

Devonport Reef

Case Record



Location	Devonport Royal Dockyard, Plymouth
Client	Ministry of Defence
Main Contractor	Carillion/DML Alliance

Dock refurbishment

Environmental Initiatives

Habitat creation	Recreated an important reef
Material reuse	Reuse of materials on site

At the 9 Dock Devonport Contract, Carillion was able to recreate an important reef, by utilising materials on site.

The estuary was designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) in 1987, due to its rich diversity of rare and special marine habitats. The broken rock and boulder slope extending into the deep water off Scoble point created one of these habitats.

Unfortunately, during the spring and early summer of 1987, 16,000 cubic metres of sludge was dredged from Batson Creek and was dumped onto the site, a licensed dumping site at the time, smothering the important habitat.

It was hoped the strong tidal current would be sufficient to erode the sludge but this was not the case. However, it was realised in autumn 1998 that it would be possible to re-create the habitat by dropping excavated rock onto the dredge spoil site.

Carillion had excavated granite blocks, a locally found raw material, from the 9 Dock contract. The blocks were taken to the site by barge and dropped into place with the assistance of the Territorial Army.

The granite blocks should disperse the sludge and form the basis for the reef, which will hopefully become re-colonised to its previous diverse standing.