

THE HIDDEN WONDERS OF SALTMARSH

Saltmarshes might look like grass and mud, but these spectacular coastal wetlands play a powerful role in addressing climate, nature and social challenges.

What is saltmarsh?






Saltmarshes are dynamic coastal wetlands that flood and drain with the tides. As sea levels rise, sediment builds up, burying salt-tolerant plants and locking away carbon that would have been released as they decomposed.



Saltmarshes can store carbon
40 times faster
than temperate forests

Superpowers of saltmarsh

Saltmarshes are bursting with life, from specialised plants and insects to swirling flocks of wading birds. Boosting biodiversity is not the only benefit. They're also:

-  **Carbon-capturing**
Coastal wetlands make up less than 2% of ocean area but account for nearly **50% of carbon burial in marine sediments.**
-  **Flood-busting**
Saltmarshes and mangroves help protect **60% of the world's coastal population** from rising flood risks.
-  **Economy-boosting**
Creating 25,000 hectares of saltmarsh around the UK's coastline would deliver estimated benefits valued at **£1.7 billion over 60 years.**
-  **Water-purifying**
Saltmarshes **absorb pollutants** like pesticides, heavy metals and hydrocarbons.
-  **Mood-lifting**
Just **ten minutes** in a wetland setting can increase positive feelings.

Untapped potential

85% of England's saltmarshes have been lost since 1860, but there is hope for their return. **WWT Steart Marshes** has shown incredible results in just ten years.

The UK Saltmarsh Carbon Code

WWT is a key partner in the creation of a Saltmarsh Carbon Code – an initiative aiming to secure £1 billion of investment over 25 years to restore saltmarshes in the UK.

About the WWT

We're WWT, the charity for saltmarsh restoration. We're on a mission to create and restore saltmarshes to realise their potential for people and nature. We believe nature-based solutions can accelerate the journey to net zero and help nature burst back to life. www.wwt.org.uk.



WWT.ORG.UK