

Issue 67 Spring/Summer

Exe Press

2024



Newsletter of the Exe Estuary Partnership

In this issue

WATER QUALITY SPECIAL EDITION!

Articles from various organisations
on water quality of the Exe

Also...

Harbour Revision Order Consultation

Courtlands Boardwalk Progress

Upon the Ebbing Tide...



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NEWS AND EVENTS PLEASE VISIT WWW.EXE-ESTUARY.ORG**

Photo by Red Zeppelin on Unsplash



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WATER QUALITY OF THE EXE ESTUARY

Water quality is of high concern for the variety of different people who use the Exe Estuary for leisure, recreation and business. Additionally, poor water quality can affect local wildlife and habitats.

In response to requests from people who have attended previous Exe Forum events, the Exe Estuary Management Partnership has pulled together information on water quality to make it easily available to the public. Part of this newsletter has been dedicated to presenting this information.

Further information on water quality, as well as a full report that we have produced, is now available on our website. Our **'State of the Exe Estuary'** online resource provides information on various pressures and the current status of the Exe, and can be found in the **'Publications'** drop-down menu. **'Water Quality'** and **'The Sewage Issue'** sections can be found in Chapter 5.

The partnership held a water quality themed Forum event in February, details of which are on the next page.

Stephanie Harper-Chung, Exe Estuary Officer

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Tel: 01392 382236



Photo by Red Zeppelin on Unsplash

EXE WINTER FORUM 2024

The Winter Forum took place on the evening of the 6th of February at the Council Chambers in County Hall, and was Chaired by the Forum Chair, Ted Draper. The event was fully booked, with 102 people turning up on the night.

Attendees were able to peruse a variety of stands in the entrance hall, each offering information on water quality, water saving devices, and a number of other initiatives.

At a previous event in summer, attendees confirmed that water quality of the Exe Estuary is currently the main topic of interest. We therefore devoted the majority of the February Forum to this matter.

The aim of the event was to gain a better understanding of:

- the current status of water quality on the estuary
- what key stakeholder organisations are planning to do or expecting to happen
- where more information can be obtained
- what you can do to help

The event included a series of structured speaker sessions covering:

WATER QUALITY AT CATCHMENT LEVEL, A HIGH-LEVEL OVERVIEW

Environment Agency

WATER QUALITY OF THE EXE ESTUARY

Exe Estuary Management Partnership

A WATER COMPANY PERSPECTIVE

South West Water

ENFORCEMENT AND MONITORING

Environment Agency

NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL CAMPAIGNING GROUP

Surfers Against Sewage

LOCAL ACTION GROUPS

ESCAPE, Friends of the River Exe

Towards the end of the event, the programme incorporated three short and snappy five-minute soapbox sessions, to inform members of the Forum about various important activities. The talks included an update on the Harbour Revision Order, the opening of the Lower Otter Restoration Project and a request to support the Exmouth Sea Scouts. Articles on all these topics are included within this newsletter.



Two discussion sessions were also included, opening dialogue between attendees and the speakers.

Feedback received was unanimously positive. All presentations and the full Forum Feedback Report, including the question and answer sessions, can be found on our website here:

www.exe-estuary.org/get-involved/forum

The Exe Partnership are incredibly grateful to all speakers who offered their time to present at the Forum, as well as all attendees who contributed to interesting and lively discussion. The next Forum event will take place in September. If you would like to be kept informed about future Forum events, please email us at exeestua@devon.gov.uk

Would you like to represent your Exe community?

Our Forum Vice Chair, Gordon Betteridge, is sadly leaving his position with the Exe Estuary Partnership. We would like to extend our sincere thanks to Gordon, for his infectious enthusiasm for the role, for all the time he dedicated to Exe Estuary matters, and for representing local community interests.

We are inviting nominations to fill the role of Forum Vice Chair. The role will involve attending Forum events, stakeholder meetings and regular meetings of the Partnership Committee, in order to bring to the Partnership the views of estuary users.

The new Forum Vice Chair will need to have a good and balanced understanding of estuary issues, should be a local member of the public and not represent the exclusive interests of any one particular group.

If you would like more information, or would like to nominate someone for this position, please email the Exe Estuary Officer at exeestua@devon.gov.uk

WHAT IS THE WATER QUALITY OF THE EXE ESTUARY?

Water quality is crucial to life in and around the estuary. Poor water quality affects people and wildlife and has serious consequences for the local economy.

In order to achieve a good level of water quality, international, national and local statutory requirements are in place. The Water Framework Directive (WFD) focuses on ensuring good health of our waters, addressing linkages between pressures from up-stream, to estuarine and out to coastal waters.

THE WIDER EXE CATCHMENT

In order to have good health in our estuaries, we need to look at the wider picture, and also look at pressures from rivers upstream and the wider catchment (which for the Exe, reaches north all the way to Exmoor).

In order for water bodies to reach good status, they need to achieve both good chemical status AND good ecological status. This follows a 'one out, all out' approach in which the lowest scoring ecological and/or chemical element determines whether a water body passes or fails.

Approximately 19% of waterbodies in the wider Exe Catchment currently achieve 'Good' ecological status. However, ALL water bodies in the Exe Catchment currently fail to meet 'Good' chemical status. The reasons for this are due to a number of chemicals, the sources of which are largely from atmospheric pollution. Therefore, the overall classification over the whole Exe Catchment fails to meet 'Good' status.



THE EXE ESTUARY

The Exe Estuary is currently classified as achieving Moderate Ecological Potential.

Main causes of pollution in the Exe Estuary, in order from major to least pressure:

1. Agricultural runoff from rural areas (containing pesticides, nutrients and faecal contaminants).
2. Urban waste water (sewage) discharges from storm tank overflows (STOs) and combined sewer overflows (CSOs) – likely to be more significant around larger population centres.
3. Unknown impacts of climate change – increasingly frequent high rainfall events is adding to pressures on water quality by driving increased land runoff and sewer overflows.
4. Run-off from towns, cities, and transport, referred to as urban diffuse pollution.

WHAT IS BEING DONE TO TACKLE WATER QUALITY ISSUES?

The government updated their Storm Overflows Discharge Reduction Plan, placing a legally binding duty on water companies to progressively reduce the adverse impacts of discharges from storm overflows.

The targets include requirements for water companies to:

- Improve 100% of storm overflows discharging into or near every designated bathing water; and improve 75% of overflows discharging to high priority sites by 2023.
- Improve all remaining storm overflows, regardless of location, by 2050.

South West Water (SWW), the relevant water company for the Exe Estuary area, has stated commitments which align with these targets.

WHO IS REGULATING THE WATER INDUSTRY?

OFWAT: The independent economic regulator for the water and sewerage companies in England and Wales. Ofwat is responsible for making sure that the regulated companies provide consumers with a resilient and efficient service at a fair price.

ENVIRONMENT AGENCY: Responsible for issuing permits and regulating all discharges from storm overflows within England. This is done by issuing permits for individual storm overflows that outline when they can operate and under what circumstances, as well as how they should be monitored and maintained.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

There are actions we can all take to make a difference, helping to improve water quality and reducing the pressure on our sewer systems:

- **No fats and oils down your sink** – Pouring excess fats down the sink can lead to blocked sewers and subsequent pollution of our rivers and beaches.
- **Check your septic tank** – If a septic tank hasn't been emptied frequently enough, it can overflow during high rainfall and cause sewage to leak out into rivers.
- **Only 3 Ps down the loo** – Poo, pee and paper. Wet wipes make up 93% of the material that causes sewer blockages!
- **Reuse water** – Whether it's a little water left in the bottom of a glass or leftover water from your soak in the bath, letting it slip into the plughole is not your only option. Why not use this water to water your house or garden plants?
- **Food waste** – We've all been there, watching a cluster of leftover food disappear down the plughole. Sadly, the decomposition of this organic matter in our rivers uses up the oxygen and so impacts ecosystems. Put it in the compost or use your brown bins instead.
- **Use permeable surfaces** – patios or plastic grass in our gardens prevents natural drainage. Using permeable surfaces, such as grass, and alternatives for drainage, such as soakaways and rain gardens, helps to reduce the amount of rainwater entering the sewers.



TAKING ACTION...

- Environmental incidents, including pollution, can be reported to the Environment Agency through their hotline **0800 80 70 60**.
- You can also write to your local MP to ask them to support action on pollution in our rivers, estuaries and seas.

CAMPAIGNING BODIES / LOCAL GROUPS

Below is a list of the campaigns/groups/citizen science and volunteer schemes that you can get involved with to help tackle the sewage issue and help improve water quality:

- **Surfers Against Sewage (SAS)** – One of the UK's most successful marine conservation charities, who campaign for a clean ocean, rivers and lakes for wildlife and people. SAS is calling to end sewage pollution in rivers and the ocean.
- **End Sewage Convoys and Pollution Exmouth (ESCAPE)** – Campaign to reduce the dumping of untreated sewage into the Exe Estuary and coastal waters, and hold regulators, policy makers and South West Water to account about any sewage-related data gaps / misconduct.
- **Friends of the River Exe (FORE)** – Provide a voice for the river, bringing together the diverse grass roots organisations and people who live, work and play along the Exe and its tributaries - to protect, restore and celebrate it.
- **West Country Rivers Trust (WRT)** – On a mission to improve the water quality of our rivers. They are working to improve water quality in rivers through their Upstream Thinking project, and run the Westcountry Citizen Science Investigators (CSI) programme which equips members of the public with tools to detect signs of healthy or unhealthy rivers and streams.

WATERFIT LIVE

South West Water has now introduced a WaterFit Live map, which allows you to see if storm overflows have been operating at your local beach to an extent that they may have temporarily affected bathing water. The WaterFit Live website can be found here:

<https://tinyurl.com/yckxkt3d>

THE STENCH OF SEWAGE POLLUTION



2022 figures from UK environmental regulators revealed untreated sewage was discharged into UK rivers and coastlines at the very least 399,864 times, that's 1,091 times a day [and this a gross underestimate of the reality]. Only 14% of English rivers are in good ecological condition, and our river citizen science data shows 60% of the popular swimming sites we monitored didn't meet minimum safety requirements for water users. Our rivers are flooded with a chemical cocktail of sewage, agriculture and urban pollution. The sewage pollution scandal stinks and the smell is beyond overpowering.



Photo credit: Barry Macdonald



Photo credit: Mat Arney



Giles Bristow,
CEO of Surfers
Against Sewage

SICK OF SEWAGE

It is now blindingly obvious how important spending time in nature is for both our mental and physical health. More and more of us depend on the ocean, lakes and rivers with whole communities emerging around the love of water.

Shockingly, between October 2022 and September 2023, 1,924 sickness reports were submitted to us of water-users getting sick after entering the water. Of those who visited a doctor, three out of four people said the doctor attributed their illness to exposure to sewage polluted waters.

2022 figures from UK environmental regulators revealed untreated sewage was discharged into UK rivers and coastlines at the very least 399,864 times, that's 1,091 times a day.

TURNING THE TIDE

Enough is enough. We need an overhaul of the government's sewage pollution action plan with faster and wider targets, environmental regulators enabled to hold polluters to account, a financial regulator that enacts on its powers to cut CEO bonuses and dividend pay-outs, and water companies to invest in meeting statutory duties to protect the environment.

We couldn't do it without our communities and the work of incredible groups like ESCAPE who know exactly what is happening on the ground and what needs to change. Across the UK, our Ocean Activists are championing our campaigns, pushing our End Sewage Pollution Manifesto, and forcing those in power not just to listen, but to act. And we're winning, the tide is turning. With a general election on the cards this year, and a building momentum of public pressure, we have so much power and potential.

Join us, as we raise the voice of the ocean and demand radical change to tackle the sewage pollution crisis. Follow our work at sas.org.uk.

IT'S TIME TO
#ENDSEWAGEPOLLUTION

END SEWAGE CONVOYS AND POOLLUTION EXMOUTH (ESCAPE)



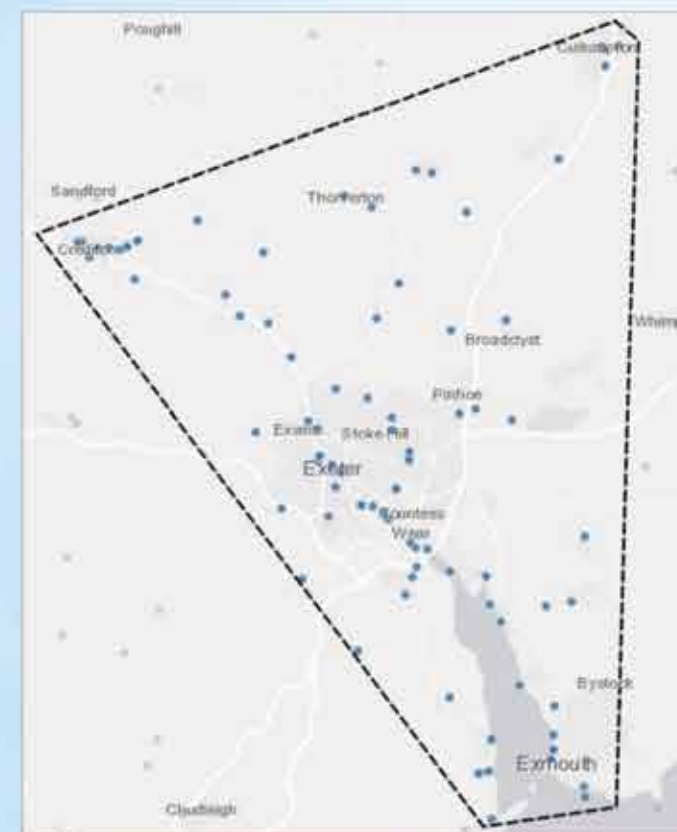
Water quality in our environmentally sensitive estuary is affected by a variety of pollution sources including storm overflows on the sewage network. Designed to be used only after very heavy rainfall, they spill a mix of raw sewage and rainfall run off into waters including the Exe Estuary. ESCAPE is a group set up to monitor these spills, provide information to the public and campaign to reduce their use. Excluding the extremely dry summer of 2022, the number and duration of spills has unfortunately increased.

Testing water quality is only a start. Equally important is making water users aware of a problem so they can make informed decisions before entering the water, or walking their dog on the beach. There are a number of alert systems available, but these are confusing, inconsistent and provide conflicting information.

ESCAPE is demanding change so that beach users are protected by: 1) testing water quality all year round and 2) providing a simple, consistent system that alerts to a problem. An easily understood, independent traffic light alert system accessible on a phone would be amazing.

This is a public safety matter, so action is crucial. Email: exmouthescape23@gmail.com

125 CSOS IN WIDER EXE CATCHMENT



(EA, 31 March 2023)

	Spills	Duration (Hrs)
2020	2,327	17,374
2021	2,320	16,728
2022	1,823	11,614

'Despite claims by some water companies, there is no evidence to show [reduction in 2022] is because of water company action.'

EA, 31 March 2023

Event Duration Monitoring (EDM) measures the frequency and duration of releases to the environment from storm overflows.

Further information at:

therivertrust.org/key-issues/sewage-in-rivers

FORE CITIZEN SCIENCE INVESTIGATIONS (CSI) WATER TESTING PROJECT

The Friends of the River Exe (FORE) Citizen Science project aims to increase the number of volunteers regularly testing the water quality in the River Exe by building up a network of testers who can support and encourage each other. This is being done in collaboration with Westcountry Rivers Trust (WRT) who supply the testing equipment, explain how to sample and test the water, and provide access to a database where testers can enter their data.

We currently have just over 130 existing and prospective testers. In January we hosted our first training session where WRT staff trained 30 people in using the testing equipment (supplied thanks to funding by Sea-Change).

Testers go out monthly to an agreed riverside location, where they observe the condition of the river and its surroundings and measure:

- Water temperature
- Total dissolved solids (TDS). (ie the amount of chemicals, slurry, sewage and salts dissolved in the water).
- Turbidity indicating the level of suspended solids or undissolved pollution. (This can increase as a result of soil erosion, road runoff and sewage)
- Phosphate level (found in fertilizers, sewage and industrial wastes, but natural levels are very low).

Currently the testing equipment is only suitable for fresh water as the TDS measurement includes the amount of salt in the water so for any locations below Trews Weir and on the estuary, testers would have to either leave out the total dissolved solids or test in a freshwater stream or brook feeding into the Exe. WRT are hoping to trial



testing equipment suitable for salty water (called the Estuarine Project) with FORE, but the timescales for this are currently unknown.

To complement the volunteer testing we are also hoping to raise funds for a continuous monitoring device that could sit at the mouth of the estuary and gather data all the time.

What can you do? Whether you'd like to be a water tester, can offer skills as a data analysis expert, or would be interested in researching or joining a fundraising group for a continuous monitoring device we'd love to hear from you.

Email our CSI group at citizenscience@friendsoftheriverexe.org or for other ideas you can contact coordinators Clare and Mary via mary@friendsoftheriverexe.org You can find out more about the other activities we do to protect, restore and celebrate the River Exe on our website friendsoftheriverexe.org



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





PORT OF EXETER HARBOUR REVISION ORDER: INFORMAL STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION

Exeter City Council (the Council) is the statutory harbour authority for the Port of Exeter and Exeter Ship Canal (the Port). On 12 September 2023, the Council submitted a Harbour Revision Order (HRO) application to the Marine Management Organisation designed to consolidate and modernise the statutory powers and duties applying to the Council.

The Council recognises the benefit of local consultation with port stakeholders. Therefore, the Council offered port stakeholders an advanced opportunity to consider the HRO application documents, between 1st February and 14th March 2024. The aim of this informal

consultation was to resolve any queries prior to the 42-day formal consultation which is anticipated to take place later in 2024.

All relevant documents, including the HRO and answers to frequently asked questions, are available on the Council website here: tinyurl.com/59pr2umt

Following the close of the consultation period on 14 March, the Council will review and consolidate all of the consultation responses received and produce a summary document of the key themes raised and the Council's response to them. It is anticipated that the response document will be publicly available approximately 8 weeks following the close of the consultation period.

ADVENTURE AWAITS: EXMOUTH SCOUTS' LEGACY



The troop started in 1939 initially meeting in old houseboats in Exmouth docks. The troop later met at St Andrews Church Hall. Then during the 50's relocating to the District Scout Hut on Marpool Hill with summer meetings at Dixons slipway.

In 1963, the current site at the Imperial Recreation Ground, Camperdown Terrace was secured from the Exmouth UDC (Urban District Council) and the troop met there in an old packing case.

Initially St Mary's Church Hall in Hamilton Lane, the current building was re-erected for the scouts by John Hopkins Builders in 1964 and "finished" by volunteer adults and Senior Scouts.

The new hut officially opened in 1967 and remains essentially the same to this day. Soon after the opening of the Scout hut a boat house was added.

Ideally located with direct access to the Exe Estuary and the adjacent green space of the Imperial Recreation Ground. The group has flourished and set many young people of on a lifetime of adventure with skills and confidence they may not otherwise have had.

It was the boat house which was first to be demolished in order to clear the ground for the new building, ready for the new building seen in the image below.

The Scout Association provides adventurous activities for children and young adults from age 4 up to 25, regardless of gender, religion or social background. At present due to the poor facilities the 5th Exmouth only have scouts from 10 to 14 years of age, but with proper facilities this can be extended to accommodate the younger ages, the district Explorer Scouts and hopefully other community groups.

The scouts have been able to start the project thanks to a substantial generous donation from Exmouth & District Round Table Gordon Mather House Charity. However there is still a considerable amount of money required to complete the project.

Anyone wishing to support the scouts can do so by searching the groups website for the buy a brick details. Or directly via the following link
wonderful.org/fundraisers/Nz0Bn



POWDERHAM MOORINGS

Deep Water Moorings (up to 1.8 LWS)
Easily accessible from Starcross
Available on licence from Powderham Estate



T: 01626 890243 E: moorings@powderham.co.uk

UPON THE EBBING TIDE

Ray Balkwill lives and works close by the Exe Estuary and it's a place that he has a deep and personal connection with. For more than three decades the estuary has provided a visual stimulus for his art in a variety of media. From paintings produced en plein air in watercolour, pastels and oils, to studio paintings in acrylics, collage and mixed media. However, Ray is continually experimenting and seeking new ways of looking at a familiar subject. Perhaps none more so than with his recent assemblages where he produces artworks made from 'waste' material found on the foreshore of the Exe Estuary.



Ray explains:

"Much of the content of these assemblages are the weathered fragments of old discarded boats, where the attritions of time, weather and tide have created new minor geographies on their surfaces. Here I seek to suggest what they might become; be it sky, land, estuary or sea. My palette is the naturally occurring patinas of the various material itself. I choose not to disturb these, but instead use the material's own reaction to the elements to their best effect; thereby carrying the history of the place. I love the idea that it can be repurposed, and that these simple, discarded fragments have all known previous lives, yet still speak and invite rebirth".



'Upon the Ebbing Tide' will be exhibited in
Topsham Museum, 25 Strand, Topsham.
It runs from **27th March** until **2nd June**.
Wednesdays to Sundays 2 – 5pm.

FREE Admission.

Prints and Cards are also available in the Museum Shop.

Further details visit www.topshammuseum.org.uk

NATIONAL COASTWATCH INSTITUTION EXMOUTH

COAST PATH PASSPORT

NCI TO PROVIDE 'COAST PATH PASSPORT'
STAMPING POINTS ALONG THE SOUTH
WEST COAST PATH

The National Coastwatch Institution (NCI) has become an official 'Coast Path Passport' stamping point partner, working with the charity which cares for the UK's longest and most popular National Trail, the South West Coast Path.

The new partnership means that visitors to the Trail can now stop off at NCI stations along the 630-mile route to collect different 'stamps' in their Camino-style Coast Path Passport and find out more about the work of both charities. National Coastwatch has 24 of its 60 stations along the South West Coast Path and its volunteers help to keep people safe on the coast and save lives at sea by maintaining a daily visual and radio watch.

The South West Coast Path Association created the Coast Path Passport 18 months ago in order to help the nine million visitors who use the Path each year create a lasting memory of their journey along it. The Passport is also designed to encourage walkers to stop off at local coastal businesses and communities along the way, helping them to get a share of the £520 million the Trail brings into the local economy each year.

Stamps representing the unique nature of each section of the Path can now be collected from over 135 stamping points, with the 24 National Coastwatch stations along the South West Coast Path being the latest additions.

Julian Gray, Director, South West Coast Path Association comments,

"We're really excited to be working in partnership with the National Coastwatch Institution. The stations are ideally positioned along the Path and hark back to the original use of the Coast Path when it was used by the coastguard and customs and excise to look out for smugglers."

Sarah Gunn, Business Engagement at the charity adds,
"The fact that the majority of the NCI stations are open 365 days a year is an added bonus. We're sure that walkers will enjoy finding out more about the NCI's work from its volunteers, as well being able to pick up their Passport stamp and some more information about the work we do as a charity to care for, champion and connect people and local communities to the amazing health and wellbeing benefits of the iconic South West Coast Path."



Stephen Hand, Chair of the National Coastwatch Institution says,

"We're delighted to partner with the South West Coast Path Association as we share the same broad aims of wanting people to share our love of the coast, enjoy themselves and take home happy memories. For us that means staying safe and all our stations along the Trail are now looking forward to giving a warm welcome to even more walkers, whether they are stopping for a passport stamp, a brief rest, or to check information about the local conditions."

Exmouth NCI have their passport stamp in place, readily available to participants by visiting their lookout, seven days a week, from 9am until dusk.

Scan the QR code to find out more.



EXE ESTUARY TRAIL REOPENED WORKS ON COURTLANDS BOARDWALK COMPLETE



The Exe Estuary Trail between Lymington and Exmouth was closed for 4 months and was reopened on Tuesday 30th January 2024 following the replacement of Courtlands Boardwalk.

The original timber elements have all been replaced with a new fibre-reinforced polymer (FRP) material, reusing the original foundations. The new superstructure will require very little maintenance and has a design life in excess of 75 years and a life expectancy of over 100 years.

The replacement was a significant undertaking requiring a large amount of materials to be taken to and from the boardwalk. Over 94 tonnes of timber were removed with 70 new spans installed consisting of around 6,000 GRP elements using more than 26,700 stainless steel screws and bolts.

These works have been vitally important to keep the trail open for all to enjoy for many years to come.



PRESERVING DEVON'S WETLANDS: THE NEW KING'S NATIONAL NATURE RESERVE

Devon's Pebblebed Heaths National Nature Reserve extended by nearly 90 hectares, the equivalent of 128 football pitches, to encompass a unique wetland.

The extension was announced in February, making the Otter Estuary Nature Reserve the third in the new King's Series of National Nature Reserves, leaving a lasting public legacy for people and nature.

The huge climate change adaptation project led by the Environment Agency reconnected the River Otter with its historic estuarine floodplain – helping protect properties but also creating a new wetland habitat. This unique landscape supports some of our most precious wildlife, from Dartford warblers, silver-studded blue butterflies to populations of sea trout, Atlantic salmon and eels and will now be protected for nature.

Extending the area managed for conservation will create bigger and better joined up spaces for wildlife and will help to achieve the government's targets to halt and reverse nature's decline. The Project will also provide compensatory habitat to make up for that lost to climate change and flood defence works in the Exe Estuary.

Tony Juniper, Chair of Natural England, said:

"The extension of the Pebblebed Heaths National Nature Reserve to encompass the River Otter restoration project is a huge step for nature recovery. The Otter estuary restoration shows how we can work with nature to deliver multiple benefits from climate change adaptation while supporting internationally important wildlife."

Dr Sam Bridgewater, Director of Environment Strategy and Evidence, Clinton Devon Estates said:

"We have been delighted with how nature is thriving in this greatly enhanced and expanded wetland with almost every week bringing a new species sighting. It has also been wonderful to see the overwhelmingly positive response from the public who can easily access the site and connect with nature."

National Nature Reserve status is given to the very best nature conservation sites in England and is recognition that the land is nationally important and will be managed in perpetuity for its wildlife and geology.

The announcement will also provide a boost to the local economy with the nature reserve well connected to the local towns and villages - in excess of 250,000 local people and visitors already enjoy the Otter Estuary Nature Reserve each year using the network of footpaths which run through it, including part of the South West Coast path.

Photo: Otter Mouth, Clinton Devon Estates

CAN YOU MAKE THE MOVE TO EMAILED COPIES OF EXE PRESS?

If you choose to receive our newsletter by email rather than post, not only will you be reducing our environmental impact, but you will also be helping the Exe Estuary Partnership to reduce costs of printing and delivering, which would help to redirect our limited funds to much needed projects.

We understand that printed copies are still incredibly valuable to some, and we want to ensure that we continue to provide news that is accessible to all. However, if you would be happy to instead receive the Exe Press by email, please let us know by emailing us at **exeestua@devon.gov.uk**. Thank you!

In order to further reduce the copies we produce, we are now moving to two seasonal editions per year.



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**



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FOR PEOPLE, FOR WILDLIFE, FOR THE FUTURE