard baseline: 1981–2010 | Mean = 10.88 °C | P90 = 16.61 °C | P95 = 17.13 °C

- ✓ Mean baseline SST for Morecambe Bay was **10.88 °C**, with warm event thresholds at P90 = 16.61 °C and P95 = 17.13 °C
- ✓ Post-2010, summer peaks **increasingly and persistently exceed the P90 and P95 thresholds**, shown by the shift from blue to red in the time series
- ✓ Mean SST rose from **10.88 °C** (baseline) to **11.35 °C** (post-baseline) - an increase of **~0.47 °C** in under 15 years
- ✓ The 95% CI of the post-baseline anomaly does not overlap zero, indicating the warming is robust and not attributable to random variation
- ✓ The post-2010 warming coincides precisely with the **period of sustained low shrimp landings** in Morecambe Bay



Trends in the Sea Surface Temperature...



Brown shrimp reproduce and grow mainly in spring and summer... so these are the seasons that matter most for them.

For summer...that spike at the right that's 2024, the hottest summer on record in the bay.

For Spring...almost every year since 2000 is above the line. The last few years are the highest on record.

For shrimp, spring is when juveniles settle... a warmer-than-usual spring can disrupt that timing.

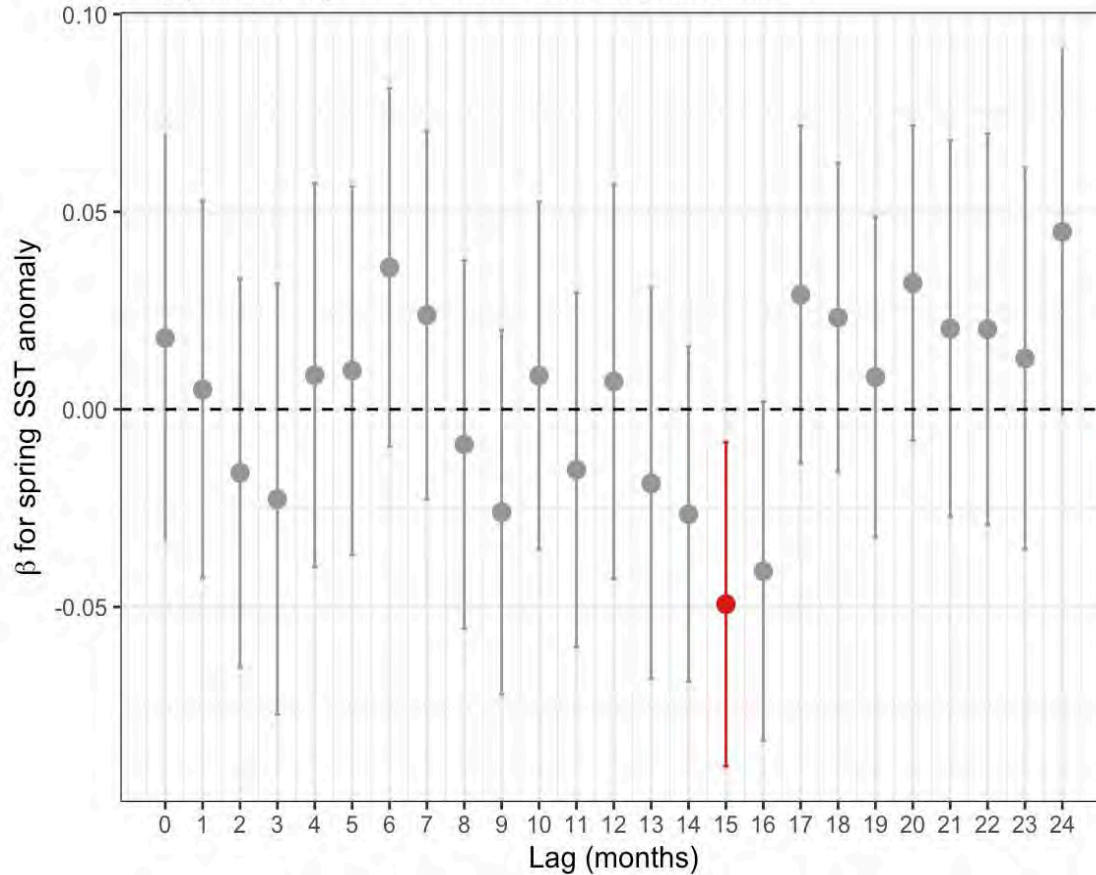


Shrimp Landings – SST Relationship...

$\log(\text{shrimp landings}) \sim \text{SST anomaly [lagged]} + \text{month} + \text{time trend}$
If SST was 1°C warmer than usual N months ago, how much does that change log-landings today, holding month and long-term trend constant?

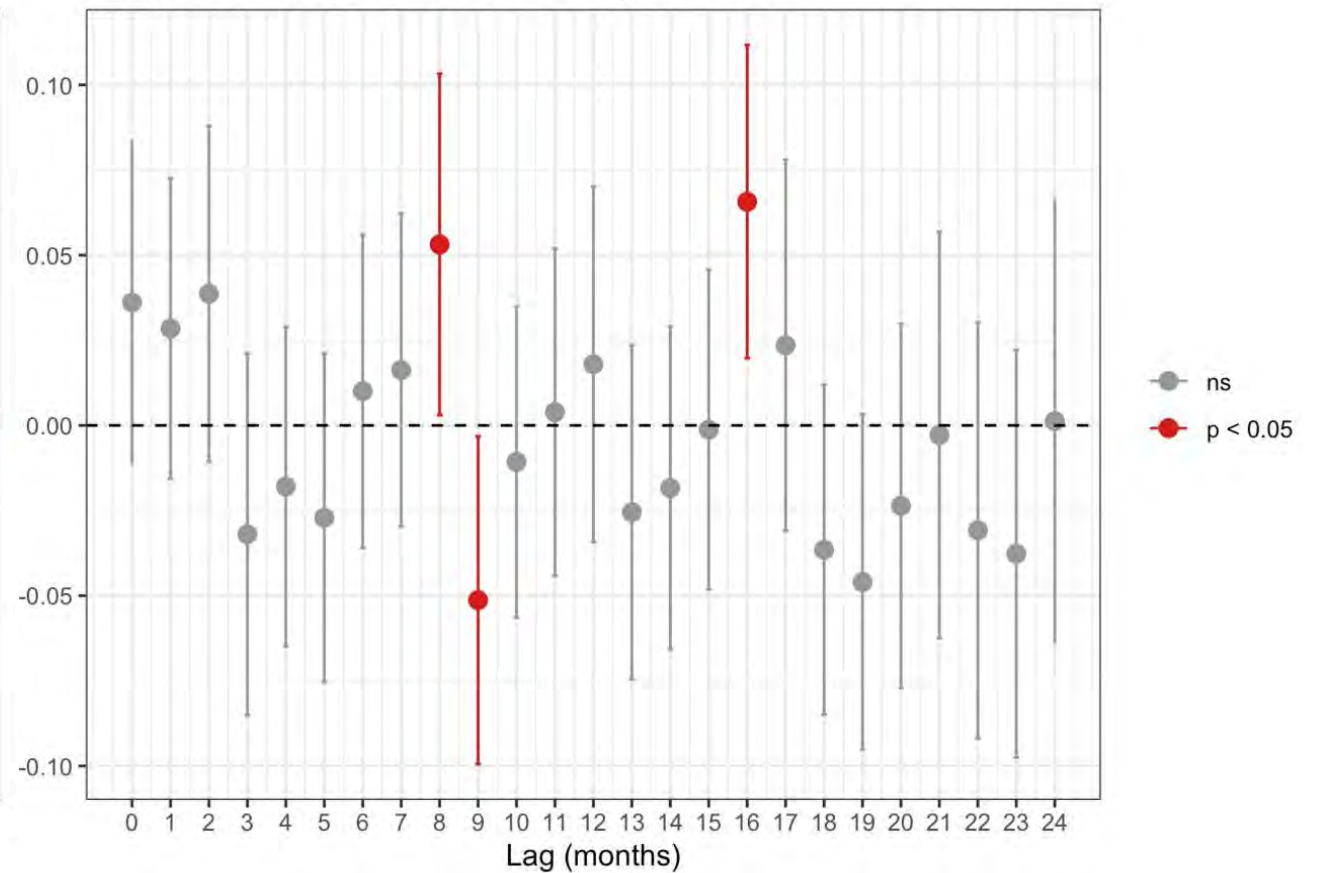
GLS beta: spring SST anomaly lags (Copernicus)

AR(1) errors, adjusted for month and long-term trend



GLS beta: summer SST anomaly lags (Copernicus)

AR(1) errors, adjusted for month and long-term trend



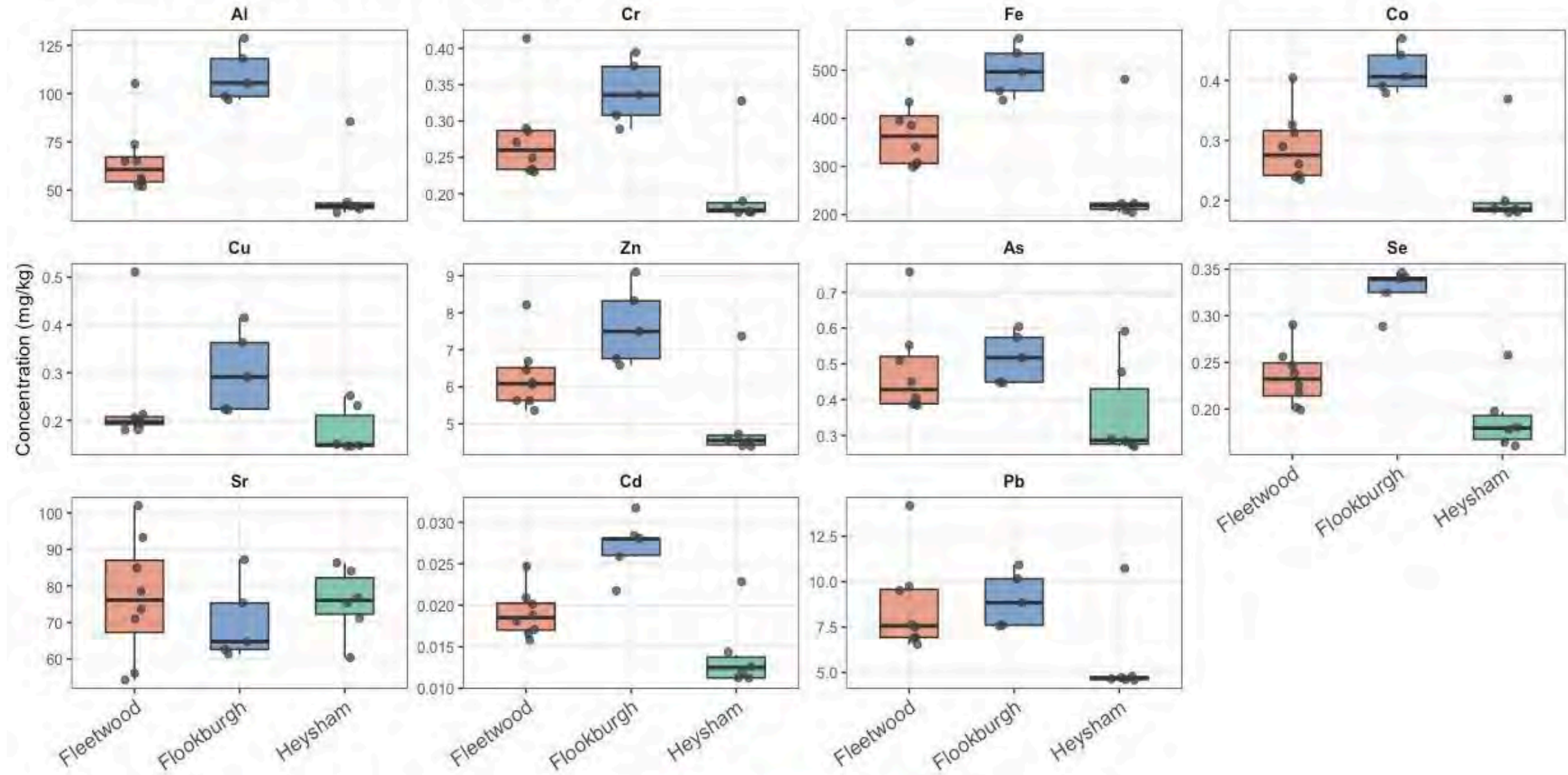
A warm spring or summer doesn't hurt catches immediately... **Spring warming** → **negative effect at 15 months** **Summer warming** → **positive effect at 16 months**

Spring is the vulnerable period larval hatching, settlement, early juvenile development. Thermal stress or phenological mismatch during this window might be killing cohorts before they can grow.

Summer is the growth period juveniles are already settled, feeding intensively. Warmth during this window is beneficial, accelerating the conversion of food into body mass

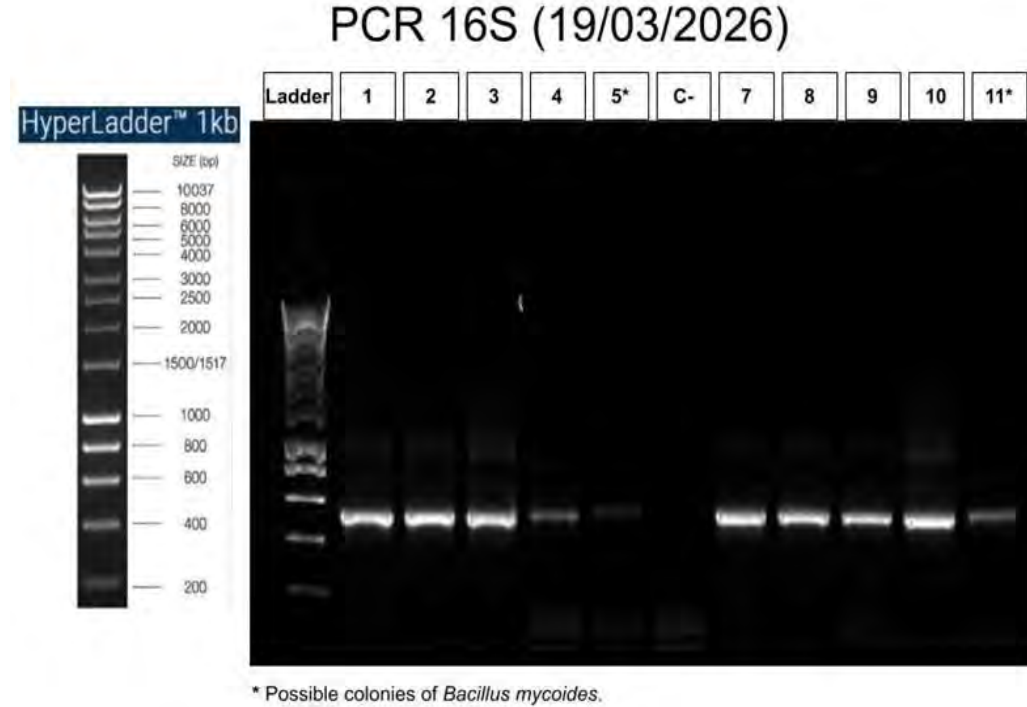
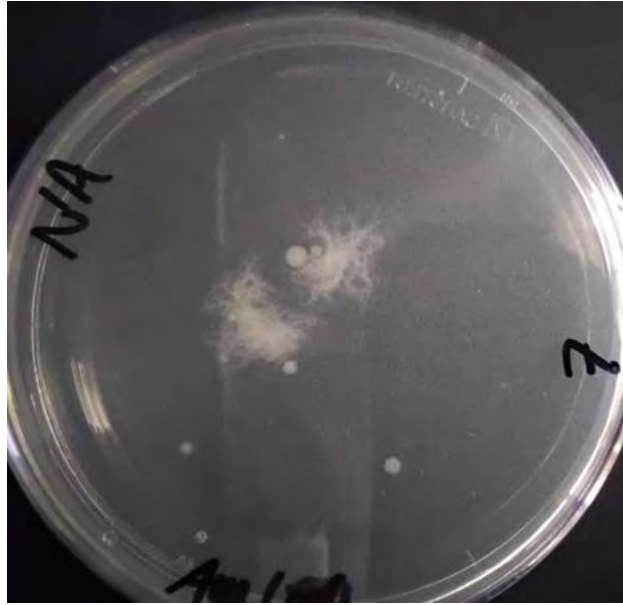
Sampling and Lab Analysis

Bioavailable metal concentrations in sediments by site



Sampling and Lab Analysis

Microbiological parameters



Further the BLAST results support our suspicion that we isolated *Bacillus mycoides*.

In addition to this species, we may have also isolated

Pseudomonas sp.,

Shewanella sp.,

Marinomonas sp.,

Lysinibacillus sp., and

Rosellomorea aquimaris

Workshop: 17th April 2026



Access to more sampling sites...
Will help us in sampling

Microplastics?!

Climatic changes...warm SST

Look into particle size of
sediments

Disposal/run-off of sewage water

Rise in population of other
species



THANK YOU



MOLA
coasts
IN MIND



Archive to Action.

Dr Claire R E Harris, MOLA

charris@mola.org.uk



Coast-R
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Humanities
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Economic
and Social
Research Council



Natural
Environment
Research Council



Natural Capital
and Ecosystem
Assessment



”

“Archive to Action asks whether the memories, stories and knowledge held by coastal communities can genuinely shape the decisions that affect their futures. Working with policymakers in the Swale, I am exploring how effectively the Coasts in Mind Community Archive provides trusted, accessible evidence to support more resilient and equitable coastal planning.”

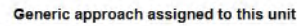
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Minster Slopes to Warden Bay 4A04

Related links

Allow continued erosion of cliffs to maintain the geological exposures, environmental and landscape qualities of the Sheppey Cliffs Site of Special Scientific Interest.



2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30	2030/31	2031/32	2032/33	2033/34	2034/35
	South Sheppey - Spitend Tidal Habitat Creation											
	South Sheppey - Roundfields Tidal Habitat Creation											
	South Sheppey - South Sheppey Tidal Defences											
	Sheerness - Sheerness and Queensborough Coastal Defences											
	Medway Towns - Strood to Lower Upnor Tidal Defences											
		North Medway - Kingsnorth Tidal Defences										
		Medway Towns - Rochester and Chatham Tidal Defences										
		Medway Towns - Chatham Dockyard to Gillingham Tidal Defences										
		Milton Creek - Sittingbourne Tidal Defences										
		Medway Marshes - Tailness Tidal Habitat Creation										
		Upper Medway - Halling Tidal Defences										
		Medway Marshes - Riverside Country Park Tidal Defences										
								North Medway - Abbots Court Tidal Habitat Creation				
								Medway Towns - Danes Hill Tidal Habitat Creation				
								Milton Creek - Kemsley Tidal Habitat Creation				
								Upper Medway - Aylesford to Wouldham Tidal Defences				
								Medway Marshes - Lower Halstow Tidal Defences				
								Faversham Creek - Faversham Tidal Defences				

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Legend

- Coastal policy unit boundaries
- Mean erosion Line 0 to 20 years
- Mean erosion line (with error bar) - 20 to 50 years
- Mean erosion line (with error bar) - 50 to 100 years
- - - Predicted shoreline (with error bar) - breaching 20 to 50 years
- - - Predicted shoreline (with error bar) - breaching 50 to 100 years
- Indicative tidal flood plain

Project: North Kent SMP Erosion Zones
Title: Scrapsgate to Shell Ness

Isle of Sheppey residents battle erosion and council disputes as Cliffhanger collapse leaves homes at risk



By Aileen Caiden — 5 May, 2025 1:09 am | 3,209 Views | No Comments



“I am sick of dealing with these a** from the council and the environment agency,”

Newell stated, reflecting the wider sense of desperation felt by many in the community.”

“The community’s frustrations have been compounded by what they perceive as a lack of genuine concern from local officials.”

<https://noah-news.com/isle-of-sheppey-residents-battle-erosion-and-council-disputes-as-cliffhanger-collapse-leaves-homes-at-risk/>

Project Aims.

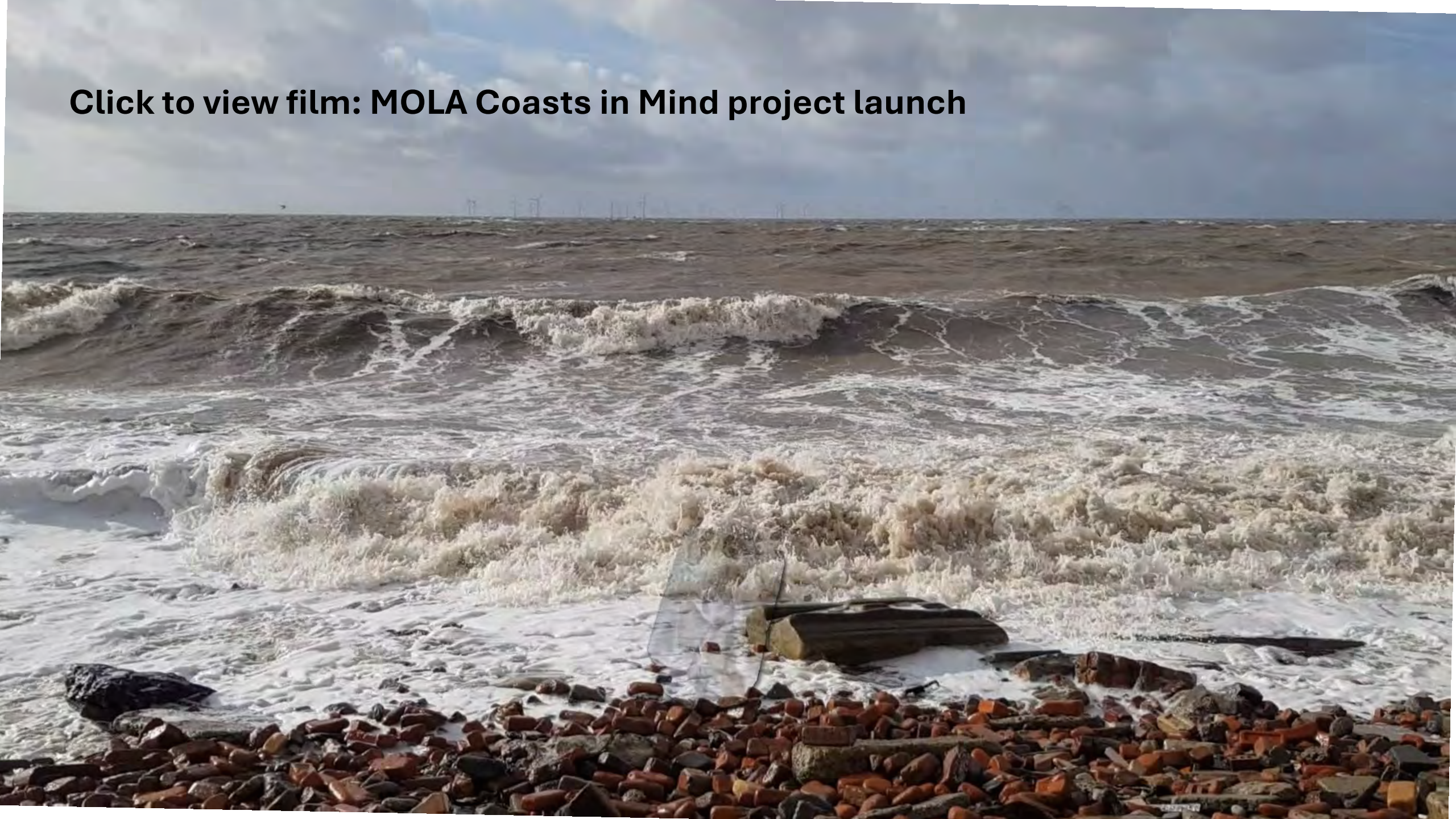
Evaluate & Assess

Evaluate how the **Coasts in Mind (CiM) Community Archive** supports knowledge exchange between coastal communities and policymakers.

Assess how community-generated data (photos, postcards, oral histories, stories of change) can be translated into credible, usable evidence for coastal planning and policy.



[Click to view film: MOLA Coasts in Mind project launch](#)



▼

Coasts in Mind Community Archiv

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https://cim.mola.org.uk/map

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Chat

📁 MOLA Favourites bar

📁 Activities

📁 Bermondsey and R...

📁 City

📁 Climate Change

📁 Deptford

📁 Heritage and Well...

📁 LGBTQ+

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📁 Other favourites

coasts in mind

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Coasts in Mind Community Archive

Welcome to the Coasts in Mind Humap platform. Select a region or highlighted record to get started below, or go to the browse tab to see all of the records we have to share!

For more information about our project go to cim.mola.org.uk or click our logo in the top left corner.

Coasts in Mind is made possible with a grant from The National Lottery Heritage Fund, and is supported by the Lloyd's Register Foundation.

Highlighted records

Record



Erosion at Formby Point and Pinetree Cafe

Record



Infilling the harbour: Holes Bay Road (Audio)

Record



Sea Walls Breached! 1978/79 Floods. [Oral History]

Regions

Poole Harbour



kingdom

🔍 Find place

📍 Hide pins

🗺️ Change map

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-

Isle of Man

Blackpool

Leeds

York

Hull

Irish Sea

Liverpool

Stoke-on-Trent

Nottingham

Peterborough

Norwich

Cambridge

Ipswich

Luton

Oxford

Cardiff

Bath

London

Exeter

Plymouth

Penzance

Portsmouth

Brighton

Dover

Calais

Dieppe

70+

10+

100+

50+

100+

Show overlay tools

Humap

Amie

<https://cim.mola.org.uk/map>



Coasts in Mind Community Archive



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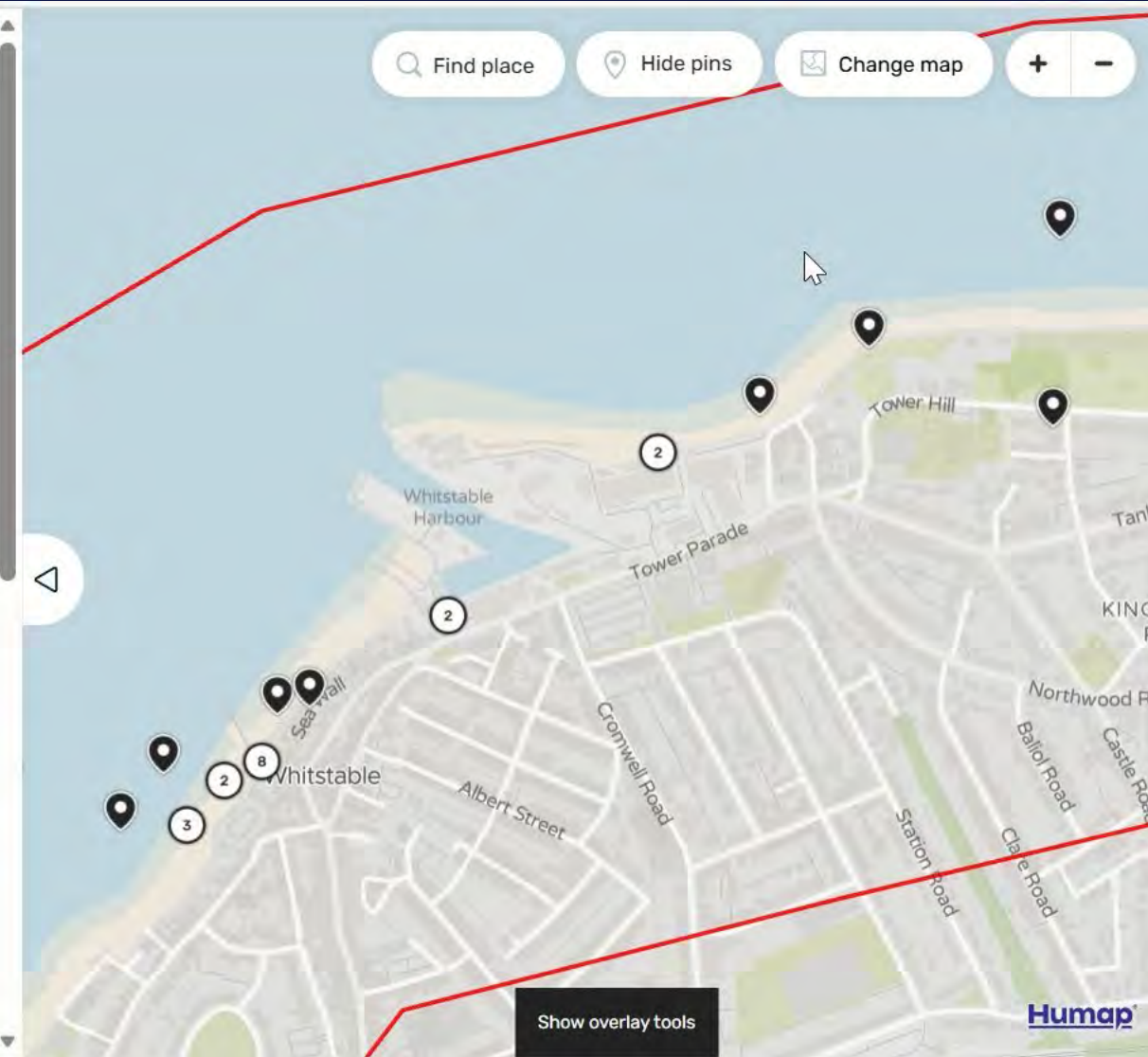
Highlighted records



Regions



Poole Harbour





Project Objectives.

Test, Explore, Share

Test how effectively policymakers can access, interpret, and use community archive materials.

Explore how the CiM platform meets policy needs for:

- Data accessibility | Communication | Usability

Examine inclusivity, representation, and ethical practices in data submission.

Generate practical lessons for embedding community insights into real policy decisions.

Why This Matters.

Centring Community

Coastal policy is often driven by quantitative data, overlooking community knowledge.

Policymakers in Swale (2024 feedback) highlighted gaps in communicating decisions.

Community archives offer long-term, place-based memory, supporting proactive adaptation (e.g., CTAP, Coastwise).

BUT there is **limited evidence** on how community-generated data directly influences policy.



(Anticipated) Project Outcomes.

- Policymakers explore where and how community archives can inform real policy processes
- Deeper understanding of current use, barriers, and opportunities for integrating archive data
- Evidence of changed attitudes or emerging use of community archives post-engagement
- Clear frameworks for embedding community archives in planning, heritage, and adaptation policy
- Strengthened dialogue between communities, archive practitioners, and policymakers
- Wider awareness > national use of community archives by policymakers
- Collaboration with CTAP and specifically Coastwise

Milestone Description:	Delivery Date:
All policy maker engagement activities completed	June 2026
Toolkit draft created and tested	August 2026
All public dissemination through reports, briefings, webinars, presentations etc delivered	October 2026
Output Description:	Delivery Date:
2 x Hackathons	1 x April 2026 1 x May 2026
Hackathon summary reports, policy mapping visual	June 2026
6 x 1:1 Interviews	2 x March 2026 2 x April 2026 2 x May 2026
Interview transcriptions, thematic analysis report, typology	July 2026
Online Follow-up surveys/interviews	June 2026
Online Follow-up quantitative dataset and synthesis brief	July 2026
Toolkit with case studies	September 2026
Final synthesis report and policy briefings	October 2026

Get In Touch.

charris@mola.org.uk





Listening to North Sea Coastal Communities in Transition

Ecocultural Heritage Between
Aberdeen and Shetland

Project Lead: Dr Rebecca Macklin
Interdisciplinary Fellow, University of Aberdeen



Project Background

- Torry (Aberdeen) and Yell (Shetland) have been shaped by North Sea oil since the 1970s and now face renewable energy transitions.
- These shifts create opportunities and challenges for ecosystems, cultural practices, and coastal lifeways.
- Communities often experience environmental and infrastructural change while being marginalised in decision-making.
- Climate change adds further pressure to both tangible and intangible heritage.

Project Overview



- Co-designed with community-based organisations Greyhope Bay, North Yell Development Council and the Elphinstone Institute at the University of Aberdeen, the project seeks to support, connect and amplify local coastal heritage initiatives.
- Brings together a transdisciplinary team from across the energy humanities, anthropology, socially engaged arts, sound studies, and heritage studies.
- Outputs include public sound archives, an online exhibition, podcast series and academic publications.
- The project will strengthen cross-regional community dialogue, build capacity for ecocultural heritage safeguarding, and support just transitions.

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UNIVERSITY OF
ABERDEEN



ELPHINSTONE
INSTITUTE
studying culture in context



“Every soundscape has its own unique tones – and often these are so original as to constitute soundmarks.”

- R. Murray Schafer, 1977

Why Sound?

- Sound shapes how people perceive environmental change and how memories and identities are formed.
- Acoustic environments can indicate cultural shifts, in addition to signal biodiversity health and ecological loss.
- Facilitating deeper listening practices through workshops allows participants to understand and observe their local environment in new ways.
- Listening activities allow for intergenerational and inclusive participation.

What We Will Do

- 
- A man wearing a brown bucket hat, a blue jacket, and a bright yellow high-visibility vest is standing on a sandy beach. He is wearing large headphones and holding a black cable that runs across the sand towards the water. In the background, a white lighthouse sits atop a dark stone pier extending into the sea. Another person in a dark coat is partially visible on the left side of the frame.
- Participatory, intergenerational workshops in Torry and Yell include listening walks and field recording sessions, using handheld recorders and hydrophones.
 - Collaborative creation of “sonic postcards” to exchange between communities and facilitate reflective discussion on ecocultural heritage and transitions.
 - We will support our partner organisations to develop capacity, through heritage documentation training and cross-regional exchanges.

Aims and Objectives

- Co-produce research to understand the lived experiences of climate change and energy transition in Torry and Yell.
- Map environmental and cultural changes that are shaping community relationships with the coast.
- Facilitate exchange and co-learning between coastal communities at risk.
- Co-produce outputs that support community-led safeguarding of ecocultural heritage.



Listening to North Sea Coastal Communities in Transition

Thank you for listening! We would be happy to hear from you if you have any questions.

Project team

Principal Investigator:

Dr Rebecca Macklin, University of Aberdeen (Rebecca.macklin@abdn.ac.uk)

Co-Investigators:

Dr Andrew Whitehouse, University of Aberdeen

Nicolas Le Bigre, Elphinstone Institute, University of Aberdeen

Professor Roxane Permar, University of Highlands and Islands, Shetland



**Coast-R
Network**

Thank you to all our presenters, I hope everyone will join us later in the year to find out more about the results from these projects

If you are interested in the second-round of small grants, please sign-up for the Webinar tomorrow (30th May at 13:30)

ukcoastalresilience.org



**Coast-R
Network**

Thank you for joining us

Have you joined the Network?

ukcoastalresilience.org



#CoastRNetwork