



A changing coast: Tanners Lane

The New Forest coast is a **dynamic and evolving place**. It changes from tide to tide, season to season and year to year.

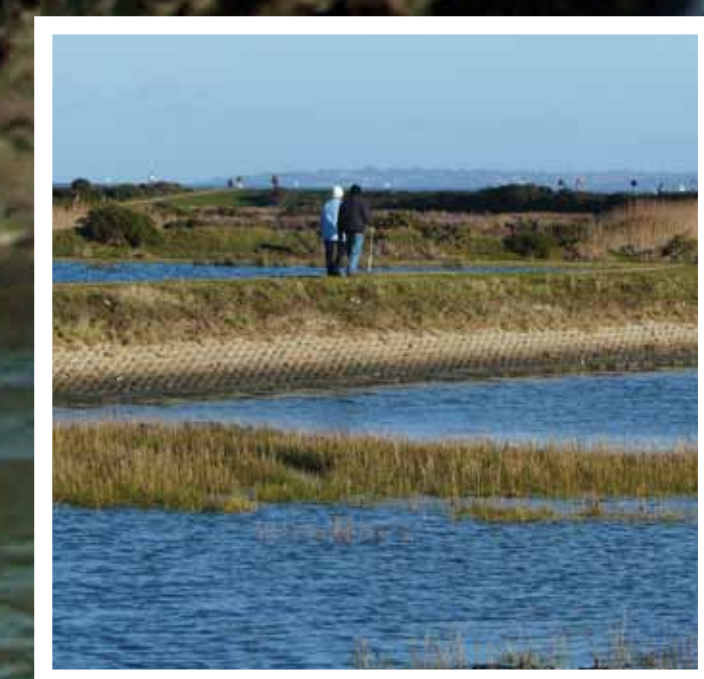
Understanding these changes is the key to helping look after this spectacular area.

Enjoy the beautiful views, varied history and wealth of wildlife of the New Forest National Park. Please help by keeping to footpaths and by not allowing your dog to approach or chase wildlife.

Find out more about how the New Forest coast is managed and why it is special at:

www.newforest.gov.uk/coastal
www.newforestnpa.gov.uk
www.northsolentsmp.co.uk

Walkers on the seawall
© Andrew Colenutt



You are here

Lymington

Redshank © Mike Read



Coastal management

Coastal management balances natural processes, the consequences of climate change, nature conservation and the interests of local communities to best look after the coast.

Management includes awareness raising, maintenance of coastal defences and allowing some natural realignment of the coast. In the long-term it may not be possible to continue to defend land or property from flooding or erosion.

Habitat loss

Habitat loss due to a variety of factors is an issue. Most of the Solent's saltmarsh is likely to have disappeared by 2050.



Eroding saltmarsh © NFDC

Coastal wildlife

Coastal wildlife changes throughout the year. In winter, saltmarshes, mudflats and lagoons support internationally important numbers of birds such as Brent geese, wigeon, dunlins, redshanks and curlews. In the summer, shingle and saltmarshes provide nesting habitat for gulls, terns, ringed plovers and lapwings.



Brent Geese © NFNPA

Climate Change

Climate change will have some of its biggest impacts on the coast. Rising sea levels and increased storm conditions mean that coastal defences will become more exposed, and the risk of flooding and shoreline erosion increases.



Stormy weather © NFDC

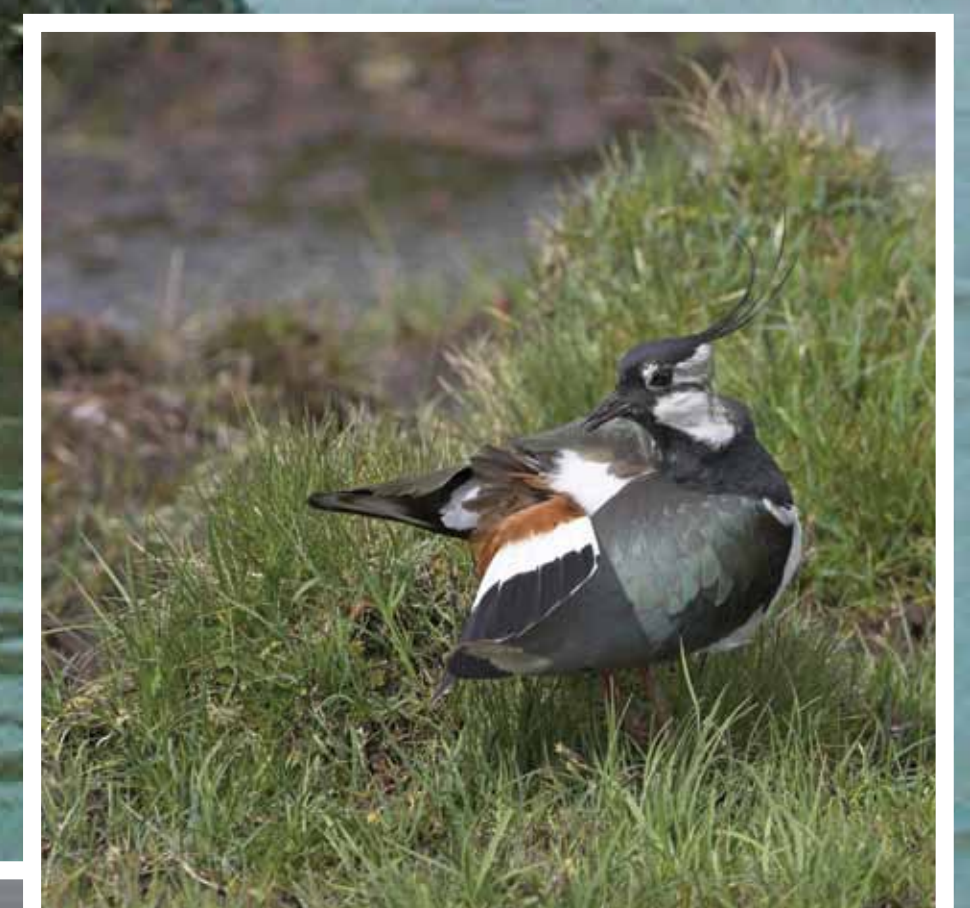
Flood defences

Natural flood defences such as shingle, saltmarshes and mudflats absorb wave energy, reducing the impact on the seawalls and shoreline. The influence of the waves and tides depend on the exposure of the local geology.



Saltmarsh © NFDC

Lapwing © Mike Read



Wigeon
© Andrew Colenutt

