

ReMeMaRe Delivery Plan

Background

In May 2022, the “Restoring Meadow, Marsh and Reef (ReMeMaRe)” hosted a face-to-face National Action Planning (NAP) workshop with all partners, here, at the Scarborough Spa. The purpose of the workshop, was to identify and discuss the next steps that ReMeMaRe should take, in order to develop and implement a national strategy that best supports and enables estuarine and coastal (E&C) restoration.

Output

Following the workshop, the Partnership co-developed the ReMeMaRe Delivery Plan. Hosted on the website, the Plan sets the direction of future work for ReMeMaRe, aiming to champion and support efficient and collaborative working, whilst also avoiding duplication of effort.

It's comprised of 5x thematic working groups (WGs). Within each WG, it describes some of the key deliverables, or projects of relevance to that theme, that the Partnership feel could be addressed at a national level, to support and enable estuarine and coastal restoration delivery at the local level.

We maintain the Delivery Plan as a 'live document', updating it as projects complete and importantly, as partners and other stakeholders see a need or opportunity to address evidence gaps, provide supporting tools and guidance and support restoration of estuaries and coasts.



Questionnaire

Accordingly, we would welcome feedback from the restoration community on the ReMeMaRe Delivery Plan, to:

- Ensure that the projects described are the most impactful and strategically important projects to focus ReMeMaRe's future focus and effort
- Suggest and describe any nationally relevant projects that you feel are missing, but are equally important



Restoration Project Platform

Background

Over recent decades, the field of estuarine and coastal habitat restoration has grown substantially. This trend in effort is set to increase, given:

- Societal interest and engagement in environmental issues
- Recent and ongoing developments in legislation and policy
- The inherent need, given how estuarine and coastal restoration and improvements in the environment generally, can enhance human health and create a more resilient and sustainable future in the face of climate change and loss of biodiversity.

With this, comes the need for a strategic and collaborative approach if we are to deliver at scale and at pace. A key piece of enabling 'infrastructure', is the Restoration Project Platform.

Purpose

The overarching purpose of the Platform, will be to collate data pertaining to restoration projects undertaken in the UK (current, completed and planned), which, dependent on the data supplied may be used for, but not limited to:

- Maintaining oversight of all marine restoration projects and informing spatial planning
- Collating and making relevant data accessible, including signposting to other datasets
- Communication of restoration activities and their importance to a range of audiences
- Understanding costs to better inform sustainable financing and future investment
- Management and co-ordination of certain aspects of restoration (e.g., seed collection)
- Effective reporting on restoration 'indicators' or 'metrics' that may be required now or in the future at a national or UK level

In 2023, the Environment Agency and The Crown Estate commissioned ABPmer to start work on the development of the Restoration Project Platform. This work will be published in the coming months.

However, the Platform will need to be co-developed, tested and reviewed with partners, through iterations of detailed consultation (e.g., workshops) and design (working with technical data specialists), over the coming years.

Accordingly, we would welcome feedback from the restoration community on 'user journeys', content and functionality. To get involved, please feel free to scan the QR code and complete the questionnaire.



Aquaculture and Nursery Feasibility Report

Background

There is a need and desire to scale up estuarine and coastal restoration. This is currently inhibited, particularly for seagrass and oyster, partly due to their historic losses and the associated lack of seagrass seed or seedlings and oyster spat or cultch.

To address this barrier, aquaculture and nursery facilities are starting to be established in the UK and internationally. Such facilities can:

- Help with upscaling
- Relieve pressures associated with harvesting wild stocks
- Support new market chains and job creation in this growing restoration sector
- Create alternative land uses and diversification
- Provide opportunities for community engagement, research, education and training

There are also opportunities to align with the needs and growth of macroalgal aquaculture.

In 2023, the Environment Agency commissioned Jacobs to undertake an assessment of existing facilities, looking at design, outputs and costs. Using ReMeMaRe restoration targets and existing restoration methods, it also estimated the potential demand and investment required to support the future upscaling of restoration efforts.



We would welcome feedback from the restoration community. Please scan the QR code and complete the questionnaire if you:

- Have any general comments on the report and its recommendations
- Have information on other existing facilities not included in the report
- Are involved in the development of macroalgal aquaculture



Fig 1. (left) Blue Meadows seagrass nursery (Ocean Conservation Trust)
Fig 2. (right) Oyster hatchery (Seasalter (Walney) Ltd.)

UK Sediment Resource Database

Background

Sediments and soils are fundamental to environmental health. The beneficial use of dredged sediment (BUDS) is defined as *“using dredged material in a manner that will benefit society and the natural environment”*¹. It is recognised, that material dredged every year to maintain safe navigation is a resource, that needs improved management to support estuarine and coastal restoration at scale and increase shoreline resilience in a changing climate.

Previous UK and international projects have shown what can be achieved (Fig. 1), but barriers to delivery in the UK persist. One of the main barriers is the lack of strategic co-ordination of sediment supply (i.e., those dredging) and demand (i.e., those restoring) and the associated planning and development of a pipeline of beneficial use projects.

To address this barrier, the UK Beneficial Use Working Group (BUWG), working with ports, harbours and coastal partnerships, have commissioned ABPmer to develop a UK Sediment Resource Database (SRD), supporting regional BUDS strategies in a few key areas of the UK.

Purpose

The overarching purpose of the SRD, will be to create a freely accessible, online platform that:

- Provides nationally relevant information on beneficial use and sediment management
- An interrogable GIS map, demarcated by the spatial extent of regional BUDS strategies, providing local and site-specific studies and information on sediment supply and demand

Regional BUDS Strategies

The areas covered by the initial UK SRD build, will include:

- Solent
- Thames, Medway and Swale
- Blackwater and Colne
- Humber
- Severn
- Mersey



Fig 1. (left) Nesting habitat creation and protection of Cobmarsh Island saltmarsh by Mersea Harbour Protection Trust (MHPT), in the Blackwater Estuary, Essex, 2022 (Jim Pullen Surveys).

References

¹ Manning, W.D., Scott, C.R and Leegwater, E. (eds) (2021). Restoring Estuarine and Coastal Habitats with Dredged Sediment: A Handbook. Environment Agency, Bristol, UK