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For immediate issue

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New shore bank at Emsworth's Nore Barn Woods is a 'win-win' solution

A newly-constructed earth bank to protect the shore of NoreBarn Woods, west of Emsworth, is now complete. It is the successful result of a unique local Partnership Funding initiative. The Friends of NoreBarn Woods (FoNBW), a local voluntary organisation, raised the money to fund the work which was then carried out in partnership with the Eastern Solent Coastal Partnership (ESCP).

Mike Thomas from FoNBW said: "We are delighted that the construction work to preserve this beautiful shoreline has been carried out. We have been concerned for some years that the shore would be washed away damaging mature trees and the coastal path. The new bank will now protect what was a vulnerable stretch of Chichester Harbour and we are hoping to do further work to make the bank even longer-lasting."

Lyall Cairns, Coastal Defence Partnership Manager at the ESCP, said: "Our Partnership with the FoNBW has led to a win-win situation in building this sacrificial hoggin bank. We believe this is a unique project and working alongside an Emsworth voluntary organisation ensures that the work has met the priorities of the local community. We were pleased to be able to pioneer this approach and believe it is a formula that can be copied elsewhere."

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The money for the work was raised by a local appeal. Grants were sought from Chichester Harbour Conservancy, The Friends of Chichester Harbour, Hampshire County Council, The Solent Protection Society and the Cooperative Community Fund. A number of local groups also contributed generous amounts including: the Emsworth Residents Association, Brook Meadow Conservation Group, Emsworth Horticultural Society and the local Tree Wardens. A host of individuals also gave money.

The new bank will provide protection to the woods but its appearance is likely to change as the months progress. The Friends are now looking to move on to stage two which could see the bank clad in honeycomb blocks, called Armorloc, to make it last longer. Maggie Gebbett, fundraiser at FoNBW, said: "It will be a huge challenge to raise more funds to complete phase two. But this will future-proof the bank and help to guarantee the long-term preservation of the woods. The Friends will work tirelessly and will encourage local people to come forward and help."

The Treasurer of NoreBarn Woods, Pat Balchin, would welcome any donations to help move the project onto the next stage. She can be contacted at 67 Maisemore Gardens, Emsworth on 01243 377404 or e-mail her on patbalchin@gmail.com

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Caption: The finished shore bank at Nore Barn Woods after a recent high tide.

Information for editors

All details are on the website at www.norebarnwoods.org.uk . For further details on the conservation work, please contact Mike Thomas of the Friends of Nore Barn Woods at mailor@talktalk.net

The Eastern Solent Coastal Partnership works across four Local Authorities including; Havant Borough Council, Portsmouth City Council, Gosport Borough Council and Fareham Borough Council. The ESCP undertakes surveys and carries out research relating to coast protection and sea defence; designs and supervises new sea defence and coast protection projects; arranges and supervises coastal protection works and offers, where possible, advice to private individuals on minor problems with coast protection and flooding.

For more details about the ESCP please visit <http://www.havant.gov.uk/coastal> or email coastal.team@havant.gov.uk

For further details on fundraising by the Friends of Nore Barn Woods, please contact Maggie Gebbett 01243 699517 or 07833 741508 or e-mail maggie_gebbett@yahoo.co.uk

