

Coastal Transition Zone



SOI Ltd is a wholly owned subsidiary of the University of St Andrews and is overseen by an independent Board of Directors. SOI Ltd employs a core of key staff who offer commercial, administrative and scientific support and advice to clients and partners. SOI Ltd also provides access to the expertise of staff from the Scottish Oceans Institute at the University of St Andrews, including specialists within the Sediment Ecology Research Group (SERG) and the Facility for Earth & Environmental Analysis (FEEA). These facilities have an international reputation for the work they carry out in the UK and beyond.

The coastal transition zone has a long history of exploitation. With the pressures on this environment increasing due to industry and development, sea level rise and coastal processes, it is even more vital that the management of coastal resources must be based on well-informed decisions. SOI Ltd offers a range of services to allow stake-holders to ensure that due environmental diligence is applied to their activities across this fragile environment.



Services include:

- **Biological sampling – infaunal, epifaunal and macroalgal**
- **Biological analysis - species ID, abundance and biomass**
- **Cultural heritage assessment**
- **Data management , analysis and assessment**
- **EIA & AA**
- **High resolution surface & subsurface scanning**
- **Inshore surveys**
- **Inter-tidal and benthic ecology surveys**
- **Particle size analysis**
- **Saltmarsh & dune restoration**
- **Sediment transport monitoring**
- **Survey design**
- **Water and sediment quality assessments**

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The transition zone between marine and terrestrial environments has a unique set of challenges due to difficulty of access and the need to apply both land and water based data collection methods. The significant experience available through SOI Ltd in environmental survey and monitoring work in these habitats allows us to offer a unique range of services including subsea scanning, coastal archaeology and ecological survey and monitoring.



Sectors:

- **Archaeological Assessment**
- **EIA & AA**
- **Government & Policy making**
- **Marine Renewables**
- **Oil & Gas**
- **Planning development**
- **Integrated Coastal Zone Management**
- **Mariculture**

Restoration of degraded coastal habitats has the potential to increase resilience to erosion and storm events as well as significantly contribute to conservation interests. Solutions to remedy the demise of these sensitive and invaluable habitats are few, but long term trial plantings of saltmarsh species at the Scottish Oceans Institute have proven that regeneration is possible.



*For more information on saltmarsh restoration and its implications for conservation and natural coastal defence, please see our 'Saltmarsh' flier.

