

Issue 57 Winter

Exe Press

2020

EXE



ESTUARY
MANAGEMENT
PARTNERSHIP

Newsletter of the Exe Estuary Partnership

In this issue

In Memory of Ian Stuart

Exe Estuary Arrivals and Departures

A Walk Through Time: East Devon and
Dorset's Jurassic Coast

Plastic Pollution on the Estuary

CoastSnap

 follow us on @Exeestuary

FOR THE LATEST ESTUARY-WIDE INFORMATION,
NEWS AND EVENTS PLEASE VISIT WWW.EXE-ESTUARY.ORG

CONTENTS

2. Exe Estuary Management Partnership Update
3. EEMP Virtual Forum 2020
4. In Memory of Ian Stuart
6. New Exe Estuary Signage
7. Exe Estuary Arrivals and Departures
8. An Update from the Harbour Master
10. IFCA - Stock Summary of Cockle and Mussel Beds
11. Record Year for Exmouth National Coast Watch
12. A Walk Through Time: East Devon and Dorset's Jurassic Coast
13. Devon Climate Emergency
14. Plastic Pollution On The Estuary
15. Community Scientists Help Track Coastal Erosion Using CoastSnap
16. CoastSnap Instructions

EXE ESTUARY MANAGEMENT PARTNERSHIP UPDATE

I'd like to take this opportunity to welcome our new Vice Chair, Cllr Charles Nuttall, who joins the Partnership from Teignbridge District Council. Charles will work alongside our Chair, Cllr Jeff Trail BEM, and has been involved with the Partnership for a number of years, bringing a wealth of knowledge from the West side of the estuary.

2020 has been a rollercoaster of a year, not just for the Partnership, but for us all. COVID-19 somewhat put life on hold, which in many cases allowed nature to thrive. Yet, it also bestowed new and unfamiliar challenges, not only for nature, but for the society and economy of the estuary.

Despite facing many challenges this year, we continued to operate throughout the pandemic. The Partnership was able to remain active thanks to remote working and connecting through online communication platforms. An example of this was conducting our first Virtual Forum (see page 3) which was very successful. We also managed to progress various areas of work, such as the creation and implementation of new signage (see page 6), and formulate new projects looking into current issues on the Exe, including estuarine invasive species. Not only this, we have continued to provide a contact point for local communities of the estuary and carry out routine daily tasks.

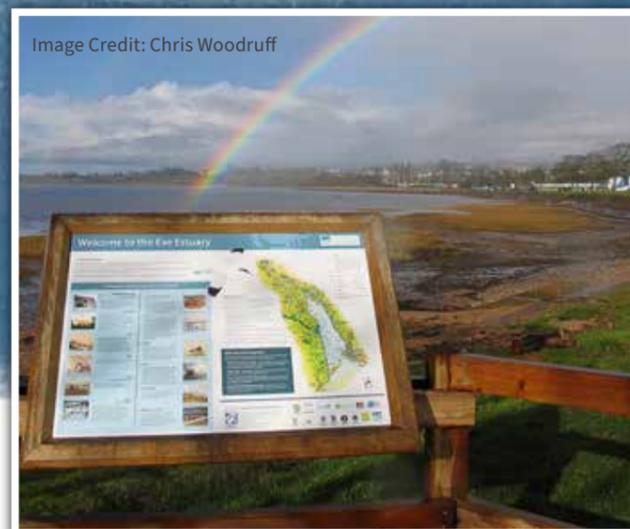


Image Credit: Chris Woodruff

The coronavirus pandemic has impacted us in various ways. Our summer education sessions are always a big part of our annual programme, but unfortunately due to school closures and social distancing we had to postpone our education sessions. Instead we have been looking into conducting virtual sessions so we can continue to educate the next generation on the wonders of the estuary. Another highlight and important part of our year is the Annual Clean Up events which both sadly had to be cancelled. However, you can still do your part by carrying out individual/small group beach cleans. Visit our website for more information.

Although the COVID-19 pandemic continues to present a level of uncertainty, with its everchanging and unpredictable status, the Partnership will continue to be innovative, adaptable and proactive in order to meet the needs of the estuary and people who enjoy it. I hope you all have a lovely festive period; I'm optimistic that 2021 will bring new and exciting opportunities for us all.

Jay Boyle
Exe Estuary Officer



EXE ESTUARY MANAGEMENT PARTNERSHIP VIRTUAL FORUM 2020

The EEMP Summer Stakeholder Forum was introduced to offer increased opportunity for local stakeholders to engage with the work of the Partnership, traditionally taking place at a local venue around the estuary during September. However, due to COVID-19 the EEMP had to postpone this event. Through deliberation between the Committee it was decided that the Partnership should still host an event, agreeing that it should take place via Zoom in October.

The free, evening event was open to 80 participants, selling out with just over a week to go. Although the event would not encompass a 'round the table' style workshop element (as the Stakeholder Forum usually would), it still presented an opportunity for participants to listen to updates and presentations on topical issues for the Exe (see Agenda below):

- **Welcome** – Jeremy Rawlings, Forum Chair
- **Exe Estuary Management Partnership update** - Jay Boyle, Exe Estuary Officer
- **Exeter Port Authority: update from the Harbour Master** - Grahame Forshaw, Exeter Port Authority
- **Exmouth National Coastwatch Institute** - Hugh DeSouza, Exmouth NCI
- **Water quality management underpinning sustainable aquaculture (featuring a case study on the Exe estuary)** - Dr Ross Brown, SWEEP
- **Devon & Severn IFCA** – hand gathering byelaw - Dr James Stewart
- **Wildlife & lockdown** - Natalie Holt, RSPB
- **Question Time** – Ted Draper, Forum Vice Chair

A dedicated Question Time section was scheduled at the end of the meeting, led by the Forum Chair, Ted Draper. Questions for the Partnership were also requested in advance of the meeting and were addressed during this section. This ensured that attendees had the chance to have their voice heard and any questions they had on current issues answered.

The event was very successful considering it was a first for the Partnership. From the feedback received, 100% of participants agreed that the Forum was worth attending and that Virtual events are a good substitute in absence of face-to-face meetings.

The next Forum event is scheduled to take place on 2nd February 2021 at the Council Chambers, County Hall, Exeter. However, it is likely that this event will also take place virtually via Zoom.

If you missed the event and would like to view the recording or receive any of the presentations, please email the Exe Estuary Officer at exeestua@devon.gov.uk



W. TROUT & SON LTD
TOPSHAM BOAT BUILDERS SINCE 1902

Providing ALL Boatyard Services
Ferry Road, Topsham, Exeter, EX3 0JJ
CONTACT: MARK TROUT
Email: info@troutsboatyard.co.uk
Tel: 01392 873044

- **MARINE ENGINEER on site**
Dealers for **YAMAHA** Outboards and **DELTA MARINE**
- Stockists of Genuine **VOLVO** parts
- **REPAIRS, & MAINTENANCE**
in GRP & Wood
- **MAJOR INSURANCE** repair work undertaken
- **SPRAY** painting, paint, varnish & antifouling
- **ELECTRONIC & MARINE EQUIPMENT** supplied & fitted. Your Local Dealers for **Raymarine** Electronics
- **STANDING & RUNNING RIGGING**
up to 8mm
- **CRANEAGE TO/FROM WINTER STORAGE or TRAILERS.**
- **SECURE STORAGE** for boats on trailers
- **BROKERAGE BOAT SALES**
- Marina Berths & Swinging Moorings

www.troutsboatyard.co.uk

ABYA PROFESSIONAL YACHT BROKERS
DIESEL **CALOR** Gas



IN MEMORY OF IAN STUART, STUART LINE CRUISES

The Exe Estuary Management Partnership would like to thank Ian, his family and the team at Stuart Line Cruises for their support over the years, particularly the role they have played in promoting the estuary.

“Ian loved the Sea and Exmouth whilst at the same time he was a great supporter of the Partnership by providing free cruises along the Exe for those who assisted in the Annual Beach clean ups. The Stuart family has helped to place Exmouth firmly on the map as a great tourist destination and have announced that the business will continue on into the future.”

The Exe Estuary Management Partnership Chair, Councillor Jeff Trail BEM



Here Lauren Clark, partner of Ian’s son Jake, writes on behalf of the Stuart family:

Ian Stuart was born in Exmouth on 1st August 1964 and very much did his own thing from a very early age.

Stuart Line Cruises was founded in 1968 by Ian’s father, Tony Stuart. He operated a small wooden 52-seater boat called ‘Seacrest’ from Exmouth seafront.

Having spent his childhood pottering about on boats, Ian Stuart gained his Skipper’s ticket on his 18th birthday, enabling him to work alongside his dad, running fishing trips out to sea whilst Tony continued to run the shorter sightseeing trips.

Ian met his wife Philippa when he was 20 years old who went on to purchase the open-top ‘Mini’ at a cost of £2,500 in 1985. The couple ran ‘Mini’ together, with Ian at the helm and Philippa in charge of ticket sales.

Ian took over his father’s business in 1992 and in 1994, Ian and Philippa purchased ‘Tudor Rose’ which boasted a covered and

heated saloon, enabling them to start working throughout the year. The first wedding was held on Tudor Rose in 1995.

It was not long before they started their famously spectacular Sail with Santa and Guided Bird Watching Cruises during winter – both of which still run today.

Ian was charismatic, good-humoured and incredibly generous by nature – character traits which carried him throughout the progression of his career. He was a straight-to-the-point, get up and go-getter, no-nonsense sort of man who worked incredibly hard for everything that he had.

The brand new ‘Pride of Exmouth’ arrived in 2003, at a cost of £350,000.

She was without doubt the most state-of-the-art passenger boat of her time, licensed to carry up to 250 passengers and built to European Class C Standards, licensed to operate anywhere in the country – yet another enormous turning point for the now very successful Stuart Line Cruises.

Ian was a shrewd businessman with a sharp eye for new opportunities. His passion for Exmouth and the growth of its economy became increasingly apparent as his career progressed and he was wholeheartedly unafraid to go against the grain.

He was an active member of the Exmouth Chamber of Commerce, donated generously to numerous local charities and gave a vital voice to many environmental matters.

As the business evolved, Ian started to recognise the group travel market within the tourism industry and its potential impact on his year-round business, voicing its importance across Devon.

Ian truly believed that we are stronger together and worked tirelessly within the industry on a national and international level, investing in opportunities to speak to operators directly and remain at the forefront of the industry.

In 2010, Ian was diagnosed with throat cancer. He underwent gruelling treatment and having earned his Skipper’s ticket at the age of 18, his son, Jake stepped in. Jake had been involved in the business part-time throughout the majority of his life by this point and business continued as usual.

In time, Ian made a full recovery and playfully toyed with the idea of retirement but the business was his life and he couldn’t stay away for long. Ian went on to live a further nine full years, during which he worked in partnership alongside Jake, who shared Ian’s passion for the water.

Ian’s family were devastated when he was once again diagnosed with cancer in 2019 – Ian’s illness was terminal.

Ian filled the last year of his life with a mixture of work, leisure and quality time with his loving family, whilst receiving palliative treatment and fought his illness with great stoicism.

His optimism was unrelenting, and he bore his final illness with courage and dignity, which is testament to the quality of this remarkable man.

Ian died at the age of 56, following a wonderful week away with his wife, Philippa, during which he sat comfortably with an uninterrupted view of the sea and was thrilled to see ‘Pride of Exmouth’ sail past with Jake at the helm, during his Jurassic Coast Cruise.

He defied the odds in surviving as long as he did, in true spirit of his character and he leaves behind a great legacy which will live on in Stuart Line Cruises for years to come.

"SAIL ON DEAR IAN. FAIR WINDS AND FOLLOWING SEAS"

Retreat BOATYARD
 RETREAT DRIVE - TOPSHAM - EXETER EX3 0LS
 www.retreatboatyard.com / www.retreatboatyard.co.uk

- Craning** - 2 cranes (on-site & hire out) - (35t Jones 565M & 45t PPM 480)
- Storage** - to 180 boats stored on-site - (Brownell stands/Roodberg mover)
- Moorings** - to 56 during summer
- Brokerage** - from 4% commission
- Chandlery** - 000s of lines

OPEN
 8-5pm Mon-Fri
 9-1pm Saturday

office@retreatboatyard.com
01392 874720

M5 Marine
 RETREAT BOATYARD - EXETER EX3 0LS
 www.m5marine.com - 01392874720

ENGINEERING - ALL OUTBOARDS & INBOARDS

Mercury, Volvo Penta, Yamaha, Honda, Suzuki, Yamaha, Mercury, Evinrude

Mer cruiser and Yamaha Inboard Dealer. Independent Volvo Penta Specialist. All Inboard/Outboards Supplied / Serviced
 Engine Supply - Genuine Parts - Computer Diagnostics Including:
 engineers@m5marine.com - 01392874720

SHIPWRIGHTING/REPAIRS - WOOD/GRP/STEEL

Traditional Wooden Shipwrighting. GRP Repairs Moulding. Epoxy. Vacuum Bagging. Accident Repairs. Gelcoat Repairs. Fitting. Welding. Electrical. Coppercoat Application Centre. Paint Systems. Interspray Centre. In-House Hull Blasting.

AKZO NOBEL
 repairs@m5marine.com - 01392874720

EXE ESTUARY SIGNAGE

Signage and interpretation panels play a pivotal role in raising awareness and promoting the value of the estuary. The EEMP has worked with partners in an estuary-wide, integrated approach to rationalising signage around the Exe, through funding from SEDHRP and Natural England. In 2018, the EEMP produced an Exe Signage Inventory and a Review of Signage report, which detailed recommendations to ensure that various signs and interpretation panels complement one another to promote correct messages.



Following the review, new and updated signage has been put in place around the estuary, including SEDHRP signage for slipways, EDDC signage, Exe Estuary Trail and LiCCo interpretation panels updated by the Estuary Officer. Successful bids from the Communities Together Fund and Parishes Together Fund allowed the EEMP to work with partners in creating new and updated panels on both sides of the Exe.

The most recent interpretation panels to be created and installed can be seen on the East side of the Exe Estuary at Exmouth, Exton, Lympstone and Topsham Train Stations, and at Lympstone Green and Topsham Quay. At the time of writing (5th November) the interpretation panels to be placed on the West side of the Exe (Dawlish Warren Station, Dawlish Warren Nature Reserve and Cockwood) are in their final design stage and will be installed later this year.



ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

Autumn is a bit of a twilight zone for wildlife across the Exe Estuary and Pebblebed Heaths. We say goodbye to our summer visitors while welcoming our hungry wintering birds, fresh in from their long and tiring breeding seasons and migrations from the high Arctic. As I type thousands of ducks, geese and wading birds are already back making the most of the rich estuarine mud, as well as the Exe's sheltered shorelines and marshes. They return specifically to the Exe Estuary because the abundance of food here helps them fatten up with energy reserves. These fat reserves will mean they can complete their long migrations back north and have some energy leftover to protect their broods of demanding chicks from the likes of predators such as Arctic foxes.

However, in the world of wildlife every year is different, with this strangest of years being no exception. I'm sure you will remember the fabulous sunny and dry weather our region experienced during the spring and summer lockdown. This was great for those of us with access to outdoor space but it has meant the marshes surrounding the estuary are dryer than usual for this time of year. This has knock-on effects for ducks such as Wigeon and waders like Black-tailed Godwit, that spend a lot of time feeding and roosting in these damp grasslands.

This is where our network of Nature Reserves and Wildlife Refuges around the Exe comes into play. We are fortunate to have several protected areas working in conjunction with each other to cover a variety of habitats; meaning the birds have different options to find food and shelter whatever the weather!

These dry estuary surrounds, coupled with the recent storms has meant over 2,200 Wigeon, as well as the usual Brent Geese and other birds have been utilising our Exmouth Duckpond Wildlife Refuge. It runs from 15th September to 31st December each year and we ask people on land or sea to avoid entering the area marked by yellow buoys. We have been watching these huge flocks roosting over high tide waiting to feed on the seagrass that grows there, as the tide recedes.

With all this in mind our work is currently focussed around the estuary. This year we have seen more locals than ever coming down to enjoy this unique wildlife event on their doorstep. The best time to visit is around an hour after high tide when the water is shallow enough for the birds to reach that tasty seagrass. However there are birds of different kinds using the area at any tidal state with waders like Oystercatcher enjoying the rich mud at low tide. Hope to see you there!

Will Scott Habitat Mitigation Officer Oct 2020



AN UPDATE FROM THE HARBOUR MASTER

It seems that the boating year is slipping away with an unused feel about it. Since the release from the first lockdown we did have a surge of activity and now we are in the second round of limited restrictions it feel as though our opportunities to enjoy the water have been limited. Even so, we have still managed to achieve many of the tasks we set ourselves earlier this year.

We have our new patrol boat the City of Exeter and she has been used extensively through the year allowing us to engage with as many users of the water as we can. Often this engagement is to remind people of the speed restriction in the river but often we have been to the aid of vessels that have broken down and even some that managed to run out of fuel.

Our main focus as we go through autumn and into the winter is to finally be able to realign the channel leading into the river, look after the existing navigation buoys in the river, carry out winter maintenance on our customers moorings and keep progressing the clearance of the many abandoned and wrecked boats in the river.



We are only a small team, four of us work from the buoy store in Exmouth and five work from the canal office in the city basin. We are always looking out for willing volunteers to help us and lately we have had some offers of assistance from right across the estuary which is very welcome indeed. If you would like to get involved please do get in touch. We are always looking for people with people skills because a huge part of our job is communication, so if you like to get along with people, enjoy boating with the odd cup of tea then please do get in touch.

Grahame Forshaw, Harbour Master, Exeter Port Authority

BECOME A VOLUNTEER WITH THE EXETER PORT AUTHORITY



Doug Nye is one of our volunteers, here's what he has to say...

I've always regarded being on the water as my 'happy place', somewhere to draw breath and take in the spectacular surroundings we are so privileged to have on our doorstep.

So, when I found myself in a similar situation to many when my job came to a temporary halt due to Coronavirus, what better way to feel positive than to get back on the water. What was very clear to me was the need to create a new purpose, I wanted to add value, learn new skills but do so in an environment that gave me immense pleasure.

I sent an email to Grahame Forshaw MBE (Harbour Master) about volunteering. Fast forward a few days and I found myself in the buoy store meeting the team, likeminded people with a common passion for the river Exe and our coastline.

It really has been all hands-on deck since joining e.g. learning how to helm the two vessels (City of Exeter & Can Doo), patrolling the estuary to ensure it's a safe environment for all, painting & anti-fouling Can Doo as part of a comprehensive refit – the list goes on!

What skills do you need to be a volunteer? A degree in tying a bowline and clove hitch is a distinct advantage, as to, making copious amounts of tea and coffee for the team (known as Wets). It's a term synonymous with the ex-Royal Marines in the team - but nothing that can't be mastered with determination. In all seriousness, the only thing you need is having 'get up and go' as there's a lot of great work to do and everyone mucks in.

I'm proud to be a volunteer and part of the team, I treasure living by the coast and giving something back feels so worthwhile.

EXETER PORT AUTHORITY MARINE SERVICES

We offer a range of professional marine services across the Exe Estuary, Exeter Canal and Quay.

- Mooring servicing, maintenance and installation
- Vessel towing and salvage
- Boat storage facilities
- Visitor moorings on the Exe Estuary
- Berths on the Exeter Canal



Tel: 07565 204712
email: epa@exeter.gov.uk
www.exeter.gov.uk/epa

EPA Mooring Services, Trinity Buoy Store,
Camperdown Terrace, Exmouth, EX8 1EQ

D&S IFCA manages inshore fisheries within its District. It has a duty to do so as set out in the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009. In meeting these duties, D&S IFCA's core work involves developing the management of fisheries (Byelaws), enforcing fisheries legislation and conducting research work. D&S IFCA works in partnership with other organisations including the Exe Estuary Management Partnership.



Stock Assessments of Cockle and Mussel Beds



Over the last couple of months D&S IFCA Officers have been undertaking stock assessments of several shellfish beds. Mussel beds were surveyed in the Exe, Teign and Taw-Torridge estuaries, while cockle beds were surveyed in the Exe, Teign and Devon Avon estuaries. These surveys are used to build up a long-term picture of the stock status of each bed, which is used to inform management of the resource.

Shellfish beds form important habitats for many species in estuaries, particularly as a significant source of food for over-wintering and migratory wading bird populations. These birds are often priority features of an estuary designated as a Marine Protected Area (MPA), such as the Exe Estuary SPA or the Taw-Torridge SSSI.

How are the surveys conducted?

The surveys work best with two or three teams working together. This allows more of the sites to be covered on the low tides when the beds are exposed. Teams comprise of D&S IFCA's Environment Officers and quite often the Enforcement Officers are needed to add to the numbers. Partner organisations sometimes assist, and Standard Operating Procedures ensure the survey work remains consistent each year.

For cockles, predetermined sampling points are visited by using a handheld GPS. A quadrat is used, and a small area of sediment is dug out. After sieving, the cockles are retained until they can be measured and sorted into year class. To determine cockle density, the data is transferred into Mapinfo GIS software to produce the maps.

A GPS is also used for mussel surveys. To determine coverage and patch density, transects are walked in a zig-zag pattern with a cane with an 11cm ring attached to the end. Every three steps it is positioned on the ground and a "hit" or "miss" is recorded. On every fifth "hit" a sample is taken.

Once all transects are completed the mussel samples are sieved and cleaned. Mussels are divided into size groups with each group being weighed separately and the total weight for each group recorded. The data are used to calculate the coverage, density and area of the mussel bed, which are then used to estimate the mussel tonnage on each bed.

This year's data is still being analysed. Previous year's reports can be found on our website.

The public mussel beds in the Teign and the Exe Estuaries have been closed to the removal of mussel since 1st May 2019. More detail is provided on D&S IFCA's website.

If you want to follow the work of D&S IFCA visit their website www.devonandsevernifca.gov.uk. You can contact them and they will add you to their mailing list. You will then receive the free quarterly D&S IFCA e-newsletter "Inshore Insights" and be directly notified of any of their consultations.

RECORD YEAR FOR EXMOUTH NCI

Exmouth National Coastwatch Institution (NCI) has experienced its busiest season in its 22-year history. From January to September, excluding the spring lockdown, volunteer watchkeepers logged a monthly average of 1,858 vessels from their Queen's Drive lookout. This September was the station's busiest September on record with 2,750 vessels logged and eight incidents responded to.

Since returning to duty on 16 May, due to social distancing restrictions, Exmouth NCI has been maintaining single-handed watches, seven days a week.

At the time of going to press, so far this year, Exmouth's watchkeepers have responded to 42 incidents – occasions when NCI staff liaise with other partners of the search-and-rescue community to bring about a safe conclusion. This is more than in the whole of 2019 (31) or in the balmy-summer year of 2018 (39).

At the height of this summer, a common cause for NCI involvement was the inappropriate use of inflatables. On one occasion, a watchkeeper spotted a group of teenagers swimming in rubber rings in the red-flag area of Exmouth beach and took appropriate action.

Before the town's RNLI beach lifeguards were able to operate, every day Exmouth NCI watchkeepers erected a 'red-flag' sign on the slipway beside Coastwatch House to warn beach-goers of the potential dangers of swimming in the fast-running current.

To raise the visual profile of the station – and as a shoreside wind-direction indicator to water and beach users – an NCI flag now flies over Coastwatch House, the station's training centre adjacent to the lookout.



Picture credit: Nigel Bovey - A new flag flies over Coastwatch House on Queen's Drive, Exmouth.

Throughout the months, the station's trainers have held refresher courses in chart-reading and marine-radio usage for those watchkeepers returning to duty after self-isolation. Despite restrictions, a new watchkeeper, Julia Agar, has qualified and taken her first solo watch.

At the start of the new academic year, Bicton College invited members of the NCI presentation team to talk to diploma and degree students on the role of the organisation within the region's search-and-rescue capability. As part of an associated fundraising project, the students adopted Exmouth NCI as their cause.

Reflecting on 2020, Station Manager Ivor Jones says: 'This is a year of unforeseen challenges. There were times during the enforced lockdown in March and April when we could not imagine how we would, or could, return to normal duties. With the imagination and commitment of our watchkeepers, however, we were one of the first stations in the UK to be back on watch. Our priority is safety – for those at sea and those of us who watch over them. The figures show just how vital our service is.'



THE ORANGERY CAFÉ AND BISTRO IS NOW OPEN

Monday – Friday: 8.30 - 5.00pm

Saturday: 8.30 - 5.00pm

Sunday: 8.30 - 5.00pm

We invite you to visit us and soak in the views of Powderham Castle and the Deer Park whilst enjoying a coffee or perhaps a bite to eat.

A WALK THROUGH TIME: EAST DEVON AND DORSET'S JURASSIC COAST

In East Devon we are extraordinarily lucky to be home to part of England's only natural World Heritage Site. The Dorset and East Devon Coast, or Jurassic Coast as it is known, stretches from Exmouth in East Devon, 95 miles along a spectacular coastline, to Studland in Dorset. The journey along the coast is a journey through approximately 185 million years of the Earth's history seen in the Triassic, Jurassic and Cretaceous geology.

In September the guiding document for the Jurassic Coast World Heritage Site, the revised Jurassic Coast Partnership Plan was launched. This document sets out a shared vision for the Site, guiding partners and stakeholders in how to look after it, and will run until 2025.

The Plan was widely consulted on, receiving more than 300 contributions from individuals and organisations in 2019. It takes in everything from climate change to tourism to fossil collecting across the site.

The Plan was adopted by Dorset Council, Devon County Council and East Devon District Council before being submitted to UNESCO in August. Delivery will be overseen by a coalition of organisations from across various sectors in Dorset and East Devon, represented on the Jurassic Coast Trust's Partnership Advisory Committee.

Previous management frameworks for the Jurassic Coast have helped draw in funding for strategic projects and inspired action from national partners, with World Heritage Status itself thought to influence around £100 million a year of economic activity in the local area.

John Wokersien, Chair of the Jurassic Coast Trust's Partnership Advisory Committee, said of the new Plan:

"It has been my privilege to be Chairman of the Partnership Advisory Committee since its inception with the important task of overseeing the new Jurassic Coast Partnership Plan. With the great involvement of all our Partners and the love of so many people for the Jurassic Coast World Heritage Site, we enter a new period of exciting change which will bring new energy, ideas and thinking about how the whole Site is presented for learning, science, research, tourism and just pure wonder. The plan adopted by all the Partners and many associated with the Site provides our way forward for the next five years and I for one am optimistic that much will be achieved in this plan period."

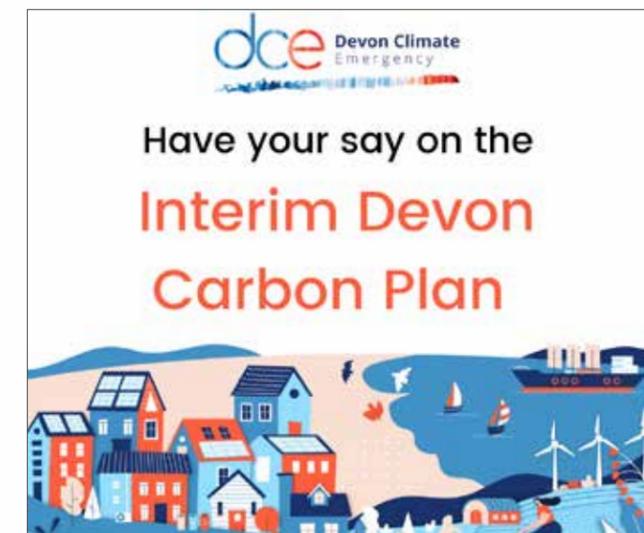
Find out more about the Jurassic Coast, the Trust and the Partnership Plan, including how you can get involved and support this World Heritage Site, at jurassiccoast.org.



Image Credit: Red Morley Hewitt - unsplash.com

DEVON CLIMATE EMERGENCY

The consultation of the Interim Devon Carbon Plan is now live! The plan is a collaborative roadmap to creating a net-zero Devon where people and nature thrive and is Devon's response to the global climate emergency.



Over the past year, the Net-Zero Task Force (a group of fifteen experts in areas including renewable energy, transport, planning and the built environment) have been working hard to develop the plan for creating a net-zero Devon. Citizens' have inputted their ideas through the evidence gathering stage which was held at the start of this year.

The time has now come for your chance to offer further thoughts and feedback. Residents are asked to take part in the Interim Devon Carbon Plan consultation, which lasts for 12 weeks and begins on **Monday December 7**.

Devon Climate Emergency (DCE) wants to hear your views on a series of key actions covering a variety of themes which highlight some of the transformational changes which are required to create a thriving net-zero Devon.

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the Devon Carbon Plan has been split into two parts to ensure action continues to be taken despite the delay in the Citizens' Assembly (now expected in 2021).

All the actions within the Interim Devon Carbon Plan are the actions reflecting the suggestions identified in the public call for evidence and thematic hearings and highlighting issues that require further consideration by a Citizens' Assembly.

The actions cover a broad range of topics including a Food, Land and Sea chapter which covers issues surrounding successful estuary management and the opportunities of carbon sequestration in blue carbon resources such as seagrass.

Having read the Interim Devon Carbon Plan, DCE is requesting feedback from Devon's Citizens' to indicate to what extent they agree with the proposed actions.

Furthermore, there is an opportunity for consultees to give their views on ideas that are more controversial or challenging to implement.

These controversial ideas will be presented to the Citizens' Assembly in 2021 to ensure the recommendations in the Final Devon Carbon Plan reflect the views of Devon's citizens.

Have your say at: www.devonclimateemergency.org.uk



PLASTIC POLLUTION ON THE ESTUARY

Plastic pollution is a rapidly growing environmental concern. Images of sea birds trapped in plastic, along with increasing publicity for the more invisible problem of microplastics has heightened public awareness of these issues. To effectively combat this problem, we need to understand where and what types of plastics are most prevalent globally. For my dissertation at the University of Exeter, I aimed to produce the first quantitative estimate of the occurrence of both micro and macroplastics on the Exe estuary.

At ten sites around the estuary, I counted macroplastics (visible to the eye) and took sediment samples to extract microplastics (less than 5mm in diameter) from and count under a microscope. Microplastics are still poorly understood, but an increasing body of research suggests that they can have many negative impacts on ecosystems.

My results showed that macroplastic pollution was very low. There were slightly more macroplastics on mudflats than beaches, but this difference was minimal and using the Clean Coast Index all the sites were classed as very clean. This is really good news as it reduces the risks for wildlife.

The most common types of macroplastic were small miscellaneous items, but there were also significant quantities of food containers, plastic bags, and cigarettes. The main types found suggest that most macroplastic pollution originates from domestic sources (like littering), rather than marine sources.



Image Credit: Red Zeppelin Aerial Photography and Videography

The low macroplastic pollution may be related to regular beach cleans and lots of signage encouraging visitors not to litter. It was expected that mudflats would be more polluted because they are lower energy environments so are more likely to trap plastic that is washed into them, there were also fewer signs about littering at these sites.

Unfortunately, microplastic occurrence was a different story. Large quantities of microplastics were found at all sites, with the highest concentrations at Topsham. There were some methodological limitations but overall, it is likely that the estuary is very polluted compared to other sites internationally. By far the most common type of microplastic was fibres which have several sources, but a common one is thought to be washing synthetic clothes. At Exton there were also lots of small, rounded microplastics (microbeads), which could originate from the sewage works. Microbeads are prevalent in cosmetics products and hundreds are thought to be washed into sewage water every day.

Due to their small size, microplastics can easily be ingested by foraging organisms, and have been linked to health problems including organ failure and reproductive issues. This could pose a threat to the important populations of birds that winter on the estuary.

What does this mean for the estuary?

Overall, the results suggest that estuary visitors are conscious of littering, and this has contributed to the relative cleanliness of the area, in terms of macroplastics. However, the estuary faces a challenge to reduce the amount of microplastic pollution to minimise the threat to animals, although how to do this remains uncertain.

If you are interested in further information, please contact claire.below@gmail.com

COMMUNITY SCIENTISTS HELP TRACK COASTAL EROSION USING COASTSNAP

Join hundreds of other community scientists make a difference to coastal monitoring. The next time you are visiting one of the nine CoastSnap stations currently in place around the southwest coast, be sure to take a photo and share it with Plymouth Coastal Observatory (PCO) via their website or email address.

The PCO team are installing multiple CoastSnap sites at key beaches around the southwest to encourage members of the public to interact with their local or visiting beach, while collecting a valuable catalogue of coastal imagery.

The Project, which is funded by the Environment Agency, is targeting particularly active and vulnerable beaches. The data will later be used to inform beach management decisions and improve understanding of coastal processes. PCO's Joseff Saunders said,

"With enough images submitted over a length of time, we will better understand the natural erosion and recovery cycles that our beaches undergo along with the gauging the impact of high energy storm events".

To get involved, all you need do is find one of the eight camera mounts, put your smartphone into the cradle and take a photo of the beach from the fixed perspective. Once this has been done, you can share it with Plymouth Coastal Observatory via their website or by email. You can find the list of CoastSnap sites on the PCO website, otherwise represented by the green marker points below:



Map showing the current location of CoastSnap sites in the southwest represented as the green symbols, with proposed sites represented as the red symbols.

A spokesperson from the Environment Agency said,

"We hope the data gained through CoastSnap will help us see how sea level rise and climate change are starting to impact our coast, and that they will enable us to make appropriate decisions about how to respond to these pressures in the future."

To date, there have been over 3,500 photo submissions from the nine CoastSnap sites, with over 350 coming from Dawlish Warren. Despite the restrictions imposed by Covid-19 earlier in the year, members of the public have displayed considerable interest and enthusiasm toward the project which is greatly appreciated by the PCO team.



One of the benefits to a continuous catalogue of beach images, is observing the impact of storm events. Above shows two images taken at either side of Storm Brendan at Wembury beach in early 2020, you can clearly see the loss of beach material from the upper beach.

To get involved and to see where your nearest CoastSnap location is, please visit our website at southwest.coastalmonitoring.org/coastsnap-home | Twitter: [@OfficialPCO](https://twitter.com/OfficialPCO) | Instagram: [@plymouth.coastal.observatory](https://www.instagram.com/plymouth.coastal.observatory) | Facebook: [@CoastSnapSouthWest](https://www.facebook.com/CoastSnapSouthWest)

Become a Citizen Scientist!



Snap it & Share it



Your photo will capture a valuable record of beach state at **Dawlish Warren**, helping us identify erosion and recovery cycles.

1 Snap Place smartphone in the cradle and take a photo

2 Share After taking your photo, you can:

- Submit on our website at: southwest.coastalmonitoring.org/coastsnap or
- Email us: coastal.observatory@plymouth.ac.uk

Please state photo date and time if not submitted immediately



Find us on **@CoastSnap SouthWest**

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Exe Estuary Management Partnership,
c/o Devon County Council, Room 120,
County Hall, Topsham Road, Exeter, EX2 4QD
email: exeestua@devon.gov.uk



Title	First Name	Surname
Occupation		
Organisation (if any)		
Address		
		Postcode
Tel		
Email		Website

- Receive Exe Press by email Receive Exe Press by post Number of copies
 Would you like to receive information about? Forum Clean-Up
Interests: Local Community Nature Conservation & Environmental Quality Harbour Services
 Fisheries & Crab Collecting Agriculture and Rural Land Use Heritage Coastal Management
 Land Based Recreation Water Based Recreation Transport Tourism & Economy Codes of Conduct

Personal data we collect from you will be processed in accordance with our Privacy Notice, which can be found at devon.cc/privacy-ne.
You may unsubscribe at any time by contacting the Exe Estuary Management Partnership.



FOR PEOPLE, FOR WILDLIFE, FOR THE FUTURE