

## **Stroud District Local Plan Inspection 2023**

### **Additional evidence submitted by Heather Smith**

The following five images/maps were all referenced and shown and/or described by Heather Smith during the 16<sup>th</sup> May 2023 Session on Matter 6a regarding 'Site Selections – General Questions'.

The five images are screenshots taken from the Severn Estuary Partnership's Severn Vision project.

(For clarity, the screenshots were cropped to remove the browser tabs, and then white margins added.)

The Severn Vision partnership includes: WWT, The Wildlife Trusts, RSPB, National Trust, CPRE, Salmon & Trout Association, Severn River Trust.

The mapping content of the screenshots was accessed by going to <https://severnestuarypartnership.org.uk/the-bristol-channel-and-severn-vision/>

then by following "Severn Vision website" to <https://severnvision.org/>

then by following "Map journal - Map collating data on the Severn Estuary - View the map" to <https://somesetwt.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapJournal/index.html?appid=141a0f9ed2554f5687b938a23a13a5c0>



## The Severn Vision

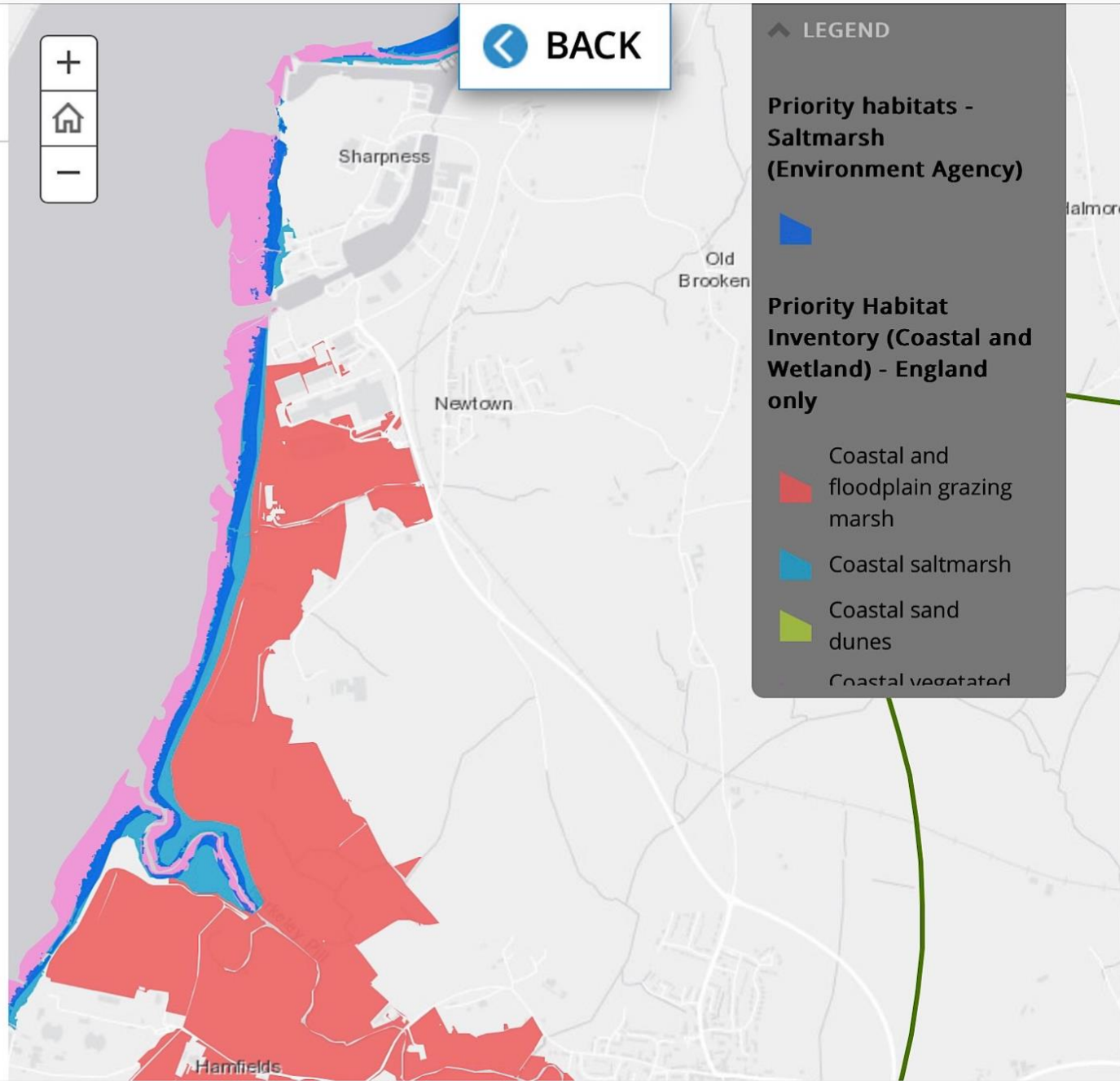
Redshank, Gadwell, Dunlin, Bewick's Swan, Greater White Fronted Goose and Shelduck.

- Species and **habitats (click to show on map)** on the OSPAR list – those on the list are considered to be under immediate threat or subject to rapid decline by The Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic (the OSPAR Convention).
- Priority species and **habitats (click to show on map)** identified as being the most threatened and requiring conservation action under **Section 41 (England)** and **Section 42 (Wales)** of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006

## Protected area designations

Statutory designations provide the legal status that protects the UK's natural heritage. There are several types of protection covering nature and landscape conservation.

Statutory nature conservation designations that





# The Severn Vision

## Ecosystem Services

Ecosystem Services are the benefits, or 'goods and services', that people obtain from the natural environment of the Severn.

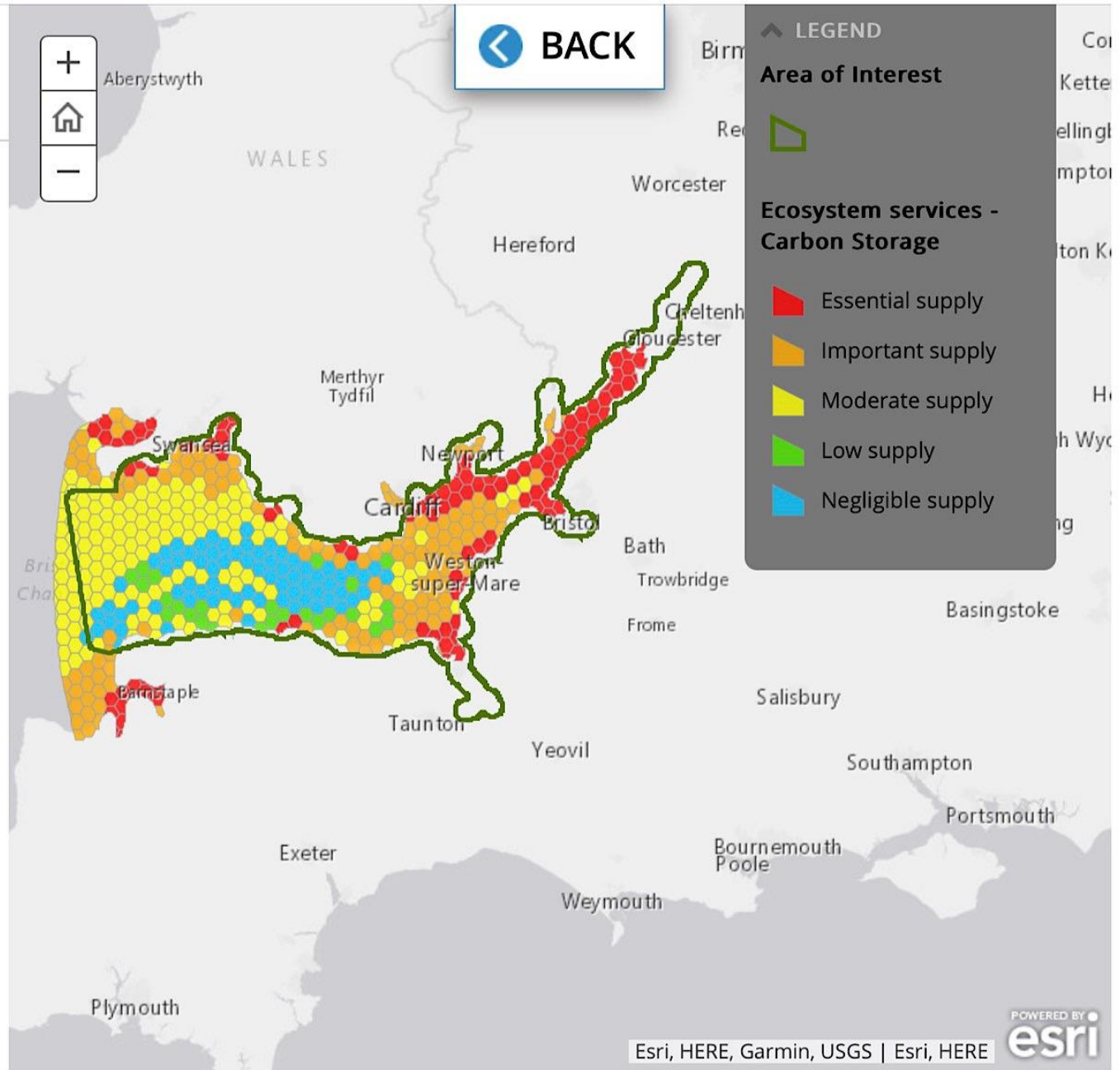
### Carbon Storage

The Estuary plays a particularly valuable role in the capture and storage of atmospheric carbon dioxide, CO2, and so can help mitigate climate change. The carbon captured and stored within these ecosystems is commonly known as 'blue carbon'.

[Click here](#) to see which areas in the Estuary have the greatest potential to store carbon.

### Fisheries, wild food and migratory fish

The Severn Estuary and Bristol Channel support one of the most diverse fisheries in Britain. Commercial fishing is limited within the estuary itself, but the wealth of fish species supported by the rich nursery areas [\(Click here to display on map\)](#) (111 species have been recorded) provide valuable fishing grounds in the Bristol





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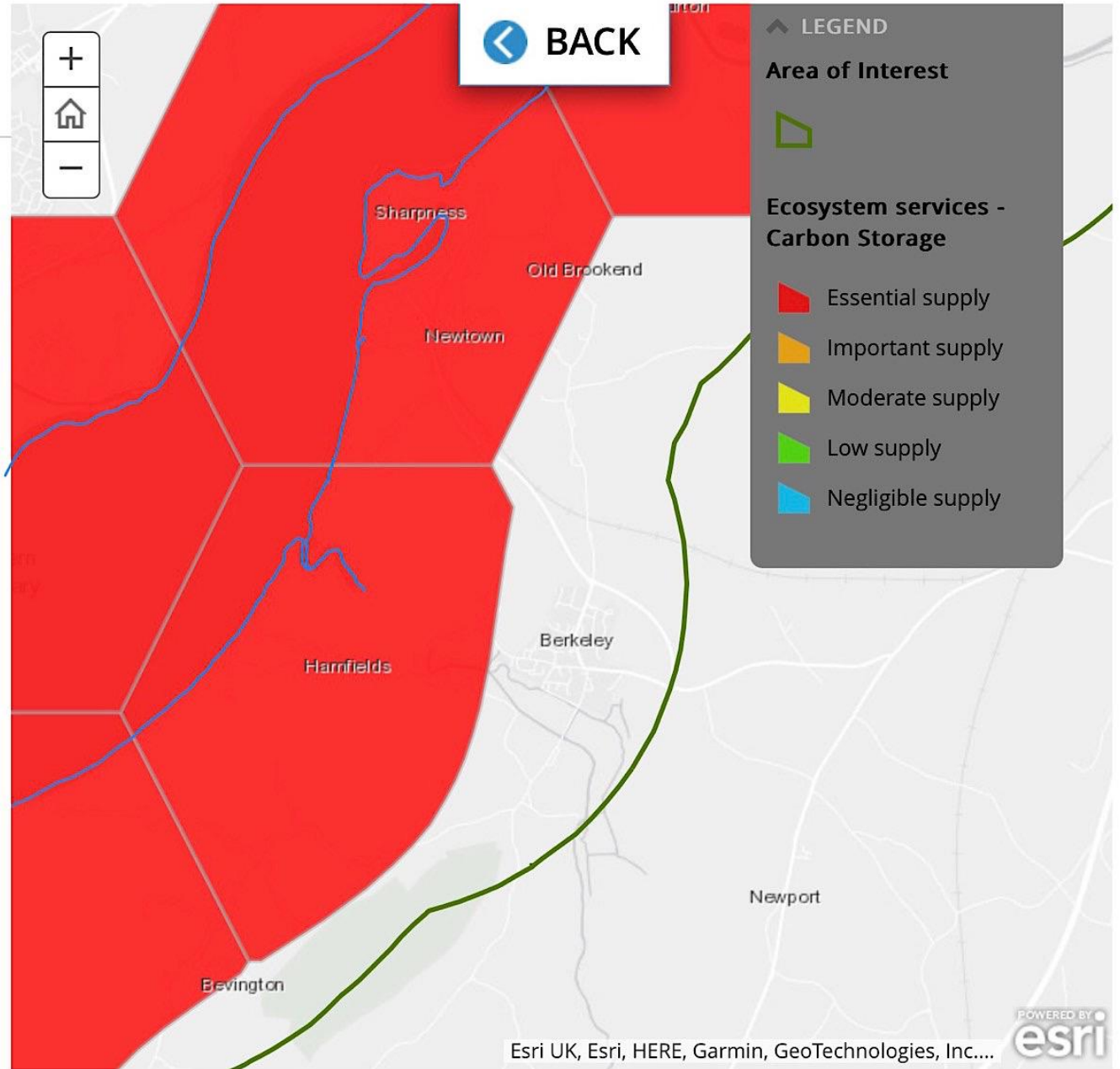
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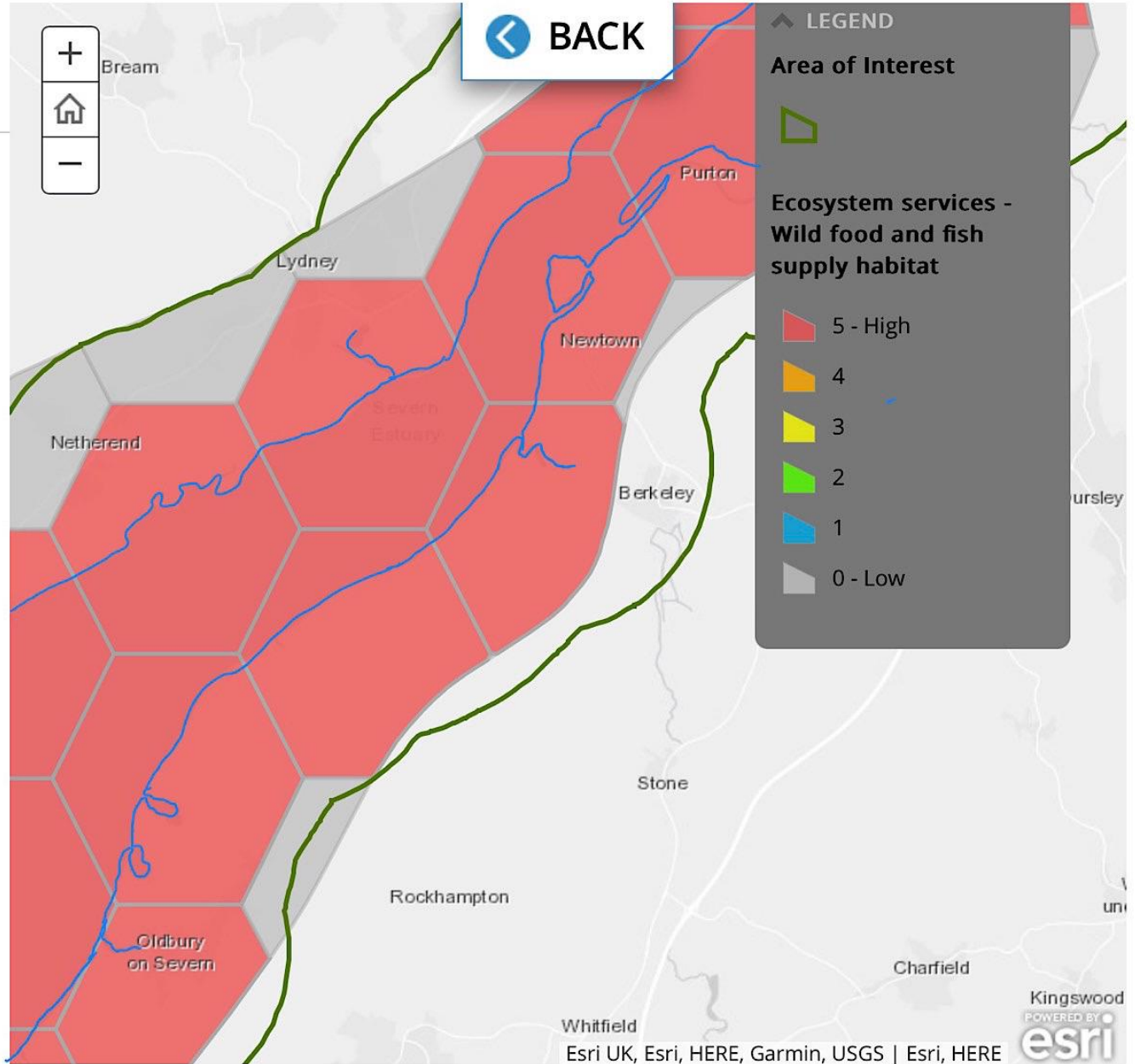
The Severn Estuary and Bristol Channel support one of the most diverse fisheries in Britain. Commercial fishing is limited within the estuary itself, but the wealth of fish species supported by the rich nursery areas ([Click here to display on map](#)) (111 species have been recorded) provide valuable fishing grounds in the Bristol Channel: combined landings from the region were worth £11,000,000 in 2010. The commercial eel fisheries form the most valuable inland fishery in England and Wales, making a significant contribution to the rural economy in these areas.

[Click here](#) to show which areas in the Estuary support habitat important for fisheries and juvenile salmon abundance.

For the full report see [Ecosystem service mapping in the Severn Estuary and inner Bristol Channel](#)

## Creating and restoring coastal habitat

Restoring the estuary's intertidal habitat would provide greater resilience to climate change by increasing its capacity to store carbon and act as a buffer against storm surges and reduce flood risk





## The Severn Vision

### Creating and restoring coastal habitat

Restoring the estuary's intertidal habitat would provide greater resilience to climate change by increasing its capacity to store carbon and act as a buffer against storm surges and reduce flood risk (natural sea defences). A more resilient estuary will also provide a wealth of wildlife habitat, be richer in wildlife, enhance existing landscapes, and also provide a range of other social and economic benefits.

This map illustrates areas of low-lying land (excluding major roads, railways and urban area), potentially vulnerable to tidal inundation under climate change projections. Many of these 12,000 ha of vulnerable land could be used to create or restore inter-tidal and associated habitat, and a proportion will need to be restored simply to maintain the current extent of intertidal habitat, by replacing that projected to be lost to the rising tide.

### Map overlap application

