

# CREATING INTERTIDAL HABITAT IN WHITBY HARBOUR

You may spot some unusual objects within the harbour; textured panels bolted to the walls, artificial rockpools on concrete shelves and suspended shell-like shelters below the quay. These are all part of a scientific trial to encourage coastal and estuarine species in this man-made harbour environment.

Like many of our estuaries, the Esk has been altered over time by commercial and recreational development.

As a result, nature has been partly squeezed out with many plants and animals losing their home.

We hope that installing these artificial enhancements within the harbour will give intertidal species a chance to establish.

Ecological enhancements in the harbour could provide homes for molluscs (barnacles, mussels, winkles), crustaceans (shrimp, crabs), various algae and seaweeds and provide refuge for fish.

The Esk estuary is important for migratory fish including the Atlantic Salmon and Sea Trout. These fish species support the rare and endangered Freshwater Pearl Mussel which lives in the River Esk.

## INSTALLATION MAP



Scan for more information



## B.E.A.C.H. ESK PROJECT

Better Estuaries And Coastal Habitat (B.E.A.C.H.) Esk is a project working to improve water quality and ecology from the source of the River Esk to the sea. Improvements have been made in the tributaries to reduce pollution and create habitats: trees and hedges have been planted, ponds and wildflower grasslands created. Saltmarsh has been restored and extended in the estuary, providing habitat for a range of birds, invertebrates and juvenile fish.



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