

PLYMOUTH SOUND NATIONAL MARINE PARK



Update Report 2024

Executive Summary

The last update to the Natural Environment and Growth Scrutiny Committee was in July 2023, when the framework for the National Lottery Heritage Fund bid was presented and endorsement for the bid was sought. In September 2023, the bid was submitted and in December 2023 we were awarded the grant. Since the funding award, the project has rapidly gained momentum and has commenced delivery against the multiple project outcomes.

Over the last year there has been significant activity happen across many areas of the Park which will be detailed in this report including:

- **Team Development** – we have recruited the full team for the delivery phase which has included four new Rangers and two new members in the project management function within Plymouth City Council. There has also been staff recruited and embedded within our partner organisation, the new officers leading the Sea in Our School programme and Meet the Marine Park have been employed by the Ocean Conservation Trust and a new Senior Creative Producer has been employed by Plymouth Culture to support the Digital work for the PSNMP.
- **Nature Boost** – The PSNMP is classed as a landscape and nature project by the NLHF, and we have therefore embedded nature in all aspects of the Horizons work. There is, however, also a specific programme of work, Nature Boost, where the aim is to engage people in the wonder of the Park's wildlife but also innovate and be a pathfinder of how NMPs can deliver new ways to enhance nature with people. This year the focus has been on developing species and habitat projects as well as developing the model around seagrass tokens.
- **Heritage Restoration and Repurposing** - In the funding bid we front loaded the capital improvements as the works were needed to support the delivery of the wider project. There has therefore been a significant focus at our Gateway sites to get the construction work underway.

- **Activity Plan** – The activity plan includes a diversity of programmes aimed at getting a more diverse group of people in, on, under and next to the Park in a manner that provides benefits for people and nature. It includes the school programme, volunteering, activities at the Gateways, and Meet the Marine Park which takes the sea to the people. Many areas of the Plan are well underway whilst others are under development.
- **Digital Park** – The focus has been on developing the relationship with Plymouth Culture, ensuring our digital infrastructure is in place to support the ambitions of the programme and developing the proposals for the first digital project that will commence in 2025.
- **Evaluation** – Continuous review, reflection, learning, and adaption is fundamental as we are delivering the UK’s first National Marine Park. Our evaluation work is underway and will sit alongside delivery over the next four and a half years to ensure we continually adapt to the needs and ambitions of the communities we will be working with.

Through all areas of the project people are at the heart of the PSNMP Horizons project and there is a constant focus on engagement and enabling activities. Since the Delivery Phase of the projects has commenced, we have:

- Recruited 30 schools as part of the SIOS programme – enabling over 950 students to take part this year.
- Supported the fantastic PSNMP volunteers to spend over 700-hours working with us to improve the Park.
- Engaged with nearly 6000 people through the roving Meet the Marine Park offer, where we take the Park to the communities across Plymouth
- Activated our Gateways enabling over 1560 people to get in, on, under and next to the park in new ways.
- Seen a 65% increase in engagement with our website.

Within all the programmes of work there is a focus on building a new relationship between people and the ocean ensuring we provide a strong legacy beyond the life of the project. To

support the legacy of the project, there has also been work developing the Park entity to ensure once the project completes the outcomes and ambition continues.

This report provides a more detailed update on all the points above and an insight into the 2025 work programme.

I. Nature Boost

The aim of the Nature Boost programme is to deliver a transformative project for people, place and planet. This work stream purpose is to trial and develop innovative approaches to nature-based interventions that will have long term impacts in the Sound and beyond and ensure communities can be actively engaged and inspired by the work. There are four components to the nature boost programme: Species boost, Habitat boost, Sea grass token, Carbon positive.

The Nature Boost Projects will:

- Work within the Marine Protected Area and across the existing wildlife designations within the PSNMP boundary.
- Build on existing projects, research and nature recovery innovation.
- Work within existing policy and management plans including the Tamar Estuaries Consultative Forum (TECF) management plan.
- Support the iconic species of Plymouth Sound through pathfinding novel approaches to supporting their recovery.
- Encourage people to:
 - Experience and engage – through sharing fun and excitement about what they can see in their PSNMP.
 - Discover and learn – understand the species and habitats of the Sound and how they can be supported to thrive.
 - Connect and act - getting involved with practical activities and outreach, join citizen science initiatives and create drivers for people to make real change.

In addition, there are the delivery of the statutory nature requirements of the project through the Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) Strategic Mitigation Plan (SMP).

Species Boost

This first project is designed to share the awe and wonder of a group of species found in the Sound that are an important part of our local wildlife. Skates and rays are coastal species vulnerable to fishing due to their size and shape. They are also slow to mature, so large sexually mature specimens are particularly important. The common skate is one of the most endangered species in the UK!

Our project focuses on breeding spotted rays (a confusing name since they are a skate – major difference is rays are live bearers whereas skate lay eggs). We caught a small number of female rays who lay their fertilised eggs in the research aquarium at the Marine Biological Association (MBA). The females were then returned to the sea, mimicking natural behavior of moving on once the eggs are laid.

The eggs are being cared for in the aquarium enabling them to develop and hatch. We are filming each stage of the process so we can share and explain their development. To date we have hatched over 25 baby spotted rays and there are a series of engagement points planned to enable people to experience the wonder of what happens within the PSNMP without getting wet. By being part of this experience, we hope people feel a greater connection to the wildlife of the PSNMP and are more likely to participate in positive actions for the Park.



(Image of one the hatched rays)

Linked to this work and to enable even more community participation, PSNMP have teamed up with Sharks Trust who developed and deliver the Great Egg Case Hunt each year. We are aiming to encourage and support more people to participate in hunting for and recording egg case finds on the foreshore to support the Sharks Trust initiative. Our amazing volunteers will be trained to identify different eggs and include egg case hunts as part of the routine beach cleans.

Habitat Boost

This work focuses on identifying and enhancing the habitats that support our iconic species and explores how key habitats can be boosted through restoration programmes, landscape improvements and community engagement.

This year two studies were commissioned to ensure we maximised the positive impact on habitats and where to prioritise action. The two studies focused on biogenic reefs and mudflats. They have provided clear recommendations on a direction of travel for the next phase of the delivery and the interventions will include measures that contribute to the direct restoration of habitats within the PSNMP, support people in Plymouth to be involved through citizen science programmes and align with the species work.

Seagrass Tokens

Work has continued from the development phase with the Ocean Conservation Trust (OCT), Finance Earth and the University of Plymouth to develop a financial model and approach to enable investment into seagrass restoration, taking advantage of the emerging nature-based investment markets. The partnership meets regularly to update on the different work packages and work on the model and potential investment opportunities. This has included an agreement on financial structures such as the delivery vehicle for the seagrass tokens. The model will look to be delivered locally but have national potential. Good progress has been made and there has been interest from national organisations in the seagrass token approach.

Carbon Positive

This year work has focused on ensuring our carbon and environmental impacts are avoided or reduced across the programme. We have been working with our contractor teams to look at carbon tracking and how to reduce waste. We have also been investigating the best way to track environmental impacts and benefits across a complex multifaceted project. Moving to a carbon and nature positive project is a key ambition for the project and this work will be a focus for 2025. The element of work has secured support as part of a resourcing offer linked to the Levelling Up Funding so will start in January.

Strategic Mitigation Plan (SMP)

The SMP is a requirement for the Habitat Regulation Assessment for the project and has an agreed series of mitigation and monitoring measures including all parts of the project (from Capital work building controls, ecological surveys, marine communities). The SMP has been analysed and being built into work programmes for the next 4 years. The SMP for the National Marine Park complements existing HRA requirements for the Sound and we are looking at common delivery across PCC and working with Tamar Estuaries Consultative Forum (TECF).

2. Capital Restoration and Repurposing

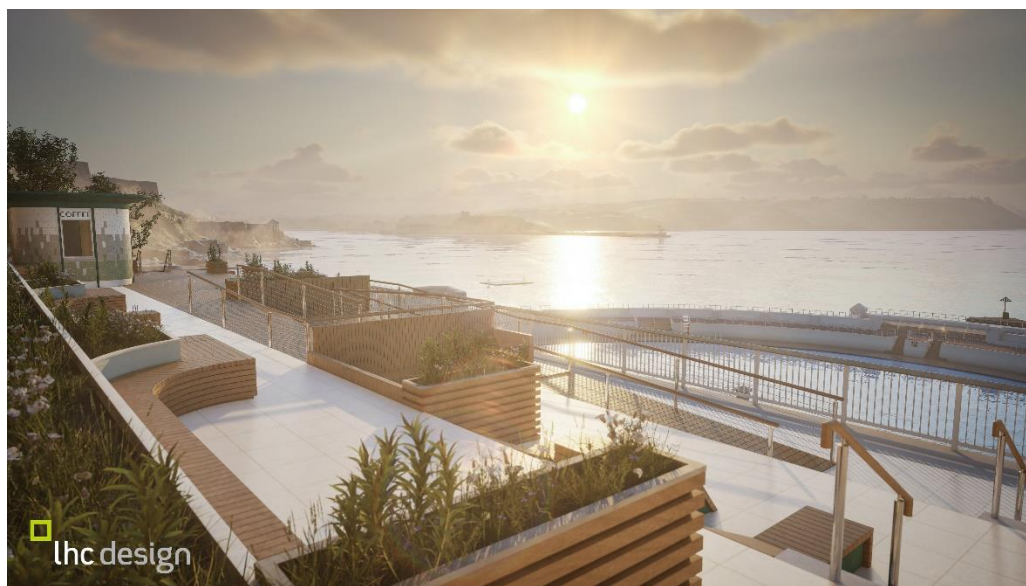
The capital restoration projects are essential in enabling more people to benefit from accessing the PSNMP. The works will remove some of the barriers to access that were identified from the Development Phase and enable the infrastructure that will see them transformed into gateway sites that activate and welcome people to the park. As this part of the project was front loaded there has been a huge amount of activity across the sites since the Delivery Phase commenced. A summary of the work at each of the 3 physical gateway sites is detailed below:

Tinside Lido

- The Tinside works will improve its inclusive welcome and enhance the site to become a key gateway for the PSNMP. Works include reimagining the upper terrace to make the most of one of the best views of the PSNMP. The first floor will provide a flexible space that

supports youth activities and commercial events and the building on the edge of the pool will act as a hub for young people to support them accessing the Park.

- Works commenced at the Lido prior to opening for the summer swim season at the end of May 2024. Enabling works were able to run through the summer, primarily on the re-roofing and waterproofing of the upper terrace whilst surveys were completed to establish the overall condition of the buildings and the scope of repairs required. This is a highly complex project on a Listed Building with difficult access to the works from road level. The main contract works were agreed and awarded to Nevada Construction in October 2024. Works are progressing well, with contingency measures in place to enable work during the winter period. Works are scheduled to be completed before the new 2025 swim season.



(CGI of Tinside Roof Terrace)

Mount Batten Peninsula

- The Peninsula will undergo a series of improvement works from enabling better access to the historic Mt Batten Tower, to transforming the Mt Batten Centre to enable it to support more diverse groups to get onto, in and next to the PSNMP. The works have been

competitively tendered, and the Council has awarded the main contractor contract to Classic Builders. Work is now underway reviewing the phasing and timelines of the work.



Mount Batten Pontoon

- The Council is working with the Cattewater Harbour Commissioners as technical advisors over the design of a new pontoon and access bridge to enable more inclusive access to the water and activities. Detailed investigations are currently being carried out on the sea walls and seabed to inform the final design. Until this work is completed and the work is tendered, a completion date for the works cannot be specified.

Mount Edgumbe Garden Battery

- The Mount Edgumbe works will enable people to access the amazing heritage of the battery. Detailed design works are planned for the winter of 2024/25 with a view to works commencing after bat emergence in May 2025.

3. The Activity Plan Delivery

The Activity Plan drives the community engagement and experience work of the PSNMP. In the first year of delivery there was a significant level of activity across many aspects of the Park. A key part of the project is a continual learning approach that allows the project to adapt and

evolve to meet the needs and ambitions of the communities we are working with. This year's work will therefore be reviewed over the winter and the learning used to better align the activities with what we learnt from communities this year. A summary of this year's work is as follows.

Sea in the City – The part that takes the Sea to the People.

- Meet the Marine Park: our roving outreach programme. By the end of the year, Meet the Marine Park will have delivered 39 events across the City, taking the PSNMP to the people. The roaming PSNMP gateway has been popping up at a range of community events from smaller events like Patna Park Fun Day and Four Greens fun day to larger public events including Pirates Weekend, West End Carnival and Seafest. The delivery team spent 2 days in Drakes Circus in the run up to Seafest to help promote the many activities being offered. By the end of September, Meet the Marine Park had engaged with nearly 6000 people.
- Pathways to the Sea: This element looks to increase the accessibility of the PSNMP by delivering new sustainable routes from communities to the sea. This year focused on fact finding and assessing the current position. Opportunity meetings within Plymouth City Council (i.e. public health, active travel) as well as external stakeholders such as Ramblers, walking group networks and the National Trust have been held. Site visits have also been conducted to various locations across City to assess current pathways access and suitability.
- Rockpool encounters: PSNMP rangers have run rock pooling events for specific groups (e.g., Out Youth group) as an introduction to the PSNMP. Throughout the summer Blue Youth Workers (community youth) have introduced 43 young people to rock pooling with help from PSNMP and OCT rangers. Our biggest rock pooling event this year, was the hugely successful 'Coastal Connections' Bioblitz, delivered with our partner, The Rock Pool Project. This took place on the Mount Batten Peninsula, one of our PSNMP gateways. There was a great turnout of 192 participants over the day and lots of incredibly positive feedback about the range of specialised knowledge available to them.



- Community coastal cleans: Delivered using the Marine Conservation Society methodology we conducted coastal cleans once a month in various locations with community members. Delivering a clean once a month allows a more targeted approach for community groups and their members whilst PSNMP rangers build those relationships in those places.
- PSNMP Sea Fest: Working with Plymouth Waterfront Partnership we expanded the annual event across our PSNMP Gateways and provide more activities:

An estimated 25,000 daytime visitors attended the Sea Fest event, spanning the Barbican and Sutton Harbour, Tinside Lido, West Hoe, Royal William Yard, Mount Batten and Mount Edgcombe. The PSNMP activities included 20 different activities (at a reduced price or free) which enabled 2,258 people to enjoy the PSNMP in new and different ways. One of the most successful interventions made by PSNMP was providing subsidised travel options. The offer covered a 'Shark and Ride' shuttle bus and Beryl bikes (waterfront areas) and the use of ferries. Over the weekend 3,497 journeys were enabled by the subsidised travel options.



Sea in our school – Our Formal School Offer



We have two cohorts within the school's programme. For Cohort A we will be working with every year for 4 school years. For Cohort B we will be working with new schools each academic year. The SIOS is seeking the maximum impact and to test how impactful short term engagement programmes (1-year) compared to more continued engagement (4 years). Schools across Plymouth were assessed using nationally recognised data sets such as the number of free school meals provided and numbers of children with Special Educational Needs (SEND). This data was used to help determine which schools would be invited onto the 1-year programme or the 4-year programme. All primary schools will be offered the opportunity to participate before the end of the project.

Cohort A has 15 schools (including two SEND schools) totaling 460 key stage 2 pupils from within the City of Plymouth boundary. Cohort B has 15 schools for the 24/25 academic year, (including one south-east Cornwall school) totaling 510 pupils. These 970 children have received an initial visit into the school by the Sea in our School lead collating baseline evaluation data. The first schools have now embarked on the first of their three activities within the

programme. This is a visit to the NMA. Next term's activity is a virtual interactive tour of an interesting location and in the summer term a visit from an external stakeholder to the school.

PSNMP Volunteers

- This year, the volunteer programme has been focused on keeping the development phase volunteers invested aligning work with the activity and nature plans. Activities have included beach cleans, supporting PSNMP events engaging with communities and improving the heritage of the park. Between April and September, over 7,000 hours of volunteer time was achieved. We have also been incredibly pleased with not just the number of hours supported by volunteers but the fact that we are reaching our priority audiences, detailed in the bid as follows:
 - 48 % of current cohorts are aged between 18-24.
 - 18% of recent active volunteer survey are not a 'White' ethnicity, Plymouth 2021 census 5.4% are not 'white'.
 - 6.8% of development phase survey replied 'No' or 'prefer not to say' to disability question.
 - 27% of delivery phase survey replied 'No' or 'prefer not to say' to 'Do you consider yourself to have a disability?'.

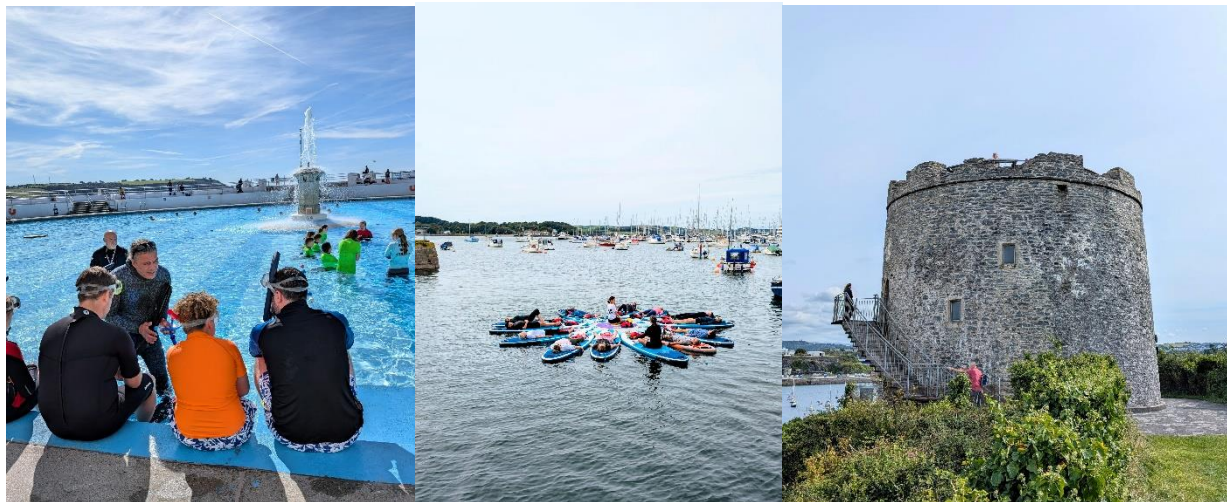
PSNMP Gateways Activation

PSNMP Swim Safe Plymouth Active Leisure (PAL) – PAL have been delivering the PSNMP Swim Safe which started in Plymouth Life Centre until Tinside Lido opened on 26th May. The Swim Safe programme takes into consideration the sustainability of being able to swim in the sea for free, so this is essential a sea safety programme that will enable more people to engage with and enjoy the PSNMP. The PSNMP Swim Safe programme, (up to September 24) has delivered session to 1,229 people. It allows confidence building within the boundaries of swimming lessons in a pool, then enables pathways to experience snorkeling, scuba diving, SUP, kayaking and sailing. A programme of engagement led by detached youth workers across the waterfront has resulted in an increased use of Tinside Lido by young people with a dedicated youth session

being run every Tuesday night. These 15 youth sessions had a total attendance of 859 young people (aged 11-18).

Activate @ Mount Batten: Throughout the summer period the Mount Batten Centre provided free activity sessions to community groups working with young people and people with long term health conditions or disabilities, enabling them to experience the Park in new ways. The groups and number sessions delivered are detailed below:

- Plymouth Enrichment Games (YMCA): 96 half day sessions in July
- PCC Community Youth/PCC SEND groups: 120 half day sessions across late June/ July
- Marine Citizenship weeks: across late July / August delivered
- PCC Community Youth : 120 half day sessions
- Pembroke Street: 96 half day sessions
- Wolseley Trust: 112 half day sessions
- Connecting Youth CIC: 112 half day sessions
- Friends and Families: 120 half day sessions



Growing Ernesettle co-created communities: The project has been building on existing relationships with local community groups including the scouts and 'Friends of' groups that were established during the development phase. Our Ranger team have been attending events, gaining a greater understanding of the communities' ambition and working on future events. This has involved

linking up with the school's programme, joining wellbeing walks to learn what activities might interest people and planning small improvements such as steps down to the beach for improved access and the installation of benches.

Growing Firestone Bay co-created communities: This area is in its early stages of engagement, focusing on relationship building with the local stakeholders, by attending local events, connecting with community builders and planning some appreciative enquiry to learn more about how the community engages with Firestone Bay and what would encourage more engagement if not. The Rangers are also putting on small scale open events including small citizen science style activities on the foreshore led by the volunteers, with an open invite to the community to come and have a chat to the Rangers about the project. These are more 'drop in' type events which allow the Rangers to have a regular presence in the community.

Marine Citizenship within Activity Plan

One of the PSNMP main aims is to create active citizens and encourage "Marine Citizenship". It aims to engage residents and visitors to reconnect with and explore the ocean in exciting ways. It will provide opportunities for people to enjoy the landscape, nature, and community heritage of the area.

The activity plan has been designed to encourage personal behaviour change in support of generating marine citizens and a move towards nature positive actions.

The marine citizenship behavioural change pathway is as follows

- Connect Experience & participate - Through awareness. Emotional outcome
- Discover & Learn - Through education. Learning outcome
- Connect & Act - Through behaviour change/outcome

PSNMP will monitor, evaluate and research people's engagement and behavioural change along the pathway through evaluation incorporating case studies; tracking and evaluating the engagement of participant. This will include both individuals and communities, on their journey along the marine citizenship pathway. Reflective practice by the project team, delivery partners,

collaborators and volunteer leaders will also be an important method of evaluating behaviour change.

The Activity Plan provides programmes of activities designed to support and encourage behaviour change in four themed programmes:

- Sea in the City – activities designed to inspire and engage including Activate, community archaeology, PSNMP Seafest, PSNMP Swim Safe, PSNMP Activate, coastal cleans and cultural engagement.
- Sea in Our School – activities designed to enable formal learning.
- PSNMP Volunteers – activities to enable people to connect with PSNMP and to enable positive action.
- Gateways to PSNMP – place-based activities centered on geographic communities to develop what they want from connecting with PSNMP.

The activity plan identifies a series of benefits for each of the proposed programmes and their activities, aligned with the marine citizenship pathways and NLHF outcomes.

4. 2024 Marcomms Overview

Our Marcomms covers many media channels and progress has been made across each of them and we have been building our audiences.

Plymouth Sound National Marine Park Website

Between 1 January 2024 and 31 October 2024, we have seen a 65% increase in engagement and a 57% increase in returning users to the site.

Most of our traffic is from search and social – this is the (unpaid) search traffic from google and social media. Google traffic is up 53% and social 31%.

Aside from the Homepage our most popular pages have been Events, Blogs, Summer Campaign, Seafest and Scenes of the Sound.

Plymouth Sound National Marine Park Socials

During the same period (1.01.2024 - 31.10.2024) we saw a spike in our cross channel social growth (mostly Facebook and LinkedIn) during the Launch period. Most of our engagement growth has been through LinkedIn where we have seen a 97% increase year on year. Our highest performing channel is Facebook with 77,000 engagements and over 2.5m impressions. In terms of content trends, we have noticed a 40% increase in video views with over half (260,000) of the audience share on Instagram followed closely by Facebook (154,000). The top 3 performing posts during the reporting period were:


The image displays three screenshots of Facebook posts from Plymouth Sound National Marine Park, each showing engagement metrics. The first post, dated Thu 1/2/2024 2:57 pm GMT, features a group photo and has 5,393 total engagements. The second post, dated Wed 3/4/2024 6:08 pm BST, features a photo of a pontoon and has 5,042 total engagements. The third post, dated Fri 28/6/2024 5:10 pm BST, features a photo of a beach and has 4,303 total engagements.

Metric	Post 1 (1/2/2024)	Post 2 (3/4/2024)	Post 3 (28/6/2024)
Total Engagements	5,393	5,042	4,303
Reactions	2,095	911	294
Comments	168	214	47
Shares	144	61	10
Post Link Clicks	192	13	2
Other Post Clicks	2,794	3,843	3,950

The top 3 performing video posts during the reporting period were:

plymsoundnmp
Fri 10/5/2024 4:06 pm BST


Here's a super-satisfying time-lapse from our Tidy-up Tinside volunteer day ❤️ We have worked hard with: @oceanconservationtrust @plymouthnaturalgrid...



Total Engagements	1,341
Likes	1,311
Comments	16
Shares	2
Saves	12

Plymouth Sound National Marine Park
Sun 4/2/2024 5:17 pm GMT


A fly through of what's in store for 2024 🌊🌊 Ocean Conservation Trust Plymouth Active Mount Batten Watersports & Activities Centre Mount Edgcombe House...



Total Engagements	887
Reactions	250
Comments	20
Shares	38
Post Link Clicks	—
Other Post Clicks	579

plymsoundnmp
Thu 1/2/2024 6:14 pm GMT

🎉 We did it! 🎉 We've been awarded £11.6m from The National Lottery Heritage Fund @heritagefunduk to deliver the UK's first National Marine Park!...



Total Engagements	420
Likes	370
Comments	13
Shares	30
Saves	7

Year 1 Summer Campaign: Your Summer Your Sound.

An 8-week digital first campaign targeted at Plymouth and surrounding areas was launched on 22 July to raise awareness of Plymouth Sound National Marine Park whilst showcasing what people could do in, on, under and beside the park.

During the campaign period the website received 4,200 new visitors, a 62% increase with dwell time increased by 73%, improving overall website engagement by 34% during the campaign.

The Sky Adsmart advert had 94,000 impressions and reached 14,200 households (in Plymouth and surrounding areas). The same advert was run on social media (paid ads) and reached 109,000 people.



5. Digital Park

Plymouth Culture has formed a partnership with the Horizon project to develop a Digital Cultural Programme for the PSNMP that delivers against the Digital Park ambitions. Plymouth Culture, on behalf of a city partnership, has applied for £751,216 of funding from the Arts Council Place Partnership programme, which will be matched by Horizon digital funding (NLHF) of £844,203.

The four-year programme, titled 'Sea for Yourself' has the ambition to harness the full potential of arts and culture to engage audiences and reconnect communities with place, nature and their cultural identity. Delivered as a series of digital cultural commissions, we will reconnect audiences to their natural environment through a more relevant and inclusive cultural offer.

The four large scale commissions will each span 1 year with an embedded community engagement programme to facilitate audience development and co-created artistic outputs. Commissions will explore the role of digital, testing digital technologies, content and environments to enhance audience engagement. The commissions will be informed by data-insights, but we anticipate they will focus on four thematic:

- making the underwater world visible through the activation of citywide screen-based infrastructure.

- exploration of archives and heritage through a co-creation project with communities leading to a digital exhibition.
- inspiring engagement through the creation of an immersive nature-based experience.
- blending digital and physical locations through outdoor AR/VR enabled installations.

The programme is available to all, but we will focus on several target groups within Plymouth which have been identified through the PSNMP development stage and included in the NLHF bid.

The commissions will sit alongside two interconnected strands of work:

- A data-insights strand. This will create a step change in the sector's approach to combining and analysing available data, giving invaluable insights to drive more effective interventions. This element of the work will be supported by 4 PhD students.
- A talent development programme supporting people, organisations and ideas that bridge the creative/digital and environmental sector within the blue/green economy.

The project aims to deliver 4 transformational outcomes:

1. **Artists** – enhanced practice in community engagement, co-creation and nature-based interventions, using digital and in-person approaches.
2. **Audiences** – more sophisticated audience engagement and retention strategies. Using data-insights as a strategic and collective planning tool for cultural activity, diversifying audiences and engaging underrepresented communities by making the cultural offer more relevant and accessible;
3. **Residents** – drive a behavioral shift in residents to become more active marine citizens and cultural participants, with a sense of connection to place and pride in their cultural identity;
4. **Partnerships and the Culture sector** – strengthen the sector by building new capabilities, related to nature and digital solutions, and establish the partnerships and infrastructures required to sustain culture-led place-making.

We have successfully recruited a Senior Creative Producer to lead the project as this is possible with the NLHF funding. If we successfully secure the Arts Council funding efforts will

be focused on establishing the formal governance for the project and recruiting further staff. We anticipate that the commission process will be announced in early 2025 with delivery of the first creative digital output by December 2025.

Digital infrastructure has also been a focus this year with the procurement of systems to support volunteer management as well as upgrading the PSNMP website.

5. The Development of the Park – Legacy

This section provides an update on the work being undertaken to formalise the governance and operation of the Plymouth Sound National Marine Park to provide the structure and entity that is needed to enable the PSNMP to grow and develop.

Structure

As the National Marine Park is permissive, not legislative, there is not a prescribed structure that has to be adhered to when establishing the governance arrangements.

Last year the Cabinet agreed to establish a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) to help support fundraising and project delivery within the National Marine Park. These will include projects that are outside the scope of the NLHF Horizons Project. The CIO also offers the opportunity to seek funding from a wider range of funders to deliver projects. This was the first phase of the development of the governance.

Whilst the CIO provides the opportunity to deliver projects that have a clear public benefit; there is a need within the PSNMP to be able to deliver projects that may be beyond the scope of the objects of the CIO. In addition, we need to ensure that the geography and the necessary skills to deliver the vision for the PSNMP are contained within the organisational structure.

Subject to Cabinet approval, it is proposed to establish a company to deliver the breadth of scope of the PSNMP and this will sit alongside the CIO. This will be the second phase.

The third phase will include a skills audit against an agreed PSNMP skillset. Board development and training.

Funding

The wider PSNMP is currently funded through some residual project funding. This funding ceases this month. The role then has 12 months' funding through the Horizons project.

It is not sustainable for the PSNMP to function through project funding. There needs to be a fundraising plan and a long-term financial model to ensure the long-term growth and development of the PSNMP. This will be the focus of attention through the next 6 months alongside the development of the governance model.

One of the great benefits of the PSNMP is the opportunity to inspire people and organisations and to connect individuals and projects as well as the development of new and innovative projects across Plymouth Sound and more widely in the City.

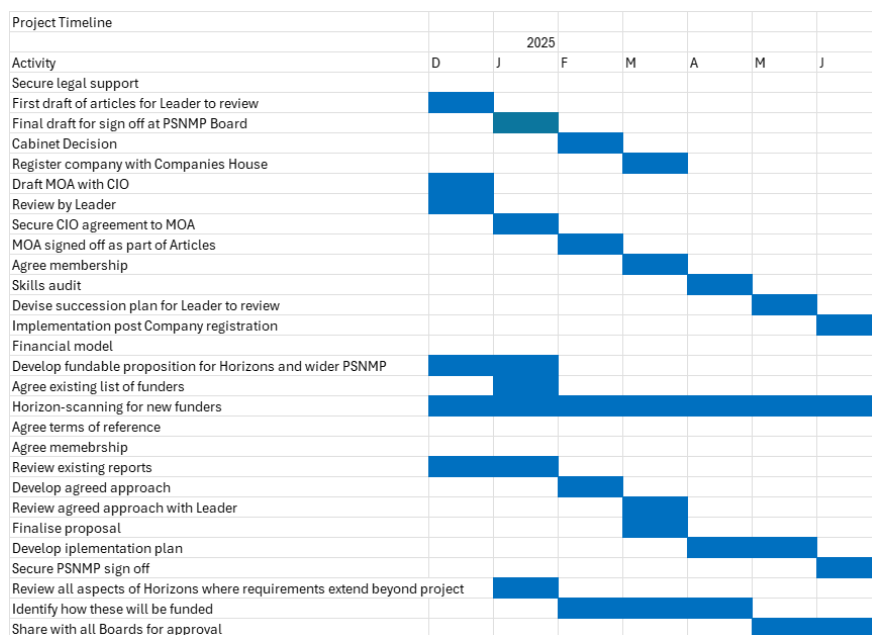
The table below includes all the projects either delivered or currently in train. Note these are all outside of the Horizons project delivery.

Project Title	Project Value	Partners	Status	Comments
Rewilding the foreshore I	20,000	PCC TECF	Complete	
Rivers as citizens	60000	Barbican theatre Devon Wildlife Trust	Complete	Stage 2, awaiting confirmation
Knowledge transfer network	300000	University of Plymouth	Ongoing	
NMP National Advocacy	90000	CNP , Blue		
Plymouth Gansey	20000	Conscious Sisters	Ongoing	

Ocean City Influencers	5000	Take a part	Just started	
NMP Minecraft	TBC	Marjon	In development	
Food Sequal project	> 1m	Multi-partner	Ongoing	
CFISSHI	TBC	Multiple partners. University	Submitted	Fish Innovations to tackle Systemic Social Health Inequalities

Forward Plan

Detailed below is the scope of work for the PSNMP for the next 6 months. Note this does not include the project delivery and is focused on governance and funding arrangements.



6. Plans for 2025

The plans for 2025 are already in the planning stage and an extremely exciting programme is being developed, building and evolving from the learning during 2024. Highlights for 2025 include:

Activity Plan

- Another year of volunteering including a recruitment drive for new volunteers early in the year.
- Completing the first year of SIOS and starting to work with the new cohort in Sept.
- Activation ramping up at all the PSNMP Gateways site
- Initiation of the Inspire Programme – to engage and inspire skills and career development in blue jobs.
- Start a new ‘pathway to the sea’.
- Identify 3 new community access points.

Nature Boost

- A focus on seahorses and how we can best support populations in Plymouth Sound.
- Developing and commencing delivery on community engaged habitat interventions for biogenic reefs and mudflats.
- Develop and launch a two-year targeted campaign to enable new positive nature relationships across PSNMP. Encouraging and inspiring behaviour that supports high quality nature and improves the lives of people.

Capital Restoration and Repurposing

- Completion of the Tinside works in spring ready for a grand launch at the beginning of the new swim season.
- Completion of the Mount Batten Peninsula works over the summer ready for an exciting reopening.
- Works commencing on the Mount Edgumbe project, sensitive timing due to the bats already residing within the battery.
- Commencement of planning of works at the Community Access Points at Firestone and Ernesettle.

Digital Park

- Commissioning and launching the first ‘Sea for Yourself’ digital project.

- Launch of the new website.

Interpretation

- Commence phase I of the interpretation installation at the PSNMP gateway hubs focused on orientation.
- Conduct work with communities to develop the stories and priorities for a wider programme of interpretation.

2024 was our first year of the delivery year and it has been brilliant and impactful, but also full of insights and greater understanding of our communities' needs and ambitions. Next year will no doubt be another busy year, with plans developed on the learning from this year, to ensure every year we continuously improve. We will therefore do even more to move towards our ambitions and show again why Plymouth is the UK's first National Marine Park.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation – It is recommended that the committee note the PSNMP update and support the ongoing delivery as set out in the report.

Reason – The Horizons project is progressing well against its ambitions and the Park development work is well underway and support for both is still required.