



Creating homes for nesting terns in the Solent

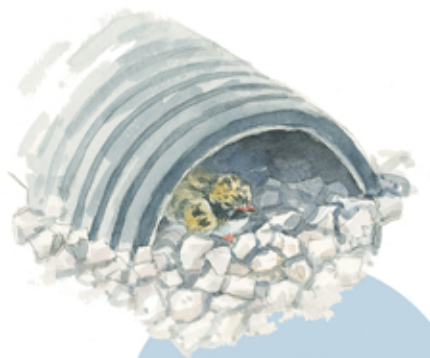
During spring, the Solent's internationally important coastline comes alive with thousands of ground nesting seabirds; while in winter, the marshes and mudflats support large flocks of geese and waders. Unfortunately, with increased erosion from climate change, there is increased competition for the remaining nesting spots. Smaller seabirds, like terns, are forced to nest in suboptimal areas susceptible to flooding or predation.

Three species of terns (common, Sandwich and little) breeding in the western Solent have declined in recent years and the fourth, the rare roseate tern, has not nested here in the last decade. The Roseate Tern LIFE Recovery Project offers the opportunity to tackle these issues, through restoring and creating suitable nesting areas that are safe for breeding common terns. We hope that in the future, roseate terns will be attracted to these thriving tern colonies and return to nest in the Solent.

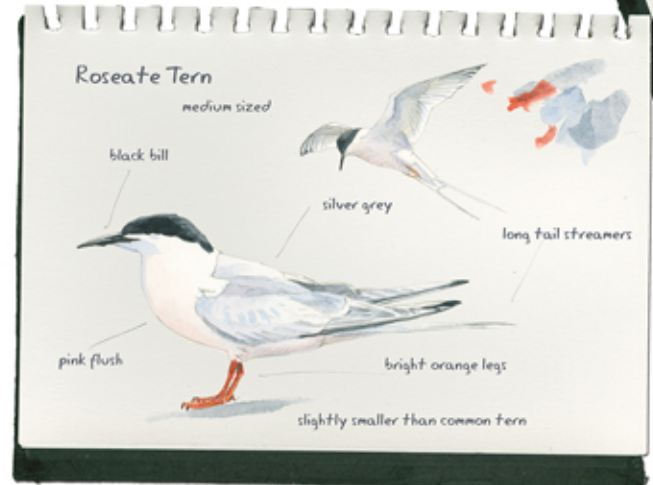
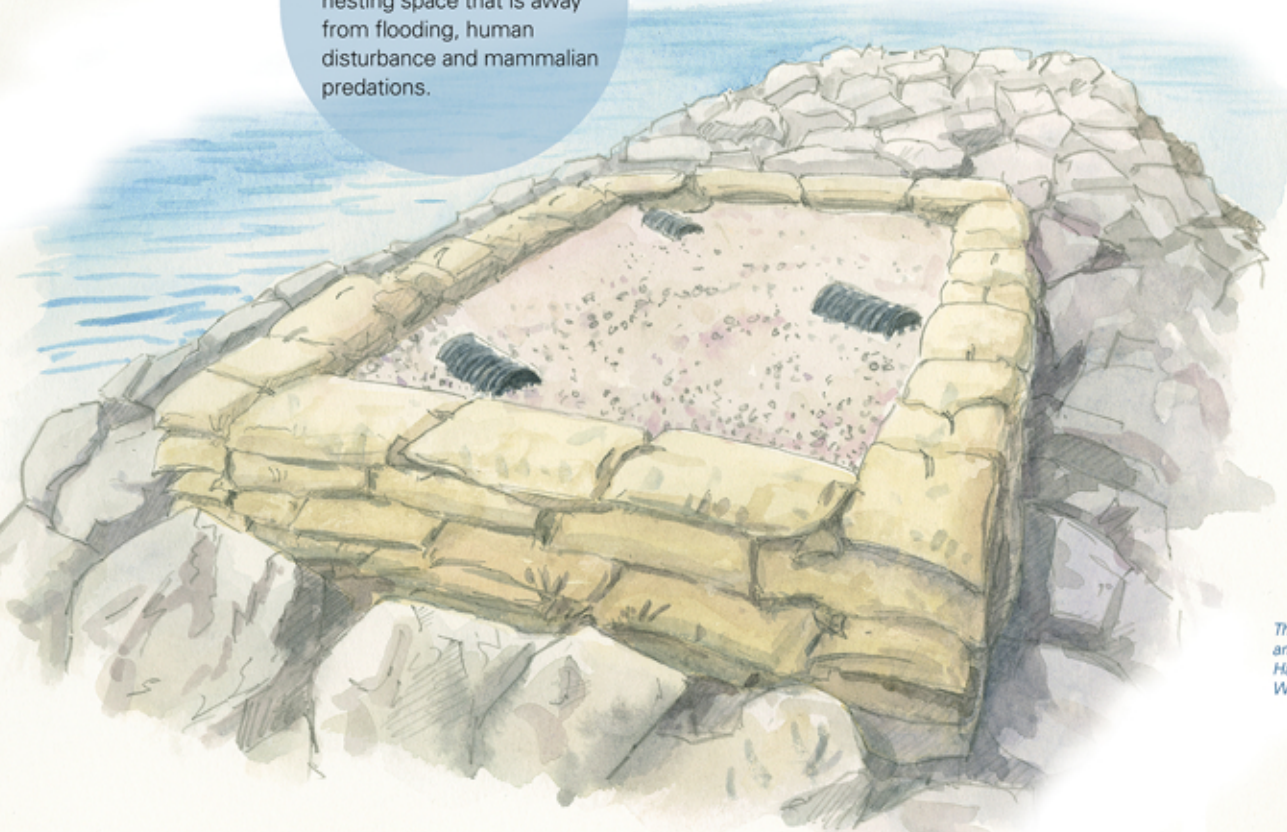
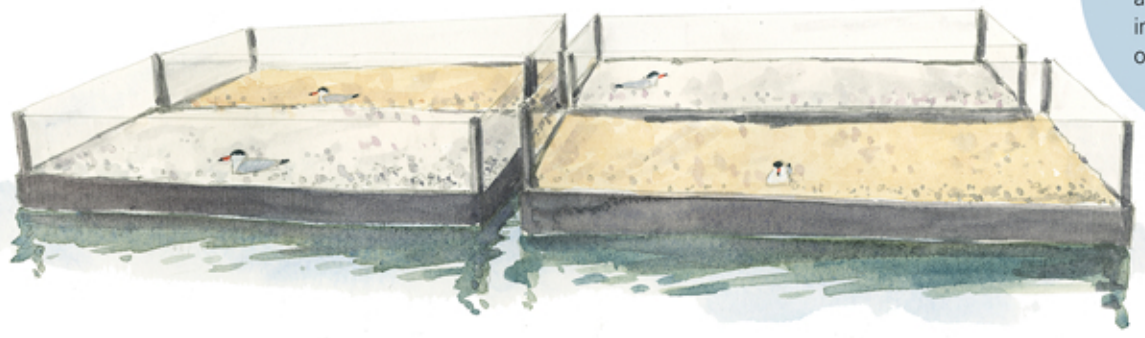


Using decoys to attract terns to safe areas and shelters to protect the chicks from the weather and avian predators increases their chances of survival.

Shingle recharge to the eroding cheniers (beach ridges) will allow breeding terns to nest above the high-water mark and make it less likely to lose their nests due to flooding.



Breakwater platforms and rafts provide an alternative nesting space that is away from flooding, human disturbance and mammalian predations.



The Roseate Tern LIFE Project is being led by the RSPB, in partnership with Birdwatch Ireland and North Wales Wildlife Trust. A special thanks to Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust, Hampshire County Council and Lymington Harbour Commissioners for their ongoing support. With the contribution of the LIFE Programme of the European Union



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