

# Exe Estuary Management Partnership Project Proposal: Code of Conduct for Personal Aircraft

## Introduction

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The Exe Estuary Management Partnership (EEMP) takes an impartial approach, to help ensure that there is a balance between human use and the protected nature of the Exe. The role of the Partnership is to coordinate the management of the estuary, on behalf of local authorities, government agencies and conservation, commercial and recreational interest groups balancing competing demands and addressing any conflicts as they arise. The EEMP produces and coordinates the delivery of the [Exe Estuary Management Plan](#) which details management measures to guide key and statutory organisations in delivering their statutory duties in a co-ordinated manner, including the SPA management scheme. The EEMP also acts as a contact point for local communities of the estuary and promotes and leads on consultations where relevant.

The EEMP has a history of working closely with the Habitat Regulations Executive Committee to jointly mitigate for the potential impacts of new housing development on the Exe Estuary and Dawlish Warren and has carried out several pieces of work on behalf of the HREC. The EEMP is able to offer cost effective approaches to management on the estuary with established routes of public engagement.

## Code of Conduct for Personal Aircraft

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Codes of conduct set out clearly how users undertaking a particular activity should behave and are most relevant to sporting activities. Developing good, clear codes with user groups ensures that safety issues, insurance, consideration of other users and nature conservation issues can be accommodated, ensuring users can enjoy their chosen activities while minimising any impacts.

There have been ongoing reports of aerial disturbance to migratory birds on the Exe Estuary over the last few years. The creation of a code of conduct can provide guidance on how to behave to minimise these impacts and can be created as part of the existing suite of codes of conduct identified in the Mitigation Strategy. The EEMP, working alongside the HREC, would work with Natural England and our other partners in a coordinated manner, engaging with local clubs and organisations to ensure their input into the project to align with existing best practice. The EEMP has already established contact with an individual who was involved with recent disturbance incidents, who is keen to work with us in addressing this issue through a code of conduct and promotion via local clubs.

Since the EEMP were commissioned by the HREC to create the existing suite of codes, we are well placed to create the Code of Conduct for Personal Aircraft (including drones) in a cost and time effective manner, whilst ensuring consistency in their design and content with other codes. The new code will be written in a friendly style, whilst promoting integral HREC messages in a manner compatible with the overall objectives of both the Mitigation Strategy and the Exe Estuary Management Plan. The Exe Estuary Officer will ensure that the code of conduct receives approval from both the HREC and the EEMP.

Two options are offered for the undertaking of this work, either a focussed consultation with the stakeholders involved with this specialist activity, or a wider public consultation. Details and quotes for the two options are below for consideration of the HREC.

## Quote for Delivery

Quote based on previous 2018 costs of creating codes of conduct.

There are two options available for the HREC to consider:

**Quote 1:** Based upon focussed consultation with all relevant bodies, clubs and only stakeholders who are involved with this activity, seeing as this is a specialist activity. This code of conduct will promote existing guidance with no new restrictions, so wider public consultation may not be required.

Format	Time committed by Officer *	Additional costs	Estimated Cost
Consultation meetings – likely to be 3 virtual meetings (consultation organisation, drafting and administration)	15 hours	Potential costs for printed material covered by Devon County Council  Additional venue / refreshments / travel costs if meetings take place in person	EEO = £615
Creation of Code of Conduct	6 hours	Design = £200 (A3 leaflet, amendments, A4 electronic version)  Print = £60 (for 200 copies) – increased costs if HREC require more copies	EEO = £246  Design & print = £260 (dependant on more accurate quotes)
Email bulletins / correspondence	Estimated at 3 hours	N/A	EEO = £123
Website <a href="http://www.exe-estuary.org">www.exe-estuary.org</a>  Social Media @Exeestuary	4 hours to promote project, any consultation and final code, converting to web friendly and accessible version	Possible web support costs absorbed by Devon County Council as host body	EEO = £164
Newsletter	2 hours to draft articles for relevant editions	Design costs £300 / edition  Printing costs £412 / edition  Design & print cost per page = £44.50	EEO = £82  Design & print (1 page) = £44.50
Exe Estuary Forum Events	Promotion at Summer Stakeholder Forum (September 2021): no cost unless consultation required  Promotion at EEMP attended events: no cost	Venue = 0  Catering for Winter Forum covered by EEMP	0
		Mileage & subsistence	0
		<b>Total</b>	<b>£1534.50</b>

**Quote 2:** Based upon consultation with all relevant bodies, clubs and stakeholders, including a wider public consultation with an online six-week feedback opportunity through the EEMP website. Should this option be requested by the HREC at a later date, the additional costs would need to be covered.

Format	Time committed by Officer *	Additional costs	Estimated Cost
Consultation meetings – likely to be 5 virtual meetings (consultation organisation, drafting and administration)	25 hours	Potential costs for printed material covered by Devon County Council  Additional venue / refreshments / travel costs if meetings take place in person	EEO = £1,025
Creation of Code of Conduct	6 hours	Design = £200 (A3 leaflet, amendments, A4 electronic version)  Print = £60 (for 200 copies) - increased costs if HREC require more copies	EEO = £246  Design & print = £260 (dependant on more accurate quotes)
Email bulletins / correspondence	Estimated at 10 hours	N/A	EEO = £410
Website <a href="http://www.exe-estuary.org">www.exe-estuary.org</a>  Social Media @Exeestuary	10 hours to promote project, any consultation and final code, converting to web friendly and accessible version	Possible web support costs absorbed by Devon County Council as host body	EEO = £410
Newsletter	4 hours to draft articles for relevant editions	Design costs £300 / edition  Printing costs £412 / edition  Design & print cost per page = £44.50	EEO = £164  Design & print (2 pages) = £89
Exe Estuary Forum Events	Consultation at Summer Stakeholder Forum (September 2021): 6 hours  Promotion at Exe Winter Forum (February 2022): no cost  Promotion at EEMP attended events: no cost	Venue = 0  Catering for Winter Forum covered by EEMP	EEO = £246
		Mileage & subsistence	0
		<b>Total</b>	<b>£2850.00</b>

EEO = Exe Estuary Officer

\* Hourly rate & overheads = £41.00

(Additional annual pay rises and inflation may be applied for subsequent financial years)