This royal throne of kings, this scepter’d isle,
This earth of majesty, this seat of Mars,
This other Eden, demi-paradise,
This fortress built by Nature for herself
Against infection and the hand of war,
This happy breed of men, this little world,
This precious stone set in the silver sea,
Which serves it in the office of a wall,
Or as a moat defensive to a house,
Against the envy of less happier lands,

Shakespeare. Richard II, Act 2
Visions for Portsmouth
The Island City
'Going Dutch'

Symposium & Exhibition
25 June 2014
Visions for Portsmouth

The Island City
'Going Dutch'

University of Portsmouth,
School of Architecture
Masters research

FM + P
'Finding Method + Practice'
Research Groups
(M.arch years 1 & 2)
Visions for Portsmouth

CHALLENGES

climate change, mitigation, flooding prevention, employment, commerce, regeneration, transport, infrastructure, sustainability, ecology, amenity, housing, history, culture, education, energy, leisure, opportunity, new garden city, water city

WATERCITY
Portsmouth - Context

A region defined by the South Downs National Park to the North, the sea inlets and islands to the south (Southampton Sound, Portsmouth Harbour, Langstone Channel, Emsworth Channel).
Portsmouth is constrained on its island site. The South Downs National Park (GREEN) to the north and sea to the south (BLUE) contains urbanisation to a linear coastal strip (GREY)
Portsmouth is an island city with poor landside connectivity giving access only to the north only. To the South of the M24, A27 between Southampton to Chichester 'A' roads dead end.
The South Coast location showing areas at risk of inundation from a 1m sea level increase - 100 year prediction.

The East Solent Coastal Partnership (ESCP) now extends to the Hampshire districts of Fareham, Gosport, Portsmouth and Havant comprises 162km of coastline but does not include the administrative areas of Chichester, Emsworth Channel & Chichester Harbour or Bognor Regis.
A new coastal defence plan secures opportunities for Portsmouths expansion, transport infrastructure, new settlements, new leisure and recreational areas, salt or fresh water ecologies, green corridors and aquatic links, sustainable power, industry, agriculture, and fisheries.
Portsmouth - The Island City

The Research Proposition - 25, 50 to 100 years

1. Developing a unitary regional hydrological plan co-ordinated with a strategic plan for Portsmouth City.

2. Reducing the length of primary coastal defences around the Solent with tidal surge barrages across Chichester and Langstone harbours, and with a barrage across Portsmouth harbour upstream of the operational dockyards. Reducing flood risk and providing sustainable enhancement.

3. Using the flow of water through the barrages to generate hydro power (like a mill pond)

4. Securing habitats and extensive marshland Special Protection Areas against inundation. Developing forward an ecological strategy.

5. Integrating infrastructure investment (eg flood defence, public transport, housing) through a unified strategy to advance a sustainable urban plan for the regeneration of Portsmouth.

6. Propose regional solutions to address the national housing shortfall to strengthen existing communities and develop opportunities for inward investment.

Enhancing the distinctive character of Portsmouth as the UKs only Island City.
This research proposition invited a creative leap forward, towards a plan strategy responsive to long term change.

Portsmouth - The Island City

Since the C15th the Dutch have responded to the threat of sea and river flooding with engineered hydrological solutions.

What might Portsmouth learn from the Dutch experience and that of other island and coastal cities?.

This is an example of how to live with the risk of flood, near or below sea level, and within sustainably planned new communities.

How might the East Solent region develop in response to change over a 25, 50 or 100 year timeframe?.

The Dutch invest over twice the UK in hydrological protection, and have less than half the UKs coastline, and fewer areas at risk.

WHAT FUTURE FOR PORTSMOUTH?

This research proposition invited a creative leap forward, towards a plan strategy responsive to long term change.