



PRO-COAST

Pro-Coast aims to help local communities maintain and restore the riches and services of nature across Europe, by encouraging use of local knowledge and activities that benefit land, sea and species.

Our 20 partners across 14 countries bring together social scientists, ecologists and technical experts with a wide set of skills. They are working in 10 case studies to discover how local people would like to restore a variety of coastal ecosystems.



Funded by
the European Union



UK Research
and Innovation

DISCOVER EARTH ADVICE

What is Earth Advice?

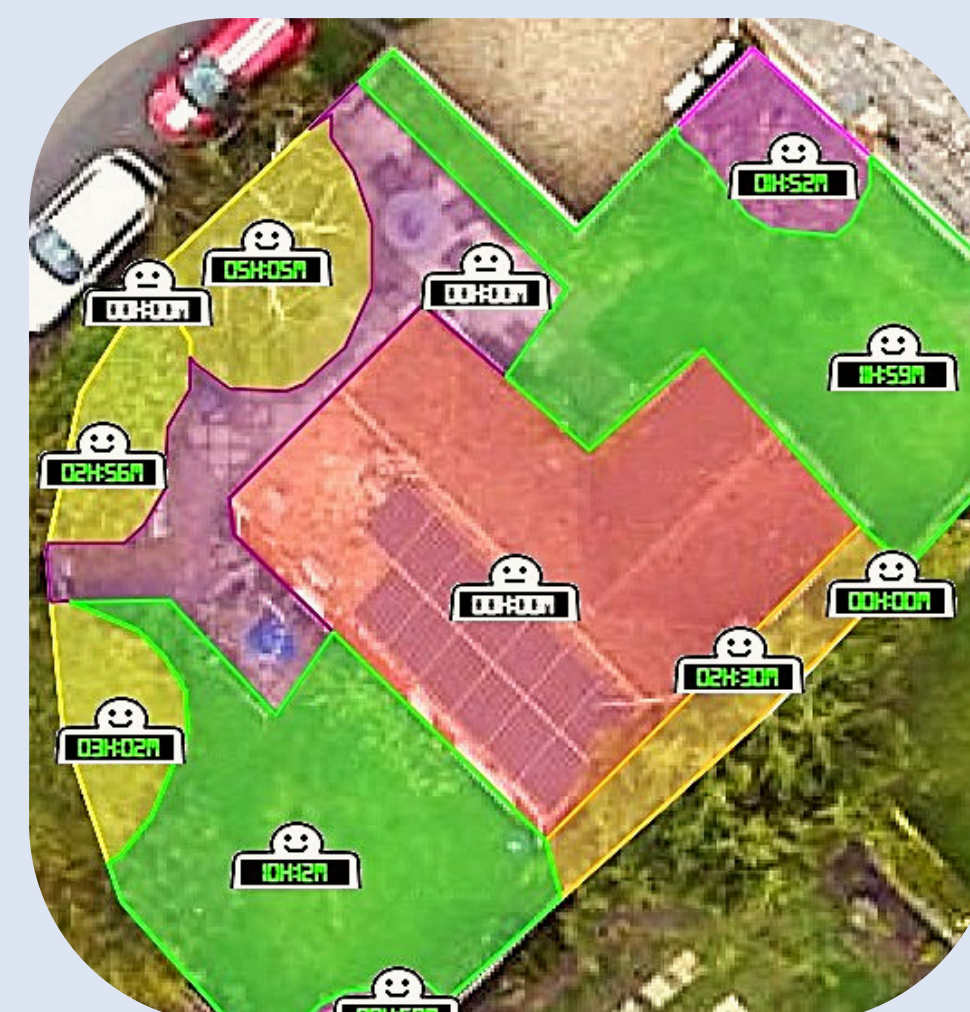
Earth Advice is a new app developed through the PRO-COAST project in Arne. It will help users understand how their garden contributes to carbon storage and supports wildlife.

How it works

The app will allow users to map their garden's layout, record sightings of animals such as squirrels and sparrows, and receive scores that show how their garden performs.

Why It Matters

- **Help nature thrive.** The app will show users where their gardens could be more wildlife-friendly.
- **Tackle climate change locally.** Gardens play a key role in storing carbon. Scores on the app will show users where their gardens capture the most carbon.
- **Help scientists** understand what garden features best support wildlife.

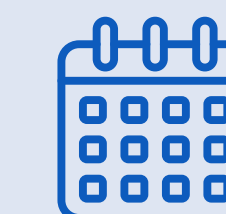


COMMUNITY DROP-IN EVENT

Hosted by the PRO-COAST project



Stoborough Village Hall



Thursday, 23rd October



From 6:00 pm

We warmly invite you to join us for a community event hosted by the PRO-COAST project. The meeting will include the work being carried out locally on squirrel populations, findings from a recent local survey and the new Earth Advice software

Refreshments, including a complimentary buffet and drinks, will be provided.



How Grey Squirrels Outcompete Reds

Oak trees support more wildlife than any other tree in Britain and were once widely used for building. For centuries, they were grown alongside hazel, a key food source for red squirrels. Red squirrels can live well in oak and beech woodlands, where they eat only a limited number of acorns because of the toxic tannins they contain. Grey squirrels, which are less affected by tannins, eat large amounts of both acorns and hazelnuts.

Impact on Woodlands

The tannin-tolerant grey squirrels can reach populations ten times higher than red squirrels and damage young trees by stripping their bark. Ring-barked trees, like this young sycamore, then die. Grey squirrels also spread a fatal disease to red squirrels.



In areas where grey squirrels thrive, few oak, beech, or other native trees in new woodlands survive long enough to store much carbon. This poses a serious threat to woodland health and climate goals.

Our Objective

In Arne, a community-led trial is underway to study squirrel populations and assess the potential for reintroducing red squirrels in the future.

Want to learn more or get involved?
Visit <https://www.pro-coast.eu/en/c>



PRO-COAST in Arne Parish

In Arne Parish, work on squirrels and climate change is part of a European initiative called Pro-Coast. This project aims to reverse the decline of biodiversity and essential natural services in coastal areas.

The decline of red squirrels in Poole Harbour

Red squirrels were once present in the coastal woodlands around Poole Harbour. Native tree species such as oak and beech could be planted with the expectation of successful growth, and hazel nuts were commonly gathered for consumption.

The introduction of grey squirrels from North America, following releases in other parts of the UK, led to a decline in red squirrel populations. Today, red squirrels in the Poole Harbour area are confined to Brownsea Island and Furzey Island.



Community Drop-in Event

Presentations will cover:

- **Ongoing work on squirrel populations** in Arne Parish, highlighting recent findings and future directions.
- **Results from the latest survey** carried out in the parish and comparison with previous surveys.
- **An introduction to the European PRO-COAST project** and the important role of Arne Parish within it.

Food and Refreshments:

Join us for friendly conversations over a cold buffet, with wine, coffee and tea served throughout the evening!



Speakers will include:

- **International wildlife experts:** Craig Shuttleworth and Robert Kenward
- **Representatives from the PRO-COAST project:** Bridget Kenward and Perline Bastid

Scan the QR code to learn more about PRO-COAST!



We look forward to welcoming you!