

The Heritage Coast to Coast project.

With Creative Ways Outdoors and Isle of Wight National Landscapes

Alongside National Landscapes and National Parks, **Heritage Coasts** are part of the national protected landscapes. The term 'Heritage Coast' refers to stretches of the country's most natural and undeveloped coastline, noted for their beauty, tranquillity, and scientific interest. There are only 43 defined Heritage Coasts in all of England and Wales, and the Isle of Wight has two of them. They are the **Hamstead Heritage Coast** and the **Tennyson Heritage Coast**. <https://isleofwight-nl.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/heritage-coast-leaflet-2.pdf>

Hamstead



In a thoughtful and engaging way, Creative Ways Outdoors will work with two community organisations over a three-month period, to help them explore, discover, understand, interpret, and be inspired to create wonderful artworks and performance which is site specific to the two Heritage Coasts. It forms part of a wider IW National Landscapes initiative called **Discovering Landscapes**. The aim of the programme is to build meaningful and sustainable relationships between people and nature, promoting a sense of connectedness and responsibility.

Tennyson



The two community organisations participating are **Equals Friendship Group** <https://equalsiw.org.uk/> and **Yes! Creative Beats with Viva Carnival Club**. <https://www.facebook.com/YESCreativeBeatsCIC> Activities will be held in the Compton Bay and Newtown areas of the Heritage Coasts, both sites managed by the **National Trust**. These activities will include site visits with nature experts, art and design sessions with professional artists, the creation of silk flags depicting aspects of the heritage, and the co-creation of a public celebration event allowing each group to share their experiences and knowledge with others.

Similar event at
St Catherines
Lighthouse 2022



Access to the National Landscapes is an underpinning theme to this work. Creative Ways Outdoors will be asking the participants to consider how, by working together, we can broaden the audience and attract more visitors to the Heritage Coasts. Each organisation will devise a short walking route which connects some of the more interesting and surprising places that they would like to share. They will invite members of the public, their families and friends, to walk this route with them as part of IW Walking Festival in May.

Creative Ways Outdoors will also devise a longer walking route of about 8 miles, which connects the two Heritage Coasts across the middle of the island. To be called the **Heritage Coast to Coast Trail**, this will also have its inaugural walk at the Walking Festival. It is planned that all the walks and celebratory events will take place on **Sunday 18 May 2025** - making a whole great day out for walkers and families exploring the Heritage Coasts.

As a legacy of the project, all 3 walking routes with notes will be published and shared online to support future visitors to discover and enjoy the IW Heritage Coasts.

The 'Heritage Coast to Coast' project is aligned to the national '**Beach of Dreams**' programme, <https://www.beachofdreams.org> that engages participants across the UK in creative programmes fostering connection with communities, coastline, and the planet, offering hope for the future.

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