

JOINT APPROACH TO FLOOD & COASTAL EROSION RISK MANAGEMENT FOR CHRISTCHURCH BAY & HARBOUR AND THE WESTERN SOLENT

Christchurch Bay & Harbour FCERM Strategy & Hurst Spit to Lymington Strategy

The Christchurch Bay and Harbour Strategy and the Hurst Spit to Lymington Strategy are two important flood and coastal erosion risk management projects being delivered along the south coast of England. Although they are defined by geographical boundaries, coastal dynamics don't work this way! The two strategies are linked by Hurst Spit, an important feature and landmark of the area. By working collaboratively, the Spit will be integrated into the two strategies, ensuring that it is fully considered by both project teams.

This approach will jointly inform how coastal communities and natural environments may be sustainably managed from coastal flood and erosion risk for the next 100 years.

The Christchurch Bay and Harbour Strategy stretches from Hengistbury Head to the western end of Hurst Spit and encompasses Christchurch Harbour extending to the tidal limits of Tuckton Bridge on the River Stour and Knapp Mill on the River Avon. It is being developed by Bournemouth Christchurch and Poole Council, New Forest District Council and the Environment Agency, working with specialist technical support from AECOM consultants. It is anticipated that the strategy will be completed and adopted in early 2024.

The Hurst Spit to Lymington Strategy starts at the western end of Hurst Spit, encompasses Keyhaven and Pennington Marshes and extends to east bank of the Lymington River. It is being developed by the Environment Agency, New Forest District Council, Hampshire County Council and Natural England, with environmental engineering experts, JBA Consulting. It is anticipated this strategy will be completed and adopted in 2024.

The collaboration between the two teams working together across boundaries ensures:

- A larger knowledge base and more robust challenge of evidence from a wider pool of local experts and consultants working towards the same overarching goal.
- Financial efficiencies from delivering once on activities that benefit both strategies, such as improved funding opportunities and construction efficiencies.
- A 'no surprises' approach that mitigates against the risk of the two projects' negatively impacting on each other.
- The facilitation of a more in-depth understanding of the wider environmental impacts than would otherwise be possible if both strategies operated in isolation.
- Hurst Spit is a key feature that can be fully integrated and central to both strategies so there can be no disconnect on the future of this important landmark.

Both strategy teams meet regularly to share and develop the vision for this important coastal landscape. If you would like more information on either project, please visit the websites at:

Christchurch Bay and Harbour FCERM Strategy (twobays.net)

Hurst Spit to Lymington project information page - Environment Agency - Citizen Space (environment-agency.gov.uk)