Why?

Nutrient rich water allows algae to grow uncontrollably creating thick mats

Algal mats smother seagrass, saltmarsh and mudflat habitats, damaging and reducing them

The mats prevent water and mud from mixing, damaging the mudflats, which impacts the invertebrates living in them

This smothering effect also reduces the ability of birds to feed

Excessive availability of nutrients means sea plants do not need to root deeply

Poorly rooted plants are less able to withstand strong currents which can lead to costal erosion

Increased nitrogen pollution from various sources leads to an excess of nutrients in the Solent

These impacts contribute to the **unfavourable condition of the designated sites** in the Solent

This leads to **less biodiversity and resilience** within the ecosystem

Mats can become entangled in boat propellers and fishing gear, impacting recreation and tourism activities

Mats also wash up on shores making them unsightly and producing hydrogen sulphide as they rot

Washed up algal mats on the shoreline

Solent Nutrients Trading Platform

Bluebell woodland mitigation site

How?

Agricultural land is taken out of production and turned into new habitat

This reduces nitrogen leaching and creates Nitrogen Credits

Credits are certified by Natural England and legal terms agreed with landowners

Credits are offered on the Platform for purchase by Developers

This allows new development to go ahead whilst protecting the designated sites

NATURAL ENGLAND

Contact us now at Solent.Pilot@defra.gov.uk to get involved in the Spring 2022 Trading Process

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