



SOUTH EAST DEVON
HABITAT REGULATIONS
PARTNERSHIP

East Devon District Council
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Honiton
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Agenda for South and East Devon Habitat Regulations Executive Committee Thursday, 24th October, 2024, 2.00 pm

Members of South and East Devon Habitat Regulations Executive Committee

Councillors J Hook (Chair), P Knott and G Jung

Venue: Council Chamber, East Devon District Council, Border Road, Heathpark Industrial Estate, Honiton EX14 1EJ

Contact: Debbie Meakin 01395 517540; email dmeakin@eastdevon.gov.uk

(or group number 01395 517546)

15 October 2024

1 Suspension of rule 4.2 as permitted by rule 21.1 of the Terms of reference and rules of procedure of the Executive Committee

Due to the unavailability of meeting space at the offices of the Chair, rule 4.2 be suspended in order for the meeting to take place at the offices of East Devon District Council.

2 Minutes of the previous meeting held on 24 April 2024 (Pages 3 - 5)

3 Apologies

4 Declarations of interest

Guidance is available online to Councillors and co-opted members on making [declarations of interest](#)

5 Public speaking

Information on [public speaking](#) is available online.

6 Matters of urgency

Information on [matters of urgency](#) is available online



Exeter
City Council



7 **Confidential/exempt items**

To agree any items to be dealt with after the public (including the Press) have been excluded. There are no items which officers recommend should be dealt with in this way.

8 **2023-24 Annual Business Plan - Annual Report** (Pages 6 - 12)

9 **Financial report** (Pages 13 - 23)

10 **Risk Register report** (Pages 24 - 40)

11 **Communications report** (Pages 41 - 53)

12 **2024-25 Annual Business Plan and 5Yr Delivery Plan** (Pages 54 - 72)

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If you are recording the meeting, you are asked to act in a reasonable manner and not disrupt the conduct of meetings for example by using intrusive lighting, flash photography or asking people to repeat statements for the benefit of the recording. You may not make an oral commentary during the meeting. The Chairman has the power to control public recording and/or reporting so it does not disrupt the meeting.

Members of the public exercising their right to speak during Public Speaking will be recorded.

[Decision making and equalities](#)

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EAST DEVON DISTRICT COUNCIL**Minutes of the meeting of South and East Devon Habitat Regulations Executive Committee held at Council Chamber, East Devon District Council, Blackdown House, Border Road, Heathpark Industrial Estate, Honiton EX14 1EJ on 24 April 2024****Attendance list at end of document**

The meeting started at 2.00 pm and ended at 2.32 pm

123 Minutes of the previous meeting

Under Rule 21.1 of the Agenda & Rules of Procedure, Rule 4.2 which states that the meeting should be held at the offices of the Chair, was suspended in order that this meeting could take place at the EDDC offices.

Minutes of the South East Devon Habitat Regulations Executive Committee meeting held on 27 April 2023 were agreed by the committee.

Officers were asked to report to the next meeting with an update on minute 117, specifically the development of the new Mitigation Strategy and how this Committee can be involved in its development.

124 Declarations of interest

Cllr Martin Wrigley: personal interest – his property overlooks the estuary and he is a member and Treasurer of Cockwood Boat Club.

125 Public speaking

There were no members of the public registered to speak.

126 Matters of urgency

There were no matters of urgency.

127 Confidential/exempt items

There were none.

128 Monitoring Petalwort at Dawlish Warren

The Economy and Delivery Manager introduced this report and associated Vegetation Survey and Assessment concerning Petalwort monitoring at Dawlish Warren National Nature Reserve in 2023.

Petalwort is a nationally scarce plant in the UK, and Dawlish Warren is one of seven sites in England where the plant is recorded and one of the special interest features for which Dawlish Warren Special Area of Conservation is designated. The Vegetation Survey and Assessment suggested that without management intervention, there is a high risk that Petalwort may disappear from Dawlish Warren entirely.

Comments from the Committee included:

- It was noted that whilst the Vegetation Survey and Assessment set out a number of recommendations, the current focus was the Petalwort translocation scheme as the preferred intervention, the evidence from which would inform the future decisions of this Committee.
- In the event that translocation is unsuccessful, then it would be appropriate to consider the interventions recommended in the Vegetation Survey and Assessment.

RESOLVED that the Executive Committee

1. Notes the vegetation survey and assessment report and the recommendations set out therein.
2. Receives an update from Teignbridge District Council at the next meeting regarding the status of the proposed Petalwort translocation scheme.
3. Subject to (2) above, considers funding the next survey on the conservation assessment of Petalwort in 2026.

129 **Dawlish Warren NNR - 2023 trampling and nutrient enrichment assessment**

The Economy and Delivery Manager introduced this report and associated Dawlish Warren National Nature Reserve Trampling and Nutrient Assessment 2023.

The Assessment had been commissioned in 2010 by Teignbridge District Council, to consider the impacts of recreation on Dawlish Warren and to identify the extent to which access was impacting the site. The Assessment suggested that the impact of trampling (people treading on plants) was somewhat nuanced, in some places contributing to maintaining the preferred habitat conditions, but in other places leading to significant erosion problems.

Comments from the Committee included:

- Concern was expressed that whilst informative, the reports do not set out what is being done to respond to the changes that are happening. Moreover, they do not consider the wider context including foreseeable changes such as rising sea levels, the impact of planned work by Network Rail, and the Environment Agency's intention to remove the geotube from the back of the Dawlish Warren, now planned for 2050.
- Whilst recognising the aforementioned concerns, it was not possible to know what changes will have occurred decades from now.

RESOLVED that the Executive Committee:

1. Notes the results of the trampling and nutrient enrichment assessment relating to impacts associated with human activity at Dawlish Warren NNR.
2. Receives an updated trampling and nutrient enrichment survey report as part of the ongoing monitoring programme in 2026.

130 **Branding update**

The Delivery Manager introduced this report which provided an update on branding for the work of South East Devon Wildlife, the public facing brand for the South East Devon Habitat Regulations Partnership and South East Devon Habitat Regulations Executive Committee, together with a revised Communications Protocol.

A recent review of how the organisation, partnership, project work and committee are referenced had shown that the use of plain English and standardisation of the name would reinforce and improve awareness, and it was therefore recommended that the

organisation be consistently referenced as South East Devon Wildlife across all communications.

Comments from the Committee included:

- Confusion could arise from referring to Habitat Mitigation Officers as Wildlife Wardens, given that other organisations have Wildlife Wardens too; however, it was argued that it was not important for the public to distinguish between the different roles, since they were doing similar work.
- Members sought to understand what changes had been made to the Communications Protocol, and the Delivery Manager stated that she would request a copy of the original Protocol to be shared with the Committee.

RESOLVED that the Executive Committee:

1. Notes the branding update for South East Devon Wildlife, South East Devon Habitat Regulations Partnership and South East Devon Habitat Regulations Executive Committee.
2. Approves the revised communications protocol for the partnership and Committee.

131 **Habitat mitigation team update**

Members noted this report which provided an update on the work of the Habitat Mitigation Delivery Team.

At Members' request, future update reports will set out where there has been a change in personnel.

The Chair thanked Members and Officers for their contribution to the meeting.

Attendance List

Councillors present:

P Bialyk (Chair), Exeter City Council
G Jung, East Devon District Council
M Wrigley, Teignbridge District Council

Officers in attendance:

Naomi Harnett, Delivery Manager, East Devon District Council
Rebecca Heal, Solicitor, East Devon District Council
Sarah James, Democratic Services Officer, East Devon District Council
Fergus Pate, Economy and Delivery Manager, Teignbridge District Council
Dale Cooper, Principal Projects Manager, Exeter City Council

Chair:

Date:



South East Devon Habitat Regulations Executive Committee

2023-24 Annual Business Plan – Annual Report

*Neil Harris & Naomi Harnett
Growth, Development & Prosperity,
East Devon District Council
October 2024*

Legal comment/advice:

EDDC Legal Services have read this report and have no comment.

DEM.1-0007/October/RAH

Finance comment/advice:

Any financial implications are set out in the report.

Public Document:	Yes
Exemption:	None
Review date for release	None

Recommendations

It is proposed that the Executive Committee:

1. Notes the progress made in delivering the 2023/24 annual business plan.
2. Notes the status of mitigation measures from each of the plans, as well as explanations given for measures subject to delay and revised completion dates.

Equalities impact: Low

Risk: Medium.

This report is an update on the progress made in delivery of ongoing mitigation measures set out in previous annual business plans and ongoing measures established in the Plan. It is important that progress continues to be made, or this would put the delivery of the partner Authorities' Local Plans at risk due to the continued legal duties under the Habitat Regulations.

1. Summary/Overview.

1.1 The 2023/24 annual business plan (ABP) was approved at a meeting of the Executive Committee on 27th April 2023.

1.2 The measures had been debated and endorsed by the Officer Working Group. The plan outlined the delivery of ongoing measures established in previous ABPs as well as a range of additional measures. In total, the plan released funding for new projects estimated at £36,000.

1.3 Projects included the continued funding of keystone mitigation measures such as the Delivery Manager, Wildlife Wardens and Project Officer (Devon Loves Dogs) (DLD).

1.4 New measures approved as part of the plan included the redesign and rebuilding of the DLD website, a footbridge crossing point to safeguard southern damselfly habitat, development of educational resources for GCSE/A level students and Nightjar productivity modelling on the East Devon Pebblebed Heaths. At Dawlish Warren, funding for improvements/repairs to fencing along the front and at the distal end was identified.

1.5 Table 1, below, reports the status of ongoing mitigation measures previously approved by the Executive Committee¹.

¹ Measures approved in previous annual business plans, designed to operate over multiple years (and therefore not requiring annual approval by the Executive).

Table 1. Ongoing mitigation measures from previous business plans approved by the Executive Committee.

Site	Measure	Status
Cross Site	Delivery Manager	Completed (ongoing)
Cross Site	Two Wildlife Wardens	Completed (ongoing)
Cross Site	Warden vehicle	Completed (ongoing)
Cross Site	Dog project	Completed (ongoing)
Exe Estuary	Patrol boat	Completed (ongoing)
Pebblebed Heaths	Dog bins	Completed (ongoing)
SANGS	Dawlish Countryside Park	Completed (ongoing)
SANGS	South West Exeter	Phase 1 complete, open to the public (ongoing) ²

1.6 Table 2, below, reports the status of new mitigation measures approved as part of the 2023/24 annual business plan.

Table 2. 2023/24 Annual Business Plan - “new” mitigation measures.

Site	Measure	Status
All	Devon Loves Dogs website rebuild	Completed
Dawlish Warren	Fencing for access management	Completed
Pebblebed Heaths	Footbridge crossing point (Southern damselfly habitat)	Delayed ³
Pebblebed Heaths	Educational resources (GCSE and A level)	Delayed ⁴
Pebblebed Heaths	Nightjar productivity modelling	Near completion ⁵

² First car park opened 1 March 2023.

³ On hold pending sourcing of contractors to quote for work. Working with site manager to resolve. Completion expected Spring 2025.

⁴ Staff changes at the Pebblebed Heaths Conservation Trust resulted in a delay to completion of this work. Completion expected Summer 2025

⁵ Modelling work completed, awaiting final report from consultants, winter 2024.

1.7 Table 3, below, shows the status of mitigation measures approved as part of the 2022/23 annual business plan, carried forward for delivery in 2023/24.

Table 3. 2022/23 Annual Business Plan - mitigation measures initiated/completed during 2023/24 operational year.

Site	Measure	Status
Exe Estuary	Updates/reprints of EEMP leaflets.	Completed ⁶
Exe Estuary	Personal aircraft code of conduct.	In progress ⁷
Pebblebed Heaths	Visitor access improvements – phase 3 works	Completed ⁸

1.8 Tables 4 & 5 reflect the status of mitigation measures from all previous annual business plans.

Table 4. Initiated/completed/in progress mitigation approved by Executive.

Site	Measure	Status
All	Visitor counts & surveys	Completed ⁹
All	Website redesign & monitoring dashboard	Completed ¹⁰
Exe Estuary	Wildlife refuge monitoring	Completed
Exe Estuary	Codes of Conduct	Completed
Exe Estuary	Procurement, installation, maintenance of buoy markers.	Completed (ongoing)
Exe Estuary	Update signs at public slipways (1)	Completed
Dawlish Warren	Vegetation monitoring	Completed (ongoing) ¹¹
Dawlish Warren	Regular newsletter	On hold ¹²
Dawlish Warren/Exe	Reed screening between Bight & Golf Course	On hold ¹³
Dawlish Warren	Visitor Management Plan	In progress (ongoing)

⁶ Completed during 23/24. Exe Explorer and Exe Wildlife leaflets updated, reprinted and available [online](#)

⁷ Initiated during 23/24. Staff changes at the Exe Estuary Management Partnership resulted in a delay to completion of this work. Completion expected winter 2024.

⁸ Originally part of 22/23 annual business plan but completed during 23/24.

⁹ Reported to HREC April 2022.

¹⁰ Site launched April 2022.

¹¹ 2023 report presented to the January 2024 meeting of HREC.

¹² Ranger team report no capacity for compiling regular Newsletters.

¹³ Projects at the distal end of the Warren have been on hold pending completion of EA Beach Management Scheme review. See separate report "2024/25 Annual Business Plan and 5Yr Delivery Plan".

Dawlish Warren	Petalwort monitoring	Completed (ongoing) ¹⁴
Dawlish Warren	Changes to car parking management	On hold (ongoing)
Dawlish Warren	Carry out audit of information boards	Completed (ongoing)
Dawlish Warren	BBQ info at local retailers	Completed (ongoing) ¹⁵
Pebblebed Heaths	Visitor access improvements – phase 1 works	Completed ¹⁶
Pebblebed Heaths	Visitor access improvements – phase 2 works	Completed ¹⁷
Pebblebed Heaths	Visitor Access Improvements (advisory report)	Completed
Pebblebed Heaths	Interpretation and signage	Completed ¹⁸
Pebblebed Heaths	Visitor Access Improvements (public consultation)	Completed
Pebblebed Heaths	Maps highlighting sensitive areas	Completed ¹⁹
Pebblebed Heaths	Codes of conduct	Completed
Pebblebed Heaths	Boardwalks/ Path surfacing	Initiated (ongoing) ²⁰
Pebblebed Heaths	Educational work with schools	Completed (ongoing)

Table 5 – mitigation measures carried over from previous business plans

Site	Measure	Status
Dawlish Warren	Removal of Dog Control Order	On hold ²¹
Dawlish Warren	Changes to car parking management	On hold
Dawlish Warren	Byelaw preventing fires and barbeques in buffer zone	Under investigation ²²
Dawlish Warren	Monitoring of accretion and erosion	On hold ²³

¹⁴ 2023 report presented to the January 2024 meeting of HREC.

¹⁵ “No BBQ’s at Dawlish Warren” public awareness campaign spring/summer 2023.

¹⁶ Phase 1 works completed April 2022.

¹⁷ Phase 2 works completed February 2023.

¹⁸Phase 3 signage installed summer/autumn 2023.

¹⁹ Incorporated into interpretation/signage design and promoted routes work.

²⁰ Further expenditure recommended as part of 2023-24 Annual Business Plan.

²¹ District-wide Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) regarding dogs enacted by TDC in April 2022.

²² Remains a watching brief with TDC Resorts, Rangers and Legal departments. No recent incidents reported for 2-3 years.

²³ This is still being undertaken by the Environment Agency (EA) as part of the Beach Management Scheme.

2. Habitat Regulations Delivery Manager.

2.1 The Delivery Manager continues in post, working to organise and implement the approved Annual Business Plans, report progress to the Executive Committee, co-ordinate delivery of the Strategy, line manage the habitat mitigation team, liaise with the Officer Working Group and undertake ongoing review of the Strategy.

2.2 Progress is marked by the management of public-facing staff, planning and implementation of public awareness campaigns, project management of Pebblebed Heaths visitor access improvements and procurement of contracts relating to this work. Procurement of materials for fencing at Dawlish Warren and fiscal management/planning.

2.3 Over the past year, the Delivery Manager assisted in leading the planning and execution of the Devon Loves Dogs workshop. This involved managing presenters, coordinating venue hire, catering, and attendee logistics. The event attracted over 30 professionals from across Devon and represented a key milestone in the scheme's delivery – now in its 7th year.

2.5 Ongoing work streams included the implementation of the final phase of visitor access improvements on the East Devon Pebblebed Heaths and associated interpretation and signage installation. Project work to contribute to updates of the Exe Estuary Management Partnership leaflets (now complete) and personal aircraft code of conduct (near completion) has taken place.

2.6 Input and insights from experience of mitigation delivery are being incorporated into the updated mitigation strategy draft as part of ongoing Local Plan reviews. This process includes stakeholder engagement, meetings with local authority officers across the region, and commissioned work to ensure financial due diligence.

2.7 Communications and habitat mitigation team updates are reported separately.

Naomi Harnett
Growth Development and Prosperity
East Devon District Council,
October 2024

Natural England comment: Natural England have read the report and have no comment.



SOUTH EAST DEVON
HABITAT REGULATIONS
PARTNERSHIP

South East Devon Habitat Regulations Executive Committee

Financial Report

Naomi Harnett
Place, Assets and Commercialisation
East Devon District Council
October 2024

Legal comment/advice:

EDDC Legal Services have read this report and have no comment.

DEM.1-0007/October/RAH

Finance comment/advice:

The financial implications are set out in the report.

Public Document:	Yes
Exemption:	None
Review date for release	None

Recommendations

It is proposed that the Executive Committee:

- 1. Notes the update on the overall financial position including contributions received, expenditure and anticipated contributions (from signed S106 and CIL).**
- 2. Notes the expenditure against budget for the 2023-24 Annual Business Plan and reasons given for any variance.**

Equalities impact: Low

Risk: Low

This is an update, repeated annually on the current financial position of developer contributions (both collected and anticipated) for Habitat Regulations mitigation across the three partner authorities.

1. Summary

1.1 The purpose of this report is to update members of the Executive Committee on the overall financial position of developer contributions received by the partner authorities as mitigation payments towards measures identified in the South East Devon European Site Mitigation Strategy (“the Strategy”).

1.2 The report sets out details of the contributions received from inception to date and anticipated income from contributions where planning permission has been granted but the contribution has not yet been paid. Details of expenditure against the 2023/24 Annual Business Plan (ABP), as well as total expenditure to date are also provided.

1.3 Updated housing forecasts have been made available from each partner authority and are reported in Table 3. These projections have also been used to assist in outlining the indicative 5 year Delivery Plan, reported separately.

1.4 In order to maintain consistency as far as possible with the Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment (HELAA) methodology of forecasting income, amounts expected from signed planning obligations are now included within the forecast figures.

1.5 Rather than forecasting receipt of these amounts in the immediate future, this recognises that the period between planning permission and commencement varies and assumes a steady but cautious rate of delivery over the five years of the plan. For the purposes of this report, this category of applications was treated as one potential receipt, spread according to the phasing assumed by HELAA. Analysis individually by date of planning approval would not be meaningful, as some of these applications now date back to the earliest years of the partnership/interim arrangements and have not conformed to average delivery assumptions.

1.6 There remains the risk that some approved applications in this category will be withdrawn or expire. However, all authorities agreed that once permission is commenced, it can remain live and active, with no timeframe on reaching contribution trigger dates. It is therefore deemed more prudent to assume a more phased approach, with ongoing reviews of older applications.

1.7 Forecast figures were put together using the market conditions model for calculating housing delivery rates as per the joint HELAA methodology.

1.8 Expenditure is an amalgamation of East Devon District Council financial download figures and Teignbridge information (in relation to SANGS and other relatively minor items such as accountancy and monitoring support).

1.9 Due to the differences in approach and information constraints, there are limitations on the level of analysis, for example over exactly which income streams are used to fund recharges.

Table 1. Developer contributions received (less expenditure) to 31/03/24.

Charging zone/period	Total received to 31/03/24	Total expenditure to 31/03/24	Balance to 31/03/24
SANGS	£7,202,525 ¹	-£6,832,827	£369,698
Dawlish Warren On site	£1,136,291	-£478,841	£657,450
Exe Estuary On site	£1,556,610	-£604,475	£952,135
Pebblebed Heaths On site	£1,030,545	-£465,668	£564,877
EDDC CIL ²	£1,182,898	-£333,194	£849,704
Total	£12,108,870	-£8,715,005	£3,393,865

Table 2. 5 Year forecast of income/housing delivery (EDDC CIL has been incorporated into Exe Estuary and Pebblebed Heaths for clearer reporting).

Year	Dawlish Warren	Exe Estuary	Pebblebed Heaths	SANGS	Total
24-25	£121,485	£249,345	£176,408	£474,263	£1,021,501
25-26	£214,045	£271,376	£123,527	£509,192	£1,118,140
26-27	£173,550	£211,654	£50,135	£356,072	£791,411
27-28	£158,509	£282,320	£152,799	£580,795	£1,174,423
28-29	£205,946	£296,794	£136,683	£542,214	£1,181,636
Total	£873,535	£1,311,490	£639,552	£2,462,536	£5,287,113

1.5 Table 3, below, shows the estimated expenditure on the 2024/25 ABP and projected remaining balance at the end of each year until 2028/29.

¹ Discrepancy with 2023 Finance report. At least part of this is around TDC's future funding of the Dawlish SANGS which is subsequently re-claimed from the other authorities. It essentially represents a refund of some of TDC's CIL, which is what was originally used as funding. Some may also be due to a new approach to EDDC's reporting using Exacom report and standard split of funds.

² This is the sum reserved for measures identified by EDDC as infrastructure. Therefore, it can be spent as appropriate (on site infrastructure, Exe and Pebblebed Heaths).

Table 3 – Recommended on site expenditure by year and projected balance of funds as at end of each year until 2027/28.

Year	Dawlish Warren spend	Exe Estuary spend	Pebblebed Heaths spend	Infrastructure funded from CIL (Pebblebeds)	Total spend
2024-25	£134,223	£150,159	£125,229	£39,100	£428,710
2025-26	£190,540	£209,824	£202,646	£14,770	£617,780
2026-27	£144,976	£151,926	£169,582	£12,770	£479,254
2027-28	£140,898	£149,898	£189,553	£7,770	£488,119
2028-29	£130,723	£176,723	£192,379	£12,770	£512,595
Total	£741,360	£838,530	£879,389	£87,180	£2,546,459
Remaining balance at end 2027-28	£809,625	£1,314,800	£158,342	£852,384³	£4,569,762

³ This is the sum reserved for measures identified by EDDC as infrastructure. Therefore it can be spent as appropriate on SANGS or on site infrastructure (Exe and/or Pebblebed Heaths).

2. Expenditure against Annual Business Plans (ABP)

2.1 The continuing cross-site mitigation measures are shown in Table 5, below. The largest variances in expenditure relate to staff and warden vehicle costs, and unexpected delays in delivery of the replacement warden vehicle (and subsequent increase in hire charges).

Table 4. Cross site mitigation and expenditure recommended as part of the 2023/24 ABP.

Site	Measure	Revenue budget	Expenditure (Actual)	Variance +/-
All	Staff (salary, pension, NI)	£138,753	£156,095	-£17,342 ⁴
All	Staff recharges	£16,642	£29,360	+£12,717 ⁵
All	Wildlife Wardens – vehicle	£2,000	£-	£- ⁶
All	Patrol Boat	£7,000	£4,524	+£2,476 ⁷
All	Dog project vehicle	£625	£330	+£295
All	Dog project – operational	£2,584	£1,336	+£1,247 ⁸
PBH	Visitor Access Improvements Phases 1-3	Reported when all phases complete (2024). ⁹		
Totals		£178,767	£182,906	-£4,139

⁴Annual pay increases, additional overtime to ensure continuity of staff cover and clothing/kit requirements.

⁵ HR, Payroll, office accommodation, Strata and officer training. Budget for 2024-25 ABP and 5Yr Delivery Plan has been updated to ensure it remains accurate.

⁶ Additional expenditure due to extended hire of rental vehicle as a result of supply chain issues slowing delivery of replacement vehicle.

⁷ Fewer training requirements this year and poor weather affected boat patrols; less fuel required.

⁸ Less expenditure on materials/resources than usual as existing stock sufficient and some items such as Four Paws code reprint and dog tags for new members not yet invoiced.

⁹ Project delays mean that all invoicing has not yet been accounted for, so a final "total" cost is not yet available. Next appropriate report : 2025 Finance report.

2.4 Expenditure on all site specific mitigation measures either completed or initiated is shown below in Table 5.

2.5 As indicated by the “(Total) SEDESMS budget” column, the majority of these measures all have an element of ongoing funding allocated for revisions and/or maintenance in future years.

Table 5. Expenditure on completed/initiated mitigation measures.

Site	Measure	Initial budget	Expenditure (Actual)	Variance +/-	(Total) SEDESMS budget	(Remaining) SEDESMS budget
Dawlish Warren	Petalwort monitoring	£1,000	£1,608 ¹⁰	-£608	£26,667	£25,059
Dawlish Warren	Translocation of petalwort	£2,000	£330	+£1,670 ¹¹	£2,000	£1,670
Dawlish Warren	Fencing to prevent access along shore near roost on Bight.	£4,300	£5,668	-£1,368 ¹²	£160,000	£154,332
Dawlish Warren	Carry out audit of information boards	£13,000	£13,518	-£518 ¹³	£19,500	£5,982 ¹⁴
Dawlish Warren	BBQ info at local retailers	£2,000	£0	+£2,000 ¹⁵	£6,000	£6,000
Dawlish Warren	Monitoring of vegetation change	£5,000	£1,355	+£3,645 ¹⁶	£133,333	£131,978
Exe Estuary	Codes of conduct	£11,500	£10,720	+£780	£11,500	£780
Exe Estuary	Wildlife refuge consultation	£5,000	£9,186	-£4,186	£5,000	-£4,186
Exe Estuary	Disturbance monitoring - Refuges	£27,950	£27,950	£- ¹⁷	£30,000	£2,050
Exe Estuary	Wildlife Refuge buoy markers.	£30,000	£19,957	+£10,043	£30,000	£10,043

¹⁰ Surveys every 3 years.

¹¹ Initial consultant site visit paid for by SEDHRP. EA paid for report.

¹² Cost of timber has increased since original costs estimated in 2014.

¹³ Reallocation of funding for signage review recommended in “2024-25 annual business plan and 5Yr Delivery Plan”

¹⁴ Takes into account £11,272 spent on new signage, approved in 2017/18 annual business plan.

¹⁵ “No BBQ” banner trialed at the Warren spring 2023, 24.

¹⁶ Surveys every 3 years - third survey due spring/summer 2026.

¹⁷ 3 year study completed and reported to Committee October 2021.

Site	Measure	Capital cost	Expenditure (Actual)	Variance +/-	(Total) SEDESMS budget	(Remaining) SEDESMS budget
Exe Estuary	Update signs at public slipways	£40,000	£25,940	+£14,060 ¹⁸	£120,000	£94,060
Exe Estuary	Update/reprint of Exe Estuary leaflets	£6,000	£- ¹⁹	£-	£22,000	£22,000
Exe Estuary	Personal aircraft code of conduct	£1,534	£- ²⁰	£-	£1,534	£1,534
Exe Estuary	Interpretation boards	£5,000	£0	+£5,000	£112,500	£112,500
Pebblebed Heaths	Dog bins	£13,480	£10,379	+£3,101 ²¹	£273,100	£262,721
Pebblebed Heaths	Educational resources	£4,656	£4,590	+£66	£46,560	£41,970
Pebblebed Heaths	Pebblebeds Codes of conduct	£4,000	£4,000	-	£6,000	£2,000
Pebblebed Heaths	Signs related to conduct	£6,600	£430	+£6,170 ²²	£6,600	£6,170
Pebblebed Heaths	Path monitoring/repair	£12,000	£5,269	+£6,731 ²³	£95,000	£89,731
Pebblebed Heaths	Interpretation Boards	£5,000	£5000	£-	£64,800	£59,800
Pebblebed Heaths	Changes to car parks (preliminary survey)	£15,000 ²⁴	£15,000	£-	£15,000	£0
Pebblebed Heaths	Visitor Access Improvements	£485,000	£271,890	+£213,075	£500,000	£213,110 ²⁵
Pebblebed Heaths	Nightjar modelling	£6,000	£-	+£6,000	£6,000	£6,000 ²⁶
All	Visitor survey	£12,422	£10,570	+£1,852 ²⁷	£167,000	£156,430
All	Gazebo	£3,500	£4,137	-£637 ²⁸	£3,500	-£637

¹⁸ Economies of scale achieved in first phase. 2020-21 Annual Business Plan (July 2020) recommended savings be reinvested in other behavioural change initiatives (gazebo, website redesign – see below). This accounts for discrepancy between initial budget/expenditure/variance.

¹⁹ Leaflets updated and reprinted. Awaiting invoice.

²⁰ Exe Estuary Officer undertaking this work during 2024-25.

²¹ Economies of scale achieved during installation; annual costs include maintenance/repair (not yet required).

²² "Paws on Paths" banners installed Spring 2024.

²³ Priority works have completed. Future audits due according to intervals.

²⁴ From wider "Visitor Access Improvements" overall budget.

²⁵ Some invoices for this scheme still to be accounted for.

²⁶ Initial report received September 2024, not yet invoiced.

²⁷ Additional surveys for Pebblebed Heaths included in original budget were paid by the Pebblebed Heaths Conservation Trust.

²⁸ This accounts for two gazebos as one was damaged/lost after collision reported in 2022.

Site	Measure	Capital cost	Expenditure (Actual)	Variance +/-	(Total) SEDESMS budget	(Remaining) SEDESMS budget
All	DLD Website redesign	£8,000	£2,520	+£5,480 ²⁹	£8,000	+£5,480
All	HMO vehicle replacement	£31,571	£18,049 ³⁰	-£13,522	£140,000	+£121,951
Sub total		£732,408	£468,066	+£293,446	£2,011,594	£1,528,527

Naomi Harnett,
Growth Development & Prosperity,
East Devon District Council

October 2024

Natural England comment: Natural England have read the report and have no comment.

²⁹ New website launched July 2024. Some invoices were received outside of this reporting period.

³⁰ Cost after accounting for insurance payout from previous vehicle.



SOUTH EAST DEVON
HABITAT REGULATIONS
PARTNERSHIP

South East Devon Habitat Regulations Executive Committee

Risk Register Report

*Neil Harris & Naomi Harnett
Growth, Development & Prosperity,
East Devon District Council
October 2024*

Legal comment/advice

EDDC Legal Services have read this report and have no comment.

DEM.1-0007/October/RAH

Finance comment/advice:

The financial implications/risks are set out in the report.

Public Document:	Yes
Exemption:	None
Review date for release	None

Recommendations.

It is proposed that the Executive Committee:

- 1. Notes the identification, categorisation and prioritisation of risks as recorded in the accompanying Risk Register, associated with delivery of the South-east Devon European Site Mitigation Strategy.**
- 2. Notes the control measures in place to mitigate the risks identified.**
- 3. Receives an updated Risk Register report in 12 months.**

Equalities impact: Low

Risk: High.

Continued partnership working and keeping updated on changes in the operational environment will assist in mitigating these risks. Continued and effective delivery of the Strategy and the development this enables remains of very high importance to all partners.

1. Summary

1.1 As part of the project development of the South-east Devon European Site Mitigation Strategy (“the Strategy”), a detailed risk register (see Appendix A) is used to take account of the various categories of risk that exist or emerge in all elements of the Strategy. This was developed as part of a set risk management process.

1.2 It is important to note that the purpose of a risk register is to record the details of all risks that have been identified along with their analysis and plans for how those risks will be treated. It does not necessarily mean that the risks will be realised or are expected to occur (unless specifically noted).

1.3 The purpose of the report is to update members of the Executive Committee on the status of the risk management register and the status of risk management across the partner authorities at this time.

1.4 The register now also includes “inactive” risks which have either expired or are no longer considered a risk to the delivery of the Strategy.

2. Identifying Risks

2.1 Risk is categorised in relation to the aims and objectives of the Executive Committee (i.e. delivering the Strategy). The main categories used in this register are:

- Strategic;
- Operational;
- Financial;
- People;
- Regulatory;
- Governance.

2.2 Strategic: This considers external risks which may affect the aims and objectives of the Executive Committee - such as changes in the environment within which it operates.

2.3 Operational: This considers the risks which arise from the services delivered or the activities carried out.

2.4 Financial: This section considers any potential financial risks facing the organisation in terms of internal systems, planning, funding, etc.

2.5 People: These risks are associated with the employment of staff and the involvement of volunteers.

2.6 Regulatory: These risks consider the legislative framework within which the Executive Committee operates.

2.7 Governance: This section identifies the risks which are part of the management of the Executive Committee.

There may be a degree of overlap between some of these categories.

Classification

3.0 In addition to the identification of risks as outlined above in 2.0 – 2.6, risks to the successful implementation of the Strategy are also categorised. The probability of a risk occurring and the potential impact of that risk is assessed and recorded on a scoring matrix (see Appendix B). This assigns categories accordingly:

- **Minor** (1 to 4)
- **Moderate** (5 to 8)
- **Major** (9 to 12)
- **Severe** (13 to 16)

3.1 The matrix shown in Appendix B illustrates that there are currently no assessed risks classified as Severe.

3.2 However, there are 2 assessed risks classified as Major for their potential impact and probability of occurring. They are:

- Delays to mitigation measures identified in annual business plans.
- HREC decisions not implemented at local level.

3.3 Mitigation of each of these identified risks are described within the risk register itself (see Appendix A). The register is as updated from April 2023 and will continue to be updated and reported to the joint Committee on a regular basis.

3.4 Should any risk to delivery of the Strategy be assessed as Severe at any stage, this will be reported to the Officer Working Group and SEDHREC as and when necessary.

Naomi Harnett
Growth Development and Prosperity
East Devon District Council,
October 2024

Natural England comment: Natural England have read the report and have no comment.

Habitat Regulations Executive Committee

Risk Register 2024: Appendix A

ID	Description	Category	Probability	Impact	Proximity	Response Category	Response	Risk Status	Risk Owner	Risk Actionee
1	Delays to mitigation measures identified in annual business plans	Operational	High	Medium	Within project	Reduce	Ensure regular contact with site/land managers to identify causes of delay and revised completion dates. Work with stakeholders to minimise delays and identify remedial action if necessary. Notify Offer Working Group (OWG) and HREC via progress reports.	Active	HRDM	HRDM/ Stakeholders
2	HREC decisions not implemented at local level.	Strategic	Medium	High	Within stage	Reduce	Close liaison with LPA Planning Delivery Officers to ensure good working relationship and understanding shared issues. Training for LPA staff with presentations reemphasising importance of implementing Strategy to whole Council. Regular briefings to Members and leadership.	Active	Partner LPA / HRDM	Partner LPA / HRDM
3	Finance and/or Housing monitoring data not compiled in time for HREC reports.	Governance Operational Strategic Financial	High	Medium	Within stage	Reduce	Budget reserved for Accountancy and Monitoring support and reporting/budget cycle rearranged to enable finance data to be prepared in time. TDC transferring Accountancy support back to EDDC and handover training required.	Active	Partner LPA / HRDM	Partner LPA / HRDM

4	Dawlish Warren coastal realignment	Strategic Operational	High	Medium	Within stage	Accept Fallback	Liaise with Environment Agency, Natural England and TDC to understand existing control measures, timescales. Agree new/amended mitigation as appropriate.	Active	SEDHRP / TDC / NE	SEDHRP/TDC / NE
5	Insufficient funding to contribute to Dawlish Warren Visitor Centre	Financial	High	Medium	Within project	Reduce	Costs of delivery investigated by previous Senior Ranger and due to substrate/flood resilience, requires significantly more funding than appropriate via the mitigation Strategy. Shared use with charities investigated and discounted. No other funding available. Work with site manger and other officers at TDC to reprioritise new projects as appropriate.	Active	HRDM	HRDM
6	Proposed SANGS do not meet essential criteria.	Strategic	Medium	High	Within stage	Fallback	Appropriate input from Planning dept, Ecologists to ensure proposed SANGS meet required standards. Liase with NE to understand their position. Planning permission for developments cannot be given until this key requirement is met.	Active	Consortium / EDDC	Consortium / EDDC
7	Quantum of SANGS required increases significantly	Strategic	Medium	High	Within project	Avoid	We have an agreed Partnership SANGS Strategy. Continue work on delivery of identified and prioritised sites. Monitor effectiveness of delivered sites. Increase emphasis on developer provision of SANGS, reduce LPA burden, continue investigation of Land Trust-type model. Staff resource required to identify and progress delivery of LPA SANGs.	Active	HRDM	HRDM / GI Officer

8	Partnership unable to identify appropriate model for ongoing management of Strategy in perpetuity.	Strategic	Medium	High	Within stage	Reduce	Management of Dawlish and SWE SANGS agreed between TDC and Land Trust. Mitigation strategy update will have new financial considerations, including long term delivery. Working with Global City Futures to understand likely requirements in more detail. Awaiting consideration of new mitigation Strategy by partner LPAs/NE.	Active	Partner LPA / HRDM	TDC/ECC/ED DC
9	Updated mitigation Strategy not approved by partner authorities	Strategic	Medium	Medium	Within stage	Accept Fallback	Work with colleagues in Planning to understand feedback from members and review Strategy. Work with NE to agree any changes and maintain viable mitigation. Continue to deliver existing mitigation approach.	Active	Partner LPA	Partner LPA
10	Housing market crash.	Financial	Medium	Medium	Within stage	Accept	Technically, fewer houses mean fewer impacts and therefore less mitigation is required. However, potential impact to longer term measures which are forward funded in expectation of future developer contributions. Understand how many dwellings are still to contribute & review costs.	Active	Partner LPA / HRDM	Partner LPA / HRDM
11	Developer contributions not paid	Financial	Medium	Medium	Within stage	Reduce	LPA planning departments responsible for ensuring contributions are paid. Enforcement measures should be undertaken if not paid.	Active	Partner LPA	Partner LPA
12	Expiration of planning obligations/repayment of contribution to developers	Financial	Medium	Medium	Within stage	Reduce	LPA planning depts. responsible for monitoring status of planning obligation expiration. Ongoing review of financial monitoring data from LPAs by accountants.	Active	Partner LPA	Partner LPA

							Expirations identified in advance and prioritised for payment.			
13	Wildfire	Operational People	Medium	Medium	Within stage	Avoid Reduce	Staff receive training in understanding wildfires from Devon & Cornwall Fire & Rescue Service. Mitigation staff in close contact with site staff and will alert immediately. Personal safety is priority and staff will evacuate to a safe area immediately, alerting members of the public and informing Fire & Rescue service.	Active	HRDM / Staff	HRDM / Staff
14	Users refuse to respect Wildlife Refuges	Operational	Medium	Medium	Within project	Reduce	HMO presentations to user groups prior to start of peak season. Signage, interpretation, patrol boat and codes of conduct in place. Monitoring of WRs with annual reports. If no other option following ongoing monitoring, investigate statutory restrictions.	Active	HRDM	HRDM
15	Patrol Boat/4x4 accident/vandalised	Operational	Medium	Medium	Within project	Reduce	Mandatory job related training & risk assessment. Vehicles insured and stored according to Council policy.	Active	HRDM	HRDM / Staff
16	Loss of experienced staff – Delivery Manager / Wildlife Wardens / DLD	People	Medium	Medium	Within project	Fallback	Ensure good understanding of Strategy within existing team. Communicate approach, aims and objectives widely across 3 authorities. Ensure attendance at officer workshops. Hold regular 1:1 meetings to discuss roles, issues arising, etc.	Active	SEDHRP / Partner LPA	SEDHRP / Partner LPA

17	Inability to recruit staff of sufficient experience/skill set due to fixed salary costs in the Strategy.	People	Medium	Medium	Within project	Fallback	All roles will require regular salary review and will be required to be commensurate with the marketplace. Benchmark salary grades with other mitigation approaches and similar roles in 3rd sector. Job evaluations completed at EDDC in 2023.	Active	SEDHRP	SEDHRP
18	Mitigation strategy measures insufficient to prevent significant effects to protected sites.	Strategic	Low	High	Within project	Avoid	Regular and established monitoring of key species and habitats, as well as visitor numbers and behaviour, will establish whether the measures implemented are sufficient to prevent impacts from effecting the sites. Further and/or different measures to be considered if/when necessary.	Active	Partner LPA / HRDM	Partner LPA / HRDM
19	One of the partner authorities withdraws from approach	Strategic	Low	High	Within project	Avoid	HRDM to continue to work closely with each partner. Demonstrate effective delivery and value for money. Ensure understanding of consequences of no mitigation. Understand needs, expectations, budgets. Ensure delivery of key projects to demonstrate benefits to all. Promote positive PR messages within partnership.	Active	Partner LPA / HRDM	Partner LPA / HRDM
20	Amounts charged per dwelling insufficient to deliver all projects in Strategy	Financial	Low	High	Within project	Reduce	Ongoing review of Strategy cost estimates and number of dwellings contributing mitigation payments. Investigate potential in-perpetuity agreement tender process.	Active	HRDM	HRDM

21	Landowner decides not to sell land parcel for SANGS Opportunity (SWE)	Strategic	Low	High	Within stage	Avoid	Maintain communication with landowners/developers. Expedite agreement of terms and sign contracts.	Active	TDC	TDC
22	Covid-19	Operational Strategic Financial People	Low	Medium	Current	Reduce Fallback Avoid	Although still disruptive in terms of staff absence through illness, the virus is not currently thought to be a significant threat to life for most people. Maintain awareness of impact of virus, emerging risks and work with colleagues to implement corporate procedures. Ensure safety of public-facing team, work with partners. Maintain review of procedures, amend as necessary.	Active	Partner LPA / Staff	Partner LPA / Staff
23	Regulations amended following exit from EU	Strategic	Low	Medium	Within stage	Accept	Keep up to date with changes to legislation. Plan contingency response as part of Strategy review.	Active	SEDHRP	Partner LPAs / SEDHRP

ID	Description	Category	Probability	Impact	Proximity	Response Category	Response	Risk Status	Risk Owner	Risk Action ee
24	Accident/injury at work (Habitat Mitigation Officers & Project Officer (Dogs))	People	Low	Medium	Within project	Avoid	Mandatory job related training (First Aid at Work, Sea Survival, Boat Handling etc), insurance. Post holders to read, understand, review and abide by EDDC H&S risk assessments, policy requirements. Lone working policy change agreed in consultation with EDDC Health & Safety Officer. Body Worn Camera policy and procedures to be followed as instructed.	Active	HRDM	HRDM
28	Change in (voting) Committee Member/s	Governance	Medium	Low	Within project	Accept	Ensure broad understanding of Strategy across the authorities - Members newsletters, media releases etc. Ensure new Member/s receive full briefing and access to previous reports.	Active	HRDM	Partner LPAs / HRDM
25	Dog bins vandalised on PBH	Operational	Low	Low	Within project	Fallback	Identify/allow for replacement as per PBH VMP.	Active	HRDM	Stakeholders / HRDM
26	Inappropriate behaviour at work (Habitat Mitigation Officers & Project Officer (Dogs))	People	Low	Medium	Within project	Avoid	Clear direction on desired approach from stakeholders. Regular 1:2:1 meetings with line managers. Post holders to read, understand and abide by EDDC Behaviours Framework policy requirements.	Active	HRDM	HRDM / Staff
27	Poor staff performance	People	Low	Low	Within stage	Reduce	Regular 1:2:1 meetings with line managers. Clear direction on desired approach from stakeholders. Clear job description and person specifications. Sufficient work and variation in work to motivate staff. Recognition of success and learning from failure.	Active	HRDM	HRDM / Staff

Risks - Inactive status

1	Failure to reach agreement on funding SANGS	Strategic	Medium	High	Imminent	Avoid	Cross authority officer workshop. Agree criteria. Clarify SANGS Strategy approach/requirements. Identify accurate costs (purchase, uplift, manage), delivery models, quality, timeframes, outcomes for each area.	Inactive	HRDM	Group
2	Poor turnout of user groups for codes consultation	Operational	Medium	Medium	Within stage	Reduce	Good promotion of consultation via EEMP contacts and social media. Work with user groups to ensure ownership and involvement, respond to requests from users.	Inactive	HRDM	HRDM
3	Inability to source a Patrol Boat within budget	Financial	Medium	Medium	Within stage	Fallback	Delay purchase until after peak season. Test boat before purchase. Explore part funding opportunities.	Inactive	HRDM	HRDM
4	Change in line management for staff	Operational	Low	Low	Within project	Fallback	Handover meeting with EDDC Countryside & HRDM. Monthly one to one meetings with HMOs & PO (DLD) to review and agree objectives. HRDM to undergo relevant training.	Inactive	HRDM	HRDM
5	Inability of Partnership to acquire sufficient land at acceptable cost to qualify as SANGS.	Strategic	Low	Medium	Within project	Reduce	SANGS procured @ Dawlish, procurement at SWE underway. Change of approach to developer provided SANGS as a pre-requisite for larger developments.	Inactive	HRDM	TDC/ECC/EDDC
6	Insufficient funding to employ Delivery Manager / DLD after initial term	Financial	Medium	Medium	Within project	Reduce	Presuming a sound and robust rationale for maintaining roles, make business case to partner authorities and identify potential funding solution(s). Increased frequency of housing forecasts to signal any changes to income. Reprioritise projects to ensure continuity	Inactive	HRDM	HRDM
7	Landowner decides not to sell land for SANGS Opportunity (SWE)	Strategic	Low	High	Within stage	Avoid	Maintain communication with landowners/developers. Expedite agreement of terms and sign contracts.	Active	TDC	TDC

Habitat Regulations Executive Committee

Risk Register Report: Appendix B – Scoring Matrix

Risk categorisation		
	SEVERE	13 to 16
	MAJOR	9 to 12
	MODERATE	5 to 8
	MINOR	1 to 4

PROBABILITY >

Probable		Delays to mitigation measures identified in annual business plans 9 MAJOR				
		Finance and/or Housing monitoring data not compiled in time for HREC reports. 7 MODERATE				
		Dawlish Warren coastal realignment 7 MODERATE				
		HREC decisions not implemented at local level. 9 MAJOR				
		Loss of experienced staff 7 MODERATE				
		Insufficient funding to contribute to Dawlish Warren Visitor Centre 6 MODERATE				
		Patrol Boat/4x4 accident/vandalised 5 MODERATE				
		Partnership unable to identify appropriate model for ongoing management of Strategy in perpetuity. 5 MODERATE				
		Possible			Proposed SANGS do not meet essential criteria. 5 MODERATE	
					Inability to recruit staff of sufficient experience/skillset. 5 MODERATE	
					Developer contributions not paid 5 MODERATE	
					Housing market crash 5 MODERATE	
					Expiration of planning obligations / repayment of contribution to developers 5 MODERATE	

			Updated mitigation Strategy not approved by partner authorities 5 MODERATE		
			Wildfire 5 MODERATE		
			Habitat Regulations amended following exit from EU 5 MODERATE		
			Covid-19 5 MODERATE		
Rare			Users refuse to respect Wildlife Refuges 5 MODERATE		
			Poor work performance 4 MINOR		
		Dog bins vandalised on PBH 4 MINOR	Mitigation strategy measures insufficient to prevent significant effects to protected sites. 7 MODERATE		
		Change in (voting) Committee Member 4 MINOR	One of the partner authorities withdraws from approach 7 MODERATE		
		Accident/Injury at work 4 MINOR	Amounts charged per dwelling insufficient to deliver all projects in Strategy 7 MODERATE		
		Patrol Boat/4x4 accident/vandalised 4 MINOR			
		Inappropriate staff behaviour at work 2 MINOR			
	Low	Medium	High	Very High	

IMPACT >



South East Devon Habitat Regulations Executive Committee

South East Devon Wildlife Communications Report

Anne Mountjoy, Communications Officer
October 2024

Legal comment/advice:

EDDC Legal Services have read this report and have no comment.

DEM.1-0007/October/RAH

Finance comment/advice:

There are no direct financial implications set out in the report.

Public Document: Yes
Exemption: None
Review date for release None

Recommendations

It is proposed that the Executive Committee:

1. Notes the results of the communications report for the period March 2023 – August 2024.
2. Receives an annual communications update within the annual progress report for future meetings, rather than as a separate report.

Equalities impact: Low

Risk: Low. This report provides the results of the communications report for March 2023 – August 2024.

1. Summary

1.1 South East Devon Wildlife (SEDW) is the public facing brand for the South East Devon Habitat Regulations Partnership.

1.2 Key performance indicators (KPIs) enable evaluation as measures of success. There are six agreed KPIs which reflect the aims of the business plan. Since the introduction of new web analytics platform Google Analytics 4, on 1 July 2023, the KPIs have been amended because it is no longer possible to report on the previous KPIs due to changes made by Google. The KPIs have been amended to:

1. Website visitors (previously website page views).
2. Website sessions (previously time spent on site).
3. Website average engagement time (previously average number of pages/session).
4. Website top referral channel (unchanged).
5. Top website content (previously website referrals).
6. Number of people signing up to newsletters

In addition, social media engagement is being monitored:

7. Social media followers and reach – facebook, twitter, Instagram

Appendix 1 shows data for the KPIs. It should be noted that March-June web statistics used the historical Google Universal Analytics platform so cannot be used as a direct comparison for data July 2023-August 2024.

1.3 KPI data is reviewed with the team on a bi-monthly basis to understand how project delivery, stakeholder engagement and communications are impacting on our overall goals and how we can improve.

1.4 As the communications officer role continues to be limited to 1 day per week, communications are delivered by the Wildlife Wardens at the same time as engaging with stakeholders and other duties. Generally, during the summer and autumn months wardens spend more time on site engaging directly with visitors, which means less time spent on communications including social media and writing articles for partners' newsletters.

1.5 Communications and engagement across the work of the team has been enriched over the last year with a focus on providing engaging and informative social media content. We have adopted a campaigns approach, for more targeted messaging and QR codes for tracking and measurement. See Appendix 2 for campaign collateral examples.

1.6 In Autumn/Winter 2023 a branding review took place to ensure consistency and maximum impact of the South East Devon Wildlife brand.¹

1.7 Due to a change in a staff members' circumstances, SEDW has benefitted from an uplift in communications resource. Warden Ivo Salmon has been partially confined to desk based activities since July 2024. This has seen a raft of newsletter articles supplied to nature and other publications, work on the wildlife refuge public awareness campaign and increased scope and breadth of our social media approach. This re-emphasises the case for an increase in comms resource, as previously reported.

1.8 How the comms resource is used is a key challenge for the team. As stated above, a bi-monthly operational review of comms activity across the team takes place. This helps us learn from experience and make changes accordingly. More efficiency can be gained if the annual comms report became an update in the annual progress report, saving scarce staff resource for operational benefit.

2 Website

2.1 Table 1 below shows the figures from 1 March 2023 until 31 August 24. It is not possible to include prior years as they cannot be compared due to changes in Google Analytics explained above in (1.2). The statistics will enable useful comparisons going forward.

2.2 The average engagement time per session 0.37s. We are working on making content more "sticky" by giving visitors reasons to make repeat visits, eg through the tide times widget on the homepage and uploading more wildlife spotter sheets. There is work coming forward from the Wardens which could see a "virtual tour" of the Pebblebed Heaths being hosted via the website. There is potential for this to add to our website "offer" and significantly increase the number of repeat visits.

¹ See "South East Devon Wildlife branding update" April 2024. [HREC - Branding update Jan 2024 25012024 South and East Devon Habitat Regulations Executive Commi.pdf](#)

2.3 Total website users for the 18-month period are 12,268.

2.4 Search Engine Optimisation continues to be effective as the way most users reach the site is through organic search.

2.5 Top web content was the June 2023 newsletter on the website at 568 visits. Social media posts generated interest in 'meet the team' which highlighted the return of Sama Euridge and the appointment of Katie Jones as part of the team's 3 Wildlife Wardens.

2.6 The monitoring dashboard on the website will be updated with details of Petalwort monitoring, reported at the April 2024 meeting of the Executive. The dashboard provides visitors with insight into the condition of species and habitats that are found across our protected sites.

Table 1: Website analytics 1 March 2023 until 31 August 24

	July 23 – Aug 24 (14 months)
Average engagement time per session	0.37s
Total users	12,268
Sessions / top referral channel	Organic search 7318
Top web content	568 (June newsletter page)

3. Social media and newsletter

3.1 Through social media monitoring, we have learned that we can increase our reach by posting content separately to various geographical community groups. As a result, social media engagement increased considerably, particularly on Facebook. Facebook reach grew from 5381 in November to 18,860 in December as a direct result of this. Where appropriate, we change our approach based on monitoring and it is a strategy we plan to deploy on a regular basis.

3.2 Tailored content has been developed to target different user groups – eg paddle board groups. A video on watersports was created by working with partners, Exmouth Watersports. It was used to target watersports groups. The team have been focussing on developing engaging content for reels and stories.

3.3 Numbers of social media followers continue to grow but in particular Facebook's algorithm makes this challenging. The algorithm is constantly, secretly changing, so trial and error is continually needed to identify the best approach. For example, links to external content are now recommended to be placed in a comment, rather than in a post, as Facebook will not prioritise posts with external links. [See 3.5 social media exchange]

3.4 The use of hashtags remains important particularly for Instagram as significantly more 'not following' accounts are reached compared to followers.

3.5 A 'social media knowledge exchange' took place between the SEDW team and a new staff member at EDDC, Louie Belfield. Louie previously managed social media for 'Tuff-e-nuff' dog toy company and Avon Wildlife Trust. The team felt the learning was valuable especially around the use of twitter/X, and Facebook algorithms. As a result, we investigated our X channel and due to paywalls and declining engagement, we will be reducing our focus on this channel.

3.6 Newsletter: A pleasing increase in newsletter subscribers indicates the content is interesting to our readers, with subscribers increasing from 1685 in February 23 to 2647 in June 24. Links to wildlife spotter sheets prove popular in the quarterly e-newsletter, as well as news about our work. Over the period 194 sessions occurred in the 'resources' section. The most visited content is Dawlish Warren Code of Conduct with 1542 views over the period.

4. Media

4.1 Press releases

4.1.1 The press coverage for this period is listed below. Stories also feature on the website and on social media.

April 23 Devon Loves Dogs – Midweek Herald

July 23 Ridgetop Park - Devon Live

Aug 23 Ridgetop Park - Teignmouth Post

Sept 23 Exe Estuary Protection Zones proving a success for birds - BBC News online

Sept 23 as above – Yahoo News online

April 24 Interview dog walking expert, Stephen Jenkinson – resulted in BBC Radio Devon interview

April 24 Devon's nature-focussed organisations welcome expert dog advice

Sept 24 Call to avoid Wildlife Refuges as flocks of birds return to the Exe Estuary

4.2 TV

4.2.1 TV coverage has raised our profile over this period:

January 2024 ITV Westcountry interviewed Cllr Geoff Jung and filmed Wildlife Warden and Delivery Manager in action on the patrol boat. The story was broadcast on Friday 12 Jan. The video features on our youtube channel².

² <https://youtu.be/PUX2LKfAm8I>

4.2.2 August 2024 BBC TV Spotlight news interviewed Imo Salmon about the wildlife in the Exe Estuary and the impending wildlife refuge season at Exmouth (and wildlife refuge at Dawlish Warren) It was too windy to take the reporter on the patrol boat, but Stuartline Cruises obliged by allowing filming to take place on their boat. Stuartline Cruises also interviewed about the special nature of the area. This video also features on our youtube channel³.

4.3 Editorial

4.3.1 A range of articles have been provided for partner e-newsletters during this period, however, lack of staff resource has meant writing articles was not prioritised until July 2024 (see 1.3 above):

Aug 23 EDDC Residents newsletter
Nov 23 Exe Press newsletter
Jan 24 EDDC councillor's newsletter

July 24 Devon Local Nature Partnership
July 24 Ranger magazine
July 24 Sou'wester magazine
Aug 24 British Trust for Ornithology – Waterbird News
Sept 24 Natural England (internal newsletter)
Sept 24 Exeter Citizen
Oct 24 Exe Press newsletter

5. Events/presentations

5.1 For Devon Loves Dogs and South East Devon Wildlife, events and presentations are an important way of engaging with people visiting or likely to visit the protected sites. As Wardens outline their activities separately in the "Habitat mitigation team update" report, it is not duplicated here.

6. Lessons learned and future plans

6.1 In the 2023 communications report, the team agreed to prioritise developing new content in the form of: newsletters to drive web traffic; video reels and stories on social media to increase reach; media engagement (e.g. ITV) to raise awareness across the South West. We continue to deliver on this as a successful communications strategy.

6.2 We continue to expand our video content to engage with new users on social media. In line with our aim to increase impact, we have shared content with local communities of interest by posting to geographical Facebook groups. Results were exceptional over the Christmas period, when people were likely to be off work, with more leisure time. Content shared with geographical Facebook groups increased reach by more than three times.

³ <https://youtu.be/KvdFhvr9IbM>

6.3 We aim to provide a rich experience for viewers and linking social media posts and newsletter articles to relevant web content.

6.4 We are committed to forward planning communications campaigns. We are focussing on Wildlife Refuge Season; BBQ and fire risk; Bird Breeding season encouraging Paws on Paths campaigns. We meet with key partners to plan campaigns and agree key messages and plan to meet to develop a new campaign around dog fouling on the East Devon Pebblebed Heaths. We use a social media scheduling tool which means we can monitor and evaluate each campaign to continue to build on success.

6.5 The majority of visitors are new, so we need to do more to give visitors reasons to make repeat visits. We need to do more to provide fresh content to encourage repeat visitors and create a community of interest. Although we intended to focus on regularly updating the “Events” page with details of our wider partners outreach work, we have not achieved this as more staff time resource is required.

6.6 A communications and engagement review took place in Jan 2023. Some actions have faced delay due to a high workload but a stakeholder survey to request views on marketing and communications was sent to recipients of the newsletter in June 2024. We have asked for feedback on : content that readers would like to see more / less of; the website and interactive walks; work completed in the last 12 months; the strategy and dashboard; partner events; ideas for guided walks with wardens. The results of this survey and how this informs our communications plan is to be confirmed.

6.7 Whilst some important achievements have been realised over the reporting period, it is important to note that the level of communications output has reached capacity. Without an increase in dedicated staff resource, our ability to operate in this way will inevitably be constrained.

Anne Mountjoy
Communications Officer
South East Devon Habitat Regulations Executive Committee
October 2024

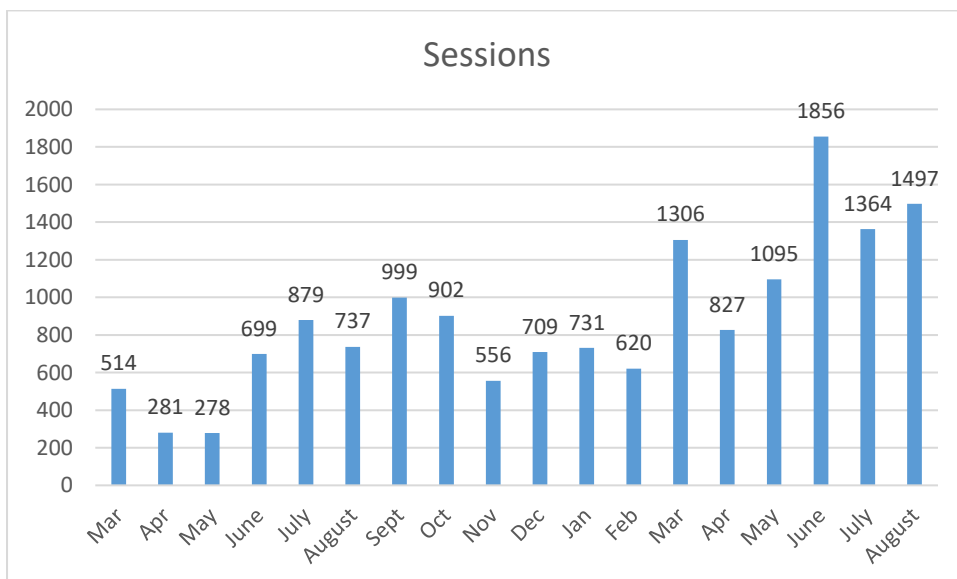
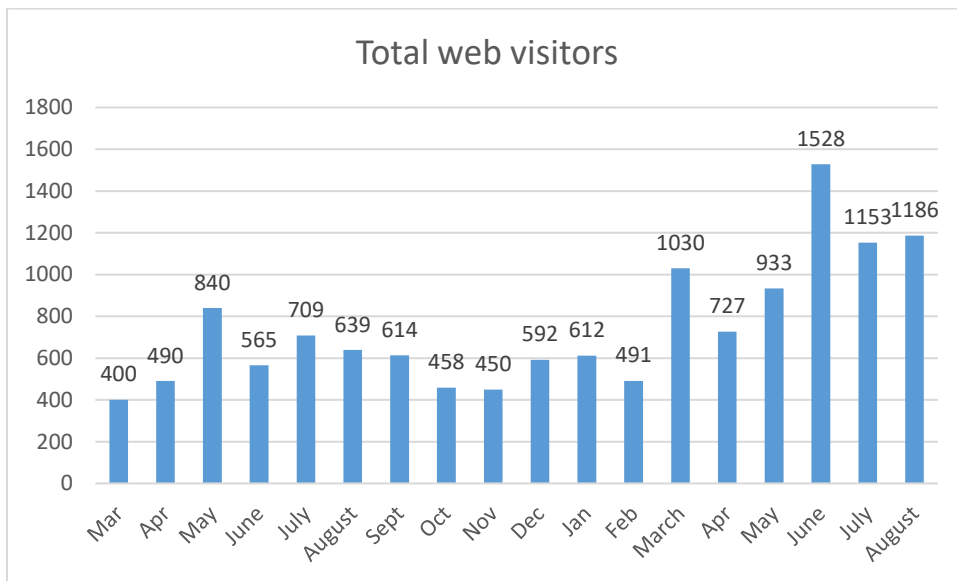
Natural England comment: Natural England have read the report and have no comment other than to thank the communications team for their work.

Habitat Regulations Executive Committee

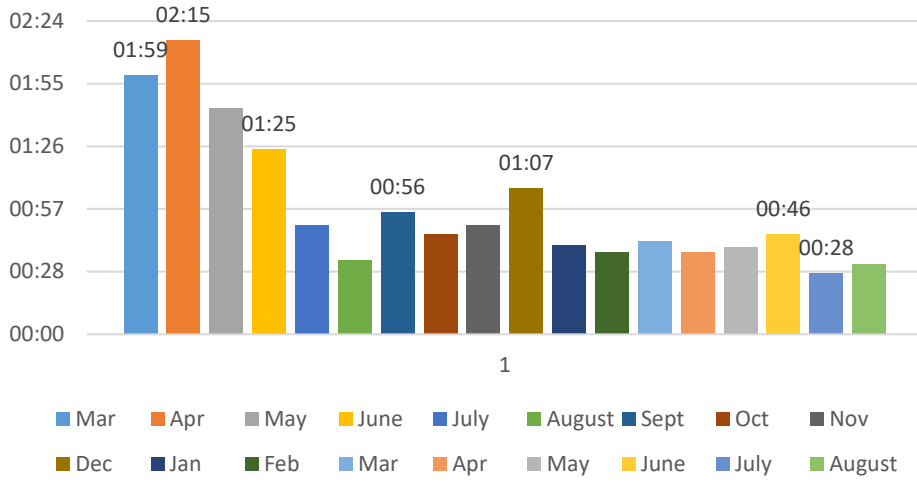
Communications Report : Appendix 1

Charts for communications KPIs March 2023 – August 2024

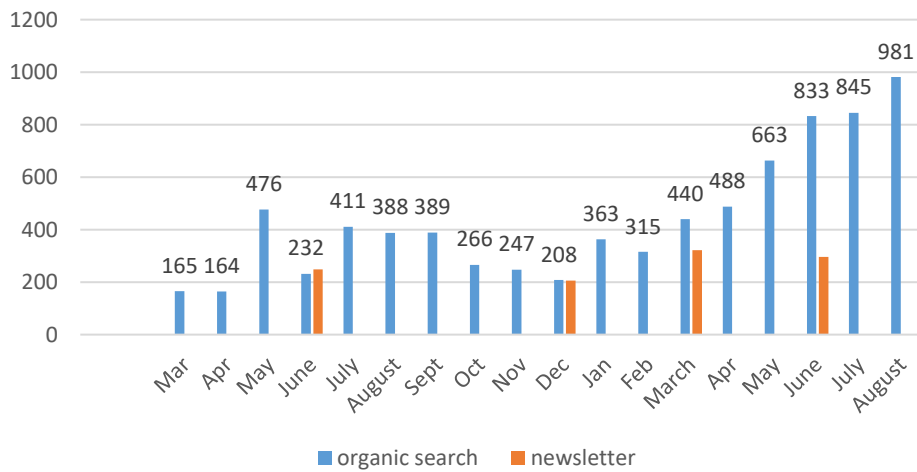
Charts for www.southeastdevonwildlife.org.uk



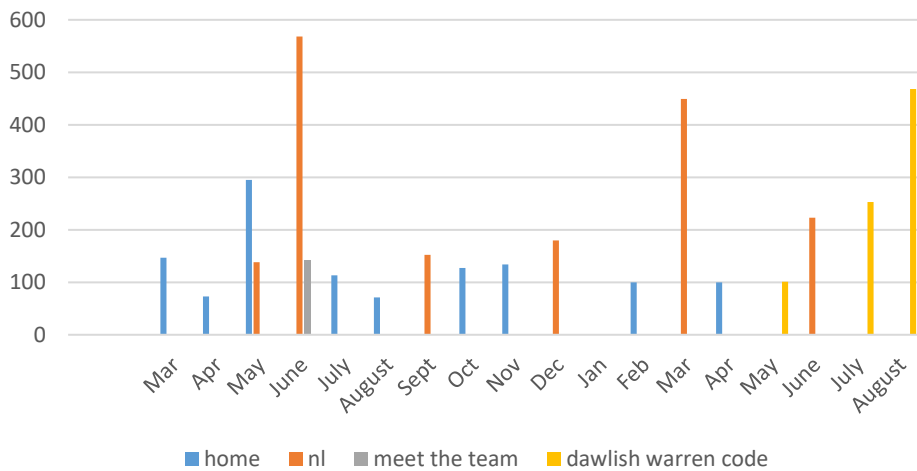
Avg engagement time



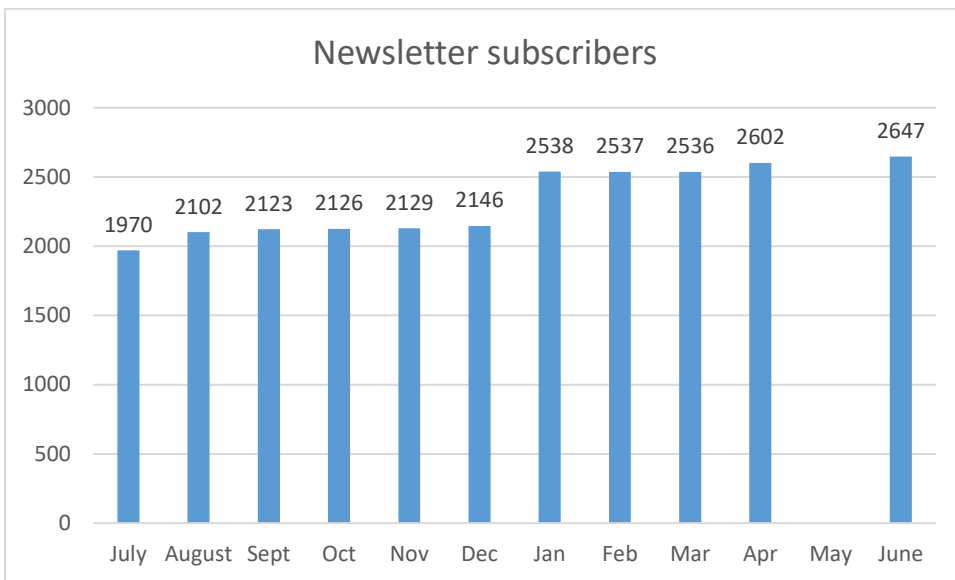
Top referral channel



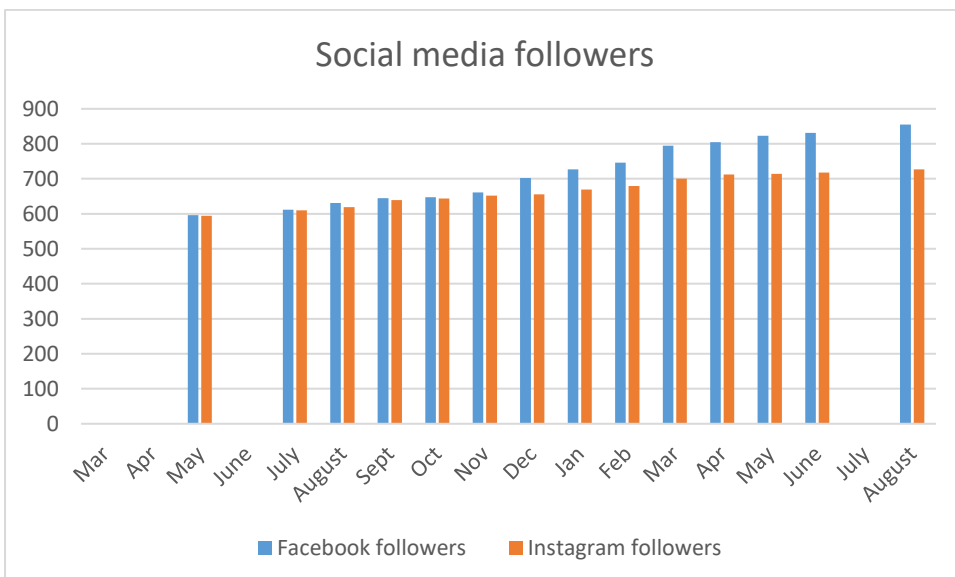
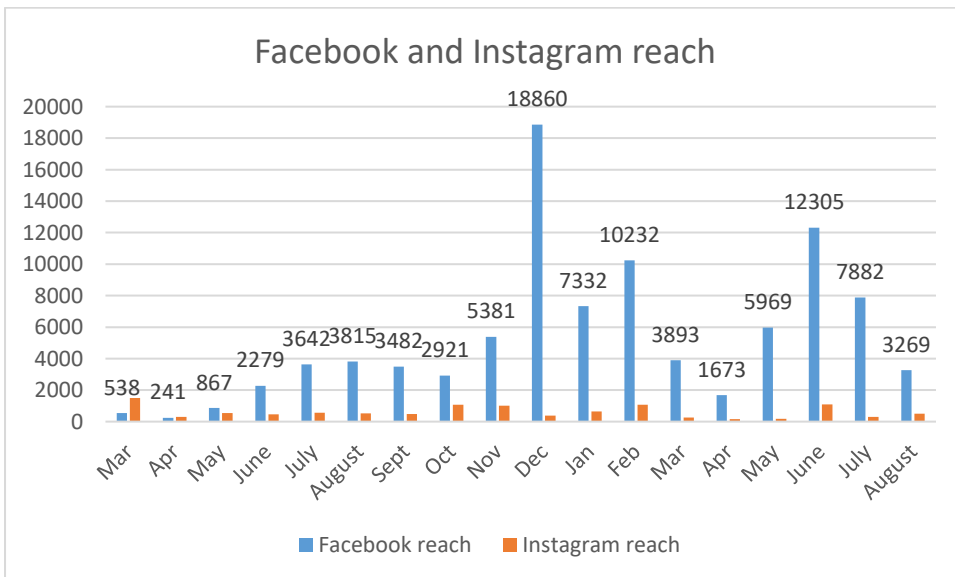
Top web content



Newsletter subscribers



Social media statistics



Habitat Regulations Executive Committee Communications Report : Appendix 2

Campaign collateral examples

Wildlife refuge Autumn 2024



**Avoid
the Exe
Wildlife
Refuges**

Exmouth Wildlife Refuge: 15 September – 31 December
Dawlish Warren Wildlife Refuge: All year round

SOUTH EAST DEVON WILDLIFE

devon
loves
dogs

Paws on paths Spring 2024



**Paws
on paths**

**Bird breeding season
1st March - 31st July**

Follow reserve
signage for current rules

Many of our birds nest on the ground and are easily scared by dogs. Thank you for protecting wildlife by keeping your dog under control and on the path.

Working with partners

PEBBLED HEATHS CONSERVATION TRUST RSPB Devon Wildlife Trust SOUTH EAST DEVON WILDLIFE Wild East Devon

No BBQs at Dawlish Warren Summer 2023



Fires, stoves and BBQs are **NOT permitted ANYWHERE at Dawlish Warren**
... including the beach, dunes and grasslands

You can choose from a wide range of **delicious food** from the Warren traders or bring a picnic!

You can BBQ at:

- ✓ Dawlish Countryside Park
- ✓ Red Rock beach
- ✓ Dawlish Town beach

For more information visit: www.southeastdevonwildlife.org.uk/nobbq

Teignbridge
gov.uk

SOUTH EAST DEVON
HABITAT RESTORATION
PARTNERSHIP

DEVON & SOMERSET
COUNCIL



SOUTH EAST DEVON
HABITAT REGULATIONS
PARTNERSHIP

South East Devon Habitat Regulations Executive Committee

2024-25 Annual Business Plan and 5Yr Delivery Plan

*Neil Harris & Naomi Harnett
Growth, Development & Prosperity,
East Devon District Council
October 2024*

Legal comment/advice:

EDDC Legal Services have read this report and have no comment.

DEM.1-0007/October/RAH

Finance comment/advice:

The financial implications and proposed spend areas are set out in the report.

Public Document:	Yes
Exemption:	None
Review date for release	None

Recommendations

It is proposed that the Executive Committee:

1. Approves the 2024-25 Annual Business Plan (Appendix A) and the commitments and actions set out therein.
2. Notes the updated 5 Year Delivery Plan also shown in Appendix A.
3. Approves that the projects detailed within the report (section 7.2) at Dawlish Warren are discontinued and funding is reallocated to future mitigation strategy projects there, in areas less at risk from wave and storm erosion.

Equalities impact: Low

Risk: High.

If the 2024-25 Annual Business Plan is not approved there is a high risk that the delivery of the South East Devon European Site Mitigation Strategy would be significantly compromised or further delayed into 2025. This would put the delivery of the partner Authorities' Local Plans at risk due to their continued legal duties under the Habitat Regulations.

1. Summary

1.1 This paper outlines key projects recommended for delivery over the next 12 months by the Habitat Regulations Delivery Manager, agreed by the Officer Working Group. These are listed in Appendix A as the Annual Business Plan (ABP).

1.2 The ABP is part of an updated 5-year delivery plan, also in Appendix A, which provides a budget and project timeline for the short and medium term.

1.3 Some measures in the 5-year plan, especially those for 2025-29, depend on the success of existing projects, such as the Exe Estuary wildlife refuges, and should be viewed as an indicative guide.

1.4 An updated mitigation strategy is nearly complete as part of Local Plan reviews¹. While the 5-year plan anticipates some new measures, further adjustments will be needed once the new strategy is approved by the partner authorities.

¹ An update to the mitigation Strategy is in near-final draft version. It will be presented to partner authorities for consideration/approval by Spring 2025.

1.5 Projects are allocated based on available budget, logical progression, and recommended timelines from the mitigation strategy, using funds from planning permissions.

1.6 The "Balance less expenditure" line in Appendix A reflects the potential carry-forward of income after projected revenue and expenditure, ensuring funding for mitigation projects over their 80-year lifespan.

1.7 The 2024/25 ABP builds on past projects, like habitat fencing at Dawlish Warren or increased funding for Devon Loves Dogs. The timing is guided by the 5-year plan to ensure coordinated, logical progression.

2. Devon Loves Dogs staff resource.

2.1 The 'Devon Loves Dogs' project, launched in July 2017, offers a dog walking code, recommended walks, guided walks, events and helpful information. It has 1379 members, its own website, social media presence, and sends a regular e-newsletter to around 2,447 subscribers.

2.2 The project has gained recognition and works closely with some of our key partners but is limited by staff resources, with only a 0.5 FTE coordinator. The 2020-21 South East Devon Visitor Survey showed just 5% of respondents who were dog walkers were members, indicating potential to reach a wider audience.

2.3 There is room to expand staffing, increase events, and boost engagement. Dog walkers are a key group to target due to their impact on protected sites, and the project's branding provides room for growth.

2.4 Existing budgets can support increasing the coordinator's role to 0.8 FTE and hiring a full-time assistant. The updated mitigation strategy will likely incorporate this additional staffing based on recommendations from stakeholders.

Proposed spend: £40,000 comprised of:

Project Co-ordinator increase from 0.5 FTE to 0.8 FTE - £14,644².

Assistant project co-ordinator (2 year fixed term) 1 FTE - £25,355³

3.0 SANGs and Infrastructure Projects Coordination Officer

3.1 Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspaces (SANGs) and infrastructure projects are key off-site mitigation methods. SANGs provide alternative destinations for visitors who would otherwise go to protected sites. For smaller developments or areas like Exeter with limited space, local authorities will focus some mitigation effort on other infrastructure projects which improve access to existing greenspace.

² Amount shown is the increase to existing salary costs. Includes base salary, NI, superannuation and support costs.

³ Includes base salary, NI, superannuation and support costs.

3.2 Local authorities are finalizing their 15-year Local Plans but SANGs and infrastructure projects take years to plan and implement. Early investment in staff is essential to support and coordinate these efforts.

3.3 To ensure effective financial planning and development of off-site mitigation, a dedicated staff role is needed. This person will work with developers, planners, Natural England, and other stakeholders to plan and deliver SANGs and green infrastructure across the region.

Proposed spend: SANGs and Infrastructure Projects Coordination Officer (2 year fixed term) 1 FTE - £50,474⁴

4. South East Devon Visitor Survey

4.1 The Executive Committee approved the first regional visitor survey in the 2019-20 business plan. Footprint Ecology won the contract and began monitoring in February 2020, but fieldwork paused due to the pandemic and resumed in April 2021.

4.2 Visitor surveys support the mitigation strategy by providing insights into visitor access, motivations, and behaviour, helping guide management and measure awareness of site sensitivity and mitigation efforts.

4.3 The strategy calls for surveys every 5 years, with the next due in 2025. Since the 2020 study may have been skewed by the pandemic, the 2025 survey offers a chance to capture more typical visitor behaviour.

4.4 The 2025 survey will:

- Conduct face-to-face surveys at Dawlish Warren, Dawlish Countryside Park, Ridgetop Park, the Exe Estuary, and the East Devon Pebblebed Heaths.
- Gather data on visitor origins, frequency, visit duration, activities, routes, transport, and site choice factors.
- Assess awareness of Habitat Regulations mitigation efforts and initiatives like Devon Loves Dogs.
- Produce a report analysing the data, comparing it to the 2021-22 survey.

Proposed spend: £25,000

⁴ Includes base salary, NI, superannuation and support costs.

5. Exe Estuary patrol boat – change of vessel.

5.1 The Executive approved the current patrol boat in June 2016, but due to budget and supply issues, it became operational in August 2018.

5.2 Since then, wildlife wardens have regularly patrolled the Exe to:

- Ensure boats follow the speed limit.
- Monitor personal watercraft, kitesurfers, and windsurfers for compliance with codes of conduct.
- Ensure activities occur in designated zones.
- Maintain a visible presence to deter antisocial or disruptive activities.

5.3 The patrol boat was approved before Exeter City Council reappraised the operation of the Harbour Authority and appointed a Harbour Master. There have been discussions on sharing a boat with the Exeter Port Authority (EPA). However, logistical and operational differences made this unfeasible (this continues to be the case).

5.4 Although the boat's cabin provides weather protection, it makes navigation difficult in wind, and most users avoid the estuary during bad weather. The hard hull is prone to damage and lacks flexibility for warden duties in the changeable conditions in the estuary.

5.5 Informed by EPA's own decision to change vessels for similar reasons and our experience, it is recommended to replace the current boat with a Highfield Patrol 540 or similar rigid inflatable boat (RIB).

5.6 This type of vessel offers more flexibility, easier operation, better wind resistance, and the ability to beach at Dawlish Warren, improving patrol efficiency. A cabin is not required as the majority of the recreational use of the estuary is during good weather (and this is optimal time for wardens to patrol).

Proposed spend : Part-exchange for the current boat to a Highfield 540 RIB or similar : £10,000

6. Planting of low hedge at the Imperial Recreation Ground, Exmouth.

6.1 The Imperial Recreation Ground in Exmouth borders the Exe Estuary Special Area of Protection (SPA) and the Exmouth wildlife refuge. The area, with slipway access to the estuary foreshore, is popular with watersports users, day visitors, boat owners and dog walkers.

6.2 During the refuge season, birds will feed and rest near the shore if left undisturbed. A sloped concrete revetment currently separates the foreshore from the recreation ground, but visitors often walk down it directly into the wildlife refuge. This can cause disturbance to protected bird species.

6.4 The existing low fence at the top of the revetment is in poor condition and ineffective at preventing pedestrian access. A 150m wildlife-friendly, salt-tolerant hedge is proposed along the revetment to block access while maintaining views of the estuary and access to the slipway. The hedge will also discourage walking on the revetment, which is not designed for that purpose and potentially hazardous due to its irregular grid construction.

6.5 A public consultation should be held to inform visitors about the proposal and gather feedback.

Proposed spend: to plant a 150m wildlife-friendly, salt tolerant hedge and 12 months aftercare. £10,000.

7. Dawlish Warren / Beach Management Scheme

7.1 The Dawlish Warren Beach Management Scheme (BMS) was a £12 million project completed by the Environment Agency and TDC in October 2017, aimed at reducing flood risks to properties around the River Exe.

7.2 The 2020-21 Annual Business Plan of the South East Devon European Site Mitigation Strategy recommended pausing any new major spending on projects at the distal end of Dawlish Warren due to potential storm damage and erosion in the short to medium term. This ensures investments are both cost-effective and impactful in terms of mitigation. The affected measures are:

- Reed screening or landscaping between the north-eastern most fairway on the golf-course and the Bight.
- Relocating the bird hide onto the shore of the Bight at Dawlish Warren.
- Carry out scoping study for creation/ modification of a viable disturbance-free roost at Dawlish Warren.
- Create new/improved high tide roost on site of old bird hide at Dawlish Warren.
- Rationalisation of path network.

7.3 The EA undertook a post-scheme review of the BMS, completed in November 2023⁵. This review is critical to understanding what further changes might be anticipated, over what timescale, what management is proposed for the site and how this might affect the mitigation strategy.

⁵ More information is published on the Exe Estuary Management Partnership website <https://www.exe-estuary.org/dawlish-warren-flood-and-coastal-erosion-risk-management-fcerm/>

7.4 Key points from the EA BMS post-scheme review are:

No Major Changes to Current Management: The review recommends maintaining the existing Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management (FCERM) approach at Dawlish Warren, as it aligns with the objectives of the Exe Estuary FCERM Strategy and the Dawlish Warren Beach Management Scheme, which focus on securing the sand spit's storm protection function until the 2040s and reducing flood risk to Dawlish Warren Village.

Environmental Targets Not Being Met: The current management does not support achieving the environmental objectives of improving conditions for the Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) and Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) by 2030.

Key Challenges and Trends:

- The sand spit is experiencing ongoing beach lowering, which will increase flood and erosion risks over time both locally and estuary-wide.
- While the main revetment defences and flood wall offer strong protection, further beach recharge is not justified for FCERM purposes.
- Existing geotubes and groynes help reduce flood and erosion risk but are unsustainable and need to be removed by 2049 due to conflicts with natural processes.

Sustainability Issues:

- Temporary repairs will be made to the geotube until its eventual removal by 2049.
- Remnant groynes (16-18) have lost their functionality and should be removed, with ongoing work to remove groynes 17 and 18.
- The spit's wave barrier function will gradually be lost, increasing risks to the wider estuary, especially with the impacts of climate change.

Stakeholder Disagreements: Disagreements between flood risk management, environmental, amenity, and commercial interests are ongoing and unlikely to be resolved in the short term.

Long-Term Risks: Climate change, combined with the removal of unsustainable structures, will increase flood and erosion risks to the estuary in the future. Stakeholders and authorities need to plan for these eventualities.

7.5 With the EA review completed, officers have reconsidered the viability of the projects listed in 7.2 (above). The review highlights significant challenges due to coastal erosion and the dynamic nature of the sandspit, which is at increasing risk from sea level rise.

7.6 Given these risks, with long-term viability issues and increased vulnerability of the area, it is considered that investing further in these projects is no longer justifiable.

7.7 In light of these findings, it is proposed that the funding originally allocated for these projects is carried forward into updated mitigation strategy projects at the Warren⁶ in areas less at risk. By investing in projects in these areas, we can ensure better long-term outcomes and avoid continued expenditure in areas where outcomes are uncertain.

7.8 This approach aligns with our commitment to effective risk management and resource allocation, particularly as coastal erosion and sea-level rise present increasing challenges to the management of visitor access in the area. Access along the beach at high tide is compromised by erosion of safe paths and the bird hide is no longer open to the public.

8. Carry out audit and redesign of information boards at Dawlish Warren.

8.1 Dawlish Warren reserve currently has several information boards, but they provide fragmented information.

8.2 A 2019 audit led to updates of the main signage boards.

8.3 Since then, changes to access and facilities (like the bird hide) due to coastal erosion, along with insights from dog access expert Stephen Jenkinson, have prompted a rethinking of the signage strategy.

8.4 To provide clear information and meet management goals, updated main signage and new behavioural signs at key points are recommended.

Proposed budget: Reviewing, designing, manufacturing, and installing new signs at Dawlish Warren. £20,000.

9. Monitoring of Petalwort translocation at Dawlish Warren.

9.1 One of the key species found at Dawlish Warren is Petalwort, an Annex II species⁷ under the Special Area of Conservation (SAC) designation that covers the reserve. It is considered highly likely that without intervention and monitoring, this key species may disappear from the site entirely.

9.2 The mitigation strategy outlines funding to translocate Petalwort. However, this has already been funded by Teignbridge Countryside Rangers, who arranged translocation of the plant during 2024 to areas of the site considered safe from inundation by the sea (in the event of coastal flooding or a significant storm event). This is intended to help safeguard the species at Dawlish Warren.

⁶ An update to the mitigation Strategy is in near-final draft version. It will be presented to partner authorities for consideration/approval by Spring 2025.

⁷ Under the Conservation of Species and Habitats Regulations 2017 (as amended), Annex 2 is a list of animal and plant species of community interest whose conservation requires the designation of special areas of conservation (SAC).

9.3 There remains the need to monitor the success/failure of the translocation and the impact of visitor access (trampling) on the areas in question. It is important to monitor the work as it is vital to understand whether the plant is likely to survive on the reserve.

Proposed spend : Survey fieldwork and report detailing the methodology and results of the Petalwort translocation at Dawlish Warren. £2,000.

10. Fencing/access restrictions to protect habitat from trampling pressure at Dawlish Warren.

10.1 Rangers report increasing pressure on the site as lower beach levels push visitors, especially in summer, into the dunes, harming sensitive ecological communities. Existing fencing can be ineffective, as many visitors climb through it. Adding chestnut paling will help prevent this.

10.2 Changes to the foreshore have also shifted bird roosts to the estuary shoreline, making them vulnerable to disturbance from visitors. Rangers need paling to protect the most important roosts, especially at the end of the sandspit.

10.3 The 2014 mitigation strategy estimated £2,000 annually for this work, but material costs have since risen, requiring increased funding.

Proposed spend: Fencing : £3,500

11.0 Conclusion

11.1 This paper seeks approval for the 2024/25 Annual Business Plan in the context of an updated 5 year Delivery Plan.

11.2 Further work remains in order to integrate the updated mitigation Strategy into the ABP and 5-year plan. The current plan anticipates a number of changes, although further financial planning will be required to facilitate an accurate and viable transition. This will also be subject to approval of the strategy by the partner authorities.

Naomi Harnett
Place, Assets and Commercialisation,
East Devon District Council,
October 2024

Natural England comment: Natural England have read the report and have no comment.

Habitat Regulations Executive Committee – 2024/25 Annual business plan and 5Yr Delivery Plan : Appendix A

	Dawlish Warren	Exe Estuary	Pebblebed Heaths	Infrastructure funded from CIL	Totals
2024-25					-
Projected income	121,485	215,430	124,892	85,431	£547,238
Total potential budget	£778,935	£1,167,565	£689,769	£935,135	£3,571,404
Staff costs	96,896	96,896	96,896		£290,689
Monitoring support	99	99	99		£297
Accountancy support	1,152	1,152	1,152		£3,457
Warden Vehicle	500	500	500		£1,500
Dog project vehicle	625	625	625		£1,875
Dog project	1,067	1,067	1,067		£3,200
Boat		7,000			£7,000
Exe Estuary part exchange new boat		10,000			£10,000
Exe and Dawlish Warren					
Signage audit				20,000 ¹	£20,000
BBQ info at local retailers	50				£50
Updates of the Exe Estuary leaflets ²		6,000			£6,000
Procure, install, maintain buoy markers ³		8,486			£8,486
DW fencing	3,500				£3,500

¹ TDC Onsite infrastructure.

² Work completed during 23/24, not yet invoiced.

³ Already approved, fund carried forward for ongoing repairs and maintenance.

Petalwort translocation monitoring	2,000				£2,000
Low hedge planting (Imperial Rec.)		10,000			£10,000
Pebblebed Heaths					
Signs directing people ⁴				6,500	£6,500
Signs related to conduct ⁵				6,170	£6,170
Education work with schools ⁶			10,556		£10,556
Nightjar modelling ⁷			6,000		£6,000
Cross-site					
Visitor numbers monitoring & visitor behaviour	8,333	8,333	8,333		£25,000
Infrastructure					
Car parks ⁸				167,133	£167,133
Dog bins ⁹				4,430	£4,430
PBH Erosion & Path Width ¹⁰				15,000	£15,000
Interpretation Boards (Ten boards) ¹¹				2,000	£2,000
Boardwalks/Path surfacing ¹²				5,000	£5,000
Total expenditure	£114,223	£150,159	£125,229	£226,233	£615,843
Carry-forward	£664,713	£1,017,406	£564,541	£708,902	£2,955,562

⁴ Already approved, fund carried forward for ongoing repairs and maintenance.

⁵ Already approved, fund carried forward for ongoing repairs and maintenance.

⁶ Already approved as 23/24 ABP, carried forward for delivery 2024/25. See "2023/24 Annual Business Plan - Annual Report Oct 2024".

⁷ Already approved as 23/24 ABP. Work near completion, not yet invoiced.

⁸ Already approved as 23/24 ABP. Work completed during 23/24, not yet invoiced.

⁹ Already approved, fund carried forward for ongoing repairs and maintenance.

¹⁰ Already approved as 23/24 ABP, carried forward for delivery 2024/25. See "2023/24 Annual Business Plan - Annual Report Oct 2024".

¹¹ Already approved, fund carried forward for ongoing repairs and maintenance.

¹² Already approved, fund carried forward for ongoing repairs and maintenance.

2025-26	Dawlish Warren	Exe Estuary	Pebblebed Heaths	Infrastructure funded from CIL	Totals
Projected income	£214,045	£255,530	£97,607	£41,766	£608,948
Total potential budget	£878,758	1,272,936	662,148	750,668	£3,564,510
<i>Staff costs</i>	138,317	138,317	138,317		£414,951
<i>Dog project vehicle</i>	625	625	625		£1,875
Dog project	1,667	1,667	1,667		£5,000
Warden Vehicle	667	667	667		£2,000
Warden Vehicle 2	667	667	667		£2,000
New warden vehicle	8,938	8,938	8,938		£26,815
Monitoring support	101	101	101		£303
Accountancy support	1,176	1,176	1,176		£3,527
Boat		7,000			£7,000
Project equipment (mitigation officers)	1,667	1,667	1,667		£5,000
Project expenditure (mitigation officers)	1,667	1,667	1,667		£5,000
Exe and Dawlish Warren					
Flexible projects - managing access at sensitive locations		10,000			£10,000
Procure, install, maintain buoy markers		15,000			£15,000
Maintain buoy markers		2,000			£2,000
Flexible projects pot	10,000				£10,000
Visitor facility	25,000				£25,000
BBQ info at local retailers	50				£50
Update signs at public slipways		20,334			£20,334

Pebblebed Heaths					
Special projects pot			25,000		£25,000
PBH Monitoring of breeding Annex 1 birds and Southern damselfly			5,500		£5,500
Education work with schools			4,656		£4,656
Education work around fire			10,000		£10,000
Infrastructure					
Interpretation Boards				4,400	£4,400
Boardwalks/Path surfacing				5,000	£5,000
Dog bins				3,370	£3,370
Additional dog bins - purchase				2,000	£2,000
Additional dog bins - emptying			2,000		£2,000
Total expenditure	£190,540	£209,824	£202,646	£14,770	£617,780
Carry-forward	£688,218	£1,063,113	£459,502	£735,898	£2,946,730

2026-27	Dawlish Warren	Exe Estuary	Pebblebed Heaths	Infrastructure funded from CIL	Totals
Projected income	£173,550	£207,265	£43,655	£10,869	£435,339
Total potential budget	£861,768	£1,270,378	£503,157	£746,767	£3,382,070
Staff costs	122,333	122,333	122,333		£366,998
Dog project vehicle	625	625	625		£1,875
Dog project	1,667	1,667	1,667		£5,000
Warden Vehicle	667	667	667		£2,000
Warden Vehicle 2	667	667	667		£2,000
Monitoring support	103	103	103		£309
Accountancy support	1,199	1,199	1,199		£3,597
Boat		7,000			£7,000
Project expenditure (mitigation officers)	1,667	1,667	1,667		£5,000
Exe and Dawlish Warren					
Flexible projects - managing access at sensitive locations		10,000			£10,000
Maintain buoy markers		2,000			£2,000
Flexible projects pot	10,000				£10,000
Petalwort monitoring	2,000				£2,000
BBQ info at local retailers	50				£50
Pebblebed Heaths					
Special projects pot			25,000		£25,000
Education work with schools			4,656		£4,656
Education work around fire			5,000		£5,000
Cross-site					
Visitor numbers monitoring & visitor behaviour	4,000	4,000	4,000		£12,000
Infrastructure					
Dog bins				3,370	£3,370

Additional dog bins - emptying			2,000		£2,000
Interpretation Boards				4,400	£4,400
Boardwalks/Path surfacing				5,000	£5,000
Total expenditure	£144,976	£151,926	£169,582	£12,770	£479,255
Carry-forward	£716,790	£1,118,452	£333,575	£733,997	£2,902,810

2027-28	Dawlish Warren	Exe Estuary	Pebblebed Heaths	Infrastructure funded from CIL	Totals
Projected income	£158,509	£254,219	£109,869	£71,031	£593,628
Total potential budget	£875,300	£1,372,671	£443,444	£805,028	£3,496,443
<i>Staff costs</i>	124,945	124,945	124,945		£374,834
<i>Dog project vehicle</i>	625	625	625		£1,875
Dog project	1,667	1,667	1,667		£5,000
Warden Vehicle	667	667	667		£2,000
Monitoring support	105	105	105		£315
Accountancy support	1,223	1,223	1,223		£3,669
Boat		7,000			£7,000
Project expenditure (mitigation officers)	1,667	1,667	1,667		£5,000
Exe and Dawlish Warren					
Flexible projects - managing access at sensitive locations		10,000			£10,000
Maintain buoy markers		2,000			£2,000
Flexible projects pot	10,000				£10,000

Pebblebed Heaths					
Special projects pot			25,000		£25,000
Education work with schools			4,656		£4,656
Education work around fire			5,000		£5,000
Detailed material on web			5,000		£5,000
Fire strategy work and review			15,000		£15,000
Signage			2,000		£2,000
Infrastructure					
Dog bins				3,370	£3,370
Additional dog bins - emptying			2,000		£2,000
Interpretation Boards				4,400	£4,400
Total expenditure	£140,898	£149,898	£189,554	£7,770	£488,119
Carry-forward	£734,403	£1,222,773	£253,891	£797,258	£3,008,320

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2028-29	Dawlish Warren	Exe Estuary	Pebblebed Heaths	Infrastructure funded from CIL	Totals
Projected income	£205,946	£268,750	£96,831	£67,896	£639,423
Total potential budget	£940,349	£1,491,523	£350,721	£865,154	£3,647,747
Staff costs	114,770	114,770	114,770		£344,311
<i>Dog project vehicle</i>	625	625	625		£1,875
Dog project	1,667	1,667	1,667		£5,000
Warden Vehicle	667	667	667		£2,000
Monitoring support	105	105	105		£315
Accountancy support	1,223	1,223	1,223		£3,669
Boat		7,000			£7,000
Project expenditure (mitigation officers)	1,667	1,667	1,667		£5,000

Exe and Dawlish Warren					
Flexible projects - managing access at sensitive locations		10,000			£10,000
Maintain buoy markers		2,000			£2,000
Flexible projects pot	10,000				£10,000
Schools		5,000			£5,000
Refuge monitoring		20,000			£20,000
Web camera		12,000			£12,000
Pebblebed Heaths					
Special projects pot			25,000		£25,000
Education work around fire			5,000		£5,000
Education work with schools			4,656		£4,656
Detailed material on web			5,000		£5,000
Review of parking charges			15,000		£15,000
Resources for work with commercial dog walkers			10,000		£10,000
Advice/specialist input regarding management around dog walking			5,000		£5,000
Infrastructure					
Dog bins				3,370	£3,370
Additional dog bins - emptying			2,000		£2,000
Interpretation Boards				4,400	£4,400
Boardwalks/Path surfacing				5,000	£5,000
Total expenditure	£130,723	£176,723	£192,379	£12,770	£512,595
Balance less expenditure	£809,626	£1,314,800	£158,342	£852,384	£3,135,149