

## HABITAT RESTORATION



<b>Project</b>	:	USAR Dredging and Restoration
<b>Client</b>	:	Brightlingsea Harbour Commissioners
<b>Date</b>	:	October 2016 – March 2020
<b>Keywords</b>	:	Habitat Restoration • Saltmarsh • Intertidal Mudflat • SAC • SPA • SSSI • Ramsar • MCZ • Beneficial Use • Working with Nature • Natural Flood Management • Ecosystem Functioning
<b>Description</b>	:	<p>The Brightlingsea Harbour Commissioners are the managing authority of Brightlingsea Harbour, located in Essex, UK. Their responsibilities include maintaining the safe and efficient operation of all navigable waterways, however due to the natural accumulation of sediment, there was growing concern for the long-term use and future of the harbour.</p> <p>Brightlingsea Creek and the wider Colne Estuary are protected under multiple national and international environmental designations due to the quality and extent of the local intertidal mudflat and saltmarsh habitats and the rich biodiversity they support. These habitats provide important ecosystem services, such as their role as natural coastal flood defences.</p> <p>Under the Interreg 2 Seas European initiative “Using Sediment As a Resource (USAR)”, Exo Environmental developed a dredging and restoration programme on behalf of the Brightlingsea Harbour Commissioners. This project aimed to remove approximately 53,000m<sup>3</sup> of accumulated sediments from within the navigation channels and marina basins of the harbour. Installing brushwood fascine retaining structures, the arising sediment was beneficially used to restore approximately 5ha of intertidal mudflat and saltmarsh habitats to address historic losses as a result of continued erosion, support local biodiversity and facilitate ecosystem functioning within the Creek.</p>

