

FAQs for website DRAFT

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What is a sea pool?

A sea pool, sometimes called a tidal pool, is typically a three or four-sided enclosed area (natural or man made) on or close to the beach which fills with sea water at high tide. This then allows people to use the pool when the tide has gone out for swimming, paddleboarding or kayaking/canoeing in a safer environment than in the open sea.

Why do we want a sea pool in Scarborough and who is it for?

A sea pool would provide the opportunity for everyone to experience safe sea swimming and all its benefits in Scarborough all year round. Although there are many people, both locals and visitors, who already swim in the sea here, there are times when the sea is very rough or there are rip tides or strong currents and undertows which make swimming challenging, dangerous or not possible so the sea pool would provide a safe place for everyone to swim, paddleboard or kayak/canoe in.

The pool will be for everyone whether local or visitors, both adults and children, and the proposed design is accessible for people across the full range of physical abilities.

What are the benefits of cold water swimming?

Cold water swimming offers a range of physical and mental benefits, including boosting mood and self-esteem through endorphin release, improving cardiovascular fitness and circulation, strengthening the immune system by increasing white blood cells, and reducing inflammation and chronic pain. It can provide an invigorating experience that promotes a sense of presence and calm. A tidal pool can provide all this in a sociable and friendly environment!

Who is running this project?

This is a **community-led** rather than a council-led project. North Yorkshire Council's Scarborough and Whitby Area Constituency Committee generously funded the initial [feasibility study](#) which we were delighted with and very thankful for.

From here it is up to the community to come together and make the dream a reality! So far, just to get things started, we have set up a community group called Scarborough Sea Pool consisting of interested members. However a formal group, possibly a Community Interest Group (CiC), needs to be set up as soon as possible to facilitate things like funding applications.

Where will the sea pool be built?

The [feasibility study](#) completed in March 2025 considered several different sites, around North Bay, Foreshore and South Bay/Spa area/Children's Corner. These potential sites were walked round by several people from the sea pool group and the Architect Chris Romer-Lee* who completed the study. The sites were all ranked according to a set of criteria and the proposed, preferred site near Children's Corner was selected from this process.

There are now [RIBA plan of work](#) stages to progress through, alongside other local North Yorkshire Council pre-planning processes, this may change the design and location. There is an ongoing community consultation regarding the design/location.

*Chris Romer-Lee is an experienced and Internationally acclaimed Architect who has designed many sea pools in the UK and abroad.

What will the sea pool look like?

A design of the three-sided tidal pool can be seen in the [feasibility study](#) produced by Chris Romer-Lee in March 2025. The design isn't finalised yet and is subject to change depending on final site location.

How much will it cost and where will the money come from?

This is a community-led project rather than a council-led one so we will need to look at multiple potential sources of funding such as grants, lottery funding, donations and sponsorship. The [feasibility study](#) estimated the cost of building a 50 metre pool based on the proposed design at approximately £3.2 million. However we would build in contingency on top of this to allow for inflation.

What are the stages of this project and what progress has been made so far?

The stages of this project include:

- Commission a [feasibility study](#) into the project - [completed March 2025](#)
- Create a Community Interest Company to run the project
- Do [RIBA's \(Royal Institute of British Architects\) Plan of Work](#) which organises the process of briefing, designing, constructing and operating building projects into eight stages
- Do fundraising for the money to build and maintain the pool
- Get planning permission from The Crown who own the site
- Consult Natural England for permission to build the pool on that part of the beach
- Get publicity for the project e.g. in the media, on social media
- Continued consultation with interested members of the public and stakeholders.

How can I get involved to support making this happen?

Scarborough Sea Pool is a group of volunteers and would welcome any help you can give us! Please email us at scarboroughseapool@gmail.com if you would like to get involved, with the subject title: Supporter. We also have a [Facebook page](#) if you would like to follow us.

Didn't we used to have a sea pool and an open air swimming pool, both now closed, why would a new sea pool be different?

Yes, Scarborough had both, the history and a summary of why they closed can be found here:

[Stories from Scarborough - Swimming in Scarborough - Battle of the bathing pools](#)

In recent years outdoor cold water and sea swimming has grown in popularity, Scarborough currently has at least five groups of sea swimmers, with others in Whitby and Filey and smaller informal groups of friends who swim all year round in all of Scarborough's Bays (North, South, Cayton, Filey). The proposed new sea pool will be different from the now closed open air swimming pool as it will be a simpler design, easier to maintain as it won't have any features such as diving boards or fountains. It will be run by a community group (rather than the council), who are all sea swimmers and who are committed to it being a success.

The old "star" pool would cost much more to open up as all the infrastructure was totally removed / broken up prior to infilling so it isn't viable to dig it out. Its current format also helps to stabilise the cliff so it wouldn't be safe or eco friendly to dig it out.

What about the environmental impact?

The proposed design of the sea pool will use a type of material known as Biocrete, which is rated by the construction industry as an environmentally responsible material. In addition it is proposed to add bio receptive tiles to the outside of the sea pool walls which will attract marine life such as lichens and seaweed and encourage growth around the walls. We are also working in partnership with Sea Grown to encourage the eco system to flourish, Outdoor Partnership and Natural England for consultations etc

What about the water quality issues?

We are aware that water quality is an ongoing issue for Scarborough and view the sea pool as an important addition to the fight for safe, pollution-free sea water. More people using the sea for recreation means there is more pressure on Yorkshire Water and others to invest in cleaning up our seas and rivers. We are in consultation with Yorkshire Water and other important partners to address these issues. Our aim is to achieve designated bathing water status for the future sea pool and both of Scarborough's bays.