



UK Coastal Research Conference

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RESEARCH INTO ACTION: MAKING EVIDENCE COUNT IN THE DYNAMIC DELIVERY CLIMATE ON THE COAST.

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Coastal research is at its best when there are clear-sighted objectives for its practical application. It can both guide and be guided by the needs and interests of the community of practitioners managing the coast, so how is this happening now and what might those future needs and interests be? The quality of data to inform flood and erosion risk management has never been better and the tools for its processing, sharing and analysis grow continuously more advanced. How can we best translate the wealth of evidence into something that partners, stakeholders, citizens and policy-makers can use to help people and nature adapt and thrive at the coast in a changing climate? Recent updates to the Environment Agency's coastal risk evidence and the work we do in partnership to plan and trial adaptive and nature-based approaches to managing risk serve as platforms to explore these questions. In doing so, we can consider ways to extend the reach of coastal research to influence place-shaping and environmental management in practice.

About Nick

Nick is Expert Adviser on coast in the Environment Agency's national Flood and Coastal Risk Management Directorate, with a background primarily in ecology and environmental management. Since joining the Environment Agency to work on coastal management in 2009, he has led on the EA's role in coastal adaptation, development planning, erosion risk data, habitat creation and strategic planning. He is a chartered member of CIWEM and chaired the ICE's national Maritime Expert Panel between 2018 and 2021. He is project executive of the comprehensive refresh of Shoreline Management Plans and development of the online 'SMP Explorer', and of the work to update the EA's online National Coastal Erosion Risk Map (NCERM), both published in 2024-25. He sits on the Strategic Board of the National Network of Regional Coastal Monitoring Programmes and oversees the EA's Habitat Compensation and Restoration Programme within the wider investment programme to manage flood and erosion risk.