

Coastal Change The Moors at Arne

Neil Watson, Environment Agency, Project Executive



Context within Poole Harbour



The Prehistoric Periods - 500k years of climate change



Past Sea Levels

- Late Pleistocene (129,000 BP) >-30 m OD
- Early Post Glacial (120,000 BP) -22.5 m OD
- Early Mesolithic (14,000 BP) -9 m OD
- Late Mesolithic (12,000 BP) -5 m OD
- Neolithic (6,000 BP) -4 m OD
- Early Bronze Age (4,300 BP) -3 m OD
- Early Iron Age (2,700 BP) -2 m OD
- Mid Saxon (1,400 BP) -1 m OD
- Industrial Revolution (200 BP)





Accessed 04/09/2023

•

.

.

.

•

.

Solent River – Flowing through The Moors at Arne

Figure 1: The Solent River, Early-to Mid-Quaternary

The contemporary coastline would have been some 20 - 30 kilometres southwards. Sea-level rise during early interglacial periods would have created estuarine conditions in the eastern and central Solent.



2.6 m yr to 11,000 yr BP

Quaternary History of the Solent (scopac.org.uk)

Sea Level Rise – Last 100 years

Annual Mean & Annual Maximum



Between 1927 and 2019 annual mean and extreme sea levels have increased by 2.0 and 3.0 mm/yr, respectively, at Poole.

Future Sea Level Rise



АЕР (%)	Extreme still water level (mAOD) based on CFBD chainage point 4864			
	2018	2068 (UKCP09)	2118 (UKCP09)	2118(NPPF)
50	1.50	1.84	2.26	2.59
20	1.59	1.93	2.35	2.68
10	1.66	2.01	2.42	2.75
5	1.72	2.07	2.48	2.81
4	1.77	2.12	2.53	2.86
3.33	1.78	2.13	2.54	2.87
2	1.81	2.16	2.57	2.9
1.33	1.84	2.19	2.6	2.93
1	1.87	2.22	2.63	2.96
0.5	1.93	2.28	2.69	3.02
0.1	2.09	2.44	2.85	3.18



DT





Visualisation - Flood Simulation 2018/2118 Mean High Water Neap Tide

The Moors at Arne site



Photo: Graham Hatherley



Arne Moors today

and start

Paleo channel morphology

no

.05

Turnar's

-0.5

WA08-21

WA05-21

WA06-21

WA09-21





0

1.5

-

3.5

80

WA02-2

Ð

đ

S0

60

WA03-21

00

How has the landscape changed over time



Early Mesolithic: 9,700 – 6500 BC



Late Bronze Age and Iron Age: 1000 BC – 50 AD



Neolithic and Bronze Age: 3000 – 1000 BC



Present day

We have used boreholes and geoarchaeological investigations to provide us with a long-term picture of this dynamic coastal landscape in response to global, regional and local changes in climate, environment and sealevels.

The reconstructions provided by Wessex Archaeology illustrate the effect of past climate change on the landscape over the past 10,000 years.

Late Bronze Age and Iron Age

Site Excavations September 2021

Site Excavations September 2023

Medieval and Post-medieval evidence







• Monastic drainage

• Post-medieval water management

Poole Harbour 1700's





What are the new features?





2025 and Beyond

Community Engagement

Network

Forum



Moors at Arne Coastal Change Project



The Moors at Arne

The information on this page has been supplied by the Environment Agency to inform Dorset Coast Forum members and the wider public on the Arne Moors Project. The Dorset Coast Forum is an independent, neutral and non-political Coastal Partnership and will maintain a neutral position, neither for or against the project.

Conclusions

- Coastal Change is inevitable
- Rising sea levels will need to be accommodated
- Coastal Communities will have to adapt
- The story of Arne can help

- We can learn a great deal from the past
- New defences more compensatory habitat
- Not all locations can stay the same
- A model for coastal adaptation



The Moors at Arne Project Team

www.the-moors-at-arne-coastal-change-project/

Themoorsatarne@environment-agency.gov.uk

Arne@kier.co.uk



ENGLAND



