



SOUTH EAST DEVON
HABITAT REGULATIONS
PARTNERSHIP

East Devon District Council
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Agenda for South and East Devon Habitat Regulations Executive Committee

Thursday, 30th October, 2025, 2.00 pm

Members of South and East Devon Habitat Regulations Executive Committee

Councillors Geoff Jung, EDDC (Chair), Ruth Williams, ECC and Gary Taylor, TDC

Venue: Council Chamber, Blackdown House, EDDC at Border Road, Heathpark Industrial Estate, Honiton EX14 1EJ

Contact: Debbie Meakin 01395 517540; email debbie.meakin@eastdevon.gov.uk
(or group number 01395 517546)
22 October 2025

- 1 Minutes of the previous meeting held on 24 July 2025 (Pages 3 - 5)
To agree the minutes of the previous meeting held on the 24th July 2025.
- 2 Apologies
- 3 Declarations of interest
Guidance is available online to Councillors and co-opted members on making [declarations of interest](#)
- 4 Public speaking
Information on [public speaking](#) is available online.
- 5 Matters of urgency
Information on [matters of urgency](#) is available online
- 6 Confidential/exempt items



Exeter
City Council



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.

- 7 2024-25 Annual Business Plan - Annual report (Pages 6 - 15)
- 8 Habitat Mitigation Team update (Pages 16 - 27)
- 9 Communications report (Pages 28 - 44)
- 10 Finance report (Pages 45 - 52)
- 11 2025-26 Annual Business Plan and 5 Year Delivery Plan (Pages 53 - 69)
- 12 Risk Register report (Pages 70 - 90)

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[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 Otter Room (Ground Floor), Blackdown House, EDDC at Border Road, Heathpark Industrial Estate, Honiton, EX14 1EJ on 24 July 2025

Attendance list at end of document

The meeting started at 2.00 pm and ended at 2.47 pm

1 Minutes of the previous meeting

Minutes of the South East Devon Habitat Regulations Executive Committee meeting held on 24 October 2024 were confirmed as a correct record.

2 Declarations of interest

None.

3 Public speaking

None.

4 Matters of urgency

None.

5 Confidential/exempt items

None.

6 Exe Estuary Patrol Boat - proposed pilot scheme

The Committee were asked to consider a proposal for a 12-month pilot arrangement for the shared use of the Exeter Port Authority (EPA) rigid inflatable boat (RIB), workboat, associated training provision and plan for the existing Patrol Boat. The pilot was expected to commence on the 1 August 2025.

The proposed agreement offered operational and financial advantages compared to the current arrangements:

- Primary use of the *Exe Harbour Launch*, with the *Exe Harbour Workboat* available when joint patrols are not feasible or as backup.
- Guaranteed maximum of forty patrol days within a 12-month period.
- Vessels fuelled and maintained in a ready-to-use state.
- Annual provision of four training days with EPA instructors.
- Insurance cover provided by EPA for both vessels.
- All maintenance, servicing, and anti-fouling included in the agreement.
- Greater operational flexibility and responsiveness through use of a RIB.
- Lower risk of damage and easier handling associated with a RIB.
- Potential for resale of the existing SEDW patrol vessel should the pilot prove successful — proceeds could contribute to multiple years of charter fees.

- Savings from the release of the current Exmouth Marina berth, which would no longer be required.

The Committee were pleased with the proposed arrangements and recognised the operational advantages the pilot could yield.

Resolved:

1. Noted the proposed 12 month pilot arrangements for the shared use of the Exeter Port Authority (EPA) rigid inflatable boat (RIB), workboat, associated training provision and plan for the existing Patrol Boat, commencing 1 August 2025;
2. Approves expenditure of £9,500 as set out in Section 3, to cover the use of EPA vessels, fuel, personal protective equipment, and associated boat cramage and cradle costs;
3. Received a follow-up report following completion of the 12 month pilot to review outcomes and inform future decision making.

7 **Update on SANG delivery**

The Green Infrastructure Project Manager gave the Committee an update on the delivery of Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace – SANG:

- Greenspace Project (SANG) Officer now in place, with initial focus on proposals for Exmouth SANG, progression of Exeter Valley Park Projects and work with East Devon's planners to ensure the next phases of Cranbrook's Developer provided SANG (which will deliver over 78Ha of SANG) meet Natural England requirements;
- Dawlish Country Park, Ridgetop Country Park and Cranbrook Country Park were identified as Strategic SANG sites in the Mitigation Strategy and have been delivered to date. The final phase of Ridgetop Country Park is being completed, and the next phases of SANG at Cranbrook are being developed within each of the extension phases;
- Following a site options appraisal exercise potential sites for a Strategic SANG in Exmouth had been identified. Once an in-principle agreement with landowners is in place the proposals will be put forward to the Committee;
- Discussions on the potential to bring forward enhancement projects to Exeter Valley Parks to increase their functionality as SANG have taken place;
- Work is progressing on site at Clyst Meadows (10Ha SANG at Broadclyst Station), with expectation that the main contract will commence in shortly, and is likely to be completed next year with an anticipated opening date of September 2026. Further hedgerow planting to the edges of the site with volunteers over the winter are planned;
- Work is underway to understand the quantum of Strategic SANG required to meet residential allocations in the emerging Local Plans, and estimated costs for the delivery and management of these. A report will come forward to the Committee, setting out the requirements and estimated costs, alongside a proposed funding strategy for the partner authorities;
- congratulations to Cranbrook Town Council - Cranbrook Country Park has just won a Green Flag Award for the second year running.

The committee noted the report and the team were thanked for their efforts.

8 **Habitat mitigation team update**

The comprehensive update report before Members set out a month by month account of the initiatives and events undertaken, updated with statistical detail on interactions with the public and views of social media posts. This covered the Wildlife Wardens team work, and Devon Loves Dogs.

The sign up of the Exe Estuary Management Partnership events had been lower in recent months. In response, the 15 sessions offered to schools may have to be revisited as not offering enough choice to local schools for attending – this offer could be reviewed.

Some discussion took place on negating some of the negative comments that had come up as a result of the recruitment advertising for Devon Loves Dogs. The Chair shared his experience of the positivity of the events and alternatives offered to dog walkers when beach restrictions were in place. Communications in the media were not branded with the Councils or associated environmental health enforcement but with the southeastdevonwildlife.org.uk or Devon Loves Dogs branding as appropriate.

The Chair thanked officers present for their continued success and good results from their hard work.

RESOLVED that the Committee note the update.

Attendance List

Councillors present:

G Jung (Chair)
R Williams (ECC)
G Taylor (TDC)

Officers in attendance:

Matthew Diamond, ECC
Neil Harris, Habitat Regulation Delivery Manager
Rebecca Heal, Solicitor
Anne Mountjoy, Growth Point Communications Officer
Paul Osborne, Green Infrastructure Project Officer
Charles Plowden, Assistant Director Countryside and Leisure
Claire Spence, Wildlife Warden
Julie Owen, Project Officer Devon Loves Dogs

Chair

Date:



South East Devon Habitat Regulations Executive Committee

2024-25 Annual Business Plan – Annual Report

*Neil Harris
Countryside, Environment & Ecology,
East Devon District Council
October 2025*

Legal comment/advice:

EDDC Legal have read the report and have no comments to make.

DEM.1-0007/October 2025/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 progress made in delivering the 2024/25 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 2024/25 annual business plan (ABP) was approved at a meeting of the Executive Committee on 24th October 2024.

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 £110,499.

1.3 Ongoing 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 As part of the plan, a range of new measures were approved. These included an increase in staff resources for Devon Loves Dogs and the recruitment of a SANG and Infrastructure Projects Coordination Officer. Approval was also given for a new South East Devon Visitor Survey and for the replacement of the Exe Estuary patrol boat. Further measures approved were the planting of a low hedge at the Imperial Recreation Ground in Exmouth, an audit and redesign of the information boards at Dawlish Warren, and ongoing monitoring of the Petalwort translocation scheme. Funding was also allocated for repairs and improvements to fencing at the Warren, both along the front and at its distal end.

1.5 Table 1 below, reports the status of new mitigation measures approved as part of the 2024/25 annual business plan.

Table 1. 2024/25 Annual Business Plan – “new” mitigation measures.

Site	Measure	Status
Cross Site	Devon Loves Dogs staff resource	Completed (ongoing)
Cross Site	SANGs and Infrastructure Projects Coordination Officer	Completed (ongoing)
Cross Site	South East Devon Visitor Survey	In progress
Exe Estuary	Exe Estuary patrol boat – change of vessel.	Amended. Completed (ongoing)
Exe Estuary	Planting of low hedge at the Imperial Recreation Ground, Exmouth	Delayed
Dawlish Warren	Carry out audit and redesign of information boards at Dawlish Warren	In progress
Dawlish Warren	Monitoring of Petalwort translocation at Dawlish Warren	Delayed
Dawlish Warren	Fencing/access restrictions to protect habitat from trampling pressure at Dawlish Warren.	Completed

1.6 The new mitigation Strategy replaces and supersedes the previous Strategy. Appendix A contains the last update and explanation regarding the status of the measures contained in the previous Strategy.

2. Habitat Regulations Delivery Manager - Update report.

2.1 Executive Summary

During 2025 strong progress has been made in strengthening staff capacity, advancing key survey and monitoring work, and delivering on-site projects to protect habitats and manage visitor pressures. Notable achievements include the expansion of the Devon Loves Dogs team, recruitment of additional project staff, and initiation of the South East Devon Visitor Survey.

Practical works have included installation of protective fencing at Dawlish Warren and the redesign of site signage. Some projects, such as hedge planting at Exmouth, have been delayed due to external factors including necessary engineering inspections of the revetment.

Work on the Exe Estuary patrol boat pilot scheme is well advanced but awaits final insurance arrangements before deployment. Monitoring contracts are in place, with surveys rescheduled where weather conditions have disrupted progress. Overall, delivery has continued at pace, with challenges addressed proactively and longer-term projects set on a firmer footing.

2.2 Staffing and resources.

The delivery team has seen a positive increase in capacity over the course of 2025. The Devon Loves Dogs Project Co-ordinator post was successfully expanded from 0.5 FTE to 0.8 FTE in January, enabling more time to be dedicated to outreach and project delivery. Building on this, an Assistant Project Co-ordinator was recruited on a two-year fixed-term contract and took up post in August. This additional full-time role provides much-needed support to the growing workload, particularly around visitor engagement, outreach and administration.

In parallel, a new SANGs and Infrastructure Projects Co-ordination Officer was appointed and began work in July. This role is central to ensuring that Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspaces (SANGs) and other infrastructure projects are planned and delivered effectively across the partnership area.

2.3 Visitor Survey.

The South East Devon Visitor Survey programme was initiated in March 2025. This large-scale monitoring exercise, involving both online and face-to-face survey methods, was launched in May and continues through until April 2026. It is expected that the findings will provide valuable evidence about visitor behaviour, enabling the partnership to target resources and refine management approaches more effectively in future.

2.4 Exe Estuary Patrol Boat.

Arrangements for the Exe Estuary patrol boat have undergone a change in approach, with the original proposal amended to make use of the Exeter Port Authority RIB vessel instead. This adjustment received approval from the Habitat Regulations Executive Committee (HREC) in July 2025. Training sessions for staff have already been delivered and personal protective equipment has been ordered to support safe operations. At present, full deployment is on hold, awaiting confirmation of insurance cover.

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

At the Imperial Recreation Ground in Exmouth, the proposed planting of a low hedge has unfortunately faced further delays. The project was initially postponed in September 2024 due to an engineering inspection of the revetment. While it was rescheduled for autumn 2025, the inspection has since revealed that the repairs required are more extensive than originally anticipated. As a result, a grant funding application will be necessary to address the revetment works, and the planting scheme will remain on hold until those repairs have been completed.

2.6 Site Signage and interpretation.

The audit and redesign of information boards at Dawlish Warren has now been commissioned, following a competitive tender process concluded in March 2025. The contract was awarded to The Way Design. Progress has been positive, with the designs for the main site signage now finalised. Work on the behavioural signage – which is particularly important for guiding visitor behaviour and minimising disturbance to wildlife – is currently in development. Installation of the signs is expected by the end of the year.

2.7 Petalwort translocation monitoring.

The Petalwort translocation monitoring programme is now underway, with a three-year survey contract awarded to ecologist Sharon Pilkington after a competitive tender. The first survey, scheduled for May 2025, had to be cancelled due to the unusually dry weather, which meant that meaningful results could not be obtained. The survey has been rescheduled for November 2025, when wetter conditions should provide a more accurate picture of the translocation site's success.

2.8 Access management and habitat protection.

Work to reduce trampling pressure and protect sensitive habitats at Dawlish Warren has continued over the spring and summer. Fencing materials were procured early in the year (January/February 2025), and the Ranger team has since completed installation across priority areas. This intervention is expected to provide immediate benefits to vulnerable habitats by directing visitor access away from the most sensitive zones.

2.9 Communications and habitat mitigation team updates are reported separately.

Neil Harris
Countryside, Environment and Ecology
East Devon District Council,
October 2025

Natural England comment:

Natural England have read the report and have no comment to make.

South-east Devon European Site Mitigation Strategy

Mitigation delivery status

Oct 2025

Mitigation measures (refer to Table 26 p218 onwards in the previous strategy.		
Site	Measure	Complete Y/N
All	Dawlish Warren SANGS	Y (26ha)
All	SW Exeter SANGS	Phase 1 - 17ha
All	Habitat Regulations Delivery Manager	Y - Ongoing
All	Wildlife Warden (2)	Y - Ongoing
All	Vehicle for the Wildlife Wardens	Y - Ongoing
All	Project Officer (Dogs project)	Y - Ongoing
All	Devon Loves Dogs scheme	Y - Ongoing
All	Visitor number monitoring	Y - Ongoing
All	Visitor behaviour monitoring	Y - Ongoing
Exe Estuary	Close railway crossing at Cockwood	N ¹
Exe Estuary	Low planting around edge of Imperial Recreation Ground	Delayed ²
Exe Estuary	Screening and modifications to gates at Exminster Marshes.	Y
Exe Estuary	Gate slipway at Exmouth Imperial Recreation Ground	N ³
Exe Estuary	Continuation/adaptation as necessary of access restrictions (temporary fencing, etc) to prevent access along shore near roost at Dawlish Warren	Y - Ongoing
Exe Estuary	Reed/other screening between Bight & Golf Course @ Dawlish Warren	Discontinued ⁴
Exe Estuary	Limited, localised changes to Golf Course @ Dawlish Warren	Discontinued ⁵
Exe Estuary	Modifications of slipway at Mamhead to encourage users not to enter the estuary	Y
Exe Estuary	New interpretation boards (five boards)	Existing signage sufficient.
Exe Estuary	Updates of the Exe Estuary leaflets	Y
Exe Estuary	Review and revision of byelaws	N ⁶
Exe Estuary	Codes of Conduct	Y ⁷

¹ Agreement between all parties that this is kept on hold pending continued success of Exe wildlife refuges.

² Recommended as part of 2024/25 ABP. Delayed due to extensive repairs which are required on the revetment by EDDC/EA. Not viable to plant prior to these works, which would damage/destroy the planting.

³ See (1) above.

⁴ Measures at distal end of Warren discontinued following EA review of BMS and future management options. Site highly dynamic and longevity of site conditions/measures uncertain. Funding to be rolled forward into future mitigation measures identified for Dawlish Warren.

⁵ See (4) above.

⁶ See (1) above.

⁷ To be reviewed at EEMP Forum Sept Oct 2025

Exe Estuary	Personal aircraft code of conduct	In progress - EEMP
Exe Estuary	Review of zones	Y
Exe Estuary	Monitoring Wildlife Refuges	Y
Exe Estuary	Procurement, installation and maintenance of buoy markers	Y

Mitigation measures		
Site	Measure	Complete Y/N
Exe Estuary	Install dedicated signs - kite & wind surfing (Exmouth)	N ⁸
Exe Estuary	Update signs at public slipways	Y
Exe Estuary	Dog control order to control dogs on the mudflats	N ⁹
Exe Estuary	Patrol boat	Y ¹⁰
Exe Estuary	Carry out scoping study for creation/ modification of a viable disturbance-free roost at Dawlish Warren	N ¹¹
Exe Estuary	Create new/improved high tide roost on site of old bird hide at Dawlish Warren	Discontinued ¹²
Exe Estuary	Monitoring of wintering wildfowl	Y
Exe Estuary	Relocate Bird hide @ Dawlish Warren	Discontinued ¹³
Dawlish Warren	Live visitor management plan	Amended ¹⁴
Dawlish Warren	Carry out audit of information boards	Y ¹⁵
Dawlish Warren	Rationalisation of path network	Discontinued ¹⁶
Dawlish Warren	BBQ info at local retailers	Amended ¹⁷
Dawlish Warren	Regular Warren Newsletter	Discontinued ¹⁸

⁸ Incorporated into wider estuary signage at slipways.

⁹ See (1) above.

¹⁰ Change of approach to utilise EPA RIB approved by HREC July 2025.

¹¹ Dependent on how the roost changes over time. Potential to implement anything will be dependent on the outcomes of Environment Agency work and may not be possible. Conversation to be had with NE.

¹² Bird hide no longer available for use by public and access to hide complicated by changing coastal dynamics.

¹³ See (11)

¹⁴ Carried forward under monitoring proposals as part of wider mitigation strategy update.

¹⁵ Further work recommended as part of 24/25 ABP.

¹⁶ See (4)

¹⁷ Initiated with limited success – new approach with public awareness campaign “No BBQs at DW” banner in 2023/24 proving to be more effective. Banner redesign proposed for 25/26.

¹⁸ Site management report limited capacity for this. Discontinued.

Dawlish Warren	Review and modify parking	Discontinued ¹⁹
Dawlish Warren	Removal of Dog Control Order	Revoked
Dawlish Warren	Byelaw preventing fires and barbeques in buffer zone	Under review
Dawlish Warren	Petalwort translocation	N ²⁰
Dawlish Warren	Banks or fencing around existing car park	Under review

Mitigation measures		
Site	Measure	Complete Y/N
Dawlish Warren	Visitor Centre	Amended ²¹
Dawlish Warren	Petalwort monitoring	Y - Ongoing
Dawlish Warren	Vegetation monitoring	Y - Ongoing
Dawlish Warren	Erosion monitoring	EA undertaking
Pebblebed Heaths	New dog bins	Y
Pebblebed Heaths	Monitoring of path width and erosion	Y - Ongoing
Pebblebed Heaths	Map of sensitive areas	Y
Pebblebed Heaths	Codes of Conduct	Y
Pebblebed Heaths	Boardwalks/Path surfacing	Y - Ongoing
Pebblebed Heaths	Educational work with schools	Y - Ongoing
Pebblebed Heaths	Interpretation boards	Y
Pebblebed Heaths	Detailed material on the web	Y
Pebblebed Heaths	Signs directing people to preferred routes	In progress

¹⁹ Visitor counters installed and data collection routinely gathered, also influenced by (13).

²⁰ Translocation took place spring 2024. Funding for monitoring of success (winter/spring 25/26) approved as part of 24/25 ABP. See progress report.

²¹ New visitor centre not considered economically viable. Measures to update and improve existing interpretation at current VC taken forward in new strategy.

Pebblebed Heaths	Signs asking visitors to behave differently	Y- Ongoing ²²
Pebblebed Heaths	Changes to car parks	Y
Pebblebed Heaths	Species monitoring – Annex 1 breeding birds & Southern damselfly	Adapted ²³

²² “Paws on Paths” public awareness campaign Spring 2024 and 2025. “Bag it and Bin it” Dog fouling campaign Autumn/Winter 2024 and 2025.

²³ Nightjar productivity modelling work completed.



SOUTH EAST DEVON
WILDLIFE

South East Devon Habitat Regulations Executive Committee

Habitat mitigation team update

*Wildlife Wardens and Devon Loves Dogs
Countryside, Environment & Ecology
East Devon District Council
October 2025*

Legal comment/advice:

EDDC Legal have read the report and have no comments to make.

DEM.1-0007/October 2025/RAH

Finance comment/advice:

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

The purpose of this report is to provide a regular update from the habitat mitigation delivery team. This enables the Executive Committee to maintain a good understanding of the initiatives, partnership working and day to day activities of public-facing staff. Continued and effective delivery of the Strategy and the development this enables remains of very high importance to all partners.

1. Wildlife Wardens: Claire Spence (full time, maternity cover), Katie Jones and Sama Euridge (job share).

1. June

1.1 With continued good weather, the estuary was very busy with visitors. The team worked hard on the water, with five boat patrols this month and focus on the use of the boat tender to land at Dawlish Warren landing point at Soft Sand Bay.

1.2 Wardens Sama & Claire hosted Tim Child, Assistant Director for Place, Assets and Commercialisation on the patrol boat, providing a first-hand, “shop floor” look at the estuary and talking through the essential work of South East Devon Wildlife.



Figure 1 – Sama & Claire host Tim Child on the patrol boat.

1.3 Claire & Neil hosted the Habitat Regulations Executive Committee for the day. With several new councillors as portfolio holders, a boat patrol and visit to site was an opportunity to introduce the committee to locations key to our work.

1.4 Breeding bird season saw continued low rainfall, the team were on site talking to visitors about the need to be cautious – no BBQs or fires are permitted across any of our sites. The Paws on Paths messaging is key to our activities on the heaths, preventing disturbance to ground nesting birds.

Quick statistics : 34 interactions on the Pebblebed NNR, with one pop-up and 4 walking patrols. 5 visits to Dawlish Warren with 9 interactions.

1.5 Warden Claire attended Budleigh Gala Week event with the gazebo. The event was a lot of fun and gave her the chance to have some great in-depth conversations.

1.6 Sama & Claire joined in at Broadclyst Fun Day, engaging with the community and raising awareness about the heaths. This was a busy event and exactly our heath visiting target audience: 110 visitors spoken to.



Figure 2 – Claire at Broadclyst Fun Day

1.7 Planning and organisation for Heath Week continued, with the team creating activities for Heath Week festival day, Bystock Discovery day and a guided wildlife walk.

1.8 Sama & Claire, along with the Pebblebed Heath Conservation Trust's (PHCT) Otter Estuary Ranger, Rick Lockwood, attended a knowledge exchange and site visit at RSPB Exminster Marshes. The team received an update on how the reserve is managed for locally rare breeding birds, including lapwing and redshank. Warden Rob Johns gave a tour of the site, explaining the irrigation system necessary for keeping habitat at its best and the extensive predator control fencing.

1.9 Sama, Claire, Julie & Katie attended a CMA training day on the Dartmoor Curlew Project. Now functionally extinct on this previous breeding stronghold, Curlew chicks are being “headstarted” (reintroduced) as part of this project. While numbers are still desperately low, this was an informative insight into how habitat on Dartmoor is managed for conservation and the links to the species and habitats found in the Exe Estuary.



Figure 3 – the team learning about Curlews at a training event run by the Countryside Management Association.

2. July

2.1 Preparations for a potential new partnership to share resources were initiated this month. Subject to agreement between ECC Port Authority and SEDW, we are trialling the use of the Harbour patrol RIB. The Warden team began training on the RIB with Graham Manchester, building skills for safe and effective patrols. Patrols on our current patrol boat, Branta Isca, will continue during a crossover period. Four boat patrols this month.

2.2 Claire & Sama attended Exmouth Festival, a busy and hugely successful event where we shared information about the amazing bird species of the Exe. This year's festival theme was 'Stories from the Sea' – an easy tie in for us to talk about shorebird migration and the importance of not disturbing overwintering birds. More than 200 interactions recorded over the weekend.



Figure 4: Sama and Claire at Exmouth Festival.

2.3 Claire took part in the Women's Forum with PHCT, an opportunity to connect with women user groups, hear their perspectives, and take part in the interactive icebreaker activities.

2.4 Claire & Sama attended Heath Week Festival Day on Saturday 26th July, launching Heath Week with a variety of engaging activities for families and children. Not only is it a wonderful experience to be able to offer free educational activities to local families, spreading our key messages on conservation and wildlife, but it's also great to catch up with project partners at PHCT, DWT & RSPB. Total engagements 54



Figure 1: The team, project partners and volunteers at Heath Week

2.5 Katie & Claire hosted a wellbeing morning, with yoga practices and gong meditation, reaching a new audience on the heaths and creating a relaxing, positive experience.

2.6 Sunday Crafter-noon was a huge success with a packed tent of people enjoying embroidery, ink printing, and spoon carving. Special thanks to Neil Harris for hosting this engaging workshop.



Figure 2: Heath week Crafter-noon.

2.7 Bystock Discovery Day on Tuesday 29th saw the warden team and Julie of Devon Loves Dogs at the stunning Bystock nature reserve. The team hosted activities included nature bracelet making, a silver studded blue butterfly craft, moth gliders, flapping bats and also led on pond dipping - a busy and successful day! Thanks extended to Phoebe Voysey, Ranger at Dawlish Warren (and previous SEDW volunteer) for assisting on the day.

2.8 Event organisation was coordinated by Warden Sama, Devon Wildlife Trust volunteer Sarah Butcher and site manager Ed Hopkinson. Feedback from visitors and volunteers hailed this as the best Discovery Day in many years. So many positive comments from visitors makes the hard work behind the scenes worthwhile. Total engagements for the day 220 with 131 people pond dipping!



Figure 3: Pond dipping at Bystock Discovery Day

2.9 Wardens Katie & Claire returned to Bystock to lead a Wildlife Walk on Wednesday 30th July, which drew 16 enthusiastic participants. The group included a wide variety of ages and enjoyed learning about the history, habitats, and wildlife of the heaths.



Figure 4: Wildlife Walk with the Wardens, Heath Week

2.10 Warden Claire hosted a Pop-Up at Woodbury Castle on Thursday celebrating the official launch of the PHCT Youth Rangers programme. She then joined a reptile walk with Rob Ward of the Amphibian and Reptile Conservation Trust, learning about the six native reptile species (and spotting a grass snake and slow worm!)

2.11 Friday 1st August, Claire assisted RSPB project partners at Aylesbeare Common. The butterfly walk attracted 22 participants, with species spotted included brimstone, holly blue, gatekeeper, speckled wood, brown argus, and ringlet.

2.12 Heath week drew to a close with an Evening Guided Walk, where over 30 people experienced the heath at dusk. Highlights included nightjars, bat detecting with Sarah Butcher from the Devon Bat Group, and an incredible moth session with Paul Burgess and the Devon Moth Group. A huge thanks from all of us to everyone to make this year's Heath Week so memorable, volunteers, team members and visitors.

2.13 Other work : Four pop-ups on the Pebblebed NNR, totalling 73 engagements. Seven walking patrols, with 34 interactions. Five visits to Dawlish Warren NNR, with 19 interactions.

3. August

3.1 With both Sama and Claire on leave, Katie was supported by our dedicated team of volunteers for the majority of August.

3.2 Supported by Patrol Boat volunteers and partnership working with the Harbour Patrol team, Katie has been out on the water on 3 patrols this month.

3.2 Sama & Katie also attended a RIB training session with Harbour Master, Grahame Forshore.

3.3 With the launch of Exmouth Wildlife refuge upcoming on September 15th, forward planning for improving and diversifying our reach was carried out. Claire and Katie have completed Stand Up Paddleboard (SUP) training to gain the confidence to carry out patrols by paddle. Exmouth Wildlife Refuge is too shallow to include in patrols by boat and the team have been informally using paddleboards to reach visitors who have entered the refuge and are causing wildlife disturbance for several years. Promoting the team's SUP use is also a way to reach this user group, through press release and social media.

3.4 Four visits to Dawlish Warren NNR, with 20 interactions recorded. Five visits to the Pebblebeds NNR and 47 interactions.

3.5 The team have been working to promote a new initiative – a competition for the launch of the Exmouth Wildlife Refuge. In conjunction with Stuart Line Cruises, we are offering a pair of tickets on a birdwatching cruise and an FSC bird ID guide to one lucky winner every month from September through to December.

3.6 Competition entry requires the answering of multiple-choice questions on the running dates of the Wildlife Refuge, species we expect to see in the Refuge and why it's so important to remain out of the Wildlife Refuges - to give overwintering wildlife the space to rest and feed undisturbed. Answering these questions, ensures competition entrants have knowledge of the Wildlife Refuge and why it exists.



Figure 5: New Wildlife Refuge competition banners

3.7 New promotional banners have been designed by local illustrator, Mike Hughes, and have been printed and erected for competition start date on 1st September. Postcards to promote the competition have also been created, thanking visitors for remaining out of the Refuge.

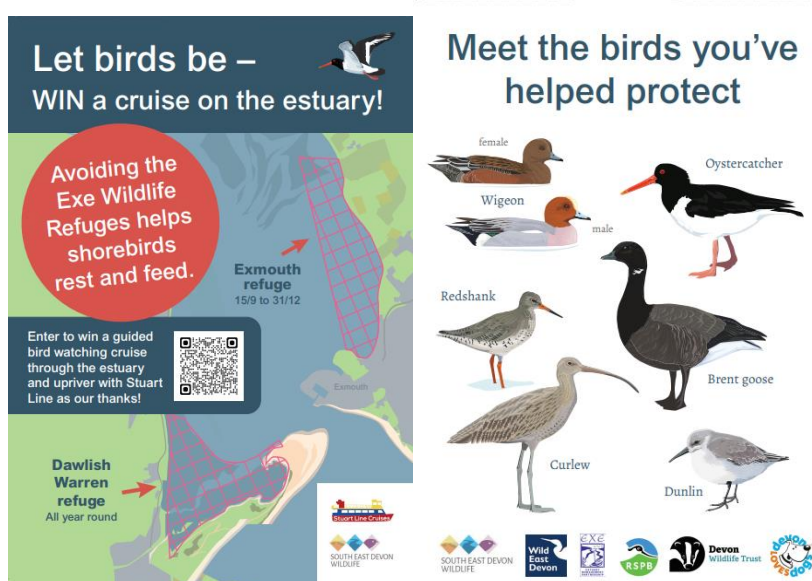


Figure 10: Postcard promoting the refuges, competition and wildlife on the Exe.

3.8 Both Claire and Katie assisted Penny Evans of Wild East Devon at Seaton Wetlands Holiday Club, enjoying a fantastic day connecting with nature and young explorers. Activities included kick sampling in the stream, discovering stonefly larvae (a sign of excellent water quality) and even baby European eels that had travelled from the Sargasso Sea!

4. September

4.1 The launch of the Wildlife Refuge Competition on social media – in a reel created by Warden Sama, has achieved more than 6k views.

4.2 The team continues with training on the harbour patrol RIB with Graham Manchester, ECC, in addition to standard patrols on Branta Isca, the wildlife patrol boat.

4.3 Landing of watercraft at soft sand bay at Dawlish Warren NNR has now concluded for the season and wardens have been reminding water users of this. Wardens have achieved 3 visits each to both the Pebblebed and Dawlish Warren NNRs, and a boat patrol.

4.4 Claire and Sama gave a presentation to the members of the Friday Club in Exeter on habitat mitigation and the work of SED Wildlife. Sama is planning for two school groups later this month on the topic of winter wildlife.

5. Devon Loves Dogs: Project Officer Julie Owen, Assistant Project Officer Trish Waller.

4.1 You may remember from my last update in June that we were recruiting an Assistant Project Officer for the Devon Loves Dogs team. The advertised role was very popular and Neil and I had a busy few weeks shortlisting 128 applicants and then conducting interviews. I'm delighted to welcome Trish Waller to the team. She started at the end of August and brings with her a whole range of talents and experience and a very genuine passion for dogs in the outdoors. We already have lots of ideas about how to develop the reach of Devon Loves Dogs!

4.2 I have continued with the programme of Waggy Walks and despite the hot, dry summer we managed to run all our walks as planned. It's essential that we don't lead walks when conditions are unsuitable for dogs, so I planned walks in the evenings and with earlier starts, mixed in with a small amount of good luck!

4.3 We have walked at Ashclyst Forest and Parke with the National Trust and Ridgetop Park with Teignbridge District Council. Kim from PHCT has continued to support DLD with a glorious evening walk during Heath Week to celebrate the Devon Loves Dogs 8th birthday (with goodie bags and "pupcakes" for dogs) and a rather wet and soggy walk on Mutters Moor.



Figure 11: Waggy Walk during Heath Week to celebrate DLD's 8th birthday.

4.4 I've attended several events over the summer including Heath Week Festival Day where I teamed up with Dawn Spence from "Pawsitive Canine" to chat to people about Canicross. I spent a busy day making dog themed crafts at Bystock Discovery Day, both as part of Heath Week.



Figure 12: The DLD gazebo set-up for pitstops and events.

4.5 In August, I attended the EDDC Resident Connect event at Budleigh Cricket Club. This was a great opportunity to meet local residents and understand some of the difficulties that people can have accessing the countryside, whether because of health restrictions and disabilities or being reliant on public transport.

4.6 Most recently Trish and I attended a charity event in Exminster “A Pawsome Day Out” promoting Devon Loves Dogs and Ridgetop Park whilst supporting an overseas dog charity. Despite the rain, this was a really good event and a great opportunity for networking.

4.7 Julie attended a Curlew training day hosted by the Countryside Management Association on Dartmoor in June, it was really useful to extend knowledge of this bird which we’re lucky enough to be able to observe on the Exe Estuary. Julie also attended a landscape recovery walk about the Clinton Devon Estates “Heaths to Sea” project which was a fascinating insight to how this area may be improved for people and wildlife in the future.

4.8 We’re looking forward, as the seasons change to a busy autumn, to promoting the Wildlife Refuges to protect our populations of overwintering birds. As Trish settles in, I’m excited to be able to expand the reach and opportunities that are available to Devon Loves Dogs now that we have more resource.

Addendum

Following restructuring of Service areas at East Devon District Council, all staff in the Habitat Mitigation team (including Delivery Manager) are hosted in the Countryside, Environment and Ecology Service under Assistant Director, Charlie Plowden, as of 1st August 2025.

Natural England comment:

Natural England have read the report and have no comment to make.



South East Devon Habitat Regulations Executive Committee

South East Devon Wildlife Communications Report

Anne Mountjoy, Communications Officer
October 2025

Legal comment/advice:

EDDC Legal have read the report and have no comments to make.

DEM.1-0007/October 2025/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 September 2024 – August 2025.

Equalities impact: Low

Risk: Low. This report provides the results of the communications report for September 2024 – August 2025.

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 marketing and communications evaluation as measures of success. The agreed KPIs reflect the aims of the business plan. The KPIs are:

1. Website visitors
2. Website average engagement time
3. Website acquisition channels
4. Top website content
5. Number of people signing up to newsletters

In addition, social media engagement is being monitored:

6. Social media reach – Facebook, Instagram

Appendix 1 shows data for the KPIs.

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 is limited to 1 day per week, digital communications are delivered by the Wildlife Wardens and Project Officer 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. On 6 January 2025 Claire Spence has joined as Wildlife Warden, covering Imogen Salmon's maternity leave.

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 How the comms resource is used is a key challenge for the team. The comms officer focuses on identifying opportunities for media engagement and delivering on those, support for campaign planning and delivery, monitoring and evaluation and website development and support. 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. For example, the team deployed a Christmas tactic in 2024, by maximising social media engagement at a time when people are not at work, have lots of free time plus using all local online community groups to increase reach. The result was one of the highest reach statistics of all time of almost 20,000 people on Boxing Day 2024.

2 Website

2.1 Table 1 below shows the figures from 1 Sept 2024 until 31 August 25. Compared with previous period statistics are showing an impressive improvement.

2.2 The average engagement time per session is 0.45s compared with 0.37s in the previous period. We have been working on making content more “sticky” by giving visitors reasons to stay longer and make repeat visits, eg through preparing a virtual reality tour of the Pebblebed Heaths and running a competition. The proposed “virtual tour” of the Pebblebed Heaths is in development.

2.3 We are very excited to launch the first SEDW competition. Working in partnership with Stuart Line cruises, competition entrants can win a prize of a wildlife sailing for two. The competition runs from 1 September to 30 November 2025 and a prize winner will be selected at random every month. This builds on the success of Devon Loves Dogs competition to win a dicky bag from Dec 24-March 25. We will continue to look for opportunities to add to our website “offer” and thereby increase the number of repeat visits.

2.4 Total website users for the 12-month period is 15,013 compared to the previous 14-month period of 12,268.

2.5 Search Engine Optimisation continues to be effective as the way most users reach the site is through organic search. This reinforces the need to regularly update the website with engaging content.

2.6 Top web content was Dawlish Warren code at 2743 visits in the last 12 months. Social media posts generated interest in ground nesting birds, recruiting Devon Loves Dogs project officer, collecting litter at Exmouth LNR, landing at and enjoying Dawlish Warren, juvenile Brent Geese, red damselfly, female ranger week and gulls in decline.

2.7 The monitoring dashboard on the website has been updated with details of Petalwort monitoring. The dashboard provides visitors with insight into the condition of species and habitats that are found across our protected sites.

Table 1: Website analytics comparing July 23-August 2024 with the period 1 Sept 2024 until 31 August 25

	July 23 – Aug 24 (14 months)	1 Sept 2024 – 31 August 2025
Average engagement time per session	37sec	44.83sec
Total users	12,268	15,301
Sessions / top referral channel	Organic search 7318	Organic search 11,175
Top web content / landing page	June newsletter page 568	Dawlish Warren code 2743

3. Social media and newsletter

3.1 Through social media monitoring, we learned that reach is increased by posting content separately to various geographical community groups, where relevant. As a result, social media engagement increased considerably, particularly on Facebook. Facebook reach grew from 206 in November to 19232 in December as a direct result of this. Where appropriate, we change our approach based on monitoring and it is a strategy we continue to deploy.

3.2 Tailored content has been developed to target different user groups – eg paddle board groups. A video on water sports was created by working with partners, Exmouth Water sports. It was used to target water sports 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. We have adapted to the algorithm by putting external links in the first comment rather than in the post itself.

3.4 Our campaign focussed approach is paying dividends. For example, on social media we ran a campaign for 'Female Ranger Week' featuring our own wardens and partners' rangers. It led to a spike in views over the week totalling 8780. Engagement increased to around 120 interactions on this topic.

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

3.5 We have reduced our focus on twitter / X channel due to the declining engagement this channel brings. We keep our handles and presence but we are not active.

3.6 Newsletter: A pleasing increase in newsletter subscribers indicates the content is interesting to our readers, with subscribers increasing from 2647 in June 24

We are anticipating a growth in newsletter subscribers connected to the forthcoming Let Birds Be competition – as proven by Devon Loves Dogs bag it and bin it campaign which saw an increase in newsletter subscribers and website visitors, receiving: 361 competition entrants, 247 new newsletter subscribers, 726 visits to the competition webpage.

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.

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

Sept 24 Birds and visitors return to Exe Estuary as wildlife refuges reopen - Yahoo News UK

Sept 24 Birds and visitors return to Exe Estuary as wildlife refuges reopen - Devon Live

Dec 24 Works totalling half a million pounds complete at 11 car parks in East Devon (Yahoo News UK)

Dec 24 Popular nature gets much needed improvements (Exeter City Council news)

Dec 24 Pebblebed Heaths car park improvements completed (East Devon District Council)

Dec 24 Devon dog owners encouraged to clean up with competition | Exmouth Journal

Dec 24 Win a monthly prize for cleaning up after your dog with new competition - Yahoo News UK

Dec 24 Car park improvements on Devon Air Radio

April 25 Devon Loves Dogs winners of Bag it and Bin it announced - Sidmouth Herald - Sidmouth Herald

April 25 Dogs and owners work to help protect Devon countryside – BBC

April 25 Waggy Walks get national praise - Teignmouth Post

April 25 Devon dogs project receives national recognition for best advice - East Devon District Council News

April 25 Waggy Walks win big: Devon dogs lead the way in conservation - Yahoo News UK

May 25 Nature conservation during bird breeding season - East Devon District Council news

June 25 New parks ease pressure on wildlife havens - Devon Live

June 25 New dog walking parks open near Exeter - Exeter Today

June 25 Julie Owen interview on Devon Air Radio

July 25 Council strategy aims to protect Dawlish Warren wildlife - Teignmouth Post

July 25 EDDC website: Three Councils unite to back South East Devon's crucial wildlife sites

July 25 Devon council strategy to protect wildlife launched - Sidmouth Herald

July 25 New conservation strategy launched to protect key wildlife sites - Yahoo

July 25 New plan launched to protect Devon's wildlife sites - Exmouth Journal

July 25 Devon council's new strategy to protect wildlife launched - Midweek Herald

Newsletter coverage

Feb 25 EDDC staff newsletter: Brent Geese at Exmouth Duckpond

Feb 25 EDDC Residents Newsletter: Brent Geese at Exmouth Duckpond

June 25 EDDC Staff newsletter: Sama & Claire showed Tim the ropes! – East Devon District Council staff newsletter

July 25 EDDC Staff newsletter: Bringing our work to life for Councillors

July 25 ECC and TDC newsletters: Plan to protect the Exe Estuary and other crucial local natures reserves

Sept 25 EDDC newsletters launch of 'Let Birds be' competition

4.2 TV

In April 2025, Devon Loves Dogs featured on BBC TV Spotlight news and BBC Radio Devon. In addition, Julie was interviewed on Devon Air Radio in June 2025. Coming up, Claire Spence will be interviewed by Devon Air Radio on 21 September to discuss Wardens' work, wildlife refuges and the Let Birds Be competition.

4.3 Editorial

4.3.1 Articles have been provided for partner e-newsletters during this period. In addition, Devon Loves Dogs was recommended by gov.uk website - <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/managing-visitors-with-dogs-in-your-woodland>

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 Devon Loves Dogs' 'Bag it and bin it' campaign resulted in increased newsletter subscribers (247), and an uplift in social media followers.
- 6.2 The lessons learned from this campaign have been incorporated into the SEDW campaign to 'Let Birds Be' for the Autumn focus on Wildlife Refuges.
- 6.3 We are planning website improvements, such as: for Devon Loves Dogs, improving the Out and About page by streamlining the format of walks and adding more; a new page for private dog walking facilities – really useful for dogs that need space or are training; improving business listings and a new page for commercial dog walkers, showing those licenced to walk on the Pebblebeds and advice on how to select a dog walker. For SEDW, a review of the website's homepage will increase engagement and help visitors navigate the site.
- 6.4 We aim to provide a rich experience for viewers and linking social media posts and newsletter articles to relevant web content.

6.5 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 and Female Ranger Week campaigns. We meet with key partners to plan campaigns and agree key messages. We developed a new campaign (Bag It and Bin It competition) 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.

6.6 The majority of visitors are new, so we need to do more to give visitors reasons to make repeat visits. We have explored ways to provide fresh content to encourage repeat visitors and create a community of interest. The 'Let Birds Be' competition is designed to address this. There is still an opportunity to focus on updating the "Events" page with details of partners outreach work, if staff time permits.

6.7 Whilst the communications and engagement achievements have improved on last year, it is important to note that the level of communications output is at capacity. Devon Loves Dogs comms will benefit with the recent recruitment of Trish Waller, Project Assistant. A further increase in dedicated staff resource would increase communications planning, delivery and monitoring further still.

Anne Mountjoy

Senior Marketing and Communications Officer

South East Devon Habitat Regulations Executive Committee

October 2025

Natural England comment:

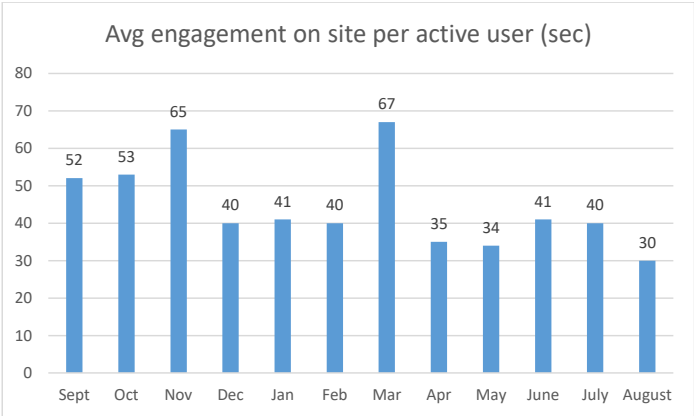
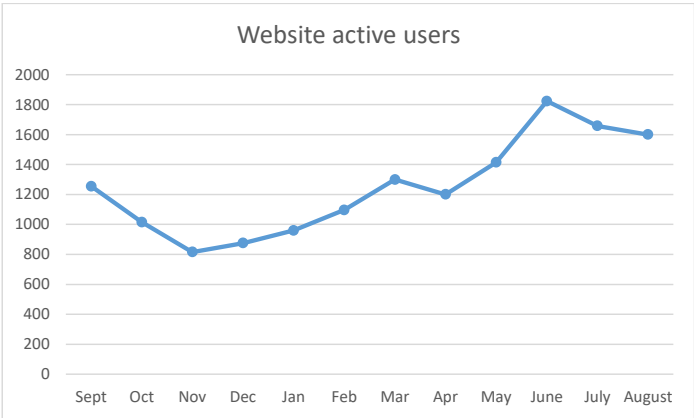
Natural England have read the report and have no comment to make.

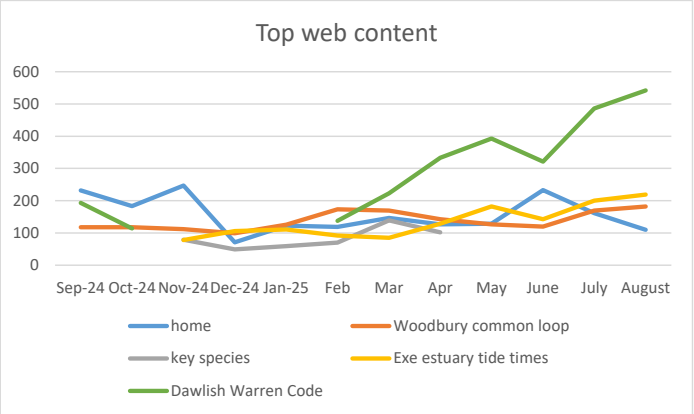
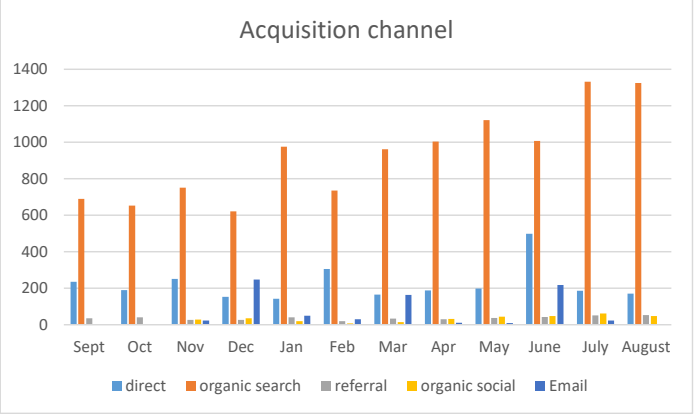


Habitat Regulations Executive Committee
Communications Report : Appendix 1

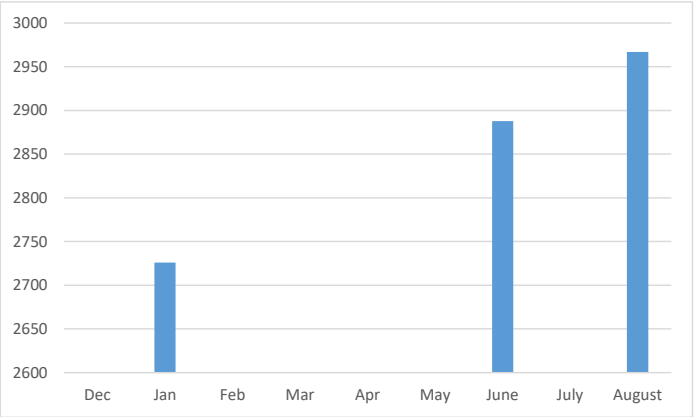
Charts for communications KPIs Sept 2024 – August 2025

Charts for www.southeastdevonwildlife.org.uk



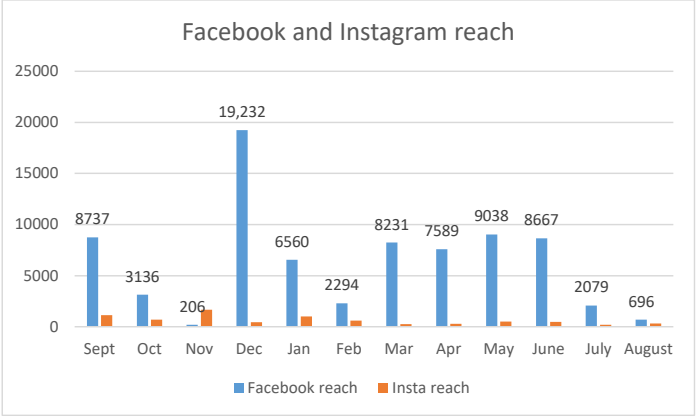


Newsletter subscribers



Commented [AM1]: Delete this chart as dataset not complete?

Social media

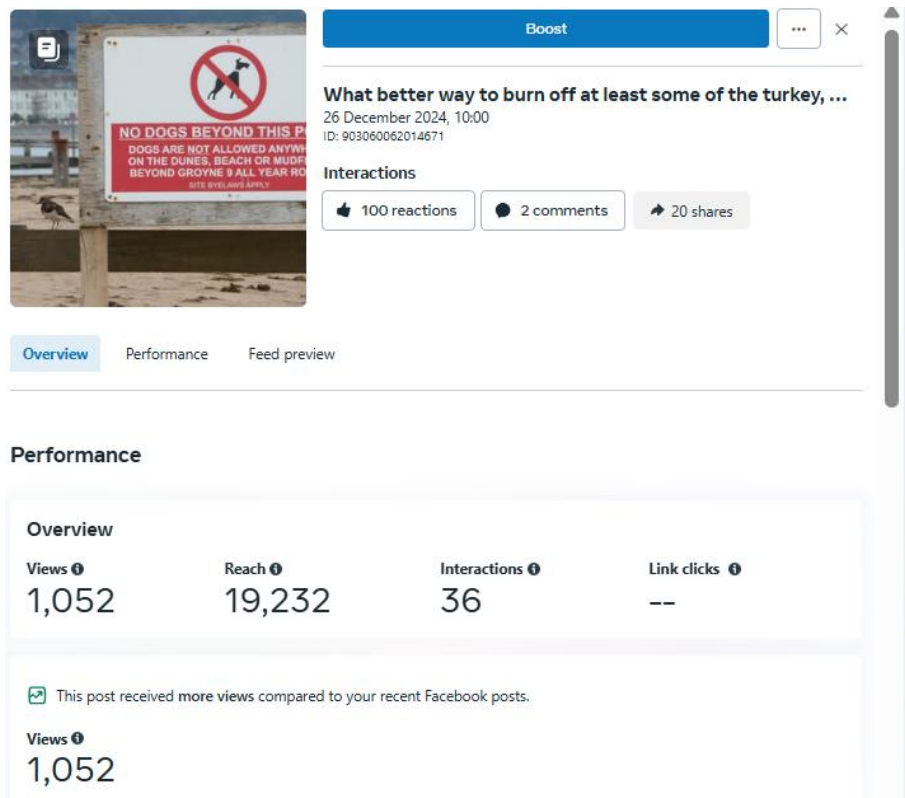


Top posts

Facebook

This post was particularly successful due to timing and sharing. Boxing day is a very popular day for social media users (perhaps after Christmas day off!) plus this post was shared to all relevant geographical community groups across the SEDW area.

December 2024 (19,232 reach)



Instagram

This post was successful because it highlighted a particular issue and called for responses, requesting people to get involved to help spot juveniles who had not been seen. The post asked for thoughts on the reasons for this, as well as asking for help to spot them and get in touch.

November 2024 (1398 reach)



We have had sooo many Brent Geese in the Exmouth Wild...

14 November 2024, 15:10
ID: 18063192646704157

Interactions

23 likes

0 comments

- Overview
- Performance
- Feed preview

Performance

Overview

Views ⓘ	Reach ⓘ	Interactions ⓘ	Watch time ⓘ
1,679	1,398	24	1h 37m

📈 This reel received more views compared to your recent Instagram reels.

Views ⓘ

1,679



Habitat Regulations Executive Committee

Communications Report : Appendix 2

Campaign collateral examples

Wildlife refuge Autumn 2024



No BBQs at Dawlish Warren Summer 2025



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Bag it and bin it competition – Winter 2024/25



Prizes – Devon Loves Dogs dicky bags



Win a cruise – let birds be competition Sept 2025

**Let birds be
– WIN a
cruise on
the estuary!**

Enter to WIN a
Stuart Line Cruise
and bird ID guide

An illustration of a beach scene. Two people are walking a dog on the sand. In the water, there are several birds, including gulls and a larger seabird. A yellow buoy with a cross and the text 'WILDLIFE REFUGE WR' is in the water. A red and white striped flag is on a pole in the water. The sky is blue with white clouds and birds flying.

Avoid entering the Wildlife Refuges to give shorebirds space

Exmouth: 15 Sep–31 Dec | Dawlish Warren: All year

A QR code and the Stuart Line logo.



South East Devon Habitat Regulations Executive Committee

Finance Report

*Neil Harris
Countryside, Environment & Ecology
East Devon District Council
October 2025*

Legal comment/advice:

EDDC Legal have read the report and have no comments to make.

DEM.1-0007/October 2025/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 assessment of the partnership's financial position, apportioning of those funds in line with the updated strategy and identification of the appropriate planning obligation contribution rates across the region.**
- 3. Requests the partner authorities to revise planning obligations for habitat regulations mitigation contributions to match those shown in Table 2, index-linked on an annual basis.**

Equalities impact: Low

Risk: High

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. It is important that appropriate and sufficient funding is collected in order to ensure sustainable delivery of mitigation in the short, medium and long term.

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 Wildlife – Joint Habitats Sites Mitigation Strategy¹ (“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.

1.3 With the adoption of the new Strategy, revised costs for the Strategic Access Management and Monitoring (SAMM) mitigation measures have been identified and the partnership's financial position assessed. Adjustments to developer contributions are recommended (considering current reserves), and the tariffs should be reviewed annually to account for inflation, administrative costs, and any changes in costs or housing delivery.

¹ Link to the document can be found on the homepage at www.southeastdevonwildlife.org.uk

1.4 Revised costs for Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace (SANG) will be set out in the new SANG Delivery Plan, currently being developed by the partner authorities. The plan will be presented at a future meeting of the Executive Committee. As SANG delivery is funded through the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL), the Delivery Plan will affect future SANG income forecasts. As the plan is not finalised, it is not yet possible to include SANG income in the forecast shown in Table 3 below.

1.5 Updated housing forecasting/SAMM income has been made available from each partner authority and are reported below in Table 3. These projections have also been used to assist in outlining the indicative 5 year Delivery Plan, reported separately².

1.6 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.

1.7 As is established practise now, 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.

1.8 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.

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

1.10 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).

1.11 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.

² 2025-26 Annual Business Plan and 5Yr Delivery Plan.

Table 1. Developer contributions received (less expenditure) to 31/03/25.

Charging zone/period	Total received to 31/03/25	Total expenditure to 31/03/25	Balance to 31/03/25
SANGS	£4,369,275 ³	-£3,176,928	£1,192,347
Dawlish Warren On site	£1,163,554	-£559,361	£604,193
Exe Estuary On site	£1,722,269	-£699,316	£1,022,953
Pebblebed Heaths On site	£1,331,849	-£785,794	£546,055
EDDC CIL ⁴	£1,697,321	-£195,705	£1,501,616
Total	£10,284,268	-£5,417,104	£4,867,164

2. Funding allocation for the new Strategy

2.1 Developer contributions held on account from the previous Strategy have been reviewed in light of the funding framework identified in the new Strategy, which allocates SAMM costs across four categories:

1. All sites (Staffing, operational, project, monitoring and support costs).
2. Exe Estuary specific.
3. East Devon Pebblebed Heaths specific.
4. Dawlish Warren specific.

2.2 In principle, the most logical way to apportion existing funds would be to map them directly to the categories of the new strategy. However, because the “All sites” category represents 93% of total costs, applying this approach immediately would risk compromising delivery of on-site mitigation on the protected sites.

2.3 Given that there are already sufficient funds to cover “All sites” mitigation for at least the next 5 years, there is no reasonable justification for restricting investment in site-specific measures. Instead, it is recommended that funds on account for Dawlish Warren, the Exe Estuary and Pebblebed Heaths be used first to reserve the overall costs of the five-year business plan (plus a 15% contingency) for those sites (in addition to the five-year “All sites” costs). This ensures delivery of appropriate on-site mitigation over the plan period.

³ Discrepancy with 2024 Finance report. This represents the amount raised through partnership contributions for Dawlish Warren Countryside Park and toward future SANG delivery. It excludes the Housing Infrastructure Fund (HIF) grant from Homes England for Ridgetop Park SANG in SW Exeter.

⁴ 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, SANG).

2.4 Any remaining funds are then allocated to the “All sites” category moving forwards⁵. Future contributions are then calculated according to the cost categories. Under the previous Strategy approach, contributions for Dawlish Warren, the Exe Estuary and Pebblebed Heaths also included a proportionate allocation towards “All sites” mitigation and monitoring⁶. This continuity means the new funding allocation method is both transparent and rooted in established practice.

Table 2. Allocation of existing funds and updated per dwelling cost of new Strategy.

Cost Category	Total cost ⁷	Dwellings ⁸	Strategy £ per dwelling ⁹	£ Share of On Account Funds ¹⁰	% of On Account funds ¹¹	Total cost less share of On Account ¹²	Updated per dwelling cost ¹³
All sites	£23,907,129	29,111	£821.24	£1,502,035	69.12%	£22,405,094	£769.64
Exe	£832,600	27,197	£30.61	£267,585	12.31%	£565,015	£20.77
Heaths	£809,000	16,717	£48.39	£223,946	10.30%	£585,054	£35.00
Dawlish	£300,000	2,395	£125.26	£179,634	8.27%	£120,366	£50.26
Total	£25,848,729	-	-	£2,173,200	100%	£23,675,529	-

2.5 While established caveats around housing delivery (and therefore income) remain, current forecasts show that this approach will allow the partnership to maintain mitigation delivery, build the in-perpetuity fund, and hold a secure, positive balance across all categories at the end of the five-year business plan.

Table 3. 5 Year forecast of income/housing delivery.¹⁴

Year	All sites	Dawlish Warren	Exe Estuary	Pebblebed Heaths	Total
25-26	£518,946	£-	£14,008	£10,958	£543,912
26-27	£396,711	£56,225	£10,708	£8,377	£472,022
27-28	£691,140	£7,086	£18,656	£14,594	£731,476
28-29	£625,720	£3,769	£16,890	£14,279	£660,658
29-30	£631,877	£1,910	£17,056	£18,444	£669,287
Total	£2,864,395	£68,990	£77,318	£66,652	£3,078,008

⁵ With the exception of forecasted income at Dawlish Warren in 26-27 only (see Table 3). This is to ensure a viable ongoing mitigation fund as compared with Exe Estuary and Pebblebed Heaths funds.

⁶ See Tables 27 & 28, pg224 South-East Devon European Site Mitigation Strategy.

⁷ The total lifetime cost identified in the new Strategy for SAMM mitigation measures.

⁸ The total number of dwellings identified in the new Strategy according to each cost category.

⁹ The per dwelling amounts identified in the Strategy for SAMM mitigation measures.

¹⁰ The total amount of existing funds to be reserved in each category.

¹¹ The percentage of the total existing funds reserved in each category.

¹² The revised, total cost of SAMM measures for each category after reserving the percentage of existing funds.

¹³ The updated per dwelling amounts after allocating existing funds.

¹⁴ Based on allocation of funds in section 2. Figures assume current rates for two years (to cover existing permissions), then new rates from year three (see Table 2). Note: does not include inflation.

2.6 Table 4, below, shows the estimated expenditure on continuing measures (staff, resources, operational budgets, etc), mitigation over the period 2025-30 and projected remaining balance at the end of 2029/30.

Table 4 – Recommended SAMM expenditure by year and projected remaining balance of funds as at end of 2029/30.¹⁵

Year	Cost category				
	All sites spend	Dawlish Warren spend	Exe Estuary spend	Pebblebed Heaths spend	Total spend
2025-26	£437,690	£106,500	£50,250	£51,200	£645,640
2026-27	£551,177	£30,600	£70,125	£54,264	£706,166
2027-28	£577,807	£5,202	£48,535	£29,339	£660,883
2028-29	£573,445	£8,490	£31,571	£34,820	£648,325
2029-30	£617,386	£5,412	£32,202	£25,112	£680,113
Total	£2,757,504	£156,204	£232,683	£194,736	£3,341,127

Remaining balance end 2029-30¹⁶	£1,608,925	£92,421	£112,221	£95,861	Total remaining balance £1,909,428
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2.7 While this approach provides a logical and transparent way to allocate existing funds to the new strategy, it should be noted that the framework still allows for future flexibility. The in-perpetuity fund (essentially, the “total remaining balance”) together with appropriately worded planning obligations, means that adjustments to the amounts identified for spend in each cost category per year remain possible.

2.8 In practice, this means the partnership can shift funds between the “All sites” category and the site specific categories if extra investment is needed in one or more areas at a given time. These adjustments are acceptable¹⁷ as long as funds are later rebalanced, ensuring that delivery across all categories remains secure.

¹⁵ Recommended expenditure as reported separately (See 2025-26 Annual Business Plan and 5Yr Delivery Plan). Includes annual inflationary increases at a nominal 2%.

¹⁶ Remaining balance considering existing funds (Table 2), forecasted income (Table 3) and recommended expenditure 2025-30.

¹⁷ Provided that the terms of any applicable planning obligation/s are adhered to.

2.9 Furthermore, the scheduled five-year strategy review provides an additional opportunity to revisit planning obligations and funding allocations in light of changing circumstances, ensuring that the approach remains robust, balanced, and responsive to future needs.

Neil Harris
Countryside, Environment and Ecology
East Devon District Council

October 2025

Natural England comment:

Natural England have read the draft reports and have no comment to make.



South East Devon Habitat Regulations Executive Committee

2025-26 Annual Business Plan and 5Yr Delivery Plan

*Neil Harris
Countryside, Environment & Ecology
East Devon District Council
October 2025*

Legal comment/advice:

EDDC Legal have read the report and have no comments to make.

DEM.1-0007/October 2025/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. Approves the 2025-26 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. Receives a further report detailing progress with the 2025-26 Annual Business Plan in Oct 2026.

Equalities impact: Low

Risk: High.

If the 2025-26 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 2026. 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 (OWG). These are listed in Appendix A as the 2025-26 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 2026-31, depend on the success of existing projects, such as the Exe Estuary wildlife refuges, and should be viewed as an indicative guide.

1.4 The South East Devon Wildlife – Joint Habitats Mitigation Strategy has been approved by all partner authorities. As such, the measures recommended for delivery in the 2025-26 ABP follow the direction laid out in the updated mitigation strategy and as prioritised by the Habitat Regulations Delivery Manager and OWG.

1.5 Analysis has been undertaken to assess the partnership's financial position, allocate funds in line with the updated strategy, and identify the implications for setting appropriate planning obligations across the region. The findings are reported separately.¹

¹ 2025 Financial report.

1.6 In line with the approved Strategy, this report recommends targeted investment in staffing, vehicles, operational budgets, site-based management measures, and monitoring to strengthen the delivery of mitigation across the region. The proposals build on recent progress by ensuring sufficient staff capacity, supporting operational effectiveness, and enhancing visitor engagement and habitat protection.

1.6 A balance of investment in people, infrastructure, and site-specific interventions will enable the partnership to deliver measurable outcomes and adapt to ongoing pressures.

2. Wildlife Wardens staff resource.

2.1 Wildlife wardens play a vital dual role, combining on-the-ground ranger duties with awareness-raising and community engagement. They patrol in pairs for health and safety, which ensures effective coverage, though this does limit the overall area they can cover at any one time. In recent years there have been lengthy periods of time where only one wildlife warden has been in post and this has required other staff (e.g. delivery manager) to join them on patrols at least 1 day per week, taking time away from other duties.

2.2 The wardens need to cover around 27km of shoreline along the Exe Estuary plus an area of around 1,600ha (the combined area of the East Devon Heaths and Dawlish Warren). There is clear scope to expand the warden team to provide better coverage.

2.3 Historically, warden time has been allocated seasonally, focusing on the Heaths in spring and summer and the Estuary in autumn and winter. While this approach has effectively targeted seasonal priorities, a team of four (2 FTE) is currently stretched due to leave, sickness cover, and the need to balance public-facing activities and administrative duties with on-site work. Travel distances between the sites also present logistical challenges.

2.4 Sustained and enhanced staff capacity is essential to deliver mitigation, enforcement, and community engagement. Wardens are a cornerstone of the mitigation and additional wardens are needed to provide year-round cover and work effectively.

The following new posts are recommended:

2.5 Team Leader – Wildlife Wardens (1 FT, 2-year fixed term) – £49,000

Provides leadership and coordination of the warden team, ensuring consistent delivery across sites, enhanced supervision, and improved public engagement.

2.6 Wildlife Warden (1 FTE, 2-year fixed term) – £45,000

Adds direct capacity on the ground, increasing visibility and enabling proactive site management, education, and monitoring.

**Total proposed spend: Team Leader – Wildlife Wardens and Wildlife Warden
£94,000²**

3.0 Vehicle and operational support.

3.1 With the expansion of the Wildlife Warden service to two teams operating simultaneously, a second vehicle is needed to ensure efficient coverage across multiple sites. Vehicles are essential for maintaining a visible presence, travelling between sites, and transporting equipment and engagement materials.

3.2 The existing electric vehicle will continue in use, while the new vehicle is recommended as a hybrid, such as a Volkswagen Caddy. This provides reliable performance across the operating area, avoids challenges with limited EV charging, and maintains improved environmental performance compared with conventional petrol or diesel vehicles.

3.3 Purchasing the vehicle outright is preferred, as replacing vehicles every 10–15 years offers better long-term value than leasing and allows future resale opportunities.

3.4 An operational budget for both the Wildlife Wardens and the Devon Loves Dogs (DLD) scheme is essential. Funding covers a new gazebo for the DLD team, the production and refresh of literature, signage, seasonal campaigns, and educational materials, which are critical for raising awareness, encouraging responsible behaviour, and maintaining consistent messaging.

3.5 Investment in an additional vehicle and dedicated operational budgets is recommended to ensure the expanded team can operate effectively and continue to maximise their impact.

- Additional warden vehicle (purchase, livery, insurance, fuel) – £26,000
- Devon Loves Dogs operations/development – £7,500
- Wildlife Wardens operations/development – £3,000

**Total proposed spend: New warden vehicle and team operations budget
£36,500**

4. Production of monitoring strategy.

4.1 As the new strategy is implemented, a robust monitoring programme is essential to ensure mitigation measures are targeted effectively and resources are used efficiently. Monitoring will help focus the time of Wildlife Warden teams, patrol boat operations, and other interventions where they are most needed.

4.2 It is proposed to use consultancy support to work with the partnership and stakeholders to design an integrated monitoring programme. This will cover data collection by warden teams, volunteer surveys, reporting protocols, and report production, ensuring that data is both accessible and actionable.

² Includes base salary, NI, superannuation and support costs.

4.3 Embedding efficient monitoring within the mitigation strategy will enable evidence-based decision-making, refine operational priorities, and enhance the overall effectiveness of visitor management and habitat protection measures.

Proposed spend: Production of monitoring strategy £7,000

5. Exe Codes of Conduct

5.1 Originally developed in 2018 by the Exe Estuary Management Partnership (EEMP) on behalf of South East Devon Wildlife (SEDW), there are 7 Codes of Conduct relating to activities on the estuary.

5.2 Codes fulfil an important role in terms of information on how visitors are expected to behave and guidance for visitors. It is essential they are up to date, relevant and fit for purpose. As such, SEDW ran an interactive review of the codes as part of the EEMP's winter forum in September.

5.3 This review resulted in some useful recommended updates, amendments and suggestions for better and more targeted distribution of paper copies.

Proposed spend: £3,000 to cover updates, reprints and distribution.

6. "No BBQs at the Warren" banner redesign and print

6.1 Existing "No BBQ" campaign banners at Dawlish Warren were implemented 3 years ago and have since been exposed to the harsh marine environment and effects of strong sun and wind. They have been situated in areas of high footfall and are working well to convey this key requirement for visitors visiting the Warren.

6.2 Updating the campaign banners to communicate the "No BBQ" message at the Warren is required to maintain clear and consistent messaging for visitors. New designs will incorporate consistent visual features aligned with recent signage updates at the Warren, reinforcing brand recognition and improving the likelihood that key messages are noticed and followed.

6.3 Refreshing the banners ensures they remain visible, legible, and engaging, supporting behaviour change, protecting sensitive habitats, and enhancing the overall effectiveness of the ongoing visitor management strategy.

Proposed spend: Redesign and print of campaign banners £4,000.

7. Schools

7.1 A review of education provision and materials for the Exe Estuary is necessary to ensure resources remain relevant, engaging, and aligned with current conservation priorities. Working with schools and young people is an effective way to reach the wider local community and foster awareness of estuary management and habitat protection.

7.2 While the EEMP and other organisations have previously produced packs and run education programmes—including materials developed prior to Covid, and a range of existing online resources—there is scope for the mitigation partnership to support this work by creating updated materials.

7.3 Allocating a budget for the development of new educational resources will enable the partnership to complement existing provision, enhance learning opportunities, and ensure consistent messaging that supports mitigation objectives across the estuary.

Proposed spend: Review of existing education work and production of new educational materials £5,000.

8. Patrol Boat – Exeter Port Authority (EPA).

8.1 At the July 2025 meeting, the Executive Committee approved expenditure of £7,500 towards a trial scheme regarding shared use of the EPA's RIB for the Wildlife Warden team. This measure will form part of the 2025-26 ABP.

Approved spend: Shared use of the EPA RIB £7,500.

9. Repair/replace/maintenance of Exe Wildlife Refuge buoys.

9.1 Ongoing upkeep and repair of the buoys marking the Exe wildlife refuges is essential to ensure they remain effective in guiding water users and protecting sensitive habitats. Improved interpretation and clearer wording on the buoys will help make their purpose more obvious to those approaching the refuge, including canoeists, paddleboarders, and walkers.

9.2 The existing buoys were installed seven years ago and, despite routine maintenance and servicing, exposure to winter storms and the harsh marine environment has resulted in wear, damage, and misalignment. Investment is now required in repairs, realignment, and replacement of buoys to maintain their effectiveness as a clear, visible, and trusted means of communicating the refuge boundaries and safeguarding wildlife.

Proposed spend: Repair, realignment and replacement of refuge buoys £10,000.

10. New/improved signage/banners for the Exe Estuary.

10.1 Signage needs to evolve and change over time. Signs help with wayfinding and inform behaviour (e.g. dogs on leads, launching points, shoreline access etc) and to direct people.

10.2 Banners have been utilised to good effect in the past few years and are most effective when used as part of time-limited campaigns such as the Exmouth wildlife refuge Sept-Dec. These campaigns consist of a range of approaches including an increased onsite presence, targeted media interviews (radio and television), social media and signage.

Proposed spend: New/redesigned banners for campaigns on the Exe Estuary £5,000

11. Exe monitoring - vantage point counts.

11.1 Originally part of the 3-year Exe Estuary Wildlife Refuge Monitoring Programme (2021) survey effort, vantage point counts (VPC) consist of 'snapshot' monitoring counts, whereby a wide expanse of the estuary is scanned with binoculars from pre-selected vantage points. The VCP data provides information on:

- Which activities take place within the refuges;
- How frequently they occur; and,
- How the numbers of birds in the refuges vary (e.g. when the estuary was busy, when there were events within the refuges, etc.).

11.2 The aim of these counts, (continued by the Wildlife Wardens ever since the consultant survey finished) is to provide a suitable long-term monitoring approach that can be done quickly and the data used to show patterns over multiple tide states, times of day, seasons and weather conditions.

11.3 This monitoring is easily undertaken by the ranger team as part of their work on site, as the method is both fast and effective. A review of vantage point counts as part of the proposed monitoring strategy (section 4, above) is timely, and a small budget is required to ensure printed forms and/or software availability on tablets in future.

Proposed spend: Vantage point count resources £250

12. Dawlish Warren visitor centre and gateway interpretation.

12.1 Whilst the interpretation inside the visitor centre at Dawlish Warren remains engaging, it has been some time since investment was made and the displays are now in need of updating. The current interpretation is dated, and access is limited as the centre can only be open when staff are present.

12.2 This proposal seeks approval for expenditure to redesign the interior interpretation, create new external interpretation, and provide clear “gateway” interpretation at main access points to the reserve. Collectively, this will increase the proportion of visitors who use the visitor centre and who gain a better understanding of the site’s wildlife interest, potential conflicts, boundaries, byelaws and codes of conduct.

12.3 The project will help change perceptions of the site so that the area the reserve covers is recognised as a nature reserve, rather than simply a place for recreation or dog walking. It will also increase the number of visitors exposed to appropriate information about the Special Area of Conservation, its vulnerabilities and the behaviours needed to protect it.

12.4 A redesigned visitor centre, with information available to the public without always requiring staff, alongside robust external interpretation and clear gateway signage, will provide significant benefits. These include better visitor experiences, reduced disturbance to sensitive wildlife, and a reliable focal point for both informal and formal environmental education.

12.5 Investment in interpretation has the potential to improve the visitor offer dramatically while ensuring stronger protection for the reserve’s conservation interests. It will also support the District Council’s wider role in promoting environmental awareness and managing visitor impacts.

Proposed spend: Visitor centre and gateway interpretation at Dawlish Warren £100,000.

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

10.1 Rangers continue to 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 the harsh marine environment quickly weathers materials and 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.

Proposed spend: Fencing : £3,500

14.0 More dog bins on the Pebblebed Heaths.

14.1 Dog bins are an important form of mitigation in relation to impacts from dog fouling, which is particularly relevant to the conservation interest of the SAC. The presence of bins provides a clear indication that dog owners are expected to pick up after their pets and helps to create a sense that the site is actively managed and cared for, provided the bins are emptied regularly.

14.2 It is important that any new bins are well maintained and carefully sited, ideally at locations where they are most likely to be passed by dog walkers. At present, seven bins are located across the main car park areas on the heaths and are funded through the partnership.

14.3 The provision of additional bins at carefully considered sites, likely including RSPB and DWT land, would reinforce the message that dog fouling is unacceptable and ensure that visitors have no excuse not to dispose of waste responsibly. This measure would reduce impacts on sensitive habitats and species and contribute to improved visitor management across the SAC.

Proposed spend: additional dog bins on the Pebblebed Heaths £4,000.

15. Review of dog walking management on the Pebblebed Heaths.

15.1 With the mitigation team and Devon Loves Dogs set to grow to meet the challenges of the new strategy, it is timely to take an objective review to ensure that the existing approach to managing dog walking is maximising its impact. While this work is valued by all partners, there is some nervousness that due to recent increased growth in use post covid, that rates of dog fouling, wildlife disturbance, and antisocial dog incidents are increasing.

15.2 With the projected increase in recreational use to come with the implementation of new local plans, partners need confidence that the correct approach and sufficient resources are in place to adequately manage dog walking pressure across the heaths.

15.3 A comprehensive, evidence-based review of current dog management strategies is required to inform future decisions, support conservation goals, and maintain positive public relationships.

15.4 The appointed consultant will:

- Review the current approach to dog management on the Pebblebed Heaths.
- Evaluate evidence of impacts, both ecological and social.
- Consider stakeholder views, historical context, and available data, particularly in respect of wider influences from SANG provision to beach bans.

- Identify best practice approaches nationally and internationally.
- Recommend feasible, evidence-based changes to policy, engagement and enforcement.
- Highlight strengths and limitations of the current approach, including reputational risks.
- Provide clear options for future management and long-term monitoring, supported by rationale

Proposed spend: Review of dog walking management on the Pebblebed Heaths £15,000.

16. Fire strategy work and review

16.1 The summer of 2025 is the warmest summer on record for the UK and the impacts of prolonged dry conditions have led to drought in many areas. Fire is an increasing threat to the Pebblebed Heaths, particularly in the context of climate change.

16.2 Approval is sought to commission specialist consultancy support to review current management and procedures. The work would assess fire risks, emerging issues, and provide recommendations for mitigation measures, including reducing fuel load, improving fire access, and enhancing education and awareness for visitors.

16.3 This consultancy would also support and complement work already undertaken by the Pebblebed Heaths Conservation Trust, ensuring that fire management remains effective and up to date.

Proposed spend: Fire Strategy work for the Pebblebed Heaths £15,000

17. Monitoring of habitats and species on the Pebblebed Heaths.

17.1 The managing partners across the Pebblebed Heaths National Nature Reserve already undertake habitat and species monitoring as part of their core management duties.

17.2 Recognising the importance of ensuring good coverage across the sites and encouraging/supporting volunteers in their efforts, budget to simply help supplement existing work is recommended - e.g. mileage for volunteers.

Proposed spend: Monitoring support £250

18. This paper seeks approval for the 2025/26 Annual Business Plan in the context of an updated 5 year Delivery Plan.

Neil Harris
Countryside, Environment & Ecology
East Devon District Council,
October 2025

Natural England comment:

Natural England have read the report and have no comment to make.

Habitat Regulations Executive Committee

2025-26 Annual Business Plan & 5Yr Delivery Plan: Appendix A

OCT 2025 - SEP 2026		
Mitigation Measure	Total (revenue)	Capital / one-off Costs
ALL SITES		
Staff	£384,690	
Vehicles for ranger team	£3,900	£26,000
Resources for Devon Loves Dogs	£7,500	
DLD Website	£1,000	
South East Devon Wildlife (SEDW) Website	£1,000	
Wardens projects	£3,000	
Production of monitoring strategy & monitoring support	£0	£7,000
Admin and accountancy support	£3,600	
EXE ESTUARY SPECIFIC		
Codes of Conduct	£1,000	£2,000
Exe Leaflets	£0	£1,500
Schools		£5,000
Managing access at sensitive locations	£14,000	
Patrol boat	£7,500	
Ongoing repair/maintenance of buoys at refuge		£10,000
Review of signage and new/improved signage	£5,000	
New interpretation	£2,000	
Vantage point counts	£250	
PEBBLEBED HEATHS SPECIFIC		
Additional dog bins	£4,000	
Special projects pot	£15,000	
Signage	£2,000	
Interpretation		£5,000
Fire strategy work and review		£15,000
Advice/specialist input re management interventions around dog walking	£10,000	
Monitoring: ecology (birds, Southern Damselfly)	£200	
DAWLISH WARREN SPECIFIC		
Visitor facility at Dawlish Warren		£100,000
Flexible projects pot	£3,500	
Petalwort monitoring and survey	£3,000	
Subtotal	£472,140	£171,500
Total		£643,640

OCT 2026 - SEP 27		
Mitigation Measure	Total (revenue)	Capital / One off Cost
ALL SITES		
Staff	£530,981	
Vehicles for ranger team	£5,304	
Resources for Devon Loves Dogs	£4,080	
DLD Website	£1,020	
South East Devon Wildlife (SEDW) Website	£1,020	
Wardens projects	£3,060	
Production of monitoring strategy & monitoring support	£2,040	
Admin and accountancy support	£3,672	
EXE ESTUARY SPECIFIC		
Codes of Conduct	£1,020	
Schools	£2,040	
Managing access at sensitive locations	£10,200	
Patrol boat	£7,650	
Ongoing repair/maintenance of buoys at refuge	£2,040	
Stakeholder engagement	£2,040	
Review of signage and new/improved signage	£10,200	
New interpretation	£2,040	
Refuge monitoring	£0	£20,400
Vantage point counts	£255	
Web Camera	£0	£12,240
PEBBLEBED HEATHS SPECIFIC		
Additional dog bins	£2,040	
Review of parking charging	£0	£15,300
Special projects pot	£10,200	
Signage	£2,040	
Interpretation	£4,080	
Education work around fire	£0	£10,200
Resources for work with commercial dog walkers	£0	£10,200
Monitoring: ecology (birds, Southern Damselfly)	£204	
DAWLISH WARREN SPECIFIC		
Flexible projects pot	£10,200	
Maintenance of high tide roost at Dawlish Warren	£0	£20,400
Subtotal	£617,426	£88,740
Total		£706,166

OCT 2027 - SEP 28		
Mitigation Measure	Total (revenue)	Capital / One off Cost
ALL SITES	ALL SITES	ALL SITES
Staff	£541,601	
Vehicles for ranger team	£5,410	
Resources for Devon Loves Dogs	£4,162	
DLD Website	£1,040	
South East Devon Wildlife (SEDW) Website	£1,040	
DLD Brand refresh	£0	£7,803
SEDW Brand refresh	£0	£7,803
Wardens projects	£3,121	
Production of monitoring strategy & monitoring support	£2,081	
Admin and accountancy support	£3,745	
EXE ESTUARY SPECIFIC		
Codes of Conduct	£1,040	
Exe Leaflets	£0	£1,665
Schools	£2,081	
Managing access at sensitive locations	£10,404	
Patrol boat	£7,803	
Ongoing repair/maintenance of buoys at refuge	£2,081	
Stakeholder engagement	£2,081	
New interpretation	£2,081	£15,918
Vantage point counts	£260	
Web Camera	£3,121	
PEBBLEBED HEATHS SPECIFIC		
Additional dog bins	£2,081	
Special projects pot	£10,404	
Signage	£2,081	
Interpretation	£4,162	
Education work around fire	£5,202	
Monitoring: ecology (birds, Southern Damselfly)	£208	
Monitoring: vehicle counter data collection	£0	£5,202
DAWLISH WARREN SPECIFIC		
Flexible projects pot	£5,202	
Subtotal	£622,492	£38,391
Total		£660,883

OCT 2028 – SEP 29		
Mitigation Measure	Total (revenue)	Capital / One off Cost
ALL SITES		
Staff	£552,433	
Vehicles for ranger team	£5,518	
Resources for Devon Loves Dogs	£4,245	
DLD Website	£1,061	
South East Devon Wildlife (SEDW) Website	£1,061	
Wardens projects	£3,184	
Production of monitoring strategy & monitoring support	£2,122	
Admin and accountancy support	£3,820	
EXE ESTUARY SPECIFIC		
Codes of Conduct	£1,061	
Schools	£2,122	
Managing access at sensitive locations	£10,612	
Patrol boat	£7,959	
Ongoing repair/maintenance of buoys at refuge	£2,122	
Stakeholder engagement	£2,122	
New interpretation	£2,122	
Vantage point counts	£265	
Web Camera	£3,184	
PEBBLEBED HEATHS SPECIFIC		
Additional dog bins	£2,122	
Special projects pot	£10,612	
Signage	£2,122	
Interpretation	£4,245	
Education work around fire	£5,306	
Monitoring: ecology (birds, Southern Damselfly)	£212	
Monitoring: people behaviour	£0	£10,200
DAWLISH WARREN SPECIFIC		
Flexible projects pot	£5,306	
Petalwort monitoring and survey	£3,184	
Subtotal	£638,122	£10,200
Total		£648,322

OCT 2029 – SEP 30		
Mitigation Measure	Total (revenue)	Capital / One off Cost
ALL SITES		
Staff	£563,482	
Vehicles for ranger team	£5,629	
Resources for Devon Loves Dogs	£4,330	
DLD Website	£1,082	
South East Devon Wildlife (SEDW) Website	£1,082	
Wardens projects	£3,247	
Production of monitoring strategy & monitoring support	£2,165	
Visitor survey	£32,473	
Admin and accountancy support	£3,897	
Codes of Conduct	£1,082	
Schools	£2,165	
EXE ESTUARY SPECIFIC		
Managing access at sensitive locations	£10,824	
Patrol boat	£8,118	
Ongoing repair/maintenance of buoys at refuge	£2,165	
Stakeholder engagement	£2,165	
New interpretation	£2,165	
Vantage point counts	£271	
Web Camera	£3,247	
PEBBLEBED HEATHS SPECIFIC		
Additional dog bins	£2,165	
Special projects pot	£10,824	
Signage	£2,165	
Interpretation	£4,330	
Education work around fire	£5,412	
Monitoring: ecology (birds, Southern Damselfly)	£216	
DAWLISH WARREN SPECIFIC		
Flexible projects pot	£5,412	
Total	£680,113	£0



South East Devon Habitat Regulations Executive Committee

Risk Register Report

*Neil Harris
Countryside, Environment and Ecology
East Devon District Council
October 2025*

Legal comment/advice:

EDDC Legal have read the report and have no comments to make.

DEM.1-0007/October 2025/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 identification, categorisation and prioritisation of risks as recorded in the accompanying Risk Register, associated with delivery of the South East Devon Wildlife – Joint Habitats Sites 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 Wildlife – Joint Habitats 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;
- Environmental
- 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 Environmental – potential for adverse effects on internationally or nationally designated sites, biodiversity loss, or non-achievement of environmental outcomes required under the Habitats Regulations and related legislation.

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

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

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

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

2.8 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 – 2.8, 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 3 assessed risks classified as Major for their potential impact and probability of occurring. They are:

- Changes to the Habitat Regulations as identified in the Planning and Infrastructure Bill. The Bill is at Report stage in the House of Lords.
- Local Government Reorganisation.
- Delays to mitigation measures identified in annual business plans.

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 October 2024 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 the Executive Committee as and when necessary.

Neil Harris
Countryside, Environment and Ecology
East Devon District Council,
October 2025

Natural England comment:

Natural England have read the report and have no comment to make.

Habitat Regulations Executive Committee

Risk Register 2025: Appendix A

ID	Description	Category	Probability	Impact	Proximity	Response Category	Response	Risk Status	Risk Owner	Risk Actionee
1	Indications are that the Habitat Regulations are to be amended as part of Planning and Infrastructure Bill. Potential changes to how local mitigation (SANG and SAMM) are financed (see Environmental Delivery Plan (EDP) and Nature Restoration Fund (NRF), timing of mitigation requirements, loss of local control, de-prioritisation / redirection of funding. Potential for National Delivery Body (Natural England) to be tasked with delivery, in place of Local Authorities.	Regulatory Governance Environmental Operational Strategic Financial People	High	High	Imminent	Accept Reduce Transfer Fallback	Keep up to date with changes to legislation. Outcome of Planning and Infrastructure Bill yet to be decided. Potential for Habitat Regulations assessment, mitigation and funding changes. At House of Lords at time of writing. Ongoing engagement with Natural England. Seek ring-fenced local delivery status for funding.	Active	UK Govt, Natural England (NE), South East Devon Habitat Regulations Partnership (SEDHRP)	Partner LPAs / SEDHRP
2	Local Government Reorganisation. Risks relate to certainty of decision-making structures, transferral/diversion of CIL/S106 funding, delay to SANG delivery, loss of key staff/expertise, potential for increased risk of judicial review, loss of local control.	Regulatory Governance Environmental Operational Strategic Financial People	High	High	Imminent	Accept Reduce Transfer Fallback	Forward planning regarding mitigation assets, receipts and obligations. Establish arrangements for interim decision-making powers. Ring-fence appropriate funds.	Active	Partner LPA / Shadow Authority	Partner LPA / Shadow Authority

ID	Description	Category	Probability	Impact	Proximity	Response Category	Response	Risk Status	Risk Owner	Risk Actionee
3	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 Habitat Regulations Executive Committee (HREC) via progress reports.	Active	Habitat Regulations Delivery Manager (HRDM)	HRDM Stakeholders
4	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.	Active	HRDM	Group
5	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. Planning permission cannot be given until this key requirement is met.	Active	Partner LPA / Developer	Partner LPA / Developer

ID	Description	Category	Probability	Impact	Proximity	Response Category	Response	Risk Status	Risk Owner	Risk Actionee
6	Quantum of SANGS required increases significantly	Strategic	Medium	High	Within project	Avoid	We are developing a new Partnership SANGS Strategy. Continue work on delivery of identified and prioritised sites. Monitor effectiveness of delivered sites. Staff resource to identify and progress delivery of LPA SANGs.	Active	HRDM	HRDM / Green Infrastructure Manager
7	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 transferred finance support back to EDDC and provided handover. Ongoing review of financial monitoring data from LPAs by accountants and HRDM.	Active	Partner LPA / HRDM	Partner LPA / HRDM
8	HREC decisions not implemented at local level.	Strategic	Medium	High	Within stage	Reduce	Close liaison with LPA Delivery Officers to ensure good working relationship / understanding. Presentations to emphasise importance of implementing Strategy to whole Council. Regular briefings to Members and leadership.	Active	Partner LPA / HRDM	Partner LPA / HRDM

ID	Description	Category	Probability	Impact	Proximity	Response Category	Response	Risk Status	Risk Owner	Risk Actionee
9	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
10	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. New Strategy funding proposals recommended, including long term delivery. SANG Delivery Plan in development, to include in perpetuity considerations.	Active	Partner LPA / HRDM	TDC/ECC/EDDC
11	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

ID	Description	Category	Probability	Impact	Proximity	Response Category	Response	Risk Status	Risk Owner	Risk Actionee
12	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
13	Expiration of planning obligations/repayment of contribution to developers	Financial	Medium	Medium	Within stage	Reduce	LPA planning departments responsible for monitoring status of planning obligation compliance & expiration. Ongoing review of financial monitoring data from LPAs by accountants and HRDM. Expirations identified in advance and prioritised for payment.	Active	Partner LPA / HRDM	Partner LPA / HRDM
14	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

ID	Description	Category	Probability	Impact	Proximity	Response Category	Response	Risk Status	Risk Owner	Risk Actionee
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
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	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

ID	Description	Category	Probability	Impact	Proximity	Response Category	Response	Risk Status	Risk Owner	Risk Actionee
17	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	Active	Partner LPA / HRDM	Partner LPA / HRDM
18	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

ID	Description	Category	Probability	Impact	Proximity	Response Category	Response	Risk Status	Risk Owner	Risk Actionee
19	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 agreed. Body Worn Camera policy and procedures to be followed as instructed.	Active	HRDM	HRDM
20	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
21	Dog bins vandalised on PBH	Operational	Low	Low	Within project	Fallback	Identify/allow for replacement as per PBH VMP.	Active	HRDM	Stakeholders / HRDM

ID	Description	Category	Probability	Impact	Proximity	Response Category	Response	Risk Status	Risk Owner	Risk Actionee
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. Maintain awareness of impact of virus, emerging risks and work with colleagues to implement corporate procedures. Maintain review of procedures, amend as necessary.	Active	Partner LPA / Staff	Partner LPA / Staff

26	Inappropriate behaviour at work (Wildlife Wardens & Project Officers (Dogs))				People	Low	Medium	Within project	Avoid	Clear direction on desired approach Regular 1:2:1 meetings with line managers read, understand and abide by EDU policy requirements		
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 / S
14	Users refuse to respect Wildlife Refuges	Operational	Low	Medium	Within project	Reduce	Wildlife Warden 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
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. Maintain review of procedures, amend as necessary.			Active	Partner LPA / Staff	Partner LP Staff
	Risks - Inactive status											

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	Make use of experienced staff to source Pboat of sufficient quality/attributes. Delay purchase until after peak season. Test boat before purchase. Explore part funding opportunities.	Inactive	HRDM	HRDM
4	Change in line management for Wildlife Wardens & Project Officers (Dogs)	Operational	Low	Low	Within project	Fallback	Handover meeting with EDDC Countryside & HRDM. Monthly one to one meetings with Wildlife Wardens & PO(D) 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. Costs understood and partnership work with Land Trust enables in-perpetuity management. Change of approach to developer provided SANGS as a pre-requisite for larger developments. This is potentially of more concern for GESP.	Inactive	HRDM	TDC/ECC/ED
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 accordingly.	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.	Inactive	TDC	TDC
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.	Inactive	HRDM	HRDM

Habitat Regulations Executive Committee

2025 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	Planning and Infrastructure Bill 11 MAJOR
		Proposed SANGS do not meet essential criteria. 7 MODERATE	Local Government Reorganisation 11 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	
		Inability to recruit staff of sufficient experience/skillset. 5 MODERATE	Failure to reach agreement on funding SANGS 8 MODERATE
		Developer contributions not paid 5 MODERATE	Proposed SANGS do not meet essential criteria. 8 MODERATE
Rare			

		Housing market crash 5 MODERATE	Quantum of SANGS required increases significantly 8 MODERATE	
		Expiration of planning obligations / repayment of contribution to developers 5 MODERATE		
		Wildfire 5 MODERATE		
	Covid-19 4 MINOR			
		Users refuse to respect Wildlife Refuges 4 MINOR	HREC decisions not implemented at local level. 7 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	Quantum of SANGS required increases significantly 7 MODERATE	

			Inappropriate staff behaviour at work 2 MINOR	Loss of experienced staff – Delivery Manager / Wildlife Wardens / DLD 7 MODERATE	
		Low	Medium	High	Very High
	IMPACT >				