Coasts in Mind.

Mapping coastal change | Empowering communities | Building climate resilience

MOLA

Made possible with Heritage Fund

LR Foundation

Historic England

We have developed and led multiple award-winning community engagement and education programmes. We are proud to be considered leaders in the field when it comes to delivering public benefit and wellbeing through archaeology.

Thames Discovery Programme.

- Trained 700+ volunteers
- Books, articles, TV,
- 1,000 of events

THAMES DISCOVERY PROGRAMME

CITiZAN.

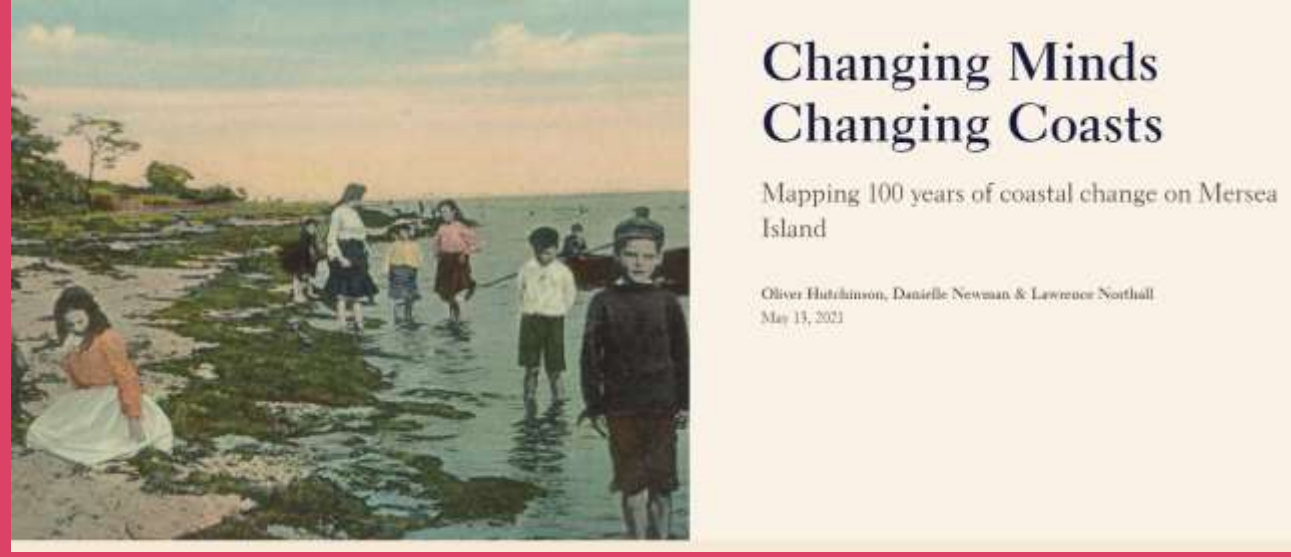
- Citizen science App
- Dataset contains almost 6,000 images of archaeological features around England's coast. This makes our dataset one of the largest collections of intertidal archaeology surveys carried out by citizen scientists in England.
- Interactive online map

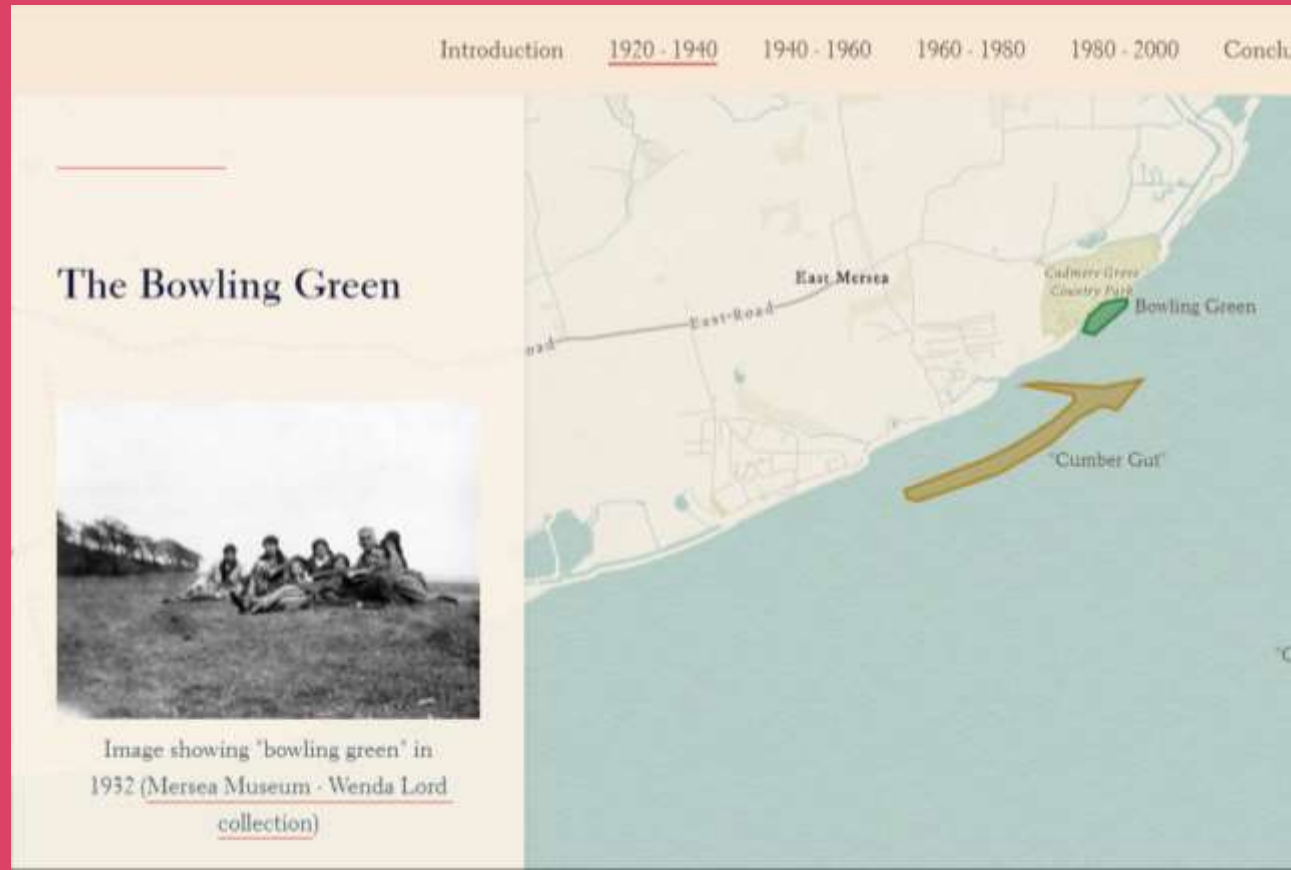
Searching Mersea.

- 16 hours of recorded material
- Exhibition & archive (Mersea Island Museum)
- Interactive online map

Changing Minds Changing Coasts.

- Oral histories, images and documents
- Exhibition (Mersea Island Museum)
- Interactive online Storymap





Coasts in Mind.

Mapping 100 years of coastal change through community heritage.

Coasts in Mind in three sentences

Coasts in Mind (CIM) **works with coastal communities** to compile local images, documents and accounts of heritage, evidencing coastal change (primarily) from the c.1920s onwards.

This will **create a community-based resource** that puts local knowledge and community heritage at the forefront of climate discussions, and is more personal, comprehensive, and usable in responding to local climate impacts in neighbourhoods and engaging with community policymakers.

CIM's open-access, spatially mapped **digital community archive** can mobilise learning from the past and highlight safety challenges to inform policymaking and complement existing coastal records, such as governmental datasets.

CiM 2024-2027.

- Working in four regions
  - Swale Estuary
  - Sefton Coast
  - Taw/Torridge Estuary
  - Poole Harbour

Coastal Communities.

Strategic Context

- Level of impact in coastal communities is high and will only increase. 2021 study from The University of East Anglia predicts some 200,000 homes in England will have to be abandoned by 2050 due to sea level rise

- Public understanding doesn't keep pace with research, especially at a local level. Kent's 2019 Climate Change Risk and Impact Assessment surveyed 1000 people about perceptions of change and less than 4% considered Climate Change, Coastal Erosion, or Flood Risk a major concern.

- Local policy in our focus areas highlights both issues of climate anxiety, broader social isolation, and the wellbeing benefits of coming together around the environment.

CiM Project Aims.

- Recording patterns of coastal (and climate) change using community-held knowledge
- Bringing together:
  - Intangible cultural heritage
  - Tangible cultural heritage
  - Natural environment

Creative forms of engagement.

- Encouraging community connectedness.
- Producing creative displays to prompt memories and gather community perceptions of change.
- Encouraging wellbeing through creative practice.

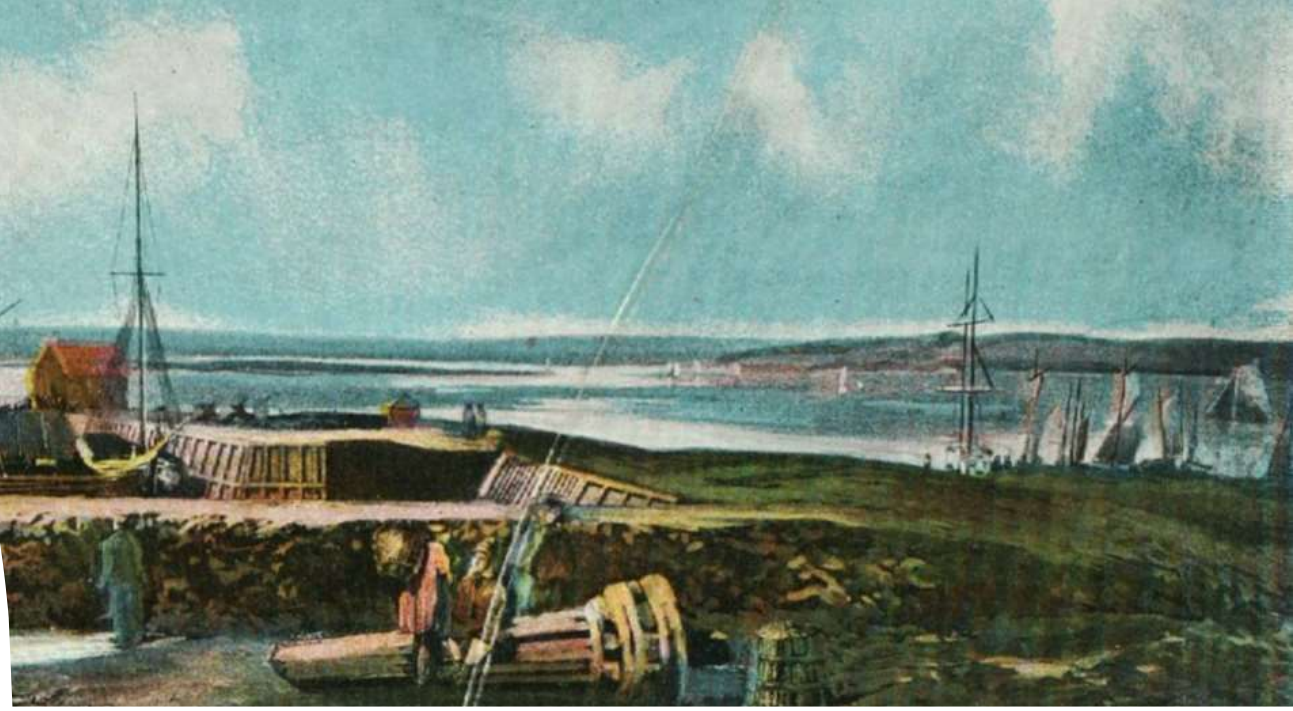
Social Value.

- Encouraging community connectedness
- Providing training opportunities (archives and foreshore)
- Empowering communities to build climate resilience

Community Archive.

- Personal accounts - memories, experiences, stories passed down recounted through **oral history**

- Personal and local archive collections – **digitised images and documents**

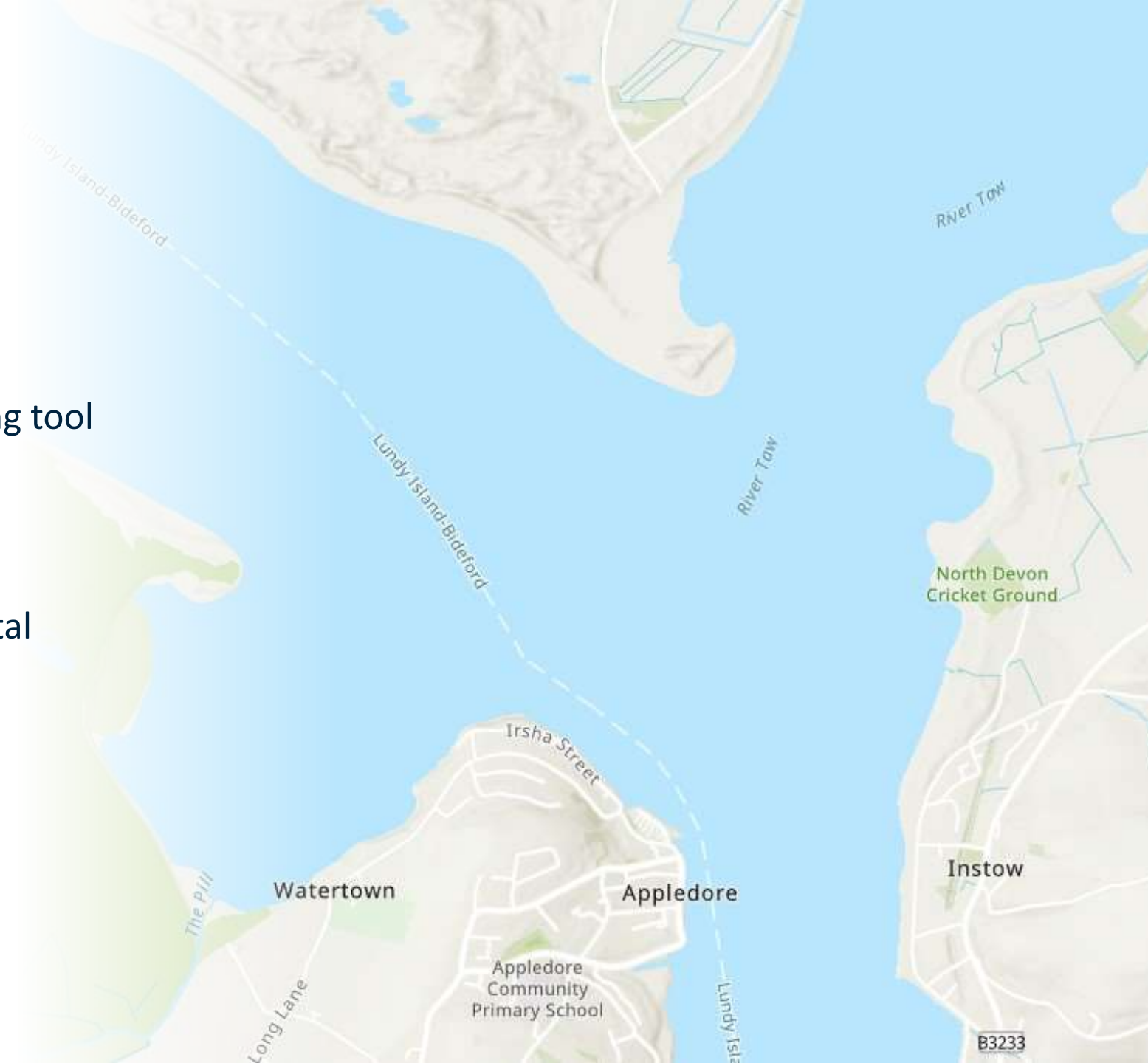


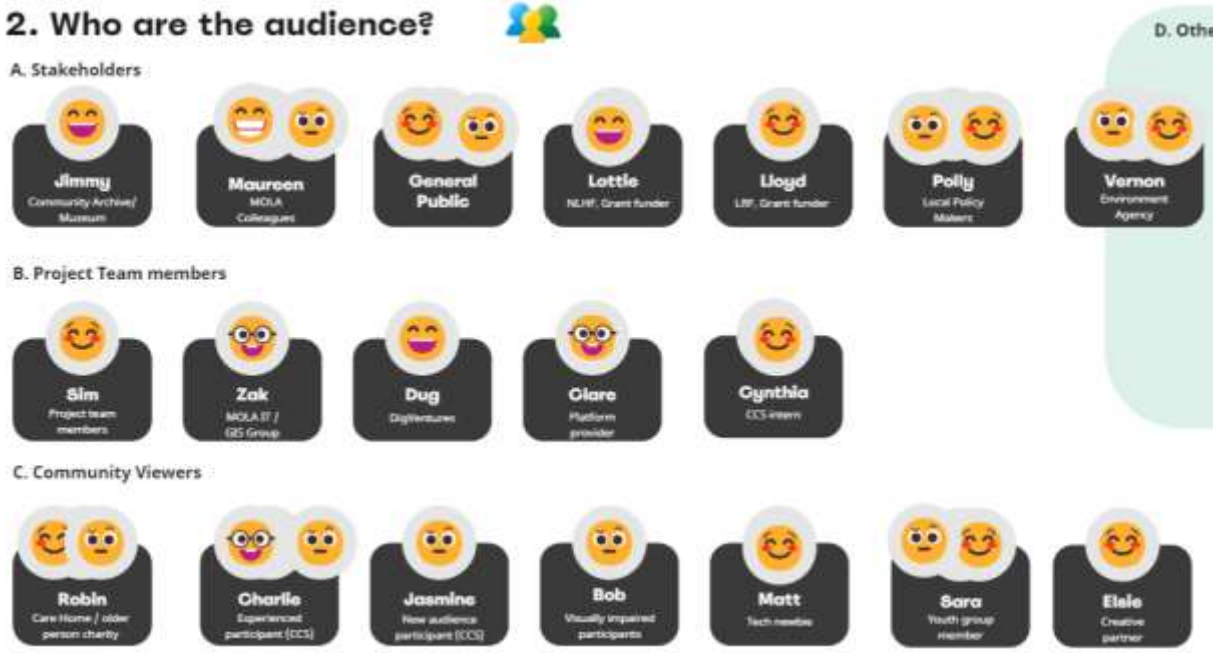
Mapping indicators of coastal change.

- Foreshore features
- Tide line
- Land surface
- Archaeology / Heritage
- Coastal use (cultural practice)
- Biodiversity / Wildlife
- Weather/ Climate
- Local singular historical events

Empowerment through mapping.

- Building an open-source online mapping tool
- Creating an archive repository of community images and oral history interviews
- Creating a quantitative dataset of coastal change





Co-creating a mapping platform.

- Understanding end-user needs to inform the design of data fields
  - Community needs
  - Policy-maker needs
  - Researcher needs

Environmental Sustainability Goals.

Coasts in Mind will adhere to the principle and practice of the CITiZAN Climate Change Pledge by embracing eco-friendly practices to reduce carbon emissions through:

- **Waste Management**
- **Energy Efficiency**
- **Procurement**
- **IT/digital Activities**

This will continue beyond 2027 as MOLA also look towards reducing carbon emissions and sustainability values based on the CITiZAN Climate Change Pledge.

Thank you.

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