

CAN IMPROVEMENTS TO COASTAL ENVIRONMENTS IMPROVE THE WELL-BEING OF LOCAL COMMUNITIES?



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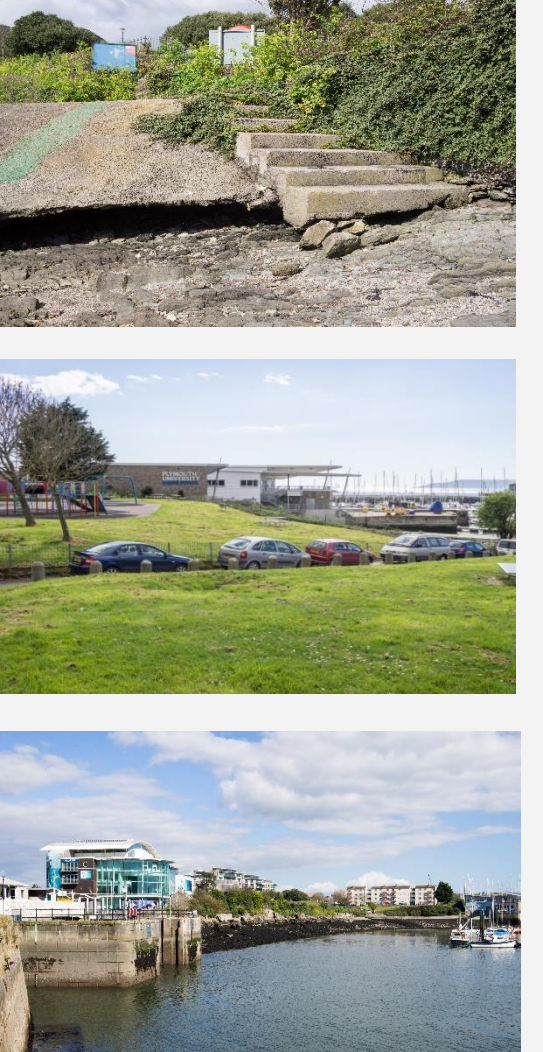
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1. BACKGROUND AND QUESTION

- Marine plans and policies are increasingly scrutinised for their potential to contribute to greater well-being for people.
- Interventions may help to capitalise on numerous opportunities to gain well-being benefits from coastal environments.
- Despite this, there is limited evidence on the impacts of coastal interventions on well-being.
- **Research question:** What is the impact of a coastal regeneration project (Plymouth, UK) on the well-being of local residents?

2. CASE STUDY

- Teat's Hill (Plymouth, UK)- deprived coastal urban area with green space and playground.
- A regeneration project improved the site (access, environmental quality and facilities) and assessed the benefits of the regeneration.
- The project was co-ordinated by Plymouth City Council and involved a range of stakeholders (including the BlueHealth project).

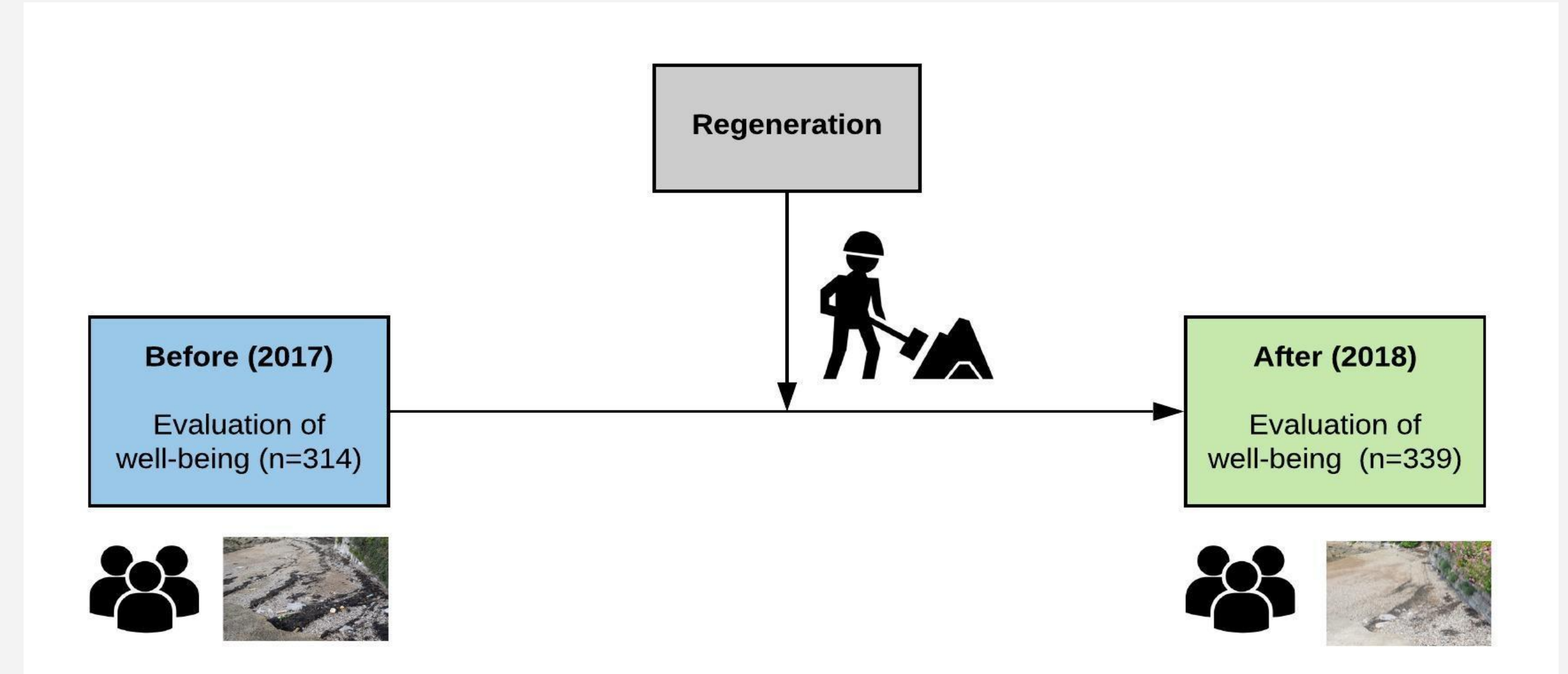


Before regeneration

After regeneration



3. METHOD



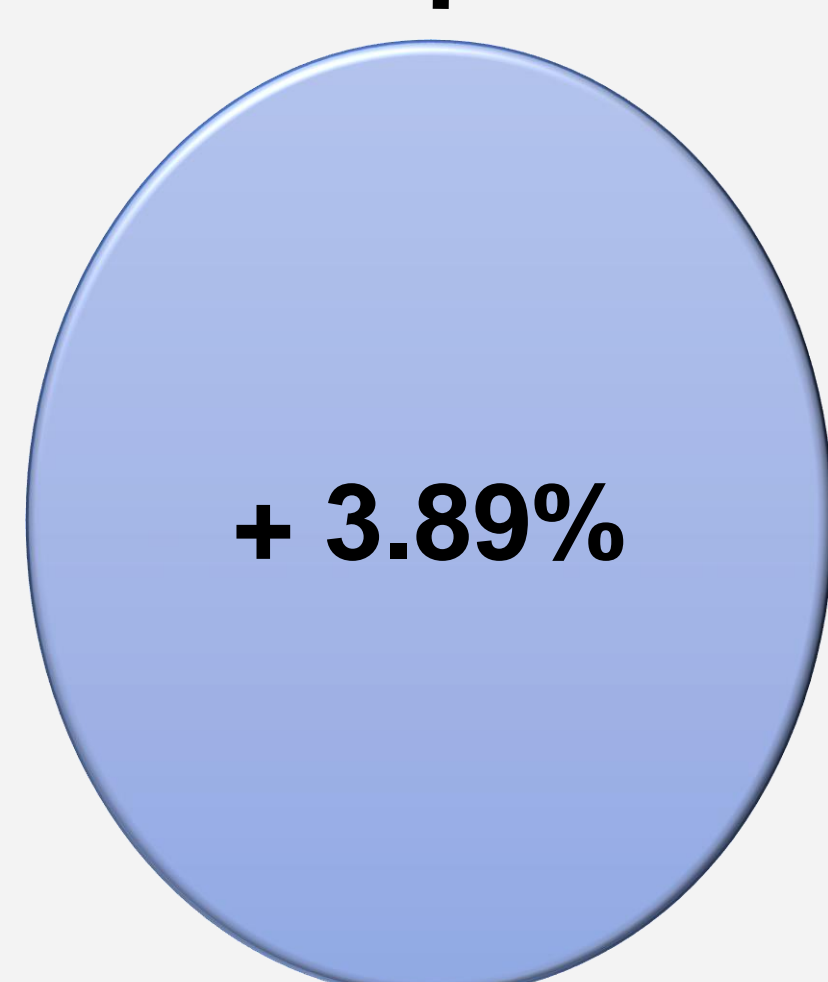
- The PhD project assessed the well-being value of the regeneration using two methods:
 - (1) Contingent Valuation Method (preferences, through willingness to pay for the regeneration).
 - (2) Life Satisfaction Approach (experience of the regeneration, based on reports of life satisfaction).

4. HEADLINE FINDINGS

- Willingness to pay was interpreted as a well-being measure and complemented the Life Satisfaction Approach.
- The estimates from the two methods were dissimilar.
- But, together the findings were indicative of a positive effect of the regeneration on the well-being of local residents.

Contingent Valuation Method

Life Satisfaction Approach



Amount that people were willing to pay for the regeneration per person as a one off payment.

The % increase in life satisfaction (before vs. after).

The value of the 3.89% increase in life satisfaction. This represents the value per person per year.

5. IMPACT AND IMPLICATIONS

- **Business case for blue spaces.** The evidence is being used to ensure ongoing investment to improve the quality and accessibility of blue spaces in Plymouth and the wider area.
- **Public health.** Reaffirms evidence that natural environments may have important specific properties in terms of the benefits that they might convey for well-being and therefore public health.



6. TAKE HOME MESSAGES

- There was a positive effect of the coastal regeneration on the well-being of local residents in Plymouth (UK).
- This is one of the first studies to assess the impact of a coastal intervention on human well-being.
- The research has implications for the future funding of coastal interventions, public health research and policy and planning.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to acknowledge the support and hard work of the Teat's Hill regeneration project team and steering group. Particular thanks goes to staff from Plymouth City Council, including Zoe Sydenham and Jemma Sharman and the BlueHealth Team, including Prof Simon Bell and Himansu Mishra.