



Issue 64 Spring

EXE Press

2023

Newsletter of the Exe Estuary Partnership

EXE



ESTUARY
MANAGEMENT
PARTNERSHIP



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MEET THE TEAM



Stephanie Harper-Chung: As Exe Estuary Officer, I have been in post for 10 years, coordinating the activities of the Exe Estuary Management Partnership and working closely with all partners and local communities. The partnership is involved with a wide variety of projects to manage the estuary, ensuring there is a balance between human use and the protected nature of the Exe.

To assist with our work this year, the partnership has been fortunate to find extra resource, temporarily recruiting two new part-time members of staff. Meet our new team...



ZUZANNA DUSZA

traditional swinging moorings within four harbours to help recommend the use of more sustainable mooring systems and minimise their negative impact on the seabed.

In my new role as Coastal Support Officer, I will be working for both the EEMP and Devon Maritime Forum (DMF). My focus for the EEMP will be to carry out research into the pressing issue of water quality in the Exe, with particular focus on Combined Sewer Overflows (CSOs), their source, building communications with organisations that are accountable for monitoring and regulating incidents, and how to best share information with the public. I will also be participating in the educational and outreach aspects of the work the EEMP carries out and will be involved in the annual Forum events.

My work for DMF will mainly involve contributing to the publication of the 'State of the South-West Seas Report' for 2023, specifically the water quality chapter.

Outside of work, I write for an online news blog called 'Marine Madness', I enjoy all types of coastal and sea-going activities, and my favourite marine animal has to be a seal!

My name is Zuzanna Dusza, and I am one of the new Coastal Support Officers for the Exe Estuary Management Partnership (EEMP). Previously, I was a marine biology student at the University of Exeter, Cornwall Campus in Falmouth, and I graduated with a master's in 2021.

During my degree, I wrote two theses. The first focused on climate change and increased storminess around Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly and how that may link to live grey seal strandings. For my master's project I mapped local eelgrass *Zostera marina*, maerl and other sensitive seabed habitats within the Falmouth and Helford Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and overlaid these with location data of

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LILY ANNA

I'm Lily Anna and I am one of the new Coastal Support Officers for the Exe Estuary Management Partnership working part time over the next few months on the sedimentation project.

I studied BSc Marine Biology at the university of Bangor, graduating in 2017 with a First. I was awarded the 2017-18 Bangor University Athena Swan 'Women in Science' scholarship to continue my studies at Bangor, and so stayed on to complete an MSc Marine Environmental Protection, graduating in 2018 with a Distinction. My dissertation and thesis focussed around ecosystem services of coral reefs, with the latter focussing on human fish consumption and being used to assist management of the Cayman Island's marine resources.

After graduation I moved to Madagascar to run a marine conservation project with the NGO Frontier.

I monitored ecosystem health and water quality of nearby coral reef and mangrove environments, as well as monitoring marine litter. Upon returning to the UK I started work in the maritime industry for OneOcean as an environmental regulation technical analyst. I analysed regulations and legislation regarding operational ship discharge around the globe to advise commercial vessels of how to discharge their waste in the most environmentally practical way in the countries they were in.

After this venture I joined the Marine Management Organisation as the South West Marine Planner and worked in stakeholder engagement and evidence collection to monitor and improve the marine plans. Within this role I was the lead for policies relating to Tourism and Recreation. Currently I am undertaking a PhD with Plymouth Marine Laboratory investigating the effects of Ocean Acidification around the UK and how we can incorporate localised mitigatory action into policy.

In the role of Coastal Support Officer I will be working for the EEMP exclusively on the desk-based portion of the ongoing sedimentation project. Utilising project-specific LiDAR and bathymetry scans along with sediment core analysis I am investigating the sources and sinks of sediment within the estuary. Due to the dynamic environment of estuaries being under both fresh and marine water influence this is an exciting venture to contribute to management efforts.

THE MAGIC OUTDOOR CLASSROOM

Did you know that the Exe Estuary Partnership offers outdoor education sessions to local primary schools? With the arrival of spring, we are looking forward to getting outdoors to explore 'the magic outdoor classroom' at the beautiful Local Nature Reserve at Exmouth.

At first sight, the estuary at low tide appears empty – a few white birds in the distance and an expanse of brown mud. But look closer and the magic begins. The children begin their visit by looking at creatures of the sand – the scurrying shore crabs, gliding periwinkles, and piles of discarded shells – each telling a story of battles against predators, desiccation and tidal currents. Then we dig deeper to meet the burrowers, including the engineer of those neat coils of sand – the lugworm with its red feathery gills and detachable tail.

Finally, there's a chance for fishing in the creek, the estuary nursery where many species start their lives.

By the end of each visit, the children often glow with the pent-up excitement that comes with discovering a secret world.

The sessions run from May to July for a small fee. If you are keen for your children to get involved, please ask your school to get in touch for more details. Sessions are limited and are always very popular, so schools will need to book early to avoid disappointment!

Steph Harper-Chung, Exe Estuary Officer

email: exeestua@devon.gov.uk

Tel: 01392 382236



EXE ESTUARY MANAGEMENT PARTNERSHIP SEDIMENTATION PROJECT

The Exe Estuary Management Partnership (EEMP) coordinates management of the estuary, ensuring that management measures are detailed within a Management Plan to guide key and statutory organisations in delivering their statutory duties in a coordinated manner.

The partnership has been awarded funding through the 'Championing Coastal Coordination' (3Cs) initiative to develop a collaborative project with partners from the wider catchment and universities. A Marine Sub-Group was created out of the 3Cs pilot phase in 2021/22 and identified a need to better understand the sources and sinks for sedimentation in the Exe Estuary, evaluate sediment transport and identify locations in the catchment where work could be targeted to help address this knowledge gap.

This interest has been prompted by ongoing concerns of sedimentation in the Exe, raised by from various stakeholders and documented through a review undertaken by the EEMP. The key concerns were summarised as follows:

1. Reduction in protective buffer from Pole Sands
2. Sedimentation of the Exe and navigation channel
3. Smothering of mud banks and mussel beds, potentially affecting bird feeding grounds and shellfisheries.

Given that these could impact species, habitats, and services within the estuary, it is vital that we understand the current and historic sediment dynamics of the estuary.

This project will last for a few years, with the first development phase of the project progressing since the beginning of this year. This phase includes a desk study which will identify existing data sources both environmental and economic to assess concerns. Project-specific LiDAR and Bathymetric surveys are being commissioned to map current sediment distribution in the Exe Estuary and compare with historical records to identify any changes as well as understand the current situation in relation to sedimentation. These will be supported by sediment cores taken from both the upper and lower estuary and analysed to gain an understanding of historical sediment trends. Being able to see how the sediment deposited in the Exe Estuary has varied over the years will help us to assess whether current observations are of concern or to be expected.

This desk study will provide a basis for future sedimentation project phases to fully understand the sedimentology processes within the Exe Estuary, and hopefully help towards seasonal monitoring. We hope these efforts will support management actions to sustain the environmental, economic and social prosperity of the Exe Estuary.



WINTER FORUM

The Winter Forum took place on the evening of 8th February at Council Chambers in County Hall, with an opportunity for attendees to participate in a Pacific oyster activity. The event was Chaired by Ted Draper, Forum Chair, with Gordon Betteridge, Forum Vice Chair, also attending and giving a talk during the soapbox session.

The event was offered as a hybrid meeting, with 74 people attending in-person and 13 people attending virtually. The event was open to all with an interest in the Exe Estuary and provided an opportunity for local communities, businesses and interest groups to come and discuss their views and hear about management on the estuary.

The theme for this event was “**current issues on the Exe, and planned action for 2023**”. The Forum began with presentations which set the scene for “**the bigger picture**”, including management of the wider catchment and estuary Condition Assessments which will feed into management of the site. Exe focussed key issues were then taken into consideration with presentations on planned projects for the coming year from the Exe Estuary Partnership, as well as the new Pacific Oyster Policy, Exeter Port Authority updates, and nature recovery. This was followed by a soapbox session during which local representatives shared updates on their involvement with the Exe and activities taking place on and around the estuary. Issues such as incidents of Avian flu were also highlighted.

As well as Q&A sessions, attendees had the opportunity to ask questions on any topic during a new open question session. Many questions focussed on water quality issues on the Exe, as well as some directed towards Pacific oyster mitigation measures.



Feedback received from attendees was generally positive. 100% stated that the themes covered at the Forum were relevant and a large majority agreed that the event was worth attending and that it is a key opportunity to learn more about the Exe estuary, get involved, and have voices heard. Negative feedback received reflected issues with hybrid technology and sound quality in such a large venue, which limited the experience of some attendees. These issues will be addressed for future events.

Many attendees participated in the in-person Pacific oyster Defra policy activity and many more filled out our online questionnaire expressing their views on the policy, how the species affects them as a stakeholder, and what their thoughts are on potential remedial and mitigation measures. This feedback will be passed on to Natural England to inform whether any action might be taken to resolve the issue of increasing numbers of Pacific oysters on the Exe.

Presentations and the full Forum report can be found on the EEMP website:

www.exe-estuary.org/getinvolved/forum

SUMMER STAKEHOLDER FORUM

The next Forum event will take place in September at Powderham Castle, date to be confirmed. If you would like to be added to the Forum mailing list, please email exeestua@devon.gov.uk



EXE-TREME CLEAN

Last year we held our first Exe-treme Clean, taking to canoes and bikes to clean the Exeter Canal and Path of rubbish!

Would you be keen to help at our next Spring Clean in May? We're looking for volunteers from around the upper estuary to help at our next event. If you would like to hear more, please contact the Exe Estuary Officer at exeestua@devon.gov.uk or **01392 382236**.



EXE-PLORE!

May is a fantastic time of year to get outside and explore the Exe Estuary more. The days are longer, hopefully warmer, and the estuary is a buzz with emerging flowers, bats, insects, and people being active in, on and around the estuary.

The evidence shows that spending time outside being active is good for our physical and mental health and connecting to nature at the same time has added benefits.

This year, why don't you drop into the RSPB Lookout at Topsham to discover the range

of resident and visiting birds, walk or wheel along the trail to Dawlish Warren and look out for some incredible orchids, or discover the beginning of the Jurassic Coast World Heritage site at Exmouth and the wonderful views from the geo-needle.

Visit explored Devon.info to find out more. Naturally Healthy is an initiative led by Active Devon and Devon County Council on behalf of the Devon Local Nature Partnership.

During May Active Devon and Devon LNP will be posting inspiring naturally healthy messages and ideas. If you'd like to share your naturally healthy photos or events, then tag them in using **#NaturallyHealthyMay**. For more information contact Kate Hind at kate.hind@devon.gov.uk.



Competitively priced deep water moorings with good access from Starcross available on annual licence from Powderham Estate.

All enquiries and bookings for moorings to be made via Powderham Estate Office.

Tel: 01626 890243.

SPECIAL PLANTS OF THE EXE ESTUARY

The Exe Estuary is probably most famed for its clouds of swirling wintering waders and fleets of noisy brent geese but the array of special habitats which attract the birds from far and wide also offer unique homes for some very special wild plants.

Starting at the mouth of the estuary is the ecological gem of Dawlish Warren with its sandy dune grasslands and damp slacks which burst into bloom through the spring and summer. This is a landscape of extremes – battered by wind and salt spray through a winter and baked by the sun during the summer; the plants here are specialists of life on the edge. Behind the beaches are some tiny treasures that require a hands and knees approach to spot them.

The sand crocus (*Romulea columnae*) is the botanical highlight of Dawlish Warren – a true rarity that is found in only two places on mainland Britain but is rather more common on the Channel Islands. This is a species very much on northern limit of its European range where Dawlish Warren's short, dry grasslands provide just the right sort of Mediterranean-like conditions to allow the species flower each spring. If you want to see it, look carefully in the short turf behind the visitor centre from late March to mid-April – but make sure you visit on a sunny morning or else the flowers will be tightly closed!



Romulea columnae



Ophioglossum azoricum

A little later in the season, Dawlish Warren's grasslands hold another speciality which is easy to overlook, not just because it's another miniature but because it's also entirely green and doesn't produce any flowers at all. It's a minuscule fern called the small adder's-tongue (*Ophioglossum azoricum*). When most people think of ferns, they imagine bunches of long graceful fronds emanating a woodland floor but the small adder's-tongue could not be more different. The whole plant produces a single leaf no more than 3cm long with one or two pointed spikes from which the spores are produced. It is these spikes which give the plant its common name.

Out into the open waters of the estuary itself is a super plant which forms a critically important habitat all of its own - eelgrass (*Zostera marina*). Not only is it an essential food for wigeon and brent geese during the winter, but it also provides valuable cover and feeding grounds for small fish and crustaceans, such as plaice and prawns, who feed on the algae attached to the leaves. However, its common name is misleading. Eelgrass is not a grass at all, or even a seaweed: it's a flowering plant. The seagrasses evolved from terrestrial plants which migrated back into the ocean some 120 million years ago and remain the only flowering plant family in the world to have done so.

Moving north up the estuary we find the wide-open marshes at Exminster, Powerham and along the River Clyst. These cattle-grazed pastures, criss-crossed by ditches and shallow pools, provide ideal habitats for freshwater specialists that thrive in the mosaic of wetland habitats. You might spot the gaudy purple spikes of southern marsh orchid (*Dactylorhiza praetermissa*) nestled among the buttercup in the lush June meadows. These showy orchids have evolved to lure bumblebees into thinking they offer a rich nectar reward - but it's a trick. The orchid provides nothing but in the process of probing the flowers, the bumblebee gets pollen sacks glued to its tongue and leaves to repeat the mistake!

Come late summer and the graceful pink bouquets of flowering-rush (*Butomus umbellatus*) appear, towering up to 1.5 metres tall among the reed-filled ditches at Exminster Marshes. Its name is derived from Greek *bous*, meaning "cow", "ox" etc. and *tome*, a cut (the verb 'temnein' meaning "to cut"), which refers to the plant's swordlike leaves. A good place to see it is in the ditches viewable from the cycle track at the Turf Locks.



Butomus umbellatus



Vicia bithynica

Travelling beyond the limits of the aquatic estuary itself we come to the unstable muddy cliffs at its margins where we find our final star plant. Another unassuming and all-too-easily missed flower, the Bithynian vetch (*Vicia bithynica*) is a member of the pea family and like a pea, it used the tendrils at the tips of the leaves to clamber and scramble over the dense shrubby vegetation. It produces beautiful two-toned bluey-purple flowers in June and in favoured locations can form significant clumps.

The species was first described by Carl Linnaeus (the botanist who invented the binomial naming system we use for all lifeforms today) who based the scientific name on Bithynia, an ancient kingdom situated on the north coast of Anatolia, in modern day Turkey where it is still common. The easiest place to see Bithynian vetch is beside the path which passes up the cliff from the end of Marine Drive in Exmouth.



Dactylorhiza praetermissa

Don't forget – when you're out this spring and summer, make sure you send your records in to the BSBI county recorder to help build our continued understanding of Devon's botany: bsbi.org/devon You might even consider joining the Devon Association's Botany Section to join guided walks and learn more about our fantastic plants: devonassoc.org.uk/organisation/sections/botany-section/

MAINTAINING WATER LEVELS AT BOWLING GREEN MARSH



The outflow gate at Bowling Green Marsh which allows excess freshwater to flow into the River Clyst.

Bowling Green Marsh is carefully managed by RSPB staff and volunteers led by Warden Rob Johns.

Water levels are monitored from a fixed gauge board located to the right of the hides viewing windows. As the water level in the reserve rises it will reach a point set by an outflow pipe which is considered to be the optimal high water level for the reserve. At this point water over tops the pipe and leaves through a tidal flap into the River Clyst. The tidal flap is designed to allow excess water to flow seawards on the falling tide, the outflow is then shut off by the pressure of the rising tide preventing saline water from the estuary entering the reserve.

“Whilst birds arrive here at/ around high tide, Bowling Green Marsh is a freshwater habitat. The mud and silt in the estuary move around with the tide and can occasionally block or limit the outward flow of water, causing it to back up on the marsh. Regular checks of the outflow gate are extremely important to maintain the best conditions we can for wildlife.”



Come and visit and enjoy this amazing place that is right on your doorstep. Wildlife guidance and refreshments available at The Lookout at Bowling Green Marsh from Thursday to Sunday 10-4.

events.rspb.org.uk/bowlinggreenmarsh

www.rspb.org.uk/bowlinggreenmarsh

Facebook: RSPB Exe Estuary and Darts Farm

Twitter: RSPB Exe Estuary

Email: Exe.Estuary@rspb.org.uk

Wetlands are areas of land where the soil has a close association with water, being either permanently or seasonally inundated. They are also one of the worlds most biodiverse habitats while playing an important role absorbing carbon, purifying water and providing an excellent defence against flooding.

Bowling Green Marsh at Topsham is a freshwater grazing marsh that attracts a huge variety of wildlife. The Exe Estuary and Bowling Green Marsh are crucial for the conservation of many red and amber listed species such as the Avocet, Lapwing, Curlew, Ringed Plover, Black-tailed godwit and Pintail. Designated a Special Protection Area and RAMSAR site* Bowling Green Marsh is recognised as a wetland of international importance in conserving biological diversity. To maximise your chances of seeing a wide array of wonderful species the best time to visit is on the rising tide and during high tide. As the tide rises on the estuary and begins to cover the mudflats the area in which the birds can forage and feed decreases. This means that the birds have to leave the estuary and so they head to the surrounding marshes to roost where they will rest up and preen their feathers before heading back out again with the receding tide.

*Some of the world's most significant wetlands for wildlife, especially waterfowl, are designated as Ramsar sites, including 71 in England. They are protected under the International Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, which was established in the Iranian town of Ramsar in 1971. Special Protection Areas are designated under the Birds Directive, and there are 252 in the UK.

EXETER CANAL CRUISE WITH STUART LINE CRUISES



The Exeter Ship Canal first opened to shipping in 1566 and was the first canal to be built in Britain since the Roman era. Its purpose was to bypass weirs that had been erected on the River Exe and enable goods to reach the port of Exeter.

Originally the canal was approximately 16 feet wide and 3 feet deep and in 1701 the canal was widened and deepened to 42 feet wide and 14 feet deep for craft of 150 tons. The present entry to the canal at Turf Locks was not completed until 1827 to give access to larger vessels of 400 tons. Exeter Shipping Canal is the oldest working shipping canals in Europe which links Exeter and Exmouth via the water.

As part of our special event cruises, this trip is truly unique due to its large history.

This trip starts at Exmouth Marina then cruises up the River Exe towards Turf Locks. The Exe Estuary is of international importance for wintering waders and wildfowl. It is also nationally renowned as a Site of Special Scientific Interest as an important habitat for these birds. This cruise provides plenty of opportunities to spot the local wildlife.

After a scenic journey along the River Exe, we reach Turf Locks, the start of Exeter Canal. At Turf Locks you will find one of the only pubs in the country which is only accessible on foot or by bike.

As Pride of Exmouth glides further along the canal we bring traffic to a standstill when the Countess Weir Swing Bridge ceremoniously opens to allow her through.

Along the towpath we pass one of the areas most popular pubs, The Double Locks. Built in 1701 as a lock keepers cottage, it doubled as both a lock keepers house and inn from the late eighteenth century. The locks themselves, are the longest in the country and can fit two ships at once hence the name 'The Double Locks'. South of Double Locks locates bird hides where you may spot herons, kingfishers, shelduck and thousands of dragonflies

As we carry along, we reach our end point at the Exeter Quay Basin. Exeter Quay is a delightful gem of Exeter, with its unique architecture and mix of history and contemporary design. There are plenty of shops, boutiques and range of hospitality places to choose from.

The Brilliance of this trip is that it can be offered either with a departure from Picturesque Exmouth Marina or the historic Exeter Quay.

More information on these trips can be found on **www.stuartlinecruises.co.uk**

DEVON, CORNWALL & THE ISLES OF SCILLY ADAPTATION PLAN

Devon Climate Emergency is working on the Adaptation Plan for Devon, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly. The Adaptation Plan is intended to help communities across the South West to better understand the risks their area might face in future, as climate change increasingly affects the UK. It will also help them to adapt to these changes, by identifying the parties responsible for ensuring community safety.

So far, The Climate Impacts Group (CIG) has produced climate projections for Devon, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly to 2059, with the support of the Met Office. The group has interpreted its implications for public health, flood risk and the environment in the South West. The subsequent draft Climate Change Risk Register identifies the range of climate impacts that the South West is facing scored by likelihood and potential impact.

Environmental consultants RSK have been working with the CIG since August 2022. The Risk Register has been reviewed and cross referenced with the UK Government's third national Climate Change Risk Register (CCRA3). Strategic level actors relevant to the management of identified risks have been recorded, as well as urgency scores to indicate where more action is needed.

RSK conducted workshops with the CIG in November 2022 to identify strategic adaptation options and actions to respond to the identified climate impacts. Finally, the CIG is identifying priorities for regional collaboration on adaptation in the next five years and setting these out in an Action Plan, which will complete the Adaptation Plan.

It is expected to be published for public consultation in spring 2023. You can stay up to date by subscribing to the monthly newsletter and following Devon Climate Emergency on social media.

www.devonclimateemergency.org.uk



DAWLISH WARREN BEACH MANAGEMENT POST-SCHEME REVIEW



Since completion of the Dawlish Warren Beach Management Scheme in 2017, change on site has been greater than predicted. The Environment Agency presented the draft proposal for future management along Dawlish Warren spit at the Exe Stakeholder Forum in summer 2022.

The purpose of the event was to share latest proposals for management going forward and receive feedback from the wider Exe Estuary community, prior to identifying a 'preferred' management approach.

Following feedback from Forum members, a draft report has been produced and is with Environment Agency senior managers to review and comment prior to wider circulation in spring / early summer 2023. When available, the report will be circulated to Forum members via the Exe Estuary Management Partnership.



EXETER PORT AUTHORITY MARINE SERVICES

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

- Mooring servicing, maintenance & installation
- Vessel towing & salvage
- Boat storage facilities
- Exe estuary visitor moorings
- Berths on the Exeter Canal



Tel: 01395 223 265
email: epa@exeter.gov.uk
www.exeter.gov.uk/epa

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



www.exeter.gov.uk/epa





EXETER'S HISTORIC SHIP CANAL

Rivers have always been a resource for exploitation and the Exe is no exception. It was hard to navigate though and obstructions allowed only small boats access to Exeter. Therefore, the city relied on Topsham's natural harbour for trade several kilometres downstream. Goods destined for the city were probably transported via a road linking Topsham and Exeter, now represented by Topsham Road.

During the 16th century Exeter sought to become independent of Topsham, so in the 1560s engineer John Trew was commissioned to build a lighter canal (a canal for shallow boats or barges) on the eastern side of the Exe, utilising St James' Leat. Difficulties were encountered so the canal was shifted to the western side of the river. The canal was completed in 1566 and started close to the city walls, finishing at Matford Brook. It allowed lighters to carry goods to the city from sea-going vessels anchored in the estuary, which contributed to the expansion of the quay and dockside facilities.

Exeter prospered in the post-medieval period. Wool was the driving force of the English economy and the years after the English Civil War (1642-1651), saw a trend in the export not only of wool but also woollen cloth. Devon serge was a particular favourite and Exeter was a centre for the finishing of this cloth.

Unfortunately, the lighter canal deteriorated and was unable to keep up with the demands of trade. In 1676, the engineer Richard Hurd extended the canal across the Exminster Marshes, the new entrance named Trenchard's Sluice. The works failed to resolve many of the problems, so between 1698 and 1701 it was deepened between the Quay and Trenchard's Sluice allowing ships up to 200 tons to access Exeter's Quayside. The entrance at Trenchard's proved too



far upstream for larger craft, so in the 1820s engineer James Green led a development to extend the canal to Turf Reach. The canal could now accommodate ships up to 500 tons becoming the second deepest inland waterway in Britain after the Caledonian Canal. The Canal Basin, constructed in 1830, was surrounded by coal yards and warehouses. An Edwardian power station was located nearby.

The industrial use of the canal declined in the later 19th and earlier 20th centuries with the arrival of the railway and improvements in road transport. It has since been enjoyed more for recreational activities such as leisure boating, fishing and ferry trips.

NATIONAL COASTWATCH INSTITUTION EXMOUTH

EXMOUTH NATIONAL COASTWATCH INSTITUTION CONTRIBUTES TO THE UK NATIONAL SEARCH AND RESCUE ORGANISATION THROUGH COASTAL AND WATER SAFETY.

How does a dedicated group of volunteers contribute a service 365 days a year to an increasing visible area and number of coastal and water users?

Exmouth NCI is an important part of the UK National Search and Rescue Organisation, we work alongside His Majesty's Coastguard, the RNLI and the other 'blue-light' emergency services with every one of us fully committed to our mission: to assist in the protection and preservation of life at sea and round our coastline.

Exmouth NCI has recently, passed its annual Declared Facility Status assessment. This is the assessment and accreditation by the UK National Search and Rescue Organisations that "The Station" and its watchkeeping members are UpToDate with its training, equipment and procedures to assist in the preservation of life at sea around the UK coastline.

NCI Exmouth has recently increased the coverage of their CCTV system. A fully commissioned camera at Budleigh Salterton along with Sideshore and the Exe Sailing Club enables on duty watch keeper to keep a 'weather eye' on the safety of kite/wing surfers, paddle boarders and water users in general, which have increased in popularity in the last couple of years. All CCTV images can be viewed by the H M Coastguard should they need to gain a better understand of any incident.



Whilst NCI Exmouth maintain Eyes Along the Coast 52 weeks of the year, watchkeeping hours are adjusted to reflect the day light hours and the activities taking place on local beaches and inshore waters.

From 27th March 2023 we open at 08:30 until 18:30 and from 15th May 2023 from 08:00 to 19:30. During the peak Summer Months we further increase with coastal water safety advice for swimmers, paddleboarders and beach users.

For maritime assistance or concerns contact NCI Exmouth on **01395 222492** and mariners call **VHF CH 65**, callsign "**Exmouth NCI**". This can also include radio checks and advice on current weather conditions. For those who might like to become a volunteer visit the web site **www.exmouthcoastwatch.co.uk**

WHAT CHANGES HAVE YOU EXPERIENCED IN YOUR LIFE LIVING AND WORKING BY THE SEA?

We are a group of researchers with a shared interest in improving the marine environment for nature and people. Our Resilience of Coastal Communities (ROCC) project explores how changes, such as environmental, social and policy changes, might impact:

- The marine environment,
- People's wellbeing, and
- Community 'resilience' (people's ability to cope with or adapt to change).

We are taking a historical perspective to explore how coastal communities in Cornwall and Devon responded to changes within living memory, and how those past events influence people today. One of the locations we are studying is the Exe Estuary! Our main sources of information will come from archives and oral history recordings. Oral history recording sessions will take place with people who

have spent their lifetime living and working by and with the sea. If this sounds like you – please do get in touch!

We hope we can use our research to learn lessons from the past to make better decisions in the future. Our research will feed into wider project aims to try and help future marine environment policy makers improve their decision making.

To get involved please contact Dr Louisa Evans at **Louisa.Evans@exeter.ac.uk**.

Our team has come together from the University of Exeter, University of Bristol, University of Southampton, European Centre for Environment and Human Health, and Plymouth Marine Laboratory. The project started in 2021 and runs until 2024. The study is funded by the UKRI NERC Sustainable Management of UK Marine Resources Strategic Priority Fund (Grant Ref: NE/V016601/1).



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		
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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