

South West Museum Development Programme

East Devon Arts & Culture Forum
8 November 2023

Vic Harding, Programme Manager,
SW Museum Development



Context: Key regional museum statistics 2022/23

The South West has the highest proportion of independent museums at 67% of museums in the region



67% are **Independent Charities**
(58% nationally)

57% are **'micro'** fewer than 10K visitors annually
(46% nationally)

Visit numbers **still down 8%** in the SW on 2019/20 (18% nationally)

42% are wholly **volunteer run**
(31% nationally)

37% reported an **annual turnover** of less than 25k in 2022/23
(29% nationally)

Data Source: [Annual Museum Survey 2023](#)



What is Museum Development?

South West Museum Development

We are a team of museum and heritage development specialists working with the museum and heritage sector in the South West to effect positive, lasting change and deliver public value.

- Is an Arts Council England funded Sector Support Organisation
- An Arts Council's National Portfolio Organisation since 2018
- 1 of 9 Museum Development (ONS) providers across England

Key Services

- Specialist Officers – Collections, Volunteering, Audiences
- Local, place-based Museum Development Officers across the region
- Primary Training Provider for the sector in the region
- Distribute a small grant programme
- Provide Technical Accreditation Service
- Develop and deliver projects with cohorts of museums



Delivering trusted, local and relevant development support services for museums across 2022/23



201 museums have benefitted from our support during 2022/23



Provided targeted grant application support



In person training and online workshops with specialist officers reaching **529** delegates in 2022/23



We have generated a 40% increase in investment from our Arts Council grant increasing value for the sector to **£820,800** in 2022/23 (up from £758K)

Additional funding and investment in year of over £150,000 from partners:

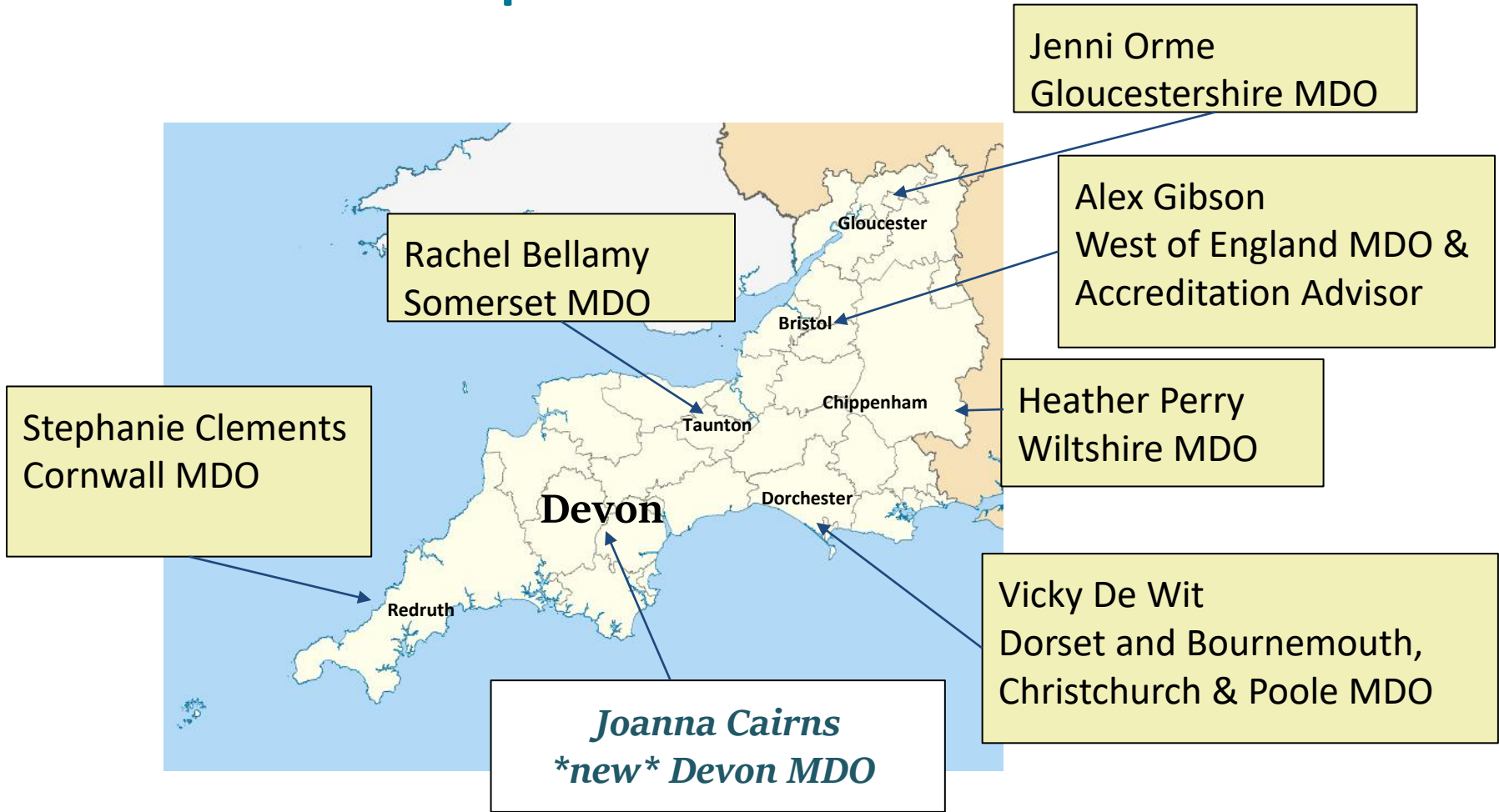


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south west
museum
development
programme

Museum Development Officers



Museum Development activity in East Devon

March 23 – Oct 23 to date...

General support and advice offered to all museums with regular updates on SW Museum Development programmes and activities



Organisation of **East Devon Museums Group Meetings** in March 2023 at Allhallows, Honiton and October 2023 at Axminster Heritage Centre

Museum Accreditation support given to Ottery St Mary, Exmouth Museum and Whimble Heritage Centre on eligibility process.



Successful submission of Accreditation Return for Sidmouth Museum achieved in October 2023

Support and advice with **grant applications** provided to Fairlynch Museum, Exmouth Museum, Allhallows Museum and Whimble Heritage Centre

Arts & Culture East Devon (ACED) Museum and Heritage Champion



The Wild Escape - exciting new project success!

Bringing museums, schools and families together to engage young people with the UK's natural environment, drawing inspiration from the art and objects in museums and the creative and learning opportunities they can offer.

Delighted to have awarded Thelma Hulbert Gallery and Honiton Museum, only one of two consortia across England, £6000

£373,000 funding for small grants across England

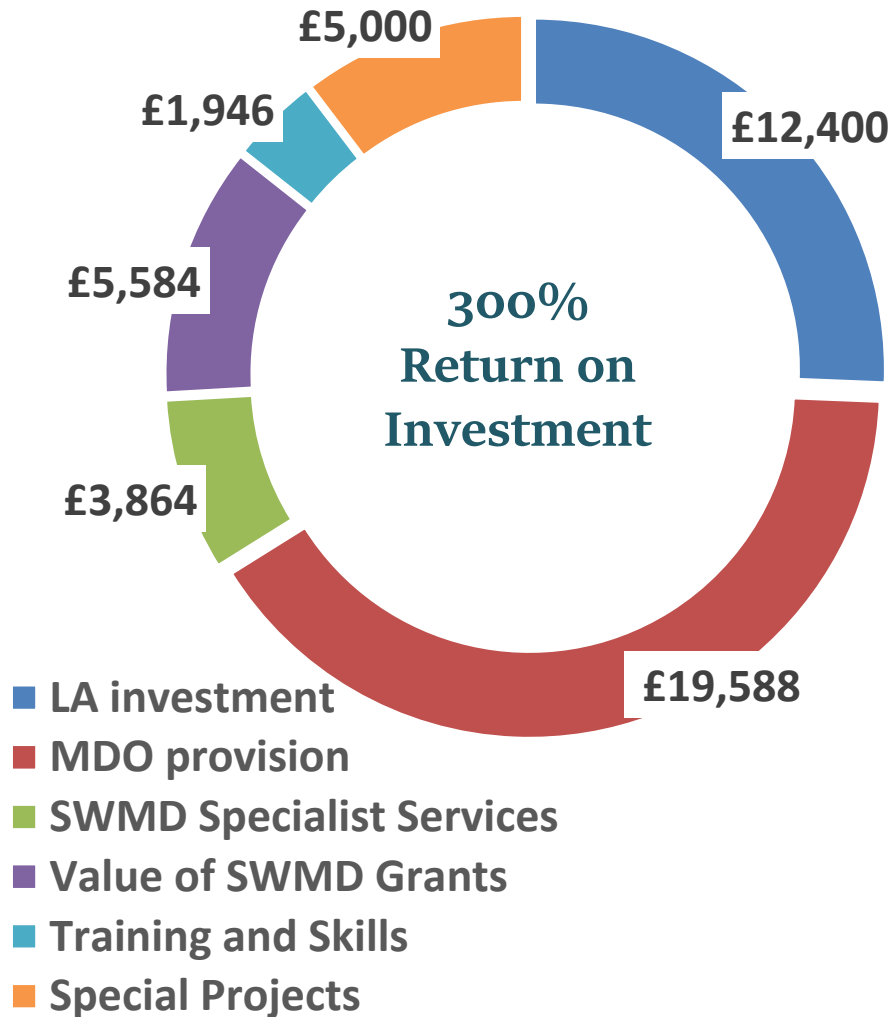
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Investment in East Devon's Museums

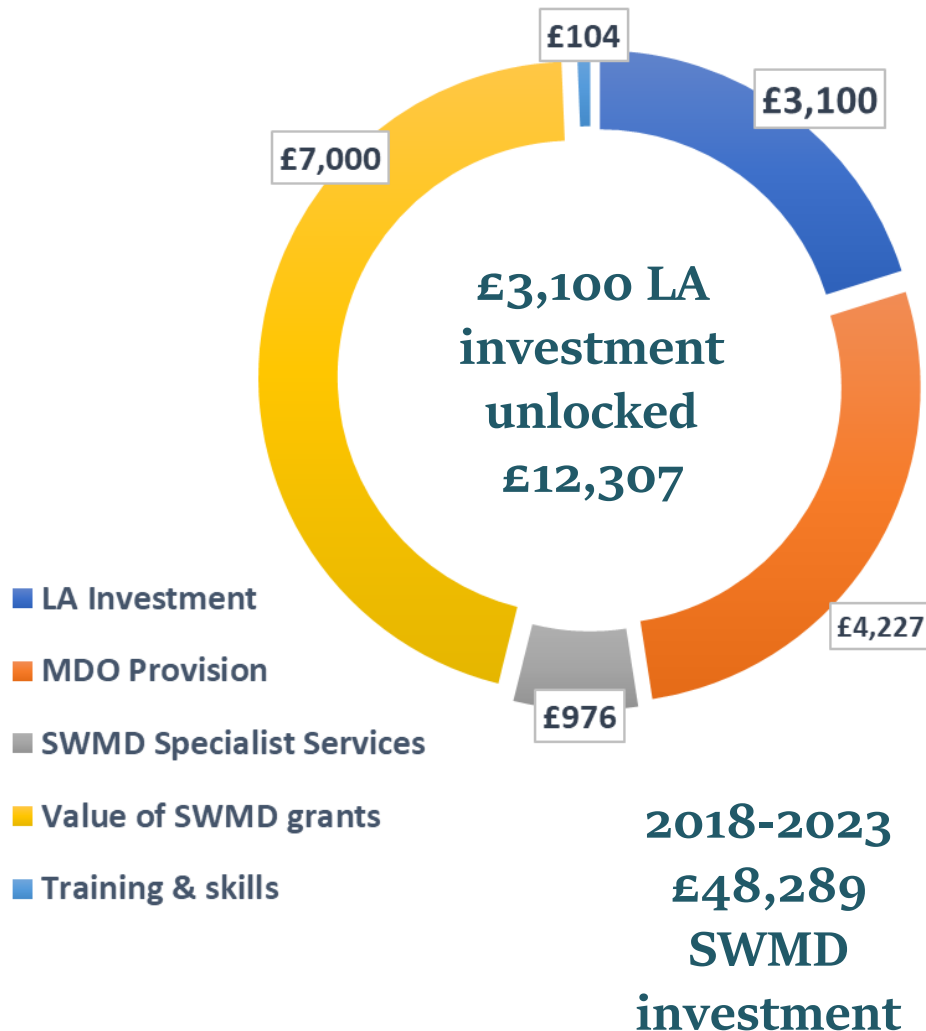


2018/19 – 2021/22 – four years
East Devon District Council £1,500
Sidmouth Town Council £800
Budleigh Salterton Council £800

Local Authorities investing
£12,400 over the four years since
2018/19, SWMD delivering
£36,000 of bespoke support and
grants

The five museums receiving over
£48,400 of development services
delivered to:
Whimble Heritage Centre
Sidmouth Museum
Fairlynch Museum & Arts Centre
Allhallows Museum
Axminster Heritage Centre

Investment in East Devon's Museums –2022/2023



2022/2023 LA investment:

East Devon District Council £1,500

Sidmouth Town Council £800

Budleigh Salterton Council £800

Local Authorities investing £3,100 over the past year since, SWMD delivering £12,307 of bespoke support and grants

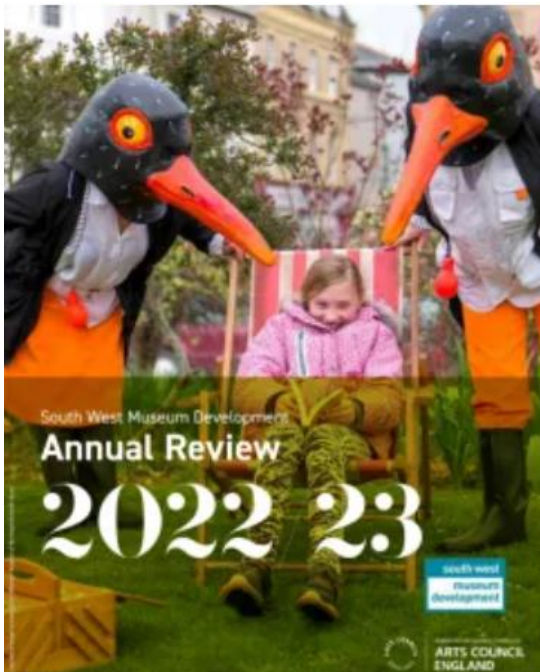
The five museums accessing development services, alongside Thelma Hulbert Gallery includes:

- Whimble Heritage Centre
- Sidmouth Museum
- Fairlynch Museum & Arts Centre
- Allhallows Museum
- Axminster Heritage Centre

Finally,

We've successfully secured Arts Council England funding for the following two years 2024-2026! More updates to come soon....

Any questions?



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Devon Museum Development Officer

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[@swmuseums](https://twitter.com/swmuseums)

[Our Annual Review - South West Museum Development \(southwestmuseums.org.uk\)](http://www.southwestmuseums.org.uk)

