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23 May 2025

EXECUTIVE

A meeting of the **Executive** will be held on **Tuesday, 3rd June, 2025** in the **Council Chamber, Forde House, Brunel Road, Newton Abbot, TQ12 4XX** at **10.00 am**

PHIL SHEARS
Managing Director

Membership:

Councillors Buscombe, Goodman-Bradbury, Hook, Keeling (Leader), Nutley, Palethorpe (Deputy Leader), G Taylor, Williams and Parrott

Please Note: Filming is permitted during Committee meeting with the exception where there are confidential or exempt items, which may need to be considered in the absence of the press and public. By entering the Council Chamber you are consenting to being filmed.

A G E N D A

Part I

1. **Apologies for absence**
2. **Minutes** (Pages 3 - 8)
To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 8 April 2025.
3. **Announcements (if any)**
4. **Declarations of Interest (if any)**
5. **Executive Forward Plan**
To note forthcoming decisions anticipated [on the Executive Forward Plan](#)

6. **Public Questions (if any)**

Members of the Public may ask questions of the Leader or an Executive Member. A maximum period of 15 minutes will be allowed with a maximum of period of three minutes per questioner.

7. **Rural England Prosperity Fund 25-26** (Pages 9 - 60)

8. **South East Devon Joint Habitat Mitigation Strategy** (Pages 61 - 146)

9. **Update on Future High Street Fund**

Executive Member for Economy, Estates and Major Projects

10. **For Information - Individual Executive Member Decisions**

[Executive Member Decisions](#)

11. **Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 - Exclusion of Press and Public**

It is considered items will not need to be discussed in private session, but should this be necessary the meeting is recommended to consider the following:

RECOMMENDED that, under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of item(s) on the grounds that it (they) involve(s) the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the relevant paragraph(s) of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act.

Part II: Items suggested for discussion with the press and public excluded

NIL

If you would like this information in another format, please telephone 01626 361101 or e-mail info@teignbridge.gov.uk

EXECUTIVE**8 APRIL 2025**Present:

Councillors Buscombe, Hook, Keeling (Leader), Palethorpe (Deputy Leader),
G Taylor, Williams and Parrott

Members in Attendance:

Councillors Bullivant and Clarence

Apologies:

Councillors Nutley

Absent:

Cllr Goodman-Bradbury

Officers in Attendance:

Neil Blaney, Director of Place

Phil Shears, Managing Director

Graham Davey, Housing Enabling and Development Manager

Ian Perry, Interim Head of Development Management

Paul Woodhead, Head of Legal & Democratic Services and Monitoring Officer

Christopher Morgan, Trainee Democratic Services Officer

***These decisions will take effect from 10am on Tuesday 15 April 2025
unless called in or identified as urgent in the Minute***

134. MINUTES

It was proposed by the Leader and seconded by the Deputy Leader that the minutes of the previous meeting be agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

It was unanimously

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the previous meeting be agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

135. ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

136. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

137. EXECUTIVE FORWARD PLAN

The Executive Forward Plan was noted.

138. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

None.

139. STREET NAMING AND NUMBERING POLICY

The Executive Member for Planning and Building Control introduced the item to the Committee. The policy would be shared between Teignbridge, Exeter, and East Devon Councils. The 9 alterations were considered minor and relate to obtaining the correct permissions to use place or character names of fictional characters, and to avoid place names of people living or deceased. Point 3 notes that authority is delegated to the head of development management to agree future changes in consultation with the Executive Member for Planning and Building Control. It is noted that the revised policy facilitates the use of the name of a deceased person within a street but with the requirement to obtain written permission from a family member or state administration, carried over from the previous policy.

The Executive Member also proposed an amendment that the policy would not exclude the use of names of those who had died during their service of the country, so that their names could be included on any potential war memorial, blue plaque, or within a major public archive.

It was proposed by The Executive Member for Planning and Building Control and seconded by the Leader that:

1. The Committee adopt the updated policy as set out in appendix 1 to this report with the addition to the policy as noted in point 2 to include the wording this policy does not exclude the use of names which commemorates those who have died in the service of this country or are already deserving of public recognition for instance by their inclusion or citation on a war memorial, blue plaque, or within a major public archive.
2. That delegated authority be given to the Head of Development Management to approve further revisions of the policy in consultation with the Executive Member for Planning and Building Control.

It was unanimously

RESOLVED

1. The Committee adopt the updated policy as set out in appendix 1 to this report with the addition to the policy as noted in point 2 to include the wording this policy does not exclude the use of names which commemorates those who have died in the service of this country or are already deserving of public recognition for instance by their inclusion or citation on a war memorial, blue plaque, or within a major public archive.
2. That delegated authority be given to the Head of Development Management to approve further revisions of the policy in consultation with the Executive Member for Planning and Building Control.

140. UPDATE ON FUTURE HIGH STREET FUND PROJECT

The Executive Member for Economy, Estates and Major Projects Cllr Palethorpe, reported that the Future High Streets Fund (FHSF) programme in Newton Abbot was progressing across key projects, including Queen Street enhancements, Bradley Lane regeneration, and Market Hall & Market Square redevelopment. His updates were as below.

Future High Street Fund – Delivering Regeneration in Newton Abbot

Teignbridge District Council is delivering transformational change for Newton Abbot through its Future High Street Fund (FHSF) programme. With the major construction phase of the Queen Street Enhancement Scheme now complete, and significant progress underway at Bradley Lane and the Market Hall, the district is moving with purpose and ambition to revitalise Newton Abbot Town centre for the future.

Queen Street Enhancement – A Regeneration Milestone Delivered

The completion of major construction on Queen Street marks a pivotal achievement in the regeneration of Newton Abbot's town centre. Delivered through the Future High Street Fund, the scheme has reshaped Queen Street into a safer, greener, and more accessible street that puts people first and supports economic recovery.

Key Achievements

- Pedestrian-first environment: Widened pavements and narrowed carriageways now offer greater safety and comfort for families, older people, and those with mobility challenges.
- Reduced traffic and lower speed limits: These changes are creating a calmer, more welcoming town centre, discouraging unnecessary through traffic while improving pedestrian visibility and safety.
- Enhancements: The enhancements have significantly improved the visual appeal and usability of the street, enhancing pride in place.
- Improved crossing safety: Especially between Albany Road and Courtenay Street, reduced on-street parking has improved sightlines and made the street safer for vulnerable users.

Public Realm Enhancements

- Street furniture: Attractive, traditional-style benches installed at Prospect Terrace and Fairfield Terrace offer spaces to pause, rest and enjoy the new environment.
- Greening and biodiversity: Seven new Junberry trees, complemented by planted surface-level flower beds, will deliver seasonal colour, support pollinators and contribute to urban biodiversity.
- Ongoing partnership with the Town Council: The installation of hanging basket columns and upcoming planting, maintained by Newton Abbot Town Council, will add vibrancy and a sense of community ownership.

Monitoring and Safety

- A full independent Road Safety Audit has been completed, with results feeding into continuous improvement.
- A joint monitoring and evaluation phase led by Devon County Council and Teignbridge District Council will assess performance, ensuring Queen Street continues to evolve in line with the community's needs.

Managing Disruption – Communication and Clarity

While disruption was unavoidable, it is important to note that many traffic issues in the wider area were linked to essential gas works by Wales & West Utilities, separate from the Queen Street scheme. These utility works along Queen Street are now complete, and full reinstatement has been achieved.

Bradley Lane Redevelopment – Unlocking a Strategic Site

The Bradley Lane site clearance and demolition works are progressing, despite minor delays caused by notifiable asbestos removal and the need to secure and protect the Leat which required CCTV inspection to ensure it was not damaged by moving vehicles during demolition.

This cleared site represents a once-in-a-generation opportunity to deliver high-impact development on a brilliantly located brown field site in the heart of Newton Abbot.

Next Steps – Vision and Community Benefit

A clear, shared vision must now be developed, involving key stakeholders and informed by community priorities. Strategic options that may be considered include:

- General and affordable housing
- Social housing and essential and much needed extra care provision
- Leisure or mixed-use development to complement the town centre economy

The administration remains committed to delivering meaningful outcomes for residents and securing long-term community benefit from this key regeneration site. Financial return will not be the sole driver.

Market Hall & Market Square – A New Destination for Newton Abbot

Work is well underway to transform the historic Market Hall and Market Square into a vibrant year-round destination. The ambition is to re-establish the market as a dynamic focal point for food, events, and community activity, supporting both economic and cultural vitality.

Core Features of the Redevelopment

- A mix of permanent and flexible stalls to support local entrepreneurs and changing seasonal needs.
- A dedicated food court area offering variety and appeal for residents and visitors.
- A programme of themed and seasonal events, supported by infrastructure in the square of power and the ability to have flexible layouts.

Sustainable Operation

Officers are exploring professional management models, learning from successful schemes from across the Country. This approach aims to secure long-term financial and operational sustainability, while enabling the space to respond to evolving community and commercial needs.

Conclusion – A Town Centre with Upward Momentum

Across Queen Street, Bradley Lane, and the Market Hall, the FHSF programme is delivering visible, strategic change. These projects are not only enhancing Newton Abbot's public realm and infrastructure, but also positioning the town as a thriving, future-focused centre for living, working, shopping and community life. The Council's focus now turns to:

- Capturing the benefits through robust monitoring and evaluation
- Engaging stakeholders in planning for future phases
- Ensuring the momentum continues through 2025 and beyond

Through this programme, Newton Abbot is redefining itself—demonstrating that with strong leadership, meaningful investment, and community-focused planning, local regeneration can succeed.

White Boxing Update

- Market Square, formerly The Other Cup, Oggi Oggi have been completed
- Clarks have renewed their Lease
- Vigar Electrical have signed a lease for the former Body Shop unit in Market Walk

The update was noted.

141. HOUSING OMBUDSMAN

The Executive Member for Housing and Homelessness introduced the item. The report included amendments to the complaints policy to ensure that Teignbridge

is fully compliant with the self-assessment it had carried out. There were 5 recommendations in the report. The Executive Member noted that under recommendation 2 there had been no complaints in the previous 2 years and that under recommendation 3 the satisfaction survey had been incredibly positive besides one minor comment relating to fly tipping in one area which would be investigated.

The Executive Member for Environmental Services commented that the fly tipping was becoming more common but that he would be meeting with his management team to work on prevention of this problem, including collaborating with parishes to implement CCTV surveillance.

The Executive Member for Housing and Homelessness thanked the Housing Enabling and Development Manager for his hard work as he was retiring in June.

It was proposed by the Executive Member for Housing and Homelessness and seconded by the Leader that the recommendations set out in the report and below be approved.

It was unanimously

RESOLVED

That the Executive –

1. Note and approve the Housing Ombudsman annual Self Assessment forms for financial years 2023/2024 and 2024/2025.
2. Note and approve annual complaints performance reports for financial years 2023/2024 and 2024/2025.
3. To note the outcomes of the Annual Tenant Satisfaction Measures Report.
4. To Approve the Revised Complaints Policy.
5. That the Portfolio Holder for Housing and Homelessness is appointed as the Executive Member responsible for Housing complaints.

142. FOR INFORMATION - INDIVIDUAL EXECUTIVE MEMBER DECISIONS

The Executive decisions found at the link on the agenda were noted.

The meeting started at 10.02 am and finished at 10.27 am.

Teignbridge District Council

Committee name

Meeting date

Part i

Rural England Prosperity Fund (REPF) 2025-26

Purpose of Report

To approve the development and implementation of the Teignbridge District Council Projects Proposal for the Rural England Prosperity Fund (REPF) 2025-26 Investment Plan.

Recommendation(s)

The Committee RESOLVES to:

- (1) To approve the implementation of the Teignbridge District Council Projects Proposal for the Rural England Prosperity Fund (REPF) 2025-26 Investment Plan that reflects the interventions identified in Section 3 of this report; and
- (2) Delegate authority to the Director of Place, to implement the Teignbridge District Council Projects Proposal for the Rural England Prosperity Fund (REPF) 2025-26 Investment Plan upon it being approved by Government.

Financial Implications

Please see Section 3.3 to 3.5.

Martin Flitcroft, Chief Financial Officer & Director of Corporate Services

Email: martin.flitcroft@teignbridge.gov.uk

Legal Implications

Please see Section 3.6.

Paul Woodhead, Head of Legal and Democratic Services

Email: paul.woodhead@teignbridge.gov.uk

Risk Assessment

Please see Section 3.10 to 3.14.

Louisa Brinton, Economic Development Officer Town Centres

Email: louisa.brinton@teignbridge.gov.uk

Environmental/ Climate Change Implications

Please see Section 3.8 to 3.9.
William Elliott, Climate Change Officer
Email: william.elliott@teignbridge.gov.uk

Report Author

Louisa Brinton, Economic Development Officer Town Centres
Email: louisa.brinton@teignbridge.gov.uk

Executive Member

Executive Member for Economy, Estates and Major Projects, Cllr David Palethorpe
Executive Member for Neighbourhood Services, Cllr Linda Goodman-Bradbury

Appendices/Background Papers

- Appendix 1 – Equalities Impact Assessment
- Appendix 2 - Teignbridge Project Proposal REPF 2025-26 Investment Plan
- Appendix 3 – DTCCA REPF 2025-26 Grant Proposal
- Appendix 4 – Statistical Report for Projects Delivered through REPF 2023-25 and UKSPF 2022-25
- Appendix 5 – REPF 2025-26 Outputs and Outcomes
- Appendix 6 - Acronyms

Background Papers

[Rural England Prosperity Fund \(REPF\): prospectus 2025-26](#) A £33m complementary fund to the UK Shared Prosperity Fund 2025-26.

[Rural England Prosperity Fund: Allocations 2025 to 2026](#)

[Rural England Prosperity Fund \(REPF\): prospectus 2023-25](#) A £110m complementary fund to the UK Shared Prosperity Fund 2022-25.

[Rural England Prosperity Fund \(REPF\) Full Council Approval, 29th November, 2022](#)
Full Council approval for the REPF 2023-25 Investment Plan projects.

[One Teignbridge](#): Teignbridge District Council approved strategy.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Rural England Prosperity Fund (REPF) 2025-26 is a transitional grant scheme, representing a further allocation of £33 million across the UK to fund capital projects for businesses and community infrastructure in rural areas. Previously, REPF 2023-25 (and the associated UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) 2022-25) have been provided directly to district councils. However, the REPF 2025-26 (and associated UKSPF 2025-26) is being provided to the Devon and Torbay Combined County Authority (DTCCA).

- 1.2 The funding continues to be based on 2 main themes of **'Communities and Place'** and **'Business Support'**, to 'improve productivity and strengthen the rural economy and rural communities across the UK'. Delivery is from May 2025 with spend by 31 March 2026 and must support one of 3 of the national missions:

Mission 1: Kickstart economic growth
Mission 4: Break down barriers to opportunity
Mission 5: Build an NHS fit for the future

- 1.3 The DTCCA has an indicative allocation of £1,826,589 capital and Central Government has provided suggested sub-division allocations to district councils thereafter. DTCCA will work with Devon County Council (DCC), who are the Accountable Body.

- 1.4 No additional funds have been provided to support associated administration costs.

- 1.5 The indicative allocation to Teignbridge District Council is £195,067 capital.

- 1.6 REPF 2025-26 was announced in early April 2025, with the DTCCA being provided with the deadline to submit an Investment Plan to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) by 30 April 2025. DTCCA and DCC consulted with District Councils on 11 April 2025 and provided a deadline to submit potential Project Proposals by 17 April 2025. Due to the timescales, it was appreciated that formal sign off for the Project Proposal would follow thereafter (see Appendix 2).

- 1.7 DTCCA's default position is to run a centralised capital grant scheme of between £3,000 and £50,000, with up to a 60% intervention rate for businesses and 100% for community organisations (see Appendix 3). The proposal included that district allocations would follow Government indicative amounts, however, the DTCCA have contacted Government to request if the funding allocations could be further split to provide Exeter and Torbay, who are currently exempt from the fund, with allocations.

- 1.8 Currently Exeter and Torbay do not meet the criteria for REPF, namely:

- 1.8.1 Projects must be in a rural area. For Rural Fund purposes, rural areas are:

towns, villages and hamlets with populations below 10,000 and the wider countryside

market or 'hub towns' with populations of up to 30,000 that serve their surrounding rural areas as centres of employment and in providing services

2. Background

- 2.1 The proposed Teignbridge Project Proposal REPF 2025-26 Investment Plan was developed in conjunction with the Director for Place and Executive Members for Economy, Estates and Major Projects and Neighbourhood Services to ensure that the DTCCA deadline was achieved and to help ensure as far as practical, that the allocated spend remains within Teignbridge (see Appendix 2). The proposal has been based on lessons learnt through REPF 2023-25 (and UKSPF 2022-25) projects delivery.

- 2.2 Appendix 4 provides a statistical report for the projects delivered through the REPF 2023-25 (and UKSPF 2022-25 grant schemes). 21 rural businesses, community buildings and organisations are now saving money on energy costs, reducing carbon

emissions, enjoying improved accessibility to active travel routes and a new rural accessible community transport buses scheme to serve the rural hinterland. However, bringing forward several smaller value grant applications has a significant administrative and staff capacity implication, with no additional funding provided to cover such costs.

2.3 Spending allocation and profile for REPF 2023-25 below and you will note the following:

- 2.3.1 The Teignbridge REPF 2023-25 Investment Plan included the Rural Broadband scheme, although originally approved by the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), as the scheme detailed evolved, authorisation was subsequently withdrawn. Year one spend was not achieved, but monies carried forward and reallocated to an alternative project.
- 2.3.2 Overspend for the Rural Transport and Connectivity project was due to the fund being oversubscribed and monies were reallocated from Rural Communities Fund underspend.
- 2.3.3 Underspend within the Rural Communities Fund was due to lack of demand and spend by grant recipients coming in below the Grant Funding Agreement allocations.

Rural England Prosperity Fund	Overall Allocation	Spend	Spend	Total Spend
	£	Year 1 £	Year 2 £	£
Rural Communities Fund (RGBG)	300,000.00	0	367,017.43	367,017.43
Rural Transport and Connectivity Fund	200,000.00	0	209,697.34	209,697.34
Rural Broadband (reallocated to Rural Communities Fund)	*150,000.00	0	0	0
Admin	0	0	0	0
Totals:	**650,332.00	0	576,714.77	576,714.77

* Rural Broadband monies reallocated to Rural Communities Fund (Rural Green Business Grant)

** Overall allocation amount, individual project amounts have been rounded.

2.4 Teignbridge Projects Proposal UKSPF 2025-26 Investment Plan aims to deliver a larger value grants scheme, as flexibly designed as possible within the REPF parameters, which will have the potential for significant impactful results, whilst lessening the associated administrative and staff capacity implications (see Appendix 2):

2.4.1 The proposed project would comprise of a singular Teignbridge competitive scheme for grants between £30,000 and £75,000, which would achieve at least one of the following outputs:

- Green & blue spaces created/improved
- Amenities & facilities created/improved
- Footpaths/cycle path created/improved
- Tourism, cultural or heritage asset created/improved
- Energy efficiency improvements

2.4.2. You must use funding on capital projects. This means you must spend grants on lasting assets such as a building or equipment.

3. Main Implications

- 3.1 Central Government has provided a technical guidance note on how this funding should be spent. Projects will be prioritised in line with the funding parameters, deliverability against the 31 March 2026 spend deadline and the Council's strategic priorities, guided by the One Teignbridge Council Strategy.
- 3.2 All grant awards must achieve at least one of the related REPF outputs and outcomes to qualify (See Appendix 3).

Financial Implications

- 3.3 If the Teignbridge Project Proposal REPF 2025-26 Investment Plan is approved, funding will be provided to Teignbridge to directly deliver schemes. On that basis, the Investment Plan should be cost neutral.
- 3.4 However, there will be more work needed to convert the Investment Plan into operational schemes that are benefitting communities and businesses, alongside monitoring requirements associated with reporting expenditure of the fund and its outcomes to the Government, this work will be managed and undertaken by the Economic Development Teams existing staff resources.
- 3.5 There are no additional resources required over and above existing budgets.

Legal Implications

- 3.6 There are no legal implications per se arising from this report.

Equality

- 3.7 An equality impact assessment has been prepared and is included at Appendix 1. Consideration has been given to prioritising projects that will not discriminate against groups with protected characteristics and increase opportunities for all.

Environmental / Climate Change Impact

- 3.8 The overall approach to recommending Teignbridge Project Proposal REPF 2025-26 has been to respond to national and local strategies, as well as evidence and feedback from local stakeholders and partners. The climate emergency has been a consideration, and this is proposed through the interventions.
- 3.9 The recognised outputs established provides the opportunity for applicants to bring forward projects to help them reduce energy and emissions.

Risk Assessment

- 3.10 The risk to Teignbridge is minimal as the funding award is based on facilitating spend of Government monies (with any underspend being repaid). On this basis, it would present more of a missed opportunity, than a financial risk if the schemes did not come forward.
- 3.11 Any grants awarded by Teignbridge to applicants will be paid in arrears, as previously, to ensure that Teignbridge is not financially liable should projects not fully complete. The risk to applicants is that they would either not in a position to bid for funding or would be unable to make payments in advance of reclaiming the funds from Teignbridge.

- 3.12 There is a requirement for us to comply with all Government guidance related to this fund and ensure all necessary permissions and agreements are in place between all parties in a timely manner, including all monies being spent by the end of March 2026. The risk here is that we do not meet these targets.
- 3.13 DTCCA will have full financial responsibility for the Projects Proposal REPF 2025-26 Investment Plan, with a Funding Agreement to be implemented with Teignbridge, reflecting Government MOU terms and Grant Determination letter. Teignbridge will be required to provide cumulative 6 monthly monitoring and reporting to DCC with a staged payment allocation approach (likely to be based on a 50 per cent award basis) and awaiting further detail from MHCLG. The risk is that we do not meet the targets.
- 3.14 However, should Members decide not to support the Teignbridge Projects Proposal REPF 2025-26 Investment Plan and look for alternative projects, the risk there would be an impact on available resource, a reduced opportunity for project development, for successful grant applicants/partners to spend grant monies or deliver services within the 31 March 2026 deadline. Alternatively, the DTCCA may choose to redistribute Teignbridge's allocation, or run its proposed default grant scheme.

4. Alternative Options

- 4.1. Government has stated that this scheme is a 'transitional one-year fund' (to allow longer-term grant schemes to be developed), which should build on the successes and lessons learnt from the REPF 2023-25 and UKSPF 2022-25 funds. The restrictive timescales involved prevented wider consultation (although consultation was part of the original fund development) and the recommended approach to project selection has been based on knowledge gained to date.
- 4.2. The grant project proposed has been designed to provide flexibility, within the parameters of REPF. There are no additional revenue monies available to deliver the fund, for example, through third party assessment. Relatively large grant awards are therefore proposed to help deliver impactful schemes, whilst mindful of the associated administration, with grant application assessment being on a scoring matrix basis.
- 4.3. An alternative would be to not endorse the Teignbridge District Council Projects Proposal REPF 2025-26 Investment Plan. If that course of action was followed, Teignbridge would not necessarily receive any, or all of the REPF funding from DTCCA, or have a sound basis for partnership working going forward.

5. Conclusion

- 1.1. The Teignbridge Project Proposal REPF 2025-26 Investment Plan will help to benefit Teignbridge businesses and community infrastructure in rural areas. With approval from Executive, delegation will be put in place to deliver the interventions that have been identified at Appendix 2 to develop the Teignbridge Projects Proposal for the Rural England Prosperity Fund (REPF) 2025-26 Investment Plan and implement the projects accordingly.

Appendices Attached:

Appendix 1 – Equalities Impact Assessment

Appendix 2 - Teignbridge Project Proposal REPF 2025-26 Investment Plan

Appendix 3 – DTCCA REPF 2025-26 Grant Proposal

Appendix 4 – Statistical Report for Projects Delivered through REPF 2023-25 and
UKSPF 2022-25

Appendix 5 – REPF 2025-26 Outputs and Outcomes

Appendix 6 - Acronyms

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Equality Impact Assessment



Assessment Of: Rural England Prosperity Fund 2025	
<input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Strategy <input type="checkbox"/> Function <input type="checkbox"/> Service <input type="checkbox"/> Other:	<input type="checkbox"/> New <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Already exists / review <input type="checkbox"/> Changing
Directorate: Place	Assessment carried out by: Louisa Brinton
Service Area: Strategy and Partnership	Job Role: Economic Development Officer – Town Centres
Date of Sign Off by Director: 16/5/2025	Neil Blaney

Step 1: What do we want to do?

This assessment should be started at the beginning of the process by someone with a good knowledge of the proposal and service area, and sufficient influence over the proposal. It is good practice to take a team approach to completing the equality impact assessment. Please contact the Policy Officer early for advice.

1.1 What are the aims and objectives/purpose of this proposal?

Briefly explain the purpose of the proposal and why it is needed. Describe who it is aimed at and the intended aims / outcomes. Where known also summarise the key actions you plan to undertake. Please use plain English, avoiding jargon and acronyms. Equality Impact Assessments are viewed by a wide range of people including decision-makers and the wider public.

To agree the principles for developing and implementing the Teignbridge projects proposal for the Rural England Prosperity Fund (REPF) 2025-26 Investment Plans.

The REPF is a one-year government capital fund of approximately £195,000.

The Rural England Prosperity Fund supports businesses and provision of community infrastructure which provides essential services and assets for local people and businesses. The primary goal is to build 'pride in place' and improve living standards in Teignbridge. Underneath this goal there are the two investment priorities: Communities and place and supporting local business.

The primary goal of this transitional fund is, 'to provide capital projects for businesses and community infrastructure in rural areas'.

There is the potential for positive impacts on equality and inclusion, these will be considered through the application process.

1.2 Who will the proposal have the potential to affect?

<input type="checkbox"/> Service users	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The wider community	<input type="checkbox"/> Teignbridge workforce
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1.3 Will the proposal have an equality impact?

Could the proposal affect access levels of representation or participation in a service, or does it have the potential to change e.g. quality of life: health, education, or standard of living etc.?

If 'No' explain why you are sure there will be no equality impact, then skip steps 2-4 and request review by your manager.

If 'Yes' complete the rest of this assessment.

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	[please select]
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The aim is to enhance the quality of life in rural local communities through the funding of several chosen projects that meet the identified themes. We are keen to support the rural circular economy. Providing opportunities for all rural residents and businesses, whatever their status. Until the applications are received it will not be possible to assess the equalities impact.

Step 2: What information do we have?

2.1 What data or evidence is there which tells us who is, or could be affected?

Please use this section to demonstrate an understanding of who could be affected by the proposal. Include general population data where appropriate, and information about people who will be affected with particular reference to protected and other relevant characteristics (listed in 2.2).

Use one row for each evidence source and say which characteristic(s) it relates to. You can include a mix of qualitative and quantitative data - from national research, local data or previous consultations and engagement activities.

Outline whether there are any over or under representation of equality groups within your service - don't forget to benchmark to local population where appropriate.

For workforce / management of change proposals you will need to look at the diversity of the affected team(s) using available evidence such as the employee profile data. Identify any under/over-representation for age; disability; gender reassignment; marriage and civil partnership; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion or belief; sex; and sexual orientation. Please see: [Equality Act 2010 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](https://legislation.gov.uk).

Data / Evidence Source [Include a reference where known]	Summary of what this tells us
Census Data	Consideration of demographics.
Data on impact of previous projects.	<p>We supported improved accessibility to two active travel routes making it easier for the less abled, pushchair/pram users, walkers and cyclists to better access more rural parts of the district.</p> <p>Two community buses were purchased and introduced new routes, these will provide much needed support for all residents in rural communities to access work and leisure.</p>
Additional comments:	

2.2 Do you currently monitor relevant activity by the following protected characteristics?

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Age	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Disability	<input type="checkbox"/> Gender Reassignment
<input type="checkbox"/> Marriage and Civil Partnership	<input type="checkbox"/> Pregnancy/Maternity	<input type="checkbox"/> Race
<input type="checkbox"/> Religion or Belief	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sex	<input type="checkbox"/> Sexual Orientation

2.3 Are there any gaps in the evidence base?

Where there are gaps in the evidence, or you don't have enough information about some equality groups, include an equality action to find out in section 4.2 below. This doesn't mean that you can't complete the assessment without the information, but you need to follow up the action and if necessary, review the assessment later. If you are unable to fill in the gaps please state this clearly with a justification.

For workforce related proposals all relevant information on characteristics may need to be sought from HR (e.g. pregnancy/maternity). For smaller teams diversity data may be redacted. A high proportion of not known/not disclosed may require action to address and identify the information needed.

None identified currently. The evidence base will be expanded once the projects have been identified.

2.4 How have you involved communities and groups that could be affected?

You will nearly always need to involve and consult with internal and external stakeholders during your assessment. The extent of the engagement will depend on the nature of the proposal or change. This should usually include individuals and groups representing different relevant protected characteristics. Please include details of any completed engagement and consultation and how representative this has been of Teignbridge's diverse communities.

Include the main findings of any engagement and consultation in Section 2.1 above.

If you are managing a workforce change process or restructure please refer to HR for advice on how to consult and engage with employees. Relevant stakeholders for engagement about workforce changes may include e.g. staff-led groups, trades unions as well as affected staff.

This is transitional scheme and throughout the delivery period, we have communicated with councillors and MP's. We have kept the parameters as broad as possible to ensure that we best meet needs across the district.

Projects in the latest phase have been influenced by engagement with stakeholders throughout phase one.

The opportunity to submit an application will be widely publicised.

2.5 How will engagement with stakeholders continue?

Explain how you will continue to engage with stakeholders throughout the course of planning and delivery. Please describe where more engagement and consultation is required and set out how you intend to undertake it. Include any targeted work to seek the views of under-represented groups. If you do not intend to undertake it, please set out your justification. You can ask the Consultation Officer for help in targeting particular groups.

The stakeholder Board was created to inform the design of the relevant projects originally.

An oversight of group of Teignbridge District Councillors was established to oversee project design and delivery. This will continue for REPF 2025-26

Step 3: Who might the proposal impact?

Analysis of impacts must be rigorous. Please demonstrate your analysis of any impacts of the proposal in this section, referring to evidence you have gathered above and the characteristics protected by the Equality Act 2010. Also include details of existing issues for particular groups that you are aware of and are seeking to address or mitigate through this proposal.

3.1 Does the proposal have any potentially adverse impacts on people on the basis of their protected or other relevant characteristics?

Consider sub-categories (different kinds of disability, ethnic background etc.) and how people with combined characteristics (e.g. young women) might have particular needs or experience particular kinds of disadvantage.

Where mitigations indicate a follow-on action, include this in the 'Action Plan' Section 4.2 below.

GENERAL COMMENTS (highlight any potential issues that might impact all or many groups)	
The project has the potential to positively impact a number of protected characteristics.	
The previous funding round delivered 2 accessible community buses and active travel route improvements. The 2025-26 funding scope has been kept as broad as possible, to ensure that the fund best meets the needs of recipients and users, whilst supporting the rural circular economy and local amenity provision. Successful grant applicants will need to deliver on at least one of the following:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">i. Green & blue spaces created/improvedii. Amenities & facilities created/improvediii. Footpaths/cycle path created/improvediv. Tourism, cultural or heritage asset created/improvedv. Energy efficiency improvements	
We are unable to identify any adverse impacts and we hope to work with all elements of our rural communities.	
The impact on different protected characteristics will be considered at application stage.	
PROTECTED CHARACTERISTICS	
Age: Young People	Does your analysis indicate a disproportionate impact? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Potential impacts:	Increased opportunity for involvement, district wide environment benefit
Mitigations:	
Age: Older People	Does your analysis indicate a disproportionate impact? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Potential impacts:	Increased opportunity for involvement, district wide environment benefit
Mitigations:	
Disability	Does your analysis indicate a disproportionate impact? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Potential impacts:	Increased opportunity for involvement, district wide environment benefit
Mitigations:	
Sex	Does your analysis indicate a disproportionate impact? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Potential impacts:	Increased opportunity for involvement, district wide environment benefit
Mitigations:	
Sexual orientation	Does your analysis indicate a disproportionate impact? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Potential impacts:	Increased opportunity for involvement, district wide environment benefit
Mitigations:	
Pregnancy / Maternity	Does your analysis indicate a disproportionate impact? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Potential impacts:	Increased opportunity for involvement, district wide environment benefit
Mitigations:	
Gender reassignment	Does your analysis indicate a disproportionate impact? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Potential impacts:	Increased opportunity for involvement, district wide environment benefit
Mitigations:	
Race	Does your analysis indicate a disproportionate impact? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Potential impacts:	Increased opportunity for involvement, district wide environment benefit
Mitigations:	
Religion or Belief	Does your analysis indicate a disproportionate impact? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Potential impacts:	Increased opportunity for involvement, district wide environment benefit
Mitigations:	
Marriage & civil partnership	Does your analysis indicate a disproportionate impact? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Potential impacts:	Increased opportunity for involvement, district wide environment benefit
Mitigations:	

OTHER RELEVANT CHARACTERISTICS

Socio-Economic (deprivation)	Does your analysis indicate a disproportionate impact? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Potential impacts:	Increased opportunity for involvement, district wide environment benefit
Mitigations:	
Other group(s) Please add additional rows below to detail the impact for other relevant groups as appropriate e.g. Asylums and Refugees; Rural/Urban Communities, Homelessness, Digital Exclusion, Access To Transport	
Potential impacts:	Increased opportunity for involvement, district wide environment benefit
Mitigations:	

3.2 Does the proposal create any benefits for people on the basis of their protected or other relevant characteristics?

Outline any potential benefits of the proposal and how they can be maximised. Identify how the proposal will support our Public Sector Equality Duty to:

- ✓ Eliminate unlawful discrimination for a protected group
- ✓ Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who don't
- ✓ Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who don't

The proposal will benefit those who live and work in rural communities. The application form will ask applicants to explain how their project will contribute to the equality objectives of the Council.

Step 4: Impact

4.1 How has the equality impact assessment informed or changed the proposal?

What are the main conclusions of this assessment? Use this section to provide an overview of your findings. This content should be used as a summary in reports, where this full assessment is included as an appendix.

If you have identified any significant negative impacts which cannot be mitigated, provide a justification showing how the proposal is proportionate, necessary and appropriate despite this.

Summary of significant negative impacts and how they can be mitigated or justified:

Based on learning to date, the scope of the project has been kept as broad as possible to ensure the funds will positively impact those living and working in rural locations.

Applications will be assessed on a scoring matrix basis, with weightings provided for schemes which will have positive impacts, including for those with protected characteristics.

Summary of positive impacts / opportunities to promote the Public Sector Equality Duty:

The fund can only have a positive impact on the lives of those living and working in rural Teignbridge by improving amenities, accessibility and projects which support the rural circular economy.

4.2 Action Plan

Use this section to set out any actions you have identified to improve data, mitigate issues, or maximise opportunities etc. If an action is to meet the needs of a particular protected group please specify this.

Improvement / action required	Responsible Officer	Timescale
We will encourage businesses to implement diversity friendly practices especially where there are receiving business support from Teignbridge District Council	Allie Clark	Ongoing
Include Equalities Impact as part of the application process.	Louisa Brinton	Spring/Summer 2025
Consider Equalities Impacts as one of the factors as part of the scoring process, including consideration of mitigation of any negative impacts.	Louisa Brinton	Spring/Summer 2025
Application process to be advertised widely, including with Teignbridge CVS	Louisa Brinton	Spring/Summer 2025

4.3 How will the impact of your proposal and actions be measured?

How will you know if have been successful? Once the activity has been implemented this equality impact assessment should be periodically reviewed to make sure your changes have been effective and your approach is still appropriate. Include the timescale for review in your action plan above.

We will review this plan to ensure compliance.

We will measure outputs and outcomes against targets.
We will report to Councill Members, MP's and Stakeholders.

4.4 Is there an opportunity to promote positive attitudes and good relations between different groups and communities?

Yes, flexibility has been designed into the fund and with grant applications being assessed on a scoring matrix basis, there is much opportunity to promote positive attitudes and good relations between different groups and communities.

The programme will also look to promote any learning to enable a wider community benefit.

Step 5: Review & Sign-Off

EIAs should only be marked as reviewed when they provide sufficient information for decision-makers on the equalities impact of the proposal. Please seek review and feedback from management before requesting it to be signed off. All working drafts of EIAs and final signed-off EIAs should be saved in G:\GLOBAL\EIA. Once signed-off please add the details to the 'EIA Register' of all council EIAs saved in the same directory.

Reviewed by Service Manager: Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Instead was reviewed by: Alex Lessware, Delivery and Economy Manager	Strategic Leadership Team Sign-Off: Neil Blaney
Date: 14.5.25	Date: 16/5/2025

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District: Teignbridge
Contact Name: Louisa Brinton
Telephone Number: 01626 215833
Email: louisa.brinton@teignbridge.gov.uk
Total Spend Available: £195,067

Please insert new rows below

Kickstart Economic Growth
Break Down Barriers to Opportunity
Build an NHS fit for the future



Priority	Theme	Sub-theme	Intervention	Project Name	Project Description	Spend				
						Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	TOTAL
Supporting Local Business	Support for Business	Advice and support to business	Growing the local social economy and supporting innovation							
			Small scale investment in mirco and small enterprises in rural areas							
25 Communities and Place	Thriving Places	Development of the visitor economy	The development and promotion of the visitor economy							
			Existing cultural, historic and heritage institutions that make up the local heritage offer	Bringing Rural Heritage to Life!	A singular Teignbridge competitive grant scheme will be run for grants between £30k - £50k, which would look to achieve one of the following outputs: •Green & blue spaces created/improved •Amenities & facilities created/improved •Footpaths/cycle path created/improved •Tourism, cultural or heritage asset created/improved Potential outputs and outcomes that could be achieved for the 'creation or improvement of amenities/facilities within a physical structure rural tourism, cultural or heritage assets'					100,000
			Local arts, cultural, heritage and creative activities							
	Healthy, Safe, and Inclusive Communities	Inclusive: Bringing communities together, tackling homelessness	Local arts, cultural, heritage and creative activities							
			Investment in capacity building and infrastructure support for local civil society and community groups							
			Rural circular economy projects							
		Healthy: Improve health and wellbeing	Impfactful volunterring and social action projects to develop social community facilities							
			Creation of and improvement to local rural green spaces	Rural Green Spaces Fund	A singular Teignbridge competitive grant scheme will be run for grants between £30k - £50k, which would look to achieve one of the following outputs: •Green & blue spaces created/improved •Amenities & facilities created/improved •Footpaths/cycle path created/improved •Tourism, cultural or heritage asset created/improved Potential outputs and outcomes that could be achieved for the 'creation of safe place space/s for children and parents/carers within the rural environment'					50,000
			Active travel enhancements in the local area	Rural Connectivity	A singular Teignbridge competitive grant scheme will be run for grants between £30k - £50k, which would look to achieve one of the following outputs: •Green & blue spaces created/improved •Amenities & facilities created/improved •Footpaths/cycle path created/improved •Tourism, cultural or heritage asset created/improved Potential outputs and outcomes that could be achieved 'to encourage active travel within rural communities'.					45,067

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Devon Place Board notes 11.4.24

At the end of last week, Government announced the allocation of REPF for 2025-26, which is £1,826,589 capital for the DTCCA (excluding Exeter and Torbay and awaiting clarification from DEFRA as to whether these areas could be included). This does not include any funding for management/administration.

TDC provisional allocation is £195,067 capital.

Some guidance has been provided on priorities for the funding (see link below). DTCCA keen to work collaboratively.

In summary:

[Rural England Prosperity Fund: prospectus updates for 2025 to 2026 - GOV.UK](#)

[REPF Output and Outcome Indicator Lists 2025-2026.xlsx](#)

In 2025-2026 Rural Fund provides capital funding to:

- support new and existing rural businesses to develop new products and facilities that will be of wider benefit to the local economy — this includes farm businesses looking to diversify income streams but does not support farming/agricultural activity.
- support new and improved community infrastructure, providing essential community services and assets for local people and businesses to benefit the local economy

Notwithstanding any district views in relation to use of this funding, one approach could be to replicate a capital grant scheme across the rural area of Mid Devon, East Devon, Teignbridge, South Hams, West Devon, Torridge, and North Devon. (Please note - This is the default position)

The capital grant scheme could offer grants between £5,000 and £49,999 (tbc) to:

- support micro and small businesses and farm diversification
- rural circular economy projects
- boosting rural tourism
- providing rural services (support new and improved community infrastructure)
- providing cultural and heritage activity

Initial feedback

- Some concerns raised about a pooled grant scheme and districts receiving their allocation.
- Some have own ideas, including capital projects and extending previous grant scheme e.g. decarbonisation, community resilience grants etc.
- If the allocation is ringfenced to the district, potential for pooled grant scheme.
- Concerns re administering grant scheme without funding.
- Opportunity for larger value strategic projects e.g. Teign Estuary Trail but councillors might be interested in smaller scale schemes.
- Any opportunity to streamline the grant scheme.

Timescales

- UKSPF and REPF investment plan has to be submitted at the same time. Deadline DCC working towards 30.4.25
- Feedback from districts by 18.4.25

NB Financial Instructions up to £200k Exec approval.

Investment Plan cannot be submitted until UKSPF and REPF agreed, timescale by end of April 25.

Options	Pros	Cons	Comments
<p>1. Devon Grant Scheme The capital grant scheme could offer grants between £5,000 and £49,999 (tbc) to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • support micro and small businesses and farm diversification • rural circular economy projects • boosting rural tourism • providing rural services (support new and improved community infrastructure) • providing cultural and heritage activity <p>Support in its entirety or partial outputs from those listed, ringfenced to TDC applicants.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partnership working • Less/no resource for TDC • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loss of control • Loss of involvement • Loss of ownership • Potential lack of communication and input re grant recipients • DTCCA/DCC advise monies could/would be ringfenced for district, but they have requested if Exeter and Torbay could receive funding, this does not meet with REPF scheme parameters due to population size 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consideration of the impact of district relinquishing input and control as we move towards DTCCA • Teignbridge's previous grading was 3 (the lowest grade) and Torbay graded the highest grade of 1 due to overall deprivation levels, therefore Teignbridge potentially at a disadvantage for other funding schemes. • We could request specific outputs only e.g. to support Agric-Tech UKSPF allocation, we could ask for farm diversification, cultural and heritage, infrastructure etc to be prioritised
<p>2. TDC Grant Scheme £30k - £50k competitive grant scheme which must fit within the Communities and Place theme (c. 5-6 schemes) based on outputs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Green & blue spaces created/improved • Amenities & facilities created/improved • Footpaths/cycle path created/improved • Tourism, cultural or heritage asset created/improved 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TDC Ensure local spend where most need • TDC Councillors more included in the process • Applications scored against matrix based on guidance, deliverability, planning permission in place, match funding etc. • A key impactful schemes could be funded. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TDC resource required • No admin allocation • Competitive application process could cause issues 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whole of district or any restrictions (previously Newton Abbot, Teignmouth, Dawlish and Kingsteignton excluded).

3. Hybrid Devon/TDC Grant Scheme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partnership working. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No guarantee that the district would receive its full allocation. Less control over the funding award/spend priorities. 	
4. Do nothing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No associated administration costs will be incurred. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decisions will be made without district input. May not receive the full district allocation. 	

UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) 2022-25 and Rural England Prosperity Fund (REPF) 2023-25 Statistical Report

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Overview

The delivery of the UKSPF and linked REPF programme adopted a somewhat agile approach to maximise the positive impacts within the area. The projects achieved impactful outputs and outcomes, and generally overdelivered against targets.

The ‘Green Business Grant (GBG)’ supported both businesses and community organisations to invest in green technologies and improve their economic outputs, reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 93 tonnes to date and supporting the installation of 4406 m² of low or zero carbon energy infrastructure. Although initially approved as part of the REPF Investment Plan, the Rural Broadband Scheme was subsequently refused by Department for Environment, Farming and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) and the £150k funding allocation was reallocated to the ‘Rural Green Business Grant’ scheme which enabled investment in a further 34 Rural Teignbridge businesses and organisations. These initiatives are crucial in promoting sustainable development and reducing carbon footprints across the district. All projects have been completed and will continue to deliver longer term outputs and outcomes.

The ‘Teignbridge Arts Project’ was a competitive grants scheme designed to enhance participation in the arts. 32 projects were funded with grants delivering a range of impacts from art murals, workshops and performances to community art events. These projects generated 444 events, involving 9,461 participants, supported 222 volunteer roles, created 58 jobs, and safeguarded 21 roles. Feedback showed positive perceptions of the events and facilities.

The ‘Markets and Town Centres’ programme supported initiatives such as enhancing town centres public realm and tourism opportunities, including building a visitor website and improving safety with the purchase of mobile CCTV. These efforts led to public realm improvements, 13 events, 2 tourism assets upgrades, 10 shop front grants, and 5

neighbourhood safety enhancements. The full impact will be reassessed in 12 months when more data is available.

The ‘Violence Prevention Against Women and Children’ project undertook a collaborative approach to co-designing, co-planning and co-deciding with young people to developing the project. The project had an amazing impact in Teignbridge, engaging with 348 young people and delivering 1:1 and group sessions. As a result of the consultations and research undertaken, the project increased the young people’s safety perception, changes in practice, policy and/or built environment. The project created a youth centre design fully led by young people, where they have been supported to identify progression routes thinking proactively about how to engage with the community and reduce barriers around how they feel they are viewed by adults within that community.

REPF supported a ‘Rural Transport and Connectivity Fund’ which enhanced rural Teignbridge’s transport and active travel routes by offering grants to community led projects. Two projects focused on improving footpaths and cycle routes to make safer and more accessible routes, leading to a 20% increase in users. Another project created a new accessible route to Moretonhampstead, averaging 82 daily users. 2 community transport buses have also been purchased to introduce accessible transport into the rural hinterland.

In conclusion, the programme's impact is significant, contributing to the economic growth and environmental sustainability of Teignbridge.

UKSPF & REPF Overview	
Applications Submitted	276
Grants Awarded	163
<i>Grants Awarded</i>	<i>£1,552,781.39</i>
<i>Non-Grant Funding</i>	<i>£464,827.38</i>
Total Fund Award	£2,017,608.77
Engagement Numbers to Date	16,031
Local Events or Activities Supported	505
Jobs Created	70.5
Jobs Safeguarded	66.7
Volunteer Roles	222

Green Business Grant (UKSPF & REPF)

- There were three phases of the ‘Green Business Grant’, with each phase taking part in each year of the UKSPF programme
- Phase 1 opened on Thursday 9 February 2023 and closed on 13 March 2023 with all projects completed and grants awarded by 31 March 2023.
- Phase 2 opened to applicants who submitted successful proposals in Phase 1 but were either unable to deliver due to the short timeframe or were unable to proceed as the phase 1 funding had run out. All projects were completed and grants delivered by 31 March 2024.
- Phase 3 opened on Wednesday 19 June 2024 and closed on Monday 3 August, reopening shortly after as there was spend left unallocated. Phase 3 also included an

additional £450,000 from the REPF 'Rural Communities Fund'. All projects were completed and grants delivered by 31 March 2025.

- Grants of between £2,000 and £25,000 were offered with an intervention rate of 80% for businesses and 100% intervention rate for community organisations and charities.
- In phase 3 the criteria altered slightly to allow grants of up to £20,000 and a maximum grant award of £10,000 for solar panel applications with a 50% intervention rate. This was to ensure that large solar panel applications did not take up all the funding and to encourage more innovative schemes.
- Decarbonisation plans were encouraged to support applications, with 20 funded through a different UKSPF scheme, 'Business Support for Clean Growth and Diversity'. 9 of these businesses used their decarbonisation plans to support their Green Business Grant applications.
- 140 applications were submitted through all 3 phases of the Green Business Grant. unfortunately, some of the approved applications were not able to complete projects by the project deadline meaning we were unable to proceed with their funding. This resulted in an underspend.
- We worked closely with the 'DR Company' who assessed all the Green Business Grant, Rural and Urban applications.
- £170,766.28 was awarded to 16 Green business grant projects within areas (a locally designated) 'urban' area (Newton Abbot, Kingsteignton, Teignmouth and Dawlish).
- Projects included investments in solar panels, heat pumps, double glazing / secondary glazing, LED lighting, heat pumps and loft insulations.
- Newton Abbot – 7, Teignmouth – 6, Kingsteignton – 1, Dawlish – 1 and Decoy – 1
- Based on the carbon savings in Phase 1 and Phase 2 it is estimated that at least 90 tonnes of carbon will be saved through the installation of 4,406sqm2 of low or zero carbon infrastructure through this project in year 3.

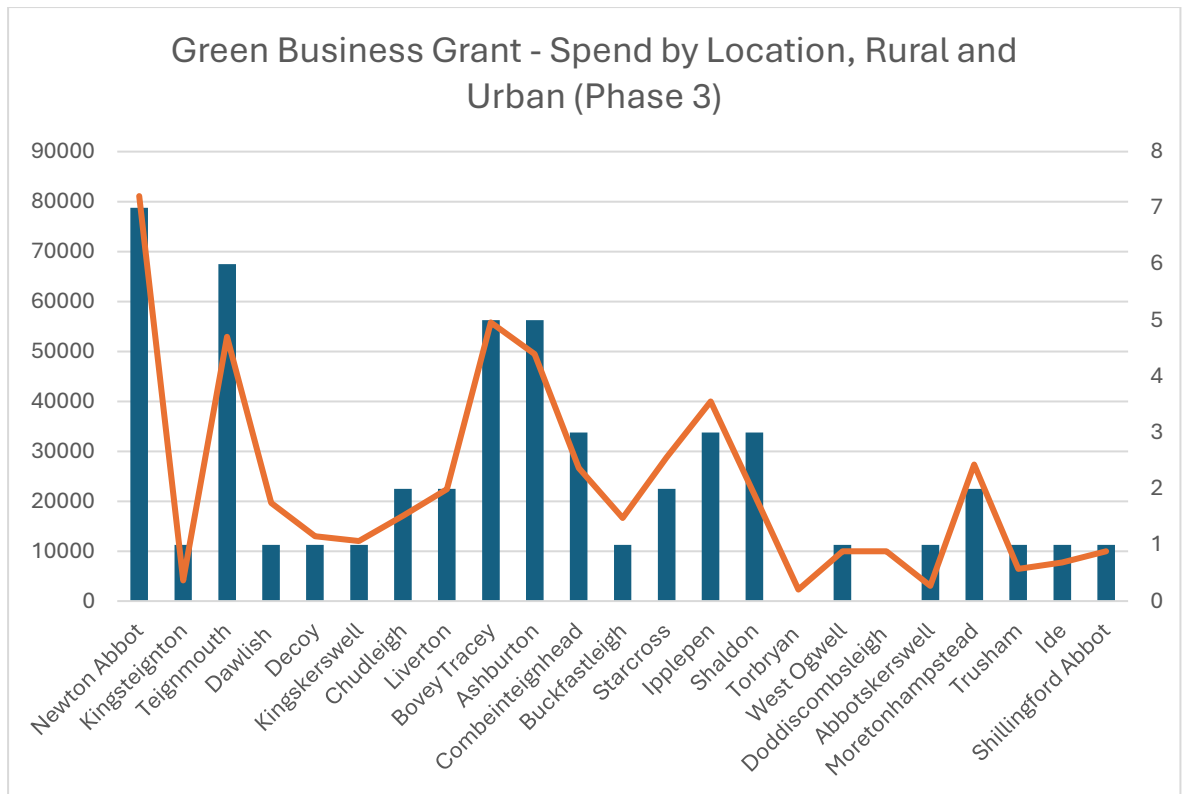
	Yr 1	Yr 2	Yr 3	Total
UKSPF Specific				
Number of organisations receiving grants	12	14	12	38
Amount of low or zero carbon energy infrastructure installed sqm2	2285	693	1428	4406
Number of decarbonisation plans developed	1	0	0	1
Jobs created	5	6	1.5	12.5
jobs safeguarded	23	6.5	4.7	34.2
Greenhouse Gas Carbon (kg)	52546	20848	20538	93932

Rural Communities and Business Fund (Rural Green Business Grant) (REPF)

- £300,000 was originally allocated to this fund, with an additional £150,000 reallocated from the Rural Transport and Connection Fund when our Broadband Scheme was withdrawn by DEFRA.

- The £450,000 was used to extend the successful UKSPF Green Business Grant scheme to businesses and community organisations within Rural Teignbridge in year 3 only.
- Although the whole of Teignbridge is considered rural for the purpose of REPF, a local urban/rural designation was suggested and agreed by Councillors stating that the monies should be ringfenced to rural areas outside of the main towns of Newton Abbot, Kingsteignton, Teignmouth and Dawlish.
- The 'Rural Green Business Grant' opened on Wednesday 19 June with a real push to rural communities and businesses to apply.
- To generate interest and encourage applications from all over the district, digital posters were sent to rural towns, parishes and Dartmoor National Park to display and share on their social media channels. Also advertised through Teignbridge's Business Newsletter and social media channels, as well as leaflet dropping within Teignbridge's more rural areas.
- Projects included investments in solar panels, heat pumps, double glazing / secondary glazing, LED lighting, EV charging stations, heat pump tumble dryers and catering equipment.
- The actual carbon reduction will be measured after a 12-month period, however, it is estimated based on the average of Phase 1 and Phase 2 projects of approximately 50 tonnes of carbon being saved through the installation of around 3,500sqm of low / zero carbon infrastructure.

REPF Outcomes and Outputs	
Number of businesses supported	12
Number of farm businesses supported	7
Number of organisations receiving grants	17
Number of facilities supported, created or installed	36
Number of enterprises adopting to the firm technologies or processes	36



Teignbridge Arts Project (TAP) (UKSPF)

- ‘The Teignbridge Arts’ project (TAP) was a competitive grants scheme aimed at enhancing the opportunities to participate and experience the Arts.
- A volunteer group of local art experts joined to create an ‘Advisory Board’ who helped guide the project.
- We worked closely with ‘DAISI’ an arts consultancy who assessed the applications and worked with applicants and Teignbridge in promoting the scheme.
- The scheme opened on Wednesday 5 June and closed on Friday 21 June 2024.
- 120 applications were received, totalling over £600k of projects
- All applications were assessed and scored against a matrix.
- 32 applications were funded in rural locations across the district. Totalling £260k worth of grant funding.
- Projects included – art murals, various workshops focussing on different methods of arts for local school children and local people. Performances to watch and participate in, improvements to community arts centres and arts exhibitions.
- The projects took place all over the district with many projects taking place in multiple locations including rural settings. For example; Haytor, Teignmouth, Ashburton, Moretonhampstead, Powderham, Bovey Tracey, Teignmouth and Exminster amongst others. Many groups, activities and events were hosted within rural communities.
- The 32 projects generated 444 local events or activities within Teignbridge resulting in 9,461 direct participants.
- The project supported 222 volunteer roles, created 58 jobs and safeguarded 21 roles. Many projects, such as ‘Silver Session’ a music group for over 50’s and ‘Drum Devon - Takio workshops’ have generated such an interest that they are able to continue the sessions after the project and funding has completed.

- Feedback recorded from the events show that an average of 62% recorded the perception of the event being good or very good and 58% recorded that the facilities are good or very good. All events were new and therefore an improved perception was unable to be recorded.
- The Community Tree mural is painted on the side of a building within an entrance point to Newton Abbot town centre. The Artist created the tree with the help of the community and local school children and their words can be seen painted on the branches of the trees. The project has generated a lot of interest in the town centre and created a lot of positive media, footfall will be monitored within the town over the next 12 months to assess the impact.

Outputs and Outcomes	
Number of organisations receiving grants	32
Number of organisations receiving non-financial support	18
Number of local events or activities supported	444
Number of volunteering opportunities supported	222
Jobs created	58
Jobs safeguarded	21.5
Improved perception of facilities / amenities (% increase) Number of people who see it as 'very good'	100% (52% response)
Number of community-led arts, cultural, heritage and creative programmes as a result of support (numerical value)	32
Improved perception of events – the amount of people who perceive the event as good or very good	100% (62% response)
Direct Participants	9461

Markets and Town Centre Promotion and Coordination (UKSPF)

- This UKSPF scheme encouraged towns to submit projects that would help increase visitor and footfall numbers.
- It was originally agreed that the focus of this scheme would be on 'Markets and Town Centre Promotion and Co-ordination' but after further consultation with the Towns, approval was sought and agreed to extend the parameters to address established local needs and pipeline projects (which met broader UKSPF interventions, outputs and outcomes) and to ensure spend across the district. However, this caused a delay which did have an impact on spend timescale and project delivery.
- 3 towns continued with projects that they began planning in year 2 through feasibility work funded through this fund.
- 8 towns successfully carried out projects such as building a visitor website, improvements to town centres such as new benches and shop front grant schemes. Making town centres more desirable, safer and easier to navigate.
- The projects resulted in 85 public realm improvements, 13 events or activities achieved, 2 tourism culture or heritage assets being improved, 10 businesses receiving grants to

improve their shop fronts and 5 neighbourhood improvements undertaken in the form of improving safety via deployable CCTV cameras.

- Because of the UKSPF spend deadlines, some towns were not able to fully complete all elements of their projects. This has led to an underspend.
- Due to the towns projects only completing towards the end of March 2025, it hasn't been possible to collect all output and outcome data. This data should become available over the next 12 months, when the impact of the improvements can be compared to the baseline data from previous years.

Outputs and Outcomes	
Number of town councils receiving grants	8
Amount of public realm improved	85
Amount of public realm improved sqm	517
Number of people receiving grants	1
Number of local events or activities achieved	
Number of tourism culture or heritage assets created	2
Number of businesses receiving grants	10
Increased visitor numbers	23% (actual figures from March 2026)
Increased footfall	15% (actual figures from March 2026)
Improved perception of facilities / amenities	49% (actual figures from March 2026)

Business Support for Clean Growth and Diversity (UKSPF)

- The 'Business Support for Clean Growth and Diversity' project was contracted to Libraries Unlimited who ran a series of training and support programmes for businesses.
- The 'Decarbonise your Business' course was attended by 37 and led to a total of 20 decarbonisation plans being completed. These plans were then able to be used to support the 'Green Business Grant' applications.
- Co-working hubs for women were held in Newton Abbot Library providing opportunities to work and network with businesses across the district.
- 'Women in Business', 'Boost your Startup' and 'Advanced Business Boost' programmes were successfully carried out throughout the year.
- 2 further events were run in January looking at 'Finance' and 'Tools to Create New Businesses'.
- A Christmas event was held and attended by 70 people from local businesses to provide further networking opportunities.
- In total this scheme supported 232 businesses.

Attendance of Women in Business Programme	376
Attendees of Boost your Startup Programme	406
Attendees to Date (inc standalone events)	827
Businesses Provided with non-financial support	232
No of women supported	686

No of people living with a disability supported.	83
No of people belonging to an ethnic minority supported	25

Violence Prevention against Women and Girls (UKSPF)

- The 'Violence Prevention against Women and Girls' scheme, later renamed 'Safer Spaces, Safer Places' started in year 1 of the programme and continued to deliver until March 2026.
- It was split into two projects; 'Project 1' – making town centres feel safer for all and placing young people at the heart of the communities, and 'Project 2' – A community approach to addressing Harmful Sexual Behaviour and reducing violence.
- The delivery of the projects involved a collaborative and participatory approach to support the voices and issues experienced by young people. It included a series of online workshops called 'Let's Talk' aimed at parents and carers of young people (teens and pre-teens) and raises awareness of the issues young people face in our communities, whilst offering simple tips and techniques, in school support sessions for young people to access when needed and 1:1 and group sessions for young people to be able to discuss their experiences and concerns.
- Sessions were carried out on healthy / unhealthy relationships, pornography and safe social media, violence and abuse in relationships, consent and balance of power, awareness of support services available. A young women's voice group was also set up and a Police Training Video produced [Young Devon CA Police Training Video - YouTube](#).

Number of young people engaged with 1:1	14
Number of 1:1 session	49
Number of young people engaged with in groups	334
Number of group sessions	84
Lets Talk – Engagements	4476
Changes being made to increase safety as a result of sessions (changes in practice, policy and or build environment)	4

From these groups the following change have been implemented

- Police training video to address negative stereotypes of young people. This has been created by young people and has been launched with a group of police officers
- A group of girls had concerns over local public toilets that they did not feel safe in due to the doors not starting from the floor. This concern was reported to Teignbridge Council and the physical change to the toilets was in place within 3 weeks.
- Young people identified safe areas within towns. The feedback was reported to the police, which has led to a change in patrol routes and CCTV cameras being moved.
- A need and possible space for a youth centre has been identified and young people are involved in creating the concept and design of the space itself.

Q1 “How safe do you feel?”	Total number of Young People	% feeling safe
Space HSB	71	31.9% Safe 86.1% Not Safe
Space Youth Voice	12	Young people were asked to rate their feelings of safety on a scale of 1 - 10 (1 being not safe, 10 being extremely safe) daytime average 8.5/12 and nighttime average of 6.9/12
Young Devon	12	All but one YP answered ‘Good’ to this question. (More qual info included below)
Q2 Do you feel more able to increase your own safety in the community?	Total number of Young People	% feeling able to increase own safety
Space	71	56.6% Yes 43.4% No
Space youth voice	12	All the young people felt able to identify what they could do if they don’t feel safe (3/12 felt they were able to help create this change in the community 2/12 didn’t know and 7/12 said no)
Young Devon	12	The majority of YP answered ‘Good’, however 3 YP answered ‘Neutral’. (More qual info included below)

Rural Transport and Connection Fund (REPF)

- The ‘Rural Transport and Connectivity Fund’ opened on Wednesday 17 July 2024 for projects that would enhance rural Teignbridge’s transport and active travel routes for the local community.
- We received 5 applications, 4 of which were successful, with all projects benefiting rural towns and villages in Dartmoor National Park (Fingle Bridge, Steps Bridge, Bovey Tracey – Parke and Moretonhampstead).
- The smallest award was £10,197.20 and largest award was £150,000.
- 2 projects with the focus on improving footpaths and cycle routes to make them more accessible and safer for users. It’s estimated from the baseline data that the improvements have meant a 20% increase in users, however, a clearer picture can be seen in early 2026. The quality of work and increased accessibility has been recognised by all users of the paths.

- 1 project focussing on creating a new accessible footpath and cycle route that connects a popular moorland footpath to a safer and more accessible route to the town centre of Moretonhampstead. The new route has resulted in an average of 82 people using the path a day since it opened in March 2025, with users being grateful that they can now walk a direct route to the town or path without having to walk along the busy road without a pavement.
- These 3 schemes have resulted in 3,980m² of new or improved and wheelchair accessible footpaths / cycleways.
- 1 project focussing on connecting both residents and visitors of the area in and around Dartmoor by the purchase of 2 community buses. The minibuses will be used to increase the current provision of services to Dartmoor and the rural hinterland. This includes the ring and ride service, minibus hire service, with Dartmoor based coffee mornings and excursions planned. In addition, working in partnership with Dartmoor National Park to transport people onto the moors for leisure activities to reduce the number of cars on the Moor and the associated carbon footprint. It's estimated that the buses will increase engagement numbers by approximately 40%.
- These projects all completed in February – March 2025. Therefore, the outcomes and outputs provided are estimated based on the limited time they have been up and running.
- Overspend monies reallocated from Rural Green Business Grant underspend.

Outputs and Outcomes	
Number of grants	4
Amount of new or improved cycleways or path (m2)	3980
Amount of land made wheelchair accessible or step free (m2)	3980
Increased use of cycleways	Data from Feb 2026
Increased use of facilities or amenities	Data from Feb 2026

Monitoring & Evaluation Guidance

REPF Output and Outcome Indicator Lists 2025-26

Introduction

Funding recipients are required to routinely report on their project outputs and outcomes. There is no requirement to report against all of the output and outcome indicators listed - only those identified as relevant to the activities undertaken.

Purpose of this document

The purpose of this document is to set out the output and outcome indicators for REPF for 2025-26.

As set out in the UKSPF Technical Note for 2025-26, the list of outputs and outcomes has been simplified for 2025-26. This is designed to make reporting streamlined based on simple counts of activity/outcomes.

Each place has flexibility to invest in activities that support rural businesses and rural communities within the context of the Fund's aims. The outputs and outcomes listed are the only ones relevant to REPF.

The following lists of output and outcome indicators can be used for REPF projects to measure the activities that are being delivered with REPF support, and the outcomes that this investment generates. No changes have been made to the units of measurement or definitions. The outputs and outcomes have been grouped by how the indicator would be counted into the following indicator types:

- Business and Community Assets
- Enterprises
- Events and Activities
- People and Users
- Others

Output and outcome data will be collected at UKSPF sub-theme level as set out in the UKSPF Technical Note for 2025-26.

For each of the indicators, the following information is provided:

- The indicator code and name for reporting
- The unit of measurement
- The definition of the indicator
- The relevant REPF intervention

Navigation

Please use the links below to navigate to the relevant indicator lists:

[REPF Output Indicators](#)

Indicator Type	Output Code	Output Indicator for Reporting	Unit of Measurement	Definition	Relevant REPF Interventions
Business and Community Assets	ROP1	Amount of green or blue space created or improved	Square metres (M2)	<p>The total square meterage of green or blue space completed or improved.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Green or blue space means any vegetated land, or water, within an urban area or public space. This includes: parks, public gardens, playing fields, children's play areas, woods and other natural areas, grassed areas, cemeteries, allotments, as well as green corridors like paths. It does not include paved spaces between or around buildings that are publicly accessible, including squares, courtyards and streets. - Created means physical creation of a green or blue space that did not exist previously and the space is open to the public. - Improved means adding, renovating or repairing facilities and landscaping. It does not include maintenance of existing greenspace, such as grass cutting, pruning, and cleaning. 	<p>Funding for active travel enhancements</p> <p>Funding for existing cultural, historic and heritage institutions that make up the local cultural heritage offer.</p> <p>Creation and improvement of local rural green space</p>
Business and Community Assets	ROP2	Amount of rehabilitated land	Square metres (M2)	<p>The total square meterage of derelict land that has been rehabilitated.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Derelict land means land that has become damaged by industrial or other development and is beyond beneficial use without treatment. - Rehabilitated means remediated to a point of beneficial use. 	Creation and improvement of local rural green space

Business and Community Assets	ROP3	Number of amenities/facilities created or improved	Number of amenities or facilities	<p>The number of new amenities/facilities created or improved.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Amenity/facility means any service contained within a physical structure, including, but not limited to, magistrates courts, police stations, town halls, sports facilities, hospitals and public toilets. - Created means the amenity/facility did not previously exist. - 'Improved' means adding, renovating or repairing facilities with the aim of creating better public space. It does not include maintenance of existing facilities. <p>If amenities/facilities are counted as being improved or created in another output indicator (e.g. number of cultural assets supported/created) they should not be counted through this indicator as well. The Local Authority should select where they feel it would best fit with the definition.</p>	<p>Funding for active travel enhancements</p> <p>Funding for investment in capacity building and infrastructure support for local civil society and community groups</p> <p>Funding for investment and support for digital infrastructure for local community facilities</p>
Business and Community Assets	ROP4	Total length of new or improved cycle ways or foot paths	KM	<p>"The km of new or improved cycle ways or foot paths completed.- New means a cycle way or foot path has been built where it previously did not exist. Constructing cycle ways on existing roads counts as new cycle ways.- Improved means the capacity or quality of the cycle way or foot path (including beautification and illumination) was improved. This excludes routine maintenance of cycle ways or foot paths.- Completed means the cycle way or foot path is fully operational and open to the public,</p>	Funding for active travel enhancements

				and all planned improvements have been fully implemented and operationalised."	
Business and Community Assets	ROP5	Number of tourism, culture or heritage assets created or improved	Number of assets	<p>Number of new tourism, cultural or heritage assets completed or improved.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cultural assets mean permanent public buildings or sites for the exhibition or promotion of arts and culture, including, but not limited to museums, arts venues, exhibition centres, theatres, libraries, and film facilities. - Heritage assets mean any buildings on an appropriate heritage list, for example the National Heritage List for England (NHLE). - Tourism assets mean permanent public buildings or sites that act as an attraction for visitors to the location. - Created means the tourism, cultural or heritage asset did not previously exist. - Improved/renovated means adding, renovating or making significant repairs to facilities. It does not include maintenance of existing facilities. <p>If assets are counted as being improved or created in another output indicator (e.g.</p>	<p>Funding for existing cultural, historic and heritage institutions that make up the local cultural heritage offer.</p> <p>Funding for the development and promotion of the visitor economy, such as: Local attractions, Trails, Tourism products more generally</p>

				number of facilities supported/created) they should not be counted through this indicator as well. The Local Authority should select where they feel it would best fit with the definition.	
Enterprises	ROP6	Number of enterprises receiving grants	Number of enterprises	Number of enterprises that have received grants.- Enterprise means a sole trader, micro business, small and medium-sized enterprise, or large business. It also includes social enterprises where these engage in economic activity.- Grant means a cash payment by the project that is not repaid.	Funding for the development and promotion of the visitor economy, such as: Local attractions, Trails, Tourism products more generallyFunding for growing the local social economy and supporting innovationFunding for small scale investment in micro and small enterprises in rural areas

Enterprises	ROP7	Number of potential entrepreneurs assisted to be enterprise ready	Number of entrepreneurs	<p>Number of entrepreneurs having been assisted to be enterprise ready.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Entrepreneurs mean individuals aged 16 and over currently in employment, unemployed or economically inactive with an interest in exploring creating their own business. - Assistance means business advice, guidance, mentoring and training. This must involve some form of direct interaction with members of the entrepreneurs, in other words it cannot be broadcasted advice. 	Funding for local arts, cultural, heritage and creative activities
Enterprises	ROP8	Number of farm diversification projects supported	Number of projects	<p>Number of projects involving farm diversification outside of agriculture receiving grants.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Farm diversification outside of agriculture means an activity not associated with agricultural production, such as providing visitor accomadation or an event venue - Grant means a cash payment by the project that is not repaid. 	<p>Funding for growing the local social economy and supporting innovation</p> <p>Funding for small scale investment in micro and small enterprises in rural areas</p> <p>Funding for the development and promotion of the visitor economy, such as: Local attractions, Trails, Tourism products more generally</p>
Enterprises	ROP9	Number of farm businessess supported	Number of businesses	<p>Number of farm business that have received grants.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Farm business can be a sole trader, micro business, small and medium-sized enterprise, or large business. It also includes social enterprises where these engage in agricultural economic activity. - Grant means a cash payment by the project that is not repaid. 	<p>Funding for the development and promotion of the visitor economy, such as: Local attractions, Trails, Tourism products more generally</p> <p>Funding for growing the local social economy and supporting innovation</p>

					Funding for small scale investment in micro and small enterprises in rural areas
Enterprises	ROP10	Number of microbusinesses supported	Number of businesses	Number of micro businesses that have received funding for projects	Funding for the development and promotion of the visitor economy, such as: Local attractions, Trails, Tourism products more generally Funding for growing the local social economy and supporting innovation Funding for small scale investment in micro and small enterprises in rural areas
Events and Activities	ROP11	Number of local events or activities supported	Number of events/activities	Number of local events or activities supported. An event refers to planned activities. These should fall into the below categories: - Those related to: (1) Film, TV, Music, Radio (2) Heritage (3) Arts, Museums and Libraries. - Other activities and events include, for example but not limited to, sports, volunteering, tourism and social action.	Funding for local arts, cultural, heritage and creative activities Funding for impactful volunteering and social action projects to develop social and human capital in local places Funding for the development and promotion of the visitor economy, such as: Local attractions, Trails, Tourism products more generally

People and Users	ROP12	Number of people reached	Number of people	Number of people directly impacted by the UKSPF intervention. The definition of direct impact will vary across interventions e.g.: - Energy efficiency improvements - those living or working within the treated premise. - Engagement schemes - those directly engaging (e.g. reading, viewing, attending). - Direct impact should only be recorded where it can be done so robustly.	Funding for rural circular economy projects
Other	ROP13	Number of organisations receiving grants	Number of organisations	Number of organisations receiving grants. Organisations here will either be:- The end beneficiary is the recipient of the award itself, for example, a local authority, higher education institute or an organisation representing specific sector who may be undertaking a feasibility study.- An organisation that is an end beneficiary and does not fit into the above description nor can be classified under the business output indicators, for example, a charitable organisation.- Grant means a cash payment by the project that is not repaid.	Funding for local arts, cultural, heritage and creative activities Funding for impactful volunteering and social action projects to develop social and human capital in local places Funding for rural circular economy projects Funding for investment in capacity building and infrastructure support for local civil society and community groups Funding for investment and support for digital infrastructure for local community facilities Funding for existing cultural, historic and heritage institutions that make up the local cultural heritage offer.

Indicator Type	Outcome Code	Outcome Indicator for Reporting	Unit of Measurement	Definition	Relevant REPF Interventions
Business and Community Assets	ROC1	Increased use of cycleways or foot paths	Number of cyclists or pedestrians	The increase in number of cyclists or pedestrians over a set period of time (e.g. weekly flow) along the specified length of cycleway or foot path that has been created or improved.	<p>Creation and improvement of local rural green space</p> <p>Funding for active travel enhancements</p> <p>Funding for existing cultural, historic and heritage institutions that make up the local cultural heritage offer.</p>
Business and Community Assets	ROC2	Increased users of facilities/amenities	Number of users	The increase in number of users of facilities/amenities. Users are the people using facilities/amenities. Amenity/facility means any service contained within a physical structure, including, but not limited to, magistrates courts, police stations, town halls, cultural institutions, hospitals and public toilets.	<p>Creation and improvement of local rural green space</p> <p>Funding for investment in capacity building and infrastructure support for local civil society and community groups</p> <p>Funding for existing cultural, historic and heritage institutions that make up the local cultural heritage offer.</p> <p>Funding for rural circular economy projects</p> <p>Funding for investment and support for digital</p>

					infrastructure for local community facilities
Business and Community Assets	ROC3	Increased visitor numbers	Number of people	The increase in number of visitor admissions to the local area, including markets, town centre, tourist attractions, green and blue spaces and cultural and heritage venues. The count of attendance should be based on tickets / entry figures, where applicable. The sample of venues tracked should remain the same over time, unless newly established venues are created during the reporting period which can be included.	<p>Creation and improvement of local rural green space</p> <p>Funding for local arts, cultural, heritage and creative activities</p> <p>Funding for existing cultural, historic and heritage institutions that make up the local cultural heritage offer.</p>

Enterprises	ROC4	Jobs created as a result of support	Number of Full time equivalent (FTE)	The number of new, permanent, paid, full-time equivalent (FTE) jobs created following support. This includes both part-time and full-time jobs, which should be recorded relative to full-time equivalent (FTE). FTE should be based on the standard full-time hours of the employer.- New means it should not have existed with that employer before the intervention.- Created jobs exclude those created solely to deliver the intervention (e.g. construction). - Permanent means it should have an intended life expectancy of at least 12 months from the point at which it is created.- Only count each individual FTE or job once through the lifetime of a project (i.e. it should not be counted every year)- FTE is a measure of an employees scheduled hours in relation to an employers hours for a full time workweek	Creation and improvement of local rural green spaceFunding for local arts, cultural, heritage and creative activitiesFunding for existing cultural, historic and heritage institutions that make up the local cultural heritage offer.Funding for investment and support for digital infrastructure for local community facilitiesFunding for the development and promotion of the visitor economy, such as: Local attractions, Trails, Tourism products more generallyFunding for growing the local social economy and supporting innovationFunding for small scale investment in micro and small enterprises in rural areas
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Enterprises	ROC5	Jobs safeguarded as a result of support	Number of full time equivalent (FTE)	<p>A safeguarded job is a permanent and paid job that was at risk prior to support being provided, and which the support helped the business to retain. This includes sole traders and business owners.</p> <p>Safeguarded jobs exclude those created solely to deliver the intervention (e.g., construction).</p> <p>This includes both part-time and full-time jobs, which should be recorded relative to full-time equivalent (FTE).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - FTE should be based on the standard full-time hours of the employer. - At risk is defined as being forecast to be lost within 6 months. - Only count each individual FTE or job once through the lifetime of a project (i.e. it should not be counted every year) - FTE is a measure of an employees scheduled hours in relation to an employers hours for a full time workweek 	<p>Funding for local arts, cultural, heritage and creative activities</p> <p>Funding for investment and support for digital infrastructure for local community facilities</p> <p>Funding for the development and promotion of the visitor economy, such as: Local attractions, Trails, Tourism products more generally</p> <p>Funding for growing the local social economy and supporting innovation</p> <p>Funding for small scale investment in micro and small enterprises in rural areas</p>
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Enterprises	ROC6	Number of new enterprises created as a result of support	Number of new enterprises	<p>A new enterprise is one which has been registered at Companies House or HMRC as a result of the support provided.</p> <p>- Enterprise means a sole trader, micro business, small and medium-sized enterprise, or large business. It also includes social enterprises where these engage in economic activity.</p>	<p>Funding for investment in capacity building and infrastructure support for local civil society and community groups</p> <p>Funding for the development and promotion of the visitor economy, such as: Local attractions, Trails, Tourism products more generally</p> <p>Funding for growing the local social economy and supporting innovation</p> <p>Funding for small scale investment in micro and small enterprises in rural areas</p>
Enterprises	ROC7	Number of enterprises adopting new to the firm technologies or processes	Number of enterprises	<p>The number of enterprises introducing a new to the firm technology or process (through external sources e.g., procurement).</p> <p>- Enterprise means a sole trader, micro business, small and medium-sized enterprise, or large business. It also includes social enterprises where these engage in economic activity.</p> <p>- A technology or process is new to the firm if it did not use a technology or process with the same functionality before, or the production technology or process is fundamentally different from those already used. This may be tangible or intangible.</p> <p>- If an enterprise introduces multiple new technologies or processes, it is still counted as one enterprise.</p>	<p>Funding for growing the local social economy and supporting innovation</p> <p>Funding for small scale investment in micro and small enterprises in rural areas</p>

Enterprises	ROC8	Number of enterprises engaged in new markets	Number of enterprises	<p>Number of enterprises engaged in new markets following support.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Enterprise means a sole trader, micro business, small and medium-sized enterprise, or large business. It also includes social enterprises where these engage in economic activity. - Engaged means they have launched a product or service into a new domestic or overseas market or have undertaken research or attended conferences or events to prepare a launch into a new market. - New market refers to a new product market (i.e. creation of a product/service that doesn't compete or replace previous products produced by the business) or geographic market (i.e. operating in a new area which could be, for example, a new region or country) 	<p>Funding for growing the local social economy and supporting innovation</p> <p>Funding for small scale investment in micro and small enterprises in rural areas</p>
Enterprises	ROC9	Number of enterprises with improved productivity	Number of enterprises	<p>Number of enterprises with improved productivity.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Enterprise means a sole trader, micro business, small and medium-sized enterprise, or large business. It also includes social enterprises where these engage in economic activity. - Productivity refers to the gross value added per hour worked or gross value added per worker. 	<p>Funding for growing the local social economy and supporting innovation</p> <p>Funding for small scale investment in micro and small enterprises in rural areas</p>

Events and Activities	ROC10	Improved engagement numbers	Number of people	The increase in number of individuals engaged in the local area / activity during the last 12 months. Engagement can include physical and digital engagements. What is classed as the 'local area' where events are recorded should remain consistent throughout the collection e.g. should not include/ exclude events in neighbouring locations which were excluded/included in previous returns.	Funding for local arts, cultural, heritage and creative activities Funding for impactful volunteering and social action projects to develop social and human capital in local places Funding for rural circular economy projects
Events and Activities	ROC11	Number of community-led arts, cultural, heritage and creative programmes as a result of support	Number of programmes	Number of programmes started because of support provided by UKSPF interventions. This indicator focuses on programmes that are led by the community groups (self-governing and not for profit group or organisation which works for the public benefit) and focuses on the topics of arts, culture, heritage.	Funding for local arts, cultural, heritage and creative activities Funding for rural circular economy projects
Other	ROC12	Number of volunteering opportunities created as a result of support	Number of volunteering roles created	The number of organised volunteering roles created as a direct result of the intervention. This includes opportunities for people to volunteer on a regular basis, and opportunities for one-off volunteering. - Formal volunteering refers to those who have given unpaid help via a group, club, or organisation: for example, leading a group, administrative support or befriending or mentoring people.	Funding for impactful volunteering and social action projects to develop social and human capital in local places

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Appendix 6 – Acronyms

Acronym	Description
DCC	Devon County Council
DEFRA	Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
DTCCA	Devon and Torbay Combined County Authority
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MHCLG	Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government
REPF	Rural England Prosperity Fund

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Teignbridge District Council

Executive Committee

03 June 2025

Part i

South East Devon Wildlife - Joint Habitats Sites Mitigation Strategy - 2025 to 2030

Purpose of Report

To seek endorsement of the Joint Habitats Mitigation Strategy, to ensure that effective and coordinated habitats mitigation can be implemented by the three Councils (Teignbridge, East Devon and Exeter) in the period from 2025 to 2030.

Recommendation(s)

The Executive Committee RESOLVES to:

- (1) To endorse and approve the adoption of the South East Devon Joint Habitats Site Mitigation Strategy - 2025 to 2030;

Financial Implications

See paragraph 7.1 below.

Martin Flitcroft, Chief Finance Officer and Director of Corporate Services

Email: martin.flitcroft@teignbridge.gov.uk

Legal Implications

See Paragraph 7.2 below

Paul Woodhead, Head of Legal and Democratic Services (Monitoring Officer)

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Risk Assessment

See Paragraph 7.3 below

Alex Lessware, Delivery and Economy Manager

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Environmental/ Climate Change Implications

See paragraph 7.4 below.

William Elliott, Climate Change Officer

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Report Author

Alex Lessware, Delivery and Economy Manager
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Executive Member

Cllr Jackie Hook - Chair of South East Devon Habitat Regulations Executive Committee

Cllr Gary Taylor - Executive Member for Planning

Appendices/Background Papers

- a. [South East Devon Joint Habitats Site Mitigation Strategy - 2025 to 2030](#)
- b. Equality Impact Assessment

1. Overview

- 1.1 Three sites in south east Devon - the Exe Estuary, the East Devon Pebblebed Heaths and Dawlish Warren - fall in the highest tier of protected wildlife sites in the UK. In the absence of mitigation, Habitats Regulations Assessment work has shown that unacceptable adverse impacts would arise at these sites on account of recreational pressure and this would be reason to not allow the development to go ahead. East Devon District Council, Teignbridge District Council and Exeter City Council have been working in partnership since the early 2010's to define and deliver mitigation measures.
- 1.2 In 2014 a mitigation strategy was approved by the three local authority partners and this has led to an extensive range of measures being implemented that have successfully ensured new development can go ahead. We have now reached a point where we need a new mitigation strategy, which is appended to this report. Endorsement is being sought from the three constituent local authorities (Teignbridge, East Devon and Exeter) for the new strategy in order to ensure that effective and coordinated mitigation can be implemented in the period from 2025 to 2030.
- 1.3 This report has been produced jointly by officers of the three authorities and will be replicated for each council, with minor edits to accord with differing report templates used by the separate councils.

2. Need for a mitigation strategy

- 2.1 Plans and projects that may adversely impact on European sites (the highest tier of wildlife sites in the UK and across the European Union), need to be subject to assessment under the Habitat Regulations.
- 2.2 In south east Devon there are three specific designated sites where the impacts of new built development (particularly new housing development), as set out in local plans, has the potential to result in adverse impacts. The designated wildlife sites are:
 - The Exe Estuary - Special Protection Area and Ramsar (wetland of international importance).
 - Dawlish Warren - Special Area of Conservation.
 - The East Devon Pebblebed Heaths - Special Area of Conservation and Special Protection Area

- 2.3 Parts of the Exe Estuary fall within administrative areas of Teignbridge, East Devon and Exeter. Dawlish Warren, in Teignbridge, abuts the Estuary and the Pebblebed Heaths, in East Devon, lie close by and to the east of the Estuary.
- 2.4 Special Protection Areas (SPAs) are important for rare and vulnerable birds because they rely on them for breeding, feeding, wintering or migration. Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) are designated to conserve natural habitats and species that are considered to be under serious threat. Rare and vulnerable animals, plants and habitats have increased protection and management objectives within these sites.
- 2.5 Previous assessment work undertaken for the three local planning authorities has identified that adverse impacts would arise from development if not mitigated. Government guidance on assessment under the Habitat Regulations can be found at: [Habitats regulations assessments: protecting a European site - GOV.UK](#)
- 2.6 The adverse impacts arise as a result of the people living in new homes built, within a ten kilometre catchment of the designated sites, accessing and using the designated sites for recreational purposes, and such use leading to unacceptable negative impacts. The concern also applies to some tourism accommodation and may be applicable for other built uses. To allow development to go ahead it has been established that mitigation measures need to be delivered. As the sites lie in close proximity to one another, and the catchment areas for differing sites cross local authority boundaries, it has been deemed appropriate and desirable for the three local authorities to work in partnership on understanding and providing solutions to allow development to go ahead.

3. South East Devon Wildlife and the existing strategy

- 3.1 The joint approach to mitigation delivery is now implemented under the umbrella of the joint local authority organisation - 'South East Devon Wildlife', for more information see: [South East Devon Wildlife](#). The joint mitigation approach was first agreed on the strength of the initial mitigation strategy from 2014, see, Council website: [Exe / Dawlish Warren Habitat Mitigation - Teignbridge](#)
- 3.2 The existing joint mitigation strategy has led to a range of projects and initiatives being implemented to ensure that development that would otherwise lead to adverse impacts can go ahead. South East Devon Wildlife has a staff resource that undertake and coordinate delivery and they work with a range of partners and volunteers to include – Natural England, The Pebblebed Conservation trust, Devon Wildlife Trust, The RSPB, the Exe Estuary partnership and officers and teams of the constituent local authorities themselves.
- 3.3 It should be noted that the joint mitigation strategy allows for development projects to go ahead without detailed bespoke work under the Habitat Regulations, being undertaken. The strategic approach simplifies matters for developers, but development project specific assessment and mitigation could come forward outside of the joint strategic approach.

4. The new mitigation strategy

- 4.1 Whilst the existing strategy has ensured that successful mitigation has been delivered to date, all of the constituent local authorities have new local plans in production. As these plans set out new housing delivery requirements a new joint mitigation strategy is required. Collective agreement was reached on commissioning a new strategy and through joint officer working and engagement with partners and stakeholders the new strategy has been completed and approval from the three local authorities is now sought for its adoption.
- 4.2 The new strategy can be seen at appendix A.

5. The new strategy compared to the existing one

- 5.1 The new strategy will replace and supersede the existing strategy and builds on the great work done to date, rolling forward much of this. We would encourage committee members to review the new strategy. Below we contrast key aspects of the new strategy with the existing so that changes and evolution in thinking can be noted.
- 5.2 As a starting point it is important to understand the scale of development that new local plans are providing for and which needs to be mitigated; it is a very significant level of development and in the absence of mitigation the new Local Plans would fail in their journey to adoption. In the period from 2025 to 2040 (i.e. a period that extends beyond the strategy life of 2030) the three local authorities, within the 10 kilometre catchment, are predicting completion of around 29,100 new homes, that is approximately 2,000 per year.
- 5.3 Mitigation to be provided under the new strategy will take the form of:
- **Onsite site mitigation measures** – management and access measures and activities, with wardens and other officers to help operate and run these and positively engage with site users. These on-site activities go under the heading of Strategic Access Management and Monitoring (SAMM) measures.
 - **Offsite mitigation measures** – these occur off or away from the designated site – most notable is the provision of what are termed as Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspaces (SANGs). These are new or enhanced green spaces used for recreation purposes that will provide an alternative (alternative to the designated sites) area for recreational activity. By drawing in users SANGs will reduce use/pressure on designated sites. The new strategy also provides for the delivery of range of discrete projects aimed at enhancing existing access and tailored to local needs and specific circumstance.
- 5.4 Some of the measures that are implemented are shorter term and others longer, notably the SANGs are longer term initiatives.
- 5.5 The new strategy covers the five years from 2025 to 2030. It is envisaged that it will need reviewing on a rolling 5 year basis, i.e. an update will be needed in 2030. In addition, the Government have highlighted possible regime changes to the way that mitigation at and for designated wildlife sites may be delivered - under the Planning and Infrastructure Bill amendments to Habitats Regulations (Nature Restoration Fund), with an onus on Government agencies taking a more fundamental lead role.
- 5.6 Under the new strategy there will be an increase in the staff resource to secure mitigation. The existing wardens are under very high and demanding workloads and safety considerations place constraints and limitations on the work they do and the way they work and the coverage they provide. The wardens deliver a very high quality and highly committed customer focussed service, but expansion of the staff resource is needed given the new and increasing pressures the sites face.
- 5.7 There is also a newly created green space project officer post noting that identification of sites for SANGs, and securing their implementation and delivery, has been a major challenge and has drawn on considerable amounts of officer time at the authorities. The new post will ensure this crucial part of the work gets the dedicated staff resource that is essential. The new strategy, to complement SANGs, also provides for improvements to promote access and enhance existing land away from the European sites. Such works will need to show that they reduce use and pressure on the designated wildlife sites. There is also, new for this strategy, a flexible “special projects pot” funding for site specific mitigation identified as appropriate and desirable; this flexible pot will complement and work with defined specific projects in the strategy.

5.8 To pay for mitigation measures contributions are sought from new housing developments on a per dwelling basis, and under the new strategy are likely to increase. The changes reflect a general increase in costs but also, and more importantly, the original strategy was written and costed without the full benefit of, and practical realisation, of the scale of costs involved. Many of these costs have proved to be substantially higher than the original cost estimates, especially when on-going and longer term maintenance and management costs are factored into initial capital costings. Further work is continuing to establish the new per dwelling contribution that will be needed to cover strategy costs.

6. Next Steps for implementation of the new strategy

- 6.1 Whilst this report summarises and seeks approval for the new strategy it does not specify per dwelling contributions that will need to be sought or recommend a specific start date. A further report is planned once more details are agreed. The expectation and intent is, however, that all authorities will agree per dwelling contributions and a date when the new strategy will come in to effect and at that point actions and charges will be based on the new strategy and the older one will be retired.
- 6.2 Final decisions on detail and timing of actions on mitigation will remain to be determined through the joint committee that will continue to run, as has now been the case and approach running over a number of years.
- 6.3 The new strategy, as well as setting out the delivery of mitigation, will give planning inspectors, at local plan examination, evidence that mitigation can and will be delivered and therefore that plans are sound and robust in their make-up in this respect.

7. Implications, Risk Management and Climate Change Impact

- 7.1 Financial – The measures in the Strategy will be funded by developers, either through s106 agreements, unilateral undertakings and/or Community Infrastructure Levy. Therefore, whilst there are no anticipated direct financial implications for the authority, there are implications for broader infrastructure funding, because funds potentially including Teignbridge CIL will be required to pay for mitigation measures. Some continued input and capacity support is also likely to be needed from Teignbridge (including Spatial Planning and Delivery team).
- 7.2 Legal – The mitigation strategy is a very important step in satisfying the habitats regulations. This applies to both the adoption of the Local Plan and individual development applications, for which ‘no likely significant effect’ on the European sites must be demonstrated. Without a robust strategy and programme in place, planning inspectors and Natural England could potentially block plans and proposals.
- 7.3 Risks – As noted in paragraph 5.5 there is some potential for the strategy to be impacted by future legislation. However the strategy is still required now by existing legislation. There are some broader financial risks regarding costs of implementation and maintenance over the longer term. Whilst Teignbridge has been very successful in securing Dawlish Countryside Park and Ridgetop Park in Exminster, there remains a likely need to secure further SANGS, including in the Exmouth area. The exact costs of this are yet to be determined. However, as noted, these projects are funded by new development.
- 7.4 Environmental / Climate Change Impact – No direct negative impacts.
- 7.5 Alternative Options – There are limited alternative options given the statutory requirements. The ‘do nothing’ scenario would mean keeping the existing 2014

strategy in place, which is unlikely to be supported by Natural England, who have been one of the key stakeholders in preparing the revised Strategy.

8. Conclusion

- 8.1 All three local authorities need a refreshed and updated mitigation strategy. Executive Committee should endorse the new strategy in order to ensure that effective and coordinated mitigation can be implemented in the period from 2025 to 2030, with the new mitigation costs being charged to new developments.

Equality Impact Assessment



Assessment Of: South East Devon Wildlife - Joint Habitats Site Mitigation Strategy - 2025 to 2030	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Policy <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Strategy <input type="checkbox"/> Function <input type="checkbox"/> Service <input type="checkbox"/> Other:	<input type="checkbox"/> New <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Already exists / review <input type="checkbox"/> Changing
Directorate: Strategy and Partnerships	Assessment carried out by: Alex Lessware
Service Area: Spatial Planning	Job Role: Delivery & Economy Manager
Date of Sign Off by Director: 8 May 2025	Neil Blaney

Step 1: What do we want to do?

This assessment should be started at the beginning of the process by someone with a good knowledge of the proposal and service area, and sufficient influence over the proposal. It is good practice to take a team approach to completing the equality impact assessment. Please contact the Policy Officer early for advice.

1.1 What are the aims and objectives/purpose of this proposal?

Briefly explain the purpose of the proposal and why it is needed. Describe who it is aimed at and the intended aims / outcomes. Where known also summarise the key actions you plan to undertake. Please use plain English, avoiding jargon and acronyms. Equality Impact Assessments are viewed by a wide range of people including decision-makers and the wider public.

Three sites in south east Devon - the Exe Estuary, the East Devon Pebblebed Heaths and Dawlish Warren - fall in the highest tier of protected wildlife sites in the UK. In the absence of mitigation, Habitats Regulations Assessment work has shown that unacceptable adverse impacts would arise at these sites on account of recreational pressure and this would be reason to not allow the development to go ahead. East Devon District Council, Teignbridge District Council and Exeter City Council have been working in partnership since the early 2010's to define and deliver mitigation measures.

In 2014 a mitigation strategy was approved by the three local authority partners and this has led to an extensive range of measures being implemented that have successfully ensured new development can go ahead. We have now reached a point where we need a new mitigation strategy. Endorsement is being sought from the three constituent local authorities (Teignbridge, East Devon and Exeter) for the new strategy in order to ensure that effective and coordinated mitigation can be implemented in the period from 2025 to 2030.

1.2 Who will the proposal have the potential to affect?

<input type="checkbox"/> Service users	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The wider community	<input type="checkbox"/> Teignbridge workforce
--	---	--

1.3 Will the proposal have an equality impact?

Could the proposal affect access levels of representation or participation in a service, or does it have the potential to change e.g. quality of life: health, education, or standard of living etc.?

If 'No' explain why you are sure there will be no equality impact, then skip steps 2-4 and request review by your manager.

If 'Yes' complete the rest of this assessment.

<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	[please select]
------------------------------	--	-----------------

The mitigation requirements will be paid for by most new developments (in particular new homes) built within 10 KM of the protected habitats. The measures set out in the mitigation strategy 2025-2030 include a broad range of approaches to reducing the impacts of recreational pressure on the protected habitats (see Table 5 of Strategy).

These measures include, for example, new staff, new vehicles, improved website, monitoring & surveys, leaflets and codes of conduct, engagement and interpretation boards, and new SANGS (Countryside parks).

These are unlikely to have equality impacts, and in most cases will be subject to their own EqlA when significant new projects or measures are developed and approved.

Step 2: What information do we have?

2.1 What data or evidence is there which tells us who is, or could be affected?

Please use this section to demonstrate an understanding of who could be affected by the proposal. Include general population data where appropriate, and information about people who will be affected with particular reference to protected and other relevant characteristics (listed in 2.2).

Use one row for each evidence source and say which characteristic(s) it relates to. You can include a mix of qualitative and quantitative data - from national research, local data or previous consultations and engagement activities.

Outline whether there are any over or under representation of equality groups within your service - don't forget to benchmark to local population where appropriate.

For workforce / management of change proposals you will need to look at the diversity of the affected team(s) using available evidence such as the employee profile data. Identify any under/over-representation for age; disability; gender reassignment; marriage and civil partnership; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion or belief; sex; and sexual orientation. Please see: [Equality Act 2010 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](https://legislation.gov.uk).

Data / Evidence Source <i>[Include a reference where known]</i>	Summary of what this tells us
Additional comments:	

2.2 Do you currently monitor relevant activity by the following protected characteristics?

<input type="checkbox"/> Age	<input type="checkbox"/> Disability	<input type="checkbox"/> Gender Reassignment
<input type="checkbox"/> Marriage and Civil Partnership	<input type="checkbox"/> Pregnancy/Maternity	<input type="checkbox"/> Race
<input type="checkbox"/> Religion or Belief	<input type="checkbox"/> Sex	<input type="checkbox"/> Sexual Orientation

2.3 Are there any gaps in the evidence base?

Where there are gaps in the evidence, or you don't have enough information about some equality groups, include an equality action to find out in section 4.2 below. This doesn't mean that you can't complete the

assessment without the information, but you need to follow up the action and if necessary, review the assessment later. If you are unable to fill in the gaps please state this clearly with a justification.

For workforce related proposals all relevant information on characteristics may need to be sought from HR (e.g. pregnancy/maternity). For smaller teams diversity data may be redacted. A high proportion of not known/not disclosed may require action to address and identify the information needed.

2.4 How have you involved communities and groups that could be affected?

You will nearly always need to involve and consult with internal and external stakeholders during your assessment. The extent of the engagement will depend on the nature of the proposal or change. This should usually include individuals and groups representing different relevant protected characteristics. Please include details of any completed engagement and consultation and how representative this has been of Teignbridge's diverse communities.

Include the main findings of any engagement and consultation in Section 2.1 above.

If you are managing a workforce change process or restructure please refer to HR for advice on how to consult and engage with employees. Relevant stakeholders for engagement about workforce changes may include e.g. staff-led groups, trades unions as well as affected staff.

2.5 How will engagement with stakeholders continue?

Explain how you will continue to engage with stakeholders throughout the course of planning and delivery. Please describe where more engagement and consultation is required and set out how you intend to undertake it. Include any targeted work to seek the views of under-represented groups. If you do not intend to undertake it, please set out your justification. You can ask the Consultation Officer for help in targeting particular groups.

Step 3: Who might the proposal impact?

Analysis of impacts must be rigorous. Please demonstrate your analysis of any impacts of the proposal in this section, referring to evidence you have gathered above and the characteristics protected by the Equality Act 2010. Also include details of existing issues for particular groups that you are aware of and are seeking to address or mitigate through this proposal.

3.1 Does the proposal have any potentially adverse impacts on people on the basis of their protected or other relevant characteristics?

Consider sub-categories (different kinds of disability, ethnic background etc.) and how people with combined characteristics (e.g. young women) might have particular needs or experience particular kinds of disadvantage.

Where mitigations indicate a follow-on action, include this in the 'Action Plan' Section 4.2 below.

GENERAL COMMENTS (highlight any potential issues that might impact all or many groups)	
PROTECTED CHARACTERISTICS	
Age: Young People	Does your analysis indicate a disproportionate impact? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/>
Potential impacts:	
Mitigations:	
Age: Older People	Does your analysis indicate a disproportionate impact? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/>
Potential impacts:	
Mitigations:	
Disability	Does your analysis indicate a disproportionate impact? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/>
Potential impacts:	

Mitigations:	
Sex	Does your analysis indicate a disproportionate impact? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/>
Potential impacts:	
Mitigations:	
Sexual orientation	Does your analysis indicate a disproportionate impact? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/>
Potential impacts:	
Mitigations:	
Pregnancy / Maternity	Does your analysis indicate a disproportionate impact? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/>
Potential impacts:	
Mitigations:	
Gender reassignment	Does your analysis indicate a disproportionate impact? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/>
Potential impacts:	
Mitigations:	
Race	Does your analysis indicate a disproportionate impact? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/>
Potential impacts:	
Mitigations:	
Religion or Belief	Does your analysis indicate a disproportionate impact? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/>
Potential impacts:	
Mitigations:	
Marriage & civil partnership	Does your analysis indicate a disproportionate impact? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/>
Potential impacts:	
Mitigations:	

OTHER RELEVANT CHARACTERISTICS

Socio-Economic (deprivation)	Does your analysis indicate a disproportionate impact? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/>
Potential impacts:	
Mitigations:	
Other group(s) Please add additional rows below to detail the impact for other relevant groups as appropriate e.g. Asylums and Refugees; Rural/Urban Communities, Homelessness, Digital Exclusion, Access To Transport	
Potential impacts:	
Mitigations:	

3.2 Does the proposal create any benefits for people on the basis of their protected or other relevant characteristics?

Outline any potential benefits of the proposal and how they can be maximised. Identify how the proposal will support our Public Sector Equality Duty to:

- ✓ Eliminate unlawful discrimination for a protected group
- ✓ Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who don't
- ✓ Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who don't

Step 4: Impact

4.1 How has the equality impact assessment informed or changed the proposal?

What are the main conclusions of this assessment? Use this section to provide an overview of your findings. This content should be used as a summary in reports, where this full assessment is included as an appendix.

If you have identified any significant negative impacts which cannot be mitigated, provide a justification showing how the proposal is proportionate, necessary and appropriate despite this.

Summary of significant negative impacts and how they can be mitigated or justified:
Summary of positive impacts / opportunities to promote the Public Sector Equality Duty:

4.2 Action Plan

Use this section to set out any actions you have identified to improve data, mitigate issues, or maximise opportunities etc. If an action is to meet the needs of a particular protected group please specify this.

Improvement / action required	Responsible Officer	Timescale

4.3 How will the impact of your proposal and actions be measured?

How will you know if have been successful? Once the activity has been implemented this equality impact assessment should be periodically reviewed to make sure your changes have been effective and your approach is still appropriate. Include the timescale for review in your action plan above.

4.4 Is there an opportunity to promote positive attitudes and good relations between different groups and communities?

Step 5: Review & Sign-Off

EIAs should only be marked as reviewed when they provide sufficient information for decision-makers on the equalities impact of the proposal. Please seek review and feedback from management before requesting it to be signed off. All working drafts of EIAs and final signed-off EIAs should be saved in G:\GLOBAL\EIA. Once signed-off please add the details to the 'EIA Register' of all council EIAs saved in the same directory.

Reviewed by Service Manager: Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	Strategic Leadership Team Sign-Off:
---	--

No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Instead was reviewed by: Alex Lessware, Economy & Delivery Manager	Neil Blaney
Date: 02 05 2025	Date: 8 May 2025

Version 3 – August 2024



South East Devon Wildlife – Joint Habitats Sites Mitigation Strategy (2024)

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Summary

This strategy sets out the mitigation requirements relating to impacts from recreation (associated with new housing and tourism development) on the Exe Estuary Special Protection Area (SPA)/Ramsar site, Dawlish Warren Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and the East Devon Pebblebed Heaths SAC/East Devon Heaths SPA. These are sites of exceptional nature conservation importance, and the strategy ensures the relevant local authorities (East Devon District Council, Exeter City Council and Teignbridge District Council) meet legislative requirements and adequately protect the sites when permitting development.

This strategy will replace and supercede the previous strategy (established in 2014). New housing (within 10km of the European sites) is anticipated at around 2,000 new dwellings per annum over the period 2025-2030, and this update ensures the level of mitigation is appropriate to the level of growth anticipated. Mitigation measures are set out in detail and comprise:

- SAMMS (Strategic Access Management and Monitoring); and
- Off-site infrastructure (including SANGs – ‘Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace’ and local projects).

This strategy covers the period 2025-2030 and will be updated on a rolling basis every 5 years, providing the opportunity to check the mitigation, scale of growth and update any costs. As such the strategy provides a long-term solution to recreation impacts. By addressing risks up front, the strategy provides a proactive, cross-boundary solution that ensures cumulative impacts of growth are taken into account. The strategy ensures necessary resources and costs are identified and provides clarity for developers when bringing forward sites for development.

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1. Introduction

- 1.1 This strategy primarily relates to housing growth in the South East Devon area. It covers the period 2025-2030 and sets out the mitigation requirements relating to the impacts from recreation on the important nature conservation sites. It ensures that East Devon District Council, Exeter City Council and Teignbridge District Council are adequately protecting the relevant wildlife sites from the impacts of recreation while also ensuring that housing is not delayed. The strategy provides clarity for developers when bringing forward sites for development.

Background

- 1.2 The Exe Estuary, Dawlish Warren and the East Devon Heaths are three sites of exceptional nature conservation importance that are covered by several international designations. Located close to Exeter, the sites are adjacent to a large human population and are popular sites for recreation. Urban development in the vicinity of the sites and increasing recreation use brings particular risks. This strategy addresses these risks, ensuring local planning authorities meet legislative requirements when permitting housing development. By addressing risks up front, the strategy provides a proactive, cross-boundary solution that ensures cumulative impacts of growth are taken into account and that the necessary resources and costs are identified.
- 1.3 A strategic approach to mitigation was established in 2014, developed with partnership working between East Devon, Exeter City and Teignbridge local planning authorities, with input from a number of wider organisations involved in the protection and management of the three European sites. The 2014 strategy set out a zone of influence (i.e. the evidence based zone within which it is deemed that mitigation measures are required) and a series of mitigation measures that work together to provide robust protection for the three European sites. The strategic approach was planned to run over the lifetime of the relevant Local Plans, and then beyond as a continual rolling programme, but with interim reviews. Since 2014, the strategy has been progressed by the three local planning authorities and dedicated staff are in place to facilitate implementation. There has been some very positive delivery of measures, and some aspects of mitigation have inevitably been identified as needing refinement.

- 1.4 A review and update of the mitigation strategy is necessary to ensure continued protection for the relevant European sites and to ensure the strategy is appropriate to the level of growth coming forward in the relevant Local Plans.

Legislative context

- 1.5 This strategy has been produced in order to meet particular legislative requirements. Habitats sites are those afforded the highest level of legislative protection for biodiversity. Public bodies, including local planning authorities, have specific duties in terms of avoiding deterioration of habitats and species for which sites are designated or classified, and stringent tests have to be met before plans and projects can be permitted. Importantly, the combined effects of individual plans or projects must be taken into account. For local planning authorities, this means that the combined effect of individual development proposals needs to be assessed collectively for their cumulative impact.
- 1.6 The designation, protection and restoration of habitats sites is embedded in the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017, as amended, which are commonly referred to as the ‘Habitats Regulations’. They include Special Protection Areas (SPA) classified under the 1979 Birds Directive and Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) designated under the 1992 Habitats Directive¹. In addition, Ramsar sites are afforded the same level of protection as habitats sites, through long-established Government policy². In this strategy we use the term ‘European site’ to refer to both habitats sites and Ramsar sites.

¹ For the avoidance of doubt, the list of statutory European sites also comprises: A site submitted by the UK to the European Commission (EC) before Exit Day (a candidate SAC or cSAC) as eligible for selection as a Site of Community Importance (SCI) but not yet entered on the ECs list of SCI, until such time as the Appropriate Authority has designated the site or it has notified the statutory nature conservation body that it does not intend to designate the site. After Exit Day, no further cSACs will be submitted to the EU. Statutory European sites also include SCI included on a list of such sites by the European Commission from cSACs submitted by the UK before the UK left the EU, until such time as the UK designates the site when it will become a fully designated SAC.

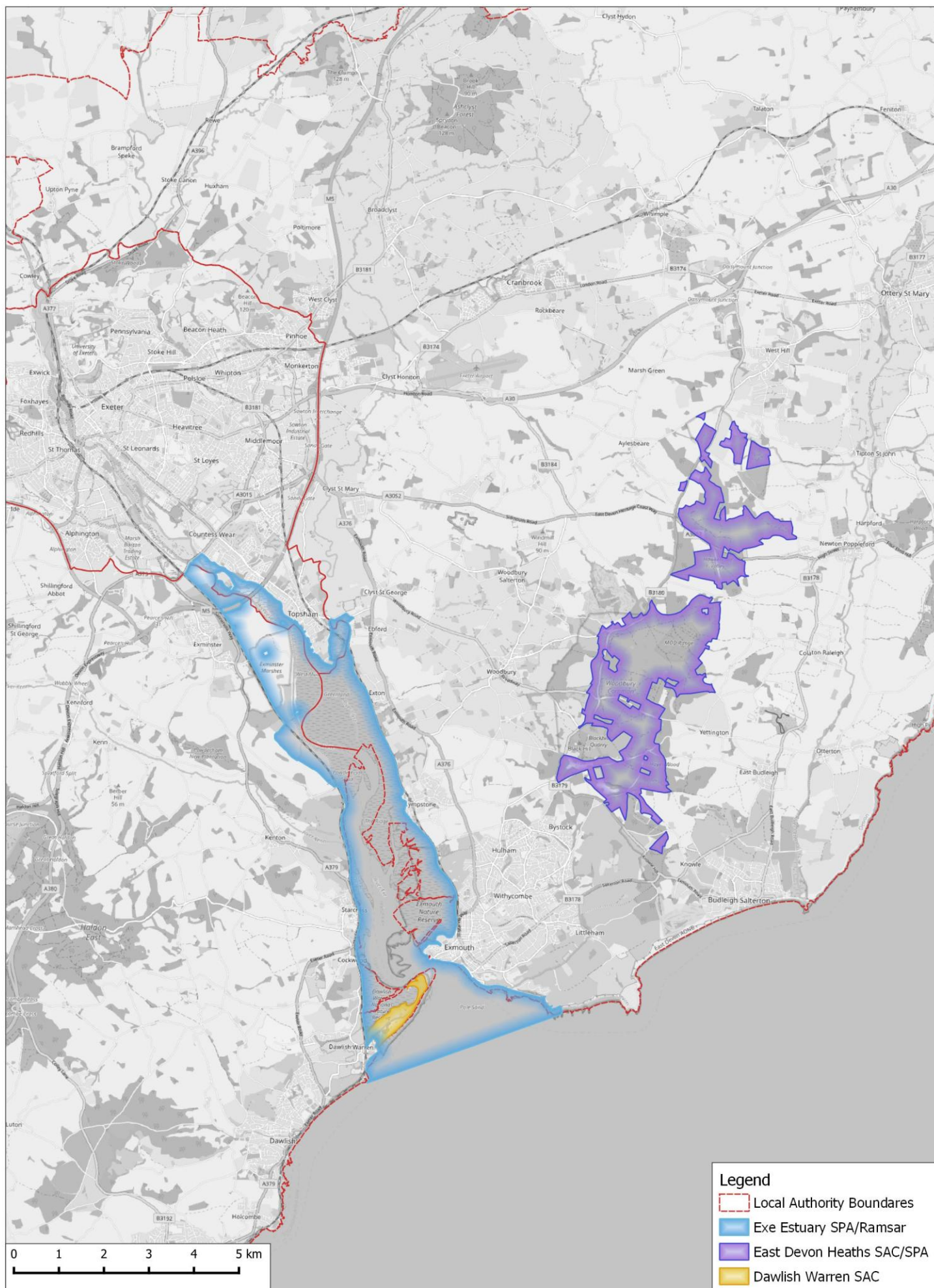
² ODPM Circular 06/2005: Biodiversity and Geological Conservation – Statutory Obligations and their Impact within the Planning System (16 August 2005), to be read in conjunction with the current NPPF, other Government guidance and the current version of the Habitats Regulations.

- 1.7 European sites are the cornerstone of UK nature conservation policy. Each forms part of a 'national network' of sites that are afforded the highest degree of protection in domestic policy and law. Public bodies are referred to as 'competent authorities' within the legislation. The duties set out within the Habitats Regulations in relation to the consideration of plans and projects are applicable in situations where the competent authority is undertaking or implementing a plan or project, or authorising others to do so.
- 1.8 The legislation is founded on the 'precautionary principle' and it is necessary to rule out harm, rather than demonstrate impacts. Assessment (Habitats Regulations Assessment) requires consideration of effects either alone or in-combination, and this strategy therefore relates to the cumulative effects of plan-led development across the combined authorities.

Relevant European Sites

- 1.9 This strategy is focussed on three European sites lying in close proximity towards the south of Exeter (Map 1). These relevant European sites are:
- The Exe Estuary SPA/Ramsar site
 - Dawlish Warren SAC
 - The East Devon Pebblebed Heaths SPA/SAC.

Map 1: European sites



The Exe Estuary

- 1.10 The Exe estuary is of international importance for wintering and migratory wetland birds which use the intertidal sand and mud flats and associated saltmarshes, reedbeds and grazing marshes.
- 1.11 The Estuary is classified as an SPA for the following non-breeding birds:
- Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*,
 - Dark-bellied Brent Goose *Branta bernicla bernicla*,
 - Pied Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta*,
 - Black-Tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa islandica*,
 - Dunlin *Calidris alpina alpina*,
 - Slavonian Grebe *Podiceps auritus*,
 - Eurasian Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*,
 - And in addition for the wintering waterbird assemblage.
- 1.12 The estuary is also a Ramsar site, listed for the following:
- Assemblage of international importance (under criterion 5); wintering waterfowl assemblage
 - *Branta bernicla bernicla* Dark-bellied Brent Goose (under criterion 6)
- 1.13 The SPA and Ramsar have the same boundaries and cover some 2,345.71ha. Full details of the SPA and Ramsar can be accessed on the Natural England website³.

Dawlish Warren

- 1.14 Dawlish Warren is a geomorphologically important sand spit which protects the mouth of the Exe estuary. The spit holds a mosaic of sand dune, grassland and wetland habitats and supports several rare plants.
- 1.15 Dawlish Warren is designated as an SAC for:
- H2190 Humid dune slacks;
 - S1395 Petalwort *Petalophyllum ralfsii*
 - H2120 Shifting dunes along the shoreline with *Ammophila arenaria* ("white dunes");
 - H2130 Fixed dunes with herbaceous vegetation ("grey dunes").

³ See [Natural England website](#)

- 1.16 The SAC (58.84ha) falls within the Exe Estuary SPA and Ramsar. Full details of Dawlish Warren and its interest features can be accessed on the Natural England website⁴.

The East Devon Heaths

- 1.17 The East Devon Heaths form the largest block of lowland heath in Devon, and they are internationally important for the wet and dry heathland habitats present. The diversity of heathland reflects the varied topography, geology, hydrology and water chemistry of the area, and supports associated plant and animal communities. Among the 21 breeding dragonfly species recorded at the site is the southern damselfly and there is an important assemblage of birds, including breeding Nightjar and Dartford Warbler.
- 1.18 The Heaths are designated as an SAC ('The East Devon Pebblebed Heaths SAC') for:
- H4030 European dry heaths;
 - S1044 *Coenagrion mercuriale* Southern damselfly;
 - H4010 Northern Atlantic wet heaths with *Erica tetralix*.
- 1.19 The Heaths are classified as an SPA ('The East Devon Heaths SPA') for
- A302(B) *Sylvia undata* Dartford Warbler;
 - A224(B) *Caprimulgus europaeus* European Nightjar.
- 1.20 The SPA and SAC boundaries are identical and cover 1,119.94ha. We use 'East Devon Heaths SAC/SPA' throughout the strategy to refer to the SAC and SPA together. Conservation objectives, site condition and the relevant citations are available on the Natural England website⁵.

Mitigation to date and need for this update

- 1.21 A strategic and plan led approach to protecting sites from the impact of recreation is now widely recognised as being more effective than dealing with these impacts on a development-by-development basis. Strategic mitigation approaches have been established around the country (for example on the Dorset Heaths, the Thames Basin Heaths, the Solent, the Suffolk Coast, Poole Harbour, the South Pennine Moors, the Chilterns Beechwoods and the Durham Coast). Recreation pressure is complex as the

⁴ See [Natural England website](#)

⁵ See [Natural England website](#)

way visitors use a site can change with time and the distribution of the qualifying features can also change. Furthermore, to ensure effectiveness, mitigation needs to include a package of measures that work together in an integrated way. For example, educating visitors, reinforcing messages with site-based staff, and providing the right infrastructure to meet visitor needs and influence visitor behaviour could all fit together as part of a mitigation package, but are the kinds of measures that cannot be delivered in a piecemeal way, implemented by individual developments.

- 1.22 Collective funding is essential for on-site measures, and these are then in turn supported by the provision of the right alternative green infrastructure to make a meaningful reduction in visits to the European sites.
- 1.23 A strategic approach also ensures that mitigation can be secured in a way to maximise benefits for local communities and wildlife, ensuring a positive approach that provides for recreation use and ensures long-term protection for the European sites.
- 1.24 A strategic mitigation approach was first established in South East Devon 2014 through the initial South East Devon Joint Mitigation Strategy (Liley *et al.*, 2014). This strategy included mitigation measures relating to the Exeter Core Strategy, the East Devon Local Plan and the Teignbridge District Local Plan, which then proposed a total level of housing growth of around 40,000 new homes (over the period 2006-2026 for East Devon and Exeter City and 2013-2033 for Teignbridge District).
- 1.25 Mitigation measures have been funded by developer contributions, with contributions required from many types of residential and tourist accommodation⁶. The three local authorities used a combination of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and Section 106/111 to secure the funding.
- 1.26 Whilst approval of the overall Strategy rests with respective Councils, decision making powers to deliver the Strategy have been delegated to the South and East Devon Habitat Regulations Executive Committee. The Committee's responsibilities include: agreeing a 5-year programme of

⁶ For example, including: all houses and flats (but not extensions), affordable housing, tied accommodation, student housing (with the exception of purpose built accommodation in Exeter), housing for the 'mobile' elderly, hotels, B&Bs and static caravans. Care homes for the infirmed who have significantly reduced mobility have been excluded.

mitigation and monitoring, an annual business plan, budget allocation, stakeholder cooperation and securing complementary funding.

- 1.27 This strategy will replace and supercede the previous strategy. It covers the period 2025-2030 and brings the relevant mitigation requirements, contributions and approach up to date with the housing growth now coming forward in the relevant authorities. It has been brought together with the involvement of a wide range of stakeholders, through a series of workshops and meetings.

2. Impacts of development

- 2.1 Impacts of development and the particular risks to the relevant European sites are discussed in detail in a range of previous reports (see Lake, 2010; Liley *et al.*, 2014; Liley, Panter and Underhill-Day, 2016) and are summarised here in Table 1. This strategy focuses on the cumulative effects of housing growth in terms of recreation impacts. It does not address other impacts from plan-led growth, for example impacts associated with air quality or water quality, which are beyond the scope of this strategy.
- 2.2 It should be noted there is uncertainty around the scale of potential impacts, given the length of time the development will last and factors such as climate change which are likely to impact the distribution of the qualifying features, exacerbate risks such as fire incidence, change recreation patterns and fundamentally change the coast and surrounding habitats. The legislation requires the Local Planning Authorities to be able to rule out harm, and the strategy provides a means to address such uncertainty.

Table 1: Summary of risks to the relevant European sites from recreation and urban effects

Impact	Exe Estuary SPA/Ramsar	Dawlish Warren SAC	East Devon Heaths SPA/SAC	Notes	References and examples
Disturbance to breeding birds			✓	Risks from reduced breeding success and avoidance of otherwise suitable habitat.	Murison (2002); Liley & Clarke (2003); Murison <i>et al.</i> (2007).
Disturbance to wintering waterbirds	✓			Risks from avoidance of otherwise suitable areas, reduced feeding rate, stress and increased energetic costs.	Goss-Custard & Verboven (1993); Stillman <i>et al.</i> (2001); West <i>et al.</i> (2002); Liley <i>et al.</i> (2011)
Increased fire risk		✓	✓	Fire risk linked to recreation through discarded cigarettes, BBQs etc.	Kirby & Tantram (1999); Lake (2010)
Trampling and wear		✓	✓	Heavy footfall can result in vegetation wear, soil compaction & erosion.	Lowen <i>et al.</i> (2008); Lake (2010)
Interaction with predators	?		✓	Species such as Crows and Magpies may be drawn to areas with greater human activity or occur at higher densities; redistribution of birds may result in greater vulnerability to predation.	Marzluff & Neatherlin (2006)
Nutrient enrichment from dog fouling		✓	✓	Risks from dog fouling resulting in increased soil nutrient levels and changes in vegetation.	Bonner & Agnew (1983); Taylor <i>et al.</i> (2005); De Frenne <i>et al.</i> (2022)
Fly tipping/litter		?	✓	Short-term impacts to interest features likely to be minimal but risks of long-term contamination, particularly from introduced species from garden waste a risk. Also risks of staff time drawn from other essential duties.	

Impact	Exe Estuary SPA/Ramsar	Dawlish Warren SAC	East Devon Heaths SPA/SAC	Notes	References and examples
Contamination of water bodies from dogs		✓	✓	Dogs swimming in ponds and other waterbodies brings potential risks from increased turbidity and pollution from flea treatments etc	Groome <i>et al.</i> (2018); Denton & Groome (2017); Perkins <i>et al.</i> (2020)
Disruption of management		✓	✓	Disruption such as dog attacks to livestock; gates left open; theft of equipment/material; all issues to be expected at more urban sites or those with more recreation	
Public opposition/objection to management	✓	✓	✓	Management interventions such as tree or scrub removal, water level management etc. can be sensitive and opposed by local residents, leading to issues achieving the necessary management	Woods (2002)
Damage to infrastructure, vandalism etc.	✓	✓	✓	Direct damage can occur through graffiti and deliberate vandalism which tend to be issues at more urban sites	
Predation by pet cats			✓	Increased housing may lead to increases in local cat population; pet cats can range widely and predate a variety of bird and mammal species. Unlikely as a risk for Exe Estuary?	Hall <i>et al.</i> (2016);

3. Mitigation delivery to date and implications looking forward

Overview

3.1 In this section we consider the potential for the strategy to evolve to address the additional housing levels and consider the wider context that might be relevant in bringing the strategy up to date.

Mitigation delivery to date

3.2 Mitigation to date, in line with the current strategy, has achieved:

- Recruitment of a dedicated Delivery Manager, responsible for implementing the strategy;
- Two wardens: 'Wildlife Wardens' (roles started in October 2016; staff changes / changes to job titles have occurred since) with a dedicated vehicle. The two wardens spoke to over 2,000 people between November 2016 and November 2017⁷ and they have become a familiar sight at the relevant European sites. Their role has been to talk to visitors and engage with those undertaking potentially damaging activities (such as not picking up after their dog). They have done training with the police and are certificated to issue warnings to people about infringements.
- A dedicated website⁸ and social media presence now established including Twitter⁹, Facebook¹⁰ and Instagram¹¹.
- The 'Devon Loves Dogs' project launched in July 2017, with a dog walking code, recommended walks and information for dog walkers. The project has its own website¹² and its own social media presence that includes Facebook¹³, Twitter¹⁴ and Instagram¹⁵

⁷ Figures from Annual Business Plan report, see [minutes of Habitats Mitigation Executive Committee](#) Jan 2018

⁸ <https://www.southeastdevonwildlife.org.uk/>

⁹ See [@SEDwildlife](#), with 858 followers as of December 2022

¹⁰ See <https://www.facebook.com/SEDwildlife/> South East Devon Wildlife with 557 followers as of December 2022

¹¹ See with [sedwildlife](#) 554 followers as of December 2022

¹² <https://www.devonlovesdogs.co.uk/>

¹³ See [Devon Loves Dogs](#) with 1,600 followers as of December 2022

¹⁴ See [@DevonLovesDogs](#) with 515 followers as of December 2022

¹⁵ See [devonlovesdogs](#) with 1,189 followers as of December 2022

- A patrol boat, purchased for use on the Exe Estuary to ensure people remain within the speed limit and follow codes of conduct.
- Wildlife Refuges on the Exe Estuary, near the Duck Pond and at Dawlish Warren, these were subject to a public consultation, have been marked out with buoys and monitoring has been undertaken (Saunders. and Liley, 2021).
- Codes of conduct¹⁶ for the Exe Estuary to help promote a safe and responsible approach to carrying out activities in the area.
- A Pebblebed Heaths Visitor Management Plan, including visitor survey data and recommendations for mitigation measures specific to the East Devon Heaths.
- Pebblebed Heaths visitor access improvements, consisting of a car park strategy, stakeholder and public consultation and a multi-year programme of construction/landscaping spanning the heaths.
- Redesign and installation of new interpretation boards across the Heaths, at each of the main car parks, including car park entrance signage.
- Additional dog bins on the East Devon Heaths at 6 parking areas.
- Provision of SANGs, with Dawlish Countryside Park SANG (26ha) opened to the public in 2017 and other sites including the Ridgetop Park Exeter, Old Park Farm and Pinbrook Country Park. A complete list of current and proposed SANG is provided in Appendix 1.
- Liaison with other strategic mitigation projects, such as Dorset Heaths, Thames Basin Heaths and the Solent, developing links and sharing best practice.
- A visitor survey of the three European sites (Caals, Panter and Liley, 2022)

Commentary on measures in place and opportunities to expand

3.3 From discussion with various parties involved in setting up and running the current Strategy, and a review of information and literature available, the following points are relevant.

Visitor numbers and need for a package of mitigation measures

3.4 Visitor survey results from the European sites in South east Devon have shown a marked increase compared to previous years (Caals, Panter and Liley, 2022). In general, this pattern reflects the national picture, whereby greenspaces in the UK have seen a marked surge in recreation as a result of the Covid pandemic (McGinlay *et al.*, 2020; Burnett *et al.*, 2021; Natural

¹⁶ Available to download from the [Exe Estuary Partnership Website](#)

England and Kantar Public, 2021) and many changes, such as increased dog ownership (Morgan *et al.*, 2020) may have long-lasting effects.

- 3.5 Recreation patterns, in terms of types of activity will also change over time. Wild swimming (Bates and Moles, 2022), paddleboarding (Baker *et al.*, 2021) and e-bikes (Rérat, 2021) are becoming increasingly popular while improvements in wetsuit materials and technology can allow people to spend more time in the water. Such changes may mean people access sites in novel ways, at different times of day or different weather conditions.
- 3.6 In order to ensure resilience in the face of such change and the necessary confidence to conform with the regulations, a range of mitigation measures are likely to be necessary. It is unlikely that any one single intervention will work on its own to address all possible risks.

Climate change

- 3.7 Climate change adds to uncertainty through changes to the estuary and adjacent areas. Dawlish Warren will continue to change with the beach continuing to lower, increasing flood and erosion risk across the estuary. The spit is anticipated to lose its wave barrier function making the estuary less sheltered and more vulnerable to storm events and there is some disagreement about the how site should be managed (see Environment Agency, 2023 for background).
- 3.8 Dawlish Warren holds one of the major wader roosts on the estuary and the changes to the estuary may affect the distribution of birds, availability of roost sites and distribution of food (Clausen and Clausen, 2014). In addition, climate change will affect the distribution of birds and choice of wintering location at a fly-way/regional level (e.g. Maclean *et al.*, 2008).
- 3.9 Climate change is also likely to be a driver of change in recreational use (McEvoy *et al.*, 2008; Coombes and Jones, 2010), for example milder winter weather could lead to increased watersport use.

Functionally linked-land and resilience

- 3.10 There have been some marked changes on and around the estuary in recent years. Both mussel and cockle stocks (a key food for some SPA bird species such as Oystercatcher) have crashed (Morten *et al.*, 2022) and there have been major erosion events at Dawlish Warren. In the context of climate change with more storms and rising sea-levels, the dynamic nature of the coast means that the distribution of birds within the SPA/Ramsar is likely to

shift. Low-lying land around the SPA has the potential to provide safe roost and feeding sites for the bird interest and such functionally-linked land¹⁷ may become more important in the long-term in terms of providing feeding and roost sites.

- 3.11 Facilitating management of these areas and ensuring disturbance is minimised is likely to help relieve pressure on the SPA that may be subjected to changes in key habitats over time. By securing greater habitat capacity outside site boundaries, there can be greater confidence in maintaining the favourable conservation status of the bird interest into the long term.
- 3.12 There is on-going research to understand Oystercatcher movements around the Exe Estuary, and birds have been colour-ringed and some have been fitted with GPS trackers (Morten *et al.*, 2022). Such studies will help to show how birds move around the estuary and identify any key locations outside the SPA that are functionally-linked to the SPA, by providing habitat that is essential to the SPA birds.
- 3.13 As the strategy evolves and as the estuary changes, there may be opportunities to focus on functionally-linked land more. Increasing the resilience of the SPA will contribute towards site conservation objectives and there will be a level at which this should clearly be done in order to meet the maintain and restore duties within the legislation, rather than mitigation. Careful consideration of whether there are additional opportunities that could form part of the strategy warrants further investigation, for example through mapping functionally-linked land. Clear demonstration of additionality will be paramount.

Long-term security

- 3.14 The need for mitigation is likely to last indefinitely. A long-term perspective is clearly important. Proactive work around influencing dog walkers and managing dogs off leads has taken place at Dawlish Warren since the 1970s and the restrictions on dogs beyond groyne 9 on the beach were first instigated in the 1990s (P. Chambers, *pers. comm.*). The need to keep promoting and reinforcing the messaging still remains, highlighting how important it is that measures are implemented for the long-term.

¹⁷ 'Functional linkage' refers to the role or 'function' that land or sea beyond the boundary of a European site might fulfil in terms of ecologically supporting the populations for which the site was designated or classified. See Chapman & Tyldesley (2016) for further background.

- 3.15 A consistent challenge across this and other European site mitigation strategies has been how best to ensure effective mitigation for the lifetime of the development, particularly when measures involve the management of green infrastructure or employment of staff that need funding on an annual basis. Securing in-perpetuity funding means ring-fencing money for future delivery, yet it can be hard to determine the right amounts to set aside. Clarity on the duration that measures are required for clearly has a major impact on the overall cost of mitigation.
- 3.16 The current mitigation strategy does not include any security in terms of the Delivery Manager's post, which was envisaged to be a 5-year post. Given the continuing need to bring a wide range of stakeholders together, report to the Executive Committee, manage the budget and oversee mitigation delivery, there is scope for this post to be extended. Without this post, there is the risk that the Wildlife Wardens spend less time out on site and are stretched too thinly.
- 3.17 There have also been some delays in delivering mitigation, for example in the case of the purchase of the patrol boat and in establishing the wildlife refuges. Sufficient resources and staff time are necessary to enable measures to happen. As such there is scope for ensuring enough staff and sufficient budget to make sure measures can be implemented. In addition, there needs to be sufficient flexibility to easily redistribute resources to respond to particular circumstances or opportunities.

Wildlife wardens

- 3.18 Wildlife wardens undertake a ranger role as well as undertaking awareness raising work around the sites. They patrol in pairs due to health & safety concerns and while this works well it does mean that spatial coverage is essentially limited. In recent years there have been lengthy periods of time where only one wildlife warden has been in post and this has required other staff (e.g. delivery manager) to join them on patrols at least 1 day per week, taking time away from other duties.
- 3.19 There is clear scope to expand the warden team to provide better coverage. To date, warden time has been split seasonally, with a focus on the Heaths during the spring/summer and the Estuary during the autumn/winter. While this has helped ensure the right focus, the restriction of only being able to cover one place at a time due to staffing and the challenges of organising leave and sickness cover mean the current team of two is stretched.

Furthermore, attendance at events, shows and more public-facing elements, while important in themselves, can mean that time actually on the European sites themselves is further reduced. The travel time and distances also add to the challenges as the estuary makes it harder to switch locations quickly and efficiently (i.e. moving between Dawlish Warren and the East Devon Heaths).

- 3.20 It is perhaps useful to compare other mitigation strategies to check the level of provision. On the Solent (where a mitigation ranger team has been long established), the ranger team has included around 7 staff over the winter (covering some 250km of coast) and the level of annual growth (around 3,400 dwellings), equates to around 30 minutes ranger time per new dwelling per winter (Liley *et al.*, 2023). That figure takes into account the actual time rangers spend out and on the Solent coast, and the rangers are not paired. That level of provision was considered relatively low in the review by Liley *et al.* (2023).
- 3.21 In South East Devon the wardens need to cover around 27km of shoreline along the Exe Estuary plus an area of around 1,200ha (the combined area of the East Devon Heaths and Dawlish Warren). A team size of just 2 wardens, if out patrolling around 25 hours a week, might achieve around 1,300 hours¹⁸ on patrol per year. With levels of development around 1,941 per annum, that level of coverage is around 40 minutes per new development per year and would seem low. Wardens on the Solent can engage with around 6 groups of people per hour (Liley *et al.*, 2023), assuming similar timings for the South East Devon sites would suggest 2 wardens might achieve the equivalent of 4 interactions with visitors for each new dwelling built. These calculations are relatively simplistic but highlight the current provision is too low and is likely to need to at least double to achieve a better level of coverage.

Monitoring

- 3.22 Monitoring data reflect the level of mitigation achieved, website hits, social media engagement etc. and have also included visitor surveys (Caals, Panter and Liley, 2022) and monitoring of wildlife refuges on the Exe Estuary (Saunders. and Liley, 2021).

¹⁸ i.e. 25 multiplied by 52, made on the assumption the rangers operate as a pair rather than separately

- 3.23 Looking to the future, there is scope to review the monitoring that is integrated within the mitigation strategy and potential for additional monitoring to help target warden time, the patrol boat time and other measures, in order to help hone and inform mitigation delivery. The original strategy included visitor questionnaire work at five-year intervals and regular counts of visitor numbers, however the budget was not sufficient to allow these to be fully implemented as planned.

Stakeholders and engagement

- 3.24 A key element in the mitigation delivery has been stakeholder engagement and the need to involve and work closely with a wide range of people and organisations. These include both internal stakeholders (within the relevant local authorities) and external parties. For the mitigation package to work smoothly and be successful it has to involve local landowners, the public, visitors to the sites, community groups, user groups, developers, nature conservation bodies, statutory agencies, relevant forums and partnerships, local authority staff (including those involved in green infrastructure, communications, strategic planners, development management, legal and tourism) and elected Council members. The Wildlife Wardens and Delivery Manager clearly have an important role to play in bringing stakeholders together and keeping them informed, however there is potential to communicate to the various groups further, extending reach and ensuring the mitigation package works in its totality.
- 3.25 The Exe Estuary Management Partnership ran the consultation on the wildlife refuges, as well as the code of conduct consultation. Having a third party able to bring together users, local businesses etc. was potentially very important in this instance. Looking to the future, bringing together different groups and establishing opportunities to communicate widely to stakeholders will be important.
- 3.26 Exeter City Council is seeking a Harbour Revision Order (HRO) which is likely to be in place in the 5 year period covered by this strategy. The HRO will provide new powers including the potential to update byelaws and apply Special Directions for specific instances or occasions. This will involve consultation with users and the potential for new updated legislation and guidance for users.
- 3.27 Looking ahead, the Devon Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) will provide supporting evidence for local plans and cover the whole of the county. The

LNRS will set priorities for future focus in terms of geographic areas, species and habitats and will involve planners, developers and others. There may well be opportunities within the LNRS to link to the measures in this mitigation strategy.

Devon Loves Dogs

- 3.28 Devon Loves Dogs has been successful and has been gathering momentum and recognition. It is however constrained by resources in terms of staff time, vehicle etc. The original strategy included an annual cost to run the Project of £2,000 and there is clearly scope for this to be increased and for more events and greater levels of engagement to be achieved. The county-wide branding brings recognition and scope for growth (e.g. funding to include cover at other sites), but this risks the core sites for mitigation delivery being missed.

Parking on the Pebblebed Heaths and visitor infrastructure

- 3.29 Given that the majority of visitors come by car, the car parking capacity on the East Devon Heaths provides a means ultimately to limit visitor numbers. Verge parking is minimal now and there have been reductions in the number of car-parks, from 22 car parks around 2000, to about 17 now. There is a difficult balancing act to ensure in the long-term sufficient, adequate parking for a sustainable amount of visitor use, with those car-parks in the right places so that visitor footfall is not focussed in the most sensitive places and is distributed appropriately across the site.
- 3.30 Clinton Devon Estates have been formalising some car parks, improving efficient use of space/routing of traffic, so that they know better what their total capacity is, and can monitor how close to full they actually come. New signs, height restriction barriers and changes to layout and design have also been incorporated. The redesign helps with mitigation as it provides a physical limit to the amount of parking at particular locations, facilitates engagement (by ensuring signs, bins, path routing etc is all integrated into the design) and makes it clear to visitors the site is well managed and looked after, reducing the risk of antisocial behaviour.
- 3.31 One factor potentially influencing visitor use of the heaths is the lack of parking charges, meaning it is one of the few countryside areas in the region where it is possible to park for free. There is scope to review how this might influence visitor use and to consider the implications and relative merits of changing this over time. Charging for parking may help visitors appreciate

the challenges in looking after the Heaths and may influence visitor perceptions of the site, as well as possibly changing how often and when people visit. It should however be noted that charging may not necessarily reduce visitor numbers (Weitowitz *et al.*, 2019), but it may also generate revenue to help with the long term funding of management on the Heaths.

Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace (SANGs)

- 3.32 SANGs provide additional greenspace for recreation, providing space for recreational use away from European sites. As such they work as mitigation when they provide an alternative that draws users who would otherwise visit the European site. There are various approaches to how SANGs can be delivered, for example new (or enhanced) green space can be created and managed strategically by a local authority, or new open space can be provided by developers alongside new housing. A list of existing, emerging and potential SANGs is provided in Appendix 1.
- 3.33 The main SANG site so far established is Dawlish Countryside Park, which has been purchased by Teignbridge District Council. The site has been flagged in the dog walking code of conduct for the Exe Estuary, and as such it is being actively promoted to dog walkers using the estuary. Visitor data (Caals, Panter and Liley, 2022) shows the SANG to be working well. For example, 44% of interviewees on the Exe Estuary had visited Dawlish Countryside Park. Furthermore, when asked which single alternative location visitors at the SANG would have gone to instead, Dawlish Warren was the most popular alternative (cited by 13 interviewees, 19% of interviewees at the SANG). Postcode data show the SANG draws visitors from the local area, including Dawlish and from as far afield as Exeter and Newton Abbot.
- 3.34 Other SANGs include Ridgetop Park near Matford. The total SANG area that has been secured will be almost 40ha and is being delivered by the local authority (partnership). Phase 1 was formally opened in 2023 and is around 21ha.
- 3.35 There has been limited SANG delivery to date on the east side of the Exe Estuary. This may in part be due to it proving difficult to find suitable locations, and means that there is a disparity in SANGs provision and the SANGs element of the existing strategy has not worked smoothly. The gap in SANGs east of a line between Exmouth and Exeter is a priority for the future.
- 3.36 In other areas such as the Thames Basin Heaths a formulaic approach to SANGs is clearly set out and rigidly adhered to. The formulas set out the level

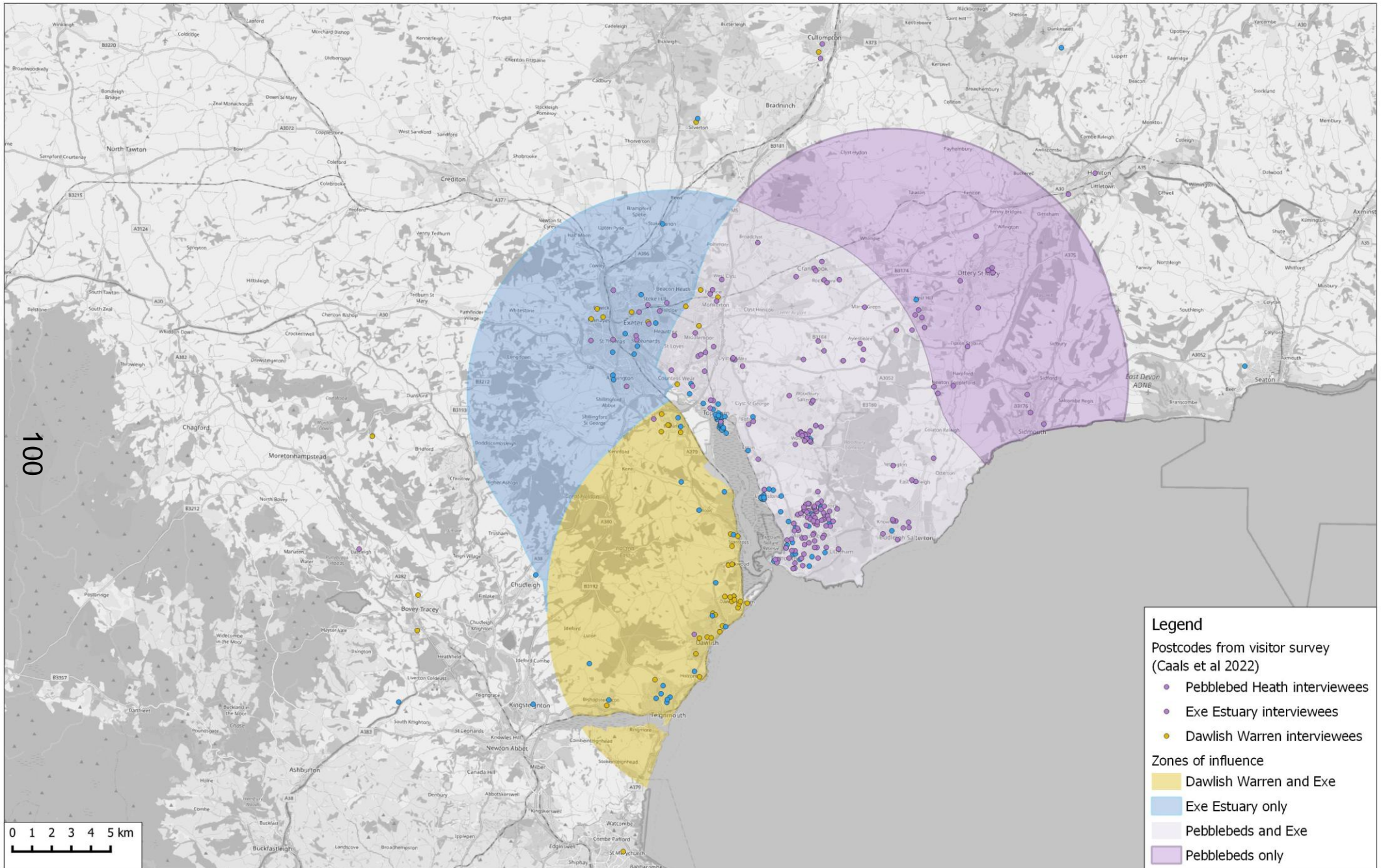
of SANG provision per dwelling (8ha per 1,000 new residents) alongside detailed prescriptions of how SANGs should work, including guidelines for site size, parking provision, distance from development, design etc. In the original South East Devon strategy such an approach was avoided as it was recognised that there were different issues around the coast, where SANGs potentially play less of a role in an overall mitigation package due to the unique draw of the coast. Evidence is growing on the effectiveness of SANGs in a coastal location (e.g. Caals, Panter and Liley, 2022) and looking to the future there is a need to provide greater clarity about the level of SANG provision required from different developments and clear guidance on what SANG should look like and how it should work.

- 3.37 It is also now becoming increasingly recognised that there is a role for SANGs to be multi-functional in that they can provide for some other benefits alongside a primary purpose of mitigation for recreation impacts. Defra's Environmental Improvement Plan (2023) recognises the importance of spending time in nature and sets a commitment that everyone should live within a 15 minute walk of a green or blue space. Access to the countryside is now recognised as bringing wide benefits to society that include benefits to mental/physical health (Pretty *et al.*, 2005; White *et al.*, 2019; Kondo *et al.*, 2020; Mental Health Foundation, 2021; Nghiem *et al.*, 2021) and economic benefits (ICRT, 2011; ICF GHK, 2013; Keniger *et al.*, 2013; The Land Trust, 2018). There is also scope for SANGs to provide benefits around ecosystem services (water quality, flood protection, carbon sequestration) or biodiversity net gain that are not incompatible with a primary aim of recreation provision. As such there are perhaps opportunities for wider funding and better promotion of the potential benefits of SANGs.

4. Zones of influence

- 4.1 The original strategy is based on zones of influence around each of the European sites. The zones reflect the area where new development is likely to result in increased access to the European sites and therefore trigger likely significant effects and a need to secure mitigation.
- 4.2 The zones were drawn at 10km, based on visitor survey data (Liley, Fearnley and Cruickshanks, 2010; Cruickshanks and Liley, 2012), primarily the results from a postal survey. The rationale behind the zones (and detailed consideration of alternatives) are described in the original strategy. In simple terms, 10km captured the majority of visitors, around 70-80% for the East Devon Heaths and the Exe Estuary and lower for Dawlish Warren. The zones resulted in a relatively complex, Venn-diagram like approach, with some areas falling within one zone of influence and other areas falling within two zones.
- 4.3 Since the previous mitigation strategy further visitor data have become available (Caals, Panter and Liley, 2022). The visitor postcodes from that survey are shown in Map 2, which shows the zones work well to reflect the more recent postcode data (which were collected at a relevant times of year for each European site). In total, 76% of those interviewed at the Exe survey points (including Dawlish Warren) had home postcodes within 10km of the SPA/Ramsar boundary. For those interviewees at Dawlish Warren 60% lived within 10km and for the East Devon Heaths 86% lived within 10km. Caals et al suggest no reason to change the zones of influence.

Map 2: Zones of influences and recent postcode data



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5. Scale of future development

5.1 The scale of growth in the relevant local plans is summarised in Table 2 (period 2025-2040) and Table 3 (2025-2030). The totals are approximate and reflect the overall scale of growth that needs to be mitigated. These show nearly 30,000 new dwellings are likely to come forward 2025-2040 within one of the relevant zones, this equates to around 1,941 dwellings per annum. Within the first 5 years (2025-2030), the level of anticipated growth is slightly higher, at just over 2,000 dwellings per annum.

Table 2: Approximate scale of growth in relevant plans within relevant zones of influence, 2025-2040.
Data provided by relevant local authorities to provide an estimate of level of growth requiring mitigation

Local authority	Anticipated housing 2025-2040 and within 1+ zones	Estimate within Exe Estuary 10km zone	Estimate within East Devon Heaths 10km zone	Estimate within Dawlish 10km zone
East Devon	14,400	12,486	14,392	0
Exeter	8,607	8,607	2,325	0
Teignbridge	6,104	6,104	0	2,395
Total	29,111	27,197	16,717	2,395
Yearly average	1,941	1,813	1,114	160

Table 3: Approximate scale of growth in relevant plans within relevant zones of influence, 2025-2030.
Data provided by relevant local authorities to provide an estimate of level of growth requiring mitigation

Local authority	Anticipated housing 2025-2030 and within 1+ zones	Estimate within Exe Estuary 10km zone	Estimate within East Devon Heaths 10km zone	Estimate within Dawlish 10km zone
East Devon	4,374	3,821	4,370	0
Exeter	3,618	3,618	1,475	0
Teignbridge	2,033	2,033	0	1,281
Total	10,025	9,472	5,845	1,281
Yearly average	2,005	1,894	1,169	256

- 5.2 Table 4 summarises the potential level of growth (2025-2040) in relation to the number of dwellings (as of 2023) in each zone and the zones combined. It can be seen that the proposed level of growth represents a change of nearly 30% for the Exe Estuary and around 25% for the East Devon Heaths. This clearly represents a marked uplift in local housing around those sites. The proposed growth is more focussed on the east of the Estuary as opposed to the west.
- 5.3 Very large uplifts in housing at specific locations in East Devon (Cranbrook and the new town proposed west of Farringdon) to the east of Exeter will have particular implications for the East Devon Heaths. Housing growth is proposed in relatively close proximity and with good, direct road links marked uplifts in recreation use are likely. Rapid changes are likely at what are currently quite rural feeling heaths.

Table 4: Potential change in housing numbers. Dwellings in 2023 extracted from national postcode database and reflect the number of residential delivery points.

Local authority	Total in 2023	Anticipated 2025-2040	% change
All three zones combined	129,712	29,111	22.4
Estimate within Exe Estuary 10km zone	92,114	27,197	29.5
Estimate within East Devon Heaths 10km zone	66,722	16,717	25.1
Estimate within Dawlish 10km zone	21,734	2,395	11.0

6. Mitigation measures

6.1 Mitigation measures are split into:

- SAMMS (Strategic Access Management and Monitoring); and
- Off-site infrastructure (including SANGs – ‘Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace’ and local projects).

6.2 Figure 1 provides an overview of the key elements of the strategy.

SAMM				
THEME	Engagement	Access Infrastructure & Projects	Monitoring	Off-site Infrastructure
AIMS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased awareness of issues Influence behaviour change (e.g. dogs on leads) Deflect access (e.g. to SANGs) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Influencing distribution of access within European sites Containing access Increasing resilience of European sites 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information to inform mitigation Early warning of change and emerging issues Increased cost effectiveness by ensuring focus 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide alternative visitor destinations Reduce visitor numbers of European sites
ACTIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wardens Devon Loves Dogs Communications Officer South East Devon Wildlife (SEDW) Website Codes of Conduct Exe Leaflets Schools Patrol boat Stakeholder engagement New interpretation Web Camera Interpretation Education work around fire Visitor facility at Dawlish Warren 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review of signage and new/improved signage Managing access at sensitive locations Ongoing maintenance of buoys at refuge Additional dog bins Review of parking charging Special projects pot Signage Fire strategy work and review Advice/specialist input re management interventions around dog walking Resources for work with commercial dog walkers Maintenance of high tide roost at Dawlish Warren Flexible projects pot 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Production of monitoring strategy & monitoring support Visitor survey Refuge monitoring Vantage point counts Monitoring: ecology (birds, Southern Damselfly) Monitoring: people behaviour Monitoring: vehicle counter data collection Petalwort monitoring and survey 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SANGs and Infrastructure Projects Coordination Officer Large alternative visitor sites ('SANGs') delivered by developers at large development sites Strategic SANGs (new and enhanced existing sites) delivered by LPAs Rolling list of local projects, enhancing green infrastructure and access opportunities away from European sites

Figure 1: Summary of mitigation measures. Actions in blue text relate to those that are Exe Estuary specific, those in purple are East Devon Heaths specific and gold reflects those specific to Dawlish Warren. Actions in black apply across all 3 sites.

Strategic Access Management and Monitoring (SAMMS)

6.3 SAMMs measures fall within three broad themes, namely:

- Engagement;
- Access Infrastructure and Projects; and
- Monitoring.

6.4 The measures are set out in Table 5.

6.5 The warden team is fundamental to the mitigation delivery. The warden team's core work will involve providing a presence on-site through their patrols of the relevant European sites. This provides the confidence that mitigation is targeted towards direct engagement with those visiting the European sites and the ability to directly influence those spending time on those sites. The funds provide the wardens with the necessary resources (such as vehicles and the patrol boat) to deliver this mitigation. Warden time should be ring-fenced and focussed on maximising their time out on the heaths, the estuary and at Dawlish Warren.

6.6 Warden time should be closely monitored and levels of engagement with visitors and interactions carefully logged. This will enable future updates of the strategy to ensure warden provision is adequate, with the team being increased (or decreased) over time as necessary.

6.7 Alongside the wardens, other mitigation measures include the refuges, signage, interpretation and funding that can be used for discrete 'special' projects and allows relevant delivery bodies to be able to draw down on funds.

6.8 The SAMM measures are able to shift and adapt with time, which is essential given likely changes at the sites, for example with respect to climate change. Warden time can be focussed as most relevant and project funds can be directed to where they are needed. Engagement for example through social media provides further opportunity to reinforce messaging and influence behaviour in a targeted and dynamic way.

6.9 The marked uplifts in housing growth proposed in the area to the east of Exeter mean the east side of the Estuary and the East Devon Heaths are likely to see particular changes in access. Alongside the flexible warden provision and other engagement (which can be ramped up/targeted as appropriate), it will be necessary for infrastructure changes to address issues as they arise. Parking around the East Devon Heaths is a particular case in

point. Managing parking will provide a means to influence visitor use in terms of both numbers of people and where they go. Reviewing parking charging and instigating measures to address roadside parking (such as establishing clearways on relevant roads) may be necessary. Developer contributions will be available to fund the costs as and when they are necessary.

Table 5: SAMMs measures. Shading reflects those specific to the Exe Estuary (pale blue), East Devon Heaths (purple) and Dawlish Warren (yellow).

Site	Mitigation measure	Description	Parties involved in delivery	Justification	Notes
All	Delivery Manager	Full time post managing warden team and providing overall steer for mitigation delivery and link to partners, stakeholders, planners etc. Role also proving strategic links and wider policy work/liaison	SEDHRP	Manager post key to ensuring smooth delivery and oversight of implementation	
All 107	Wardens, team to scale up to 5	Warden team expanded from 2 to 5 FTE and including team leader post. Key function is patrolling on the European sites and directly engaging with visitors to those sites	SEDHRP	Wardens are a cornerstone of the mitigation. Additional wardens needed to provide year round cover and work effectively. Requirement to be paired, plus scale of area and pivotal importance of the warden team means team size needs to increase. Team of 5 allows for 2 on the heath and 2 on the estuary.	Currently more emphasis in summer as bird breeding season. More presence in winter necessary and clear immediate priority to boost team size. Scope to have on bikes in future?
All	Vehicles for warden team	Running costs to cover vehicle and other running costs for events etc	SEDHRP	Budget required for transport and operational work	
All	Devon Loves Dogs staffing costs	Team to expand to 2 fte	SEDHRP	Additional staffing required to build project and focus on key user group. Dog walkers main user group to influence and one with biggest impact	
All	Resources for Devon Loves Dogs	Running costs to cover vehicle and other running costs for events etc	SEDHRP	Budget required for transport and operational work	
All	Communications Officer staffing costs	Mitigation relies on effective behaviour change through communication of key messages - focused, specialist work on social media, press, newsletters.	SEDHRP	Budget required for operational work, targeted comms planning, campaigns, social media, newsletter and	

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Site	Mitigation measure	Description	Parties involved in delivery	Justification	Notes
				promotional/networking opportunities.	
All	DLD Website	Website for Devon Loves Dogs	SEDHRP	Necessary to cover regular updates, refresh and content	
All	South East Devon Wildlife (SEDW) Website	Website for work of wardens	SEDHRP	Necessary to cover regular updates, refresh and content	
All	DLD Brand refresh	Pulse of work to update branding, covering graphic design and overall refresh	SEDHRP	Ensures public face of mitigation works and conveys right messages	Every 10 years
All	SEDW Brand refresh	Pulse of work to update branding, covering graphic design and overall refresh	SEDHRP	Ensures public face of mitigation works and conveys right messages	Every 10 years
All 108	Wardens projects	Operational budget for warden team	SEDHRP	Necessary to ensure warden team can utilise new ways of engaging and purchase required resources. Allows scope for seasonal campaigns and fresh material.	
All	Production of monitoring strategy & monitoring support	Consultancy support to work with SEDHRP and stakeholders to design monitoring programme and recording to cover data collection by warden team, other relevant data (e.g. volunteer bird surveys), reporting protocols and report production	SEDHRP	Will ensure monitoring is conducted efficiently and data available to feed into mitigation delivery	
All	Visitor survey	Visitor survey to cover all European sites and surrounding GI (SANGs etc) at 5 year intervals	SEDHRP	Provides data on changing use patterns, demographics, visitor numbers and visitor origins.	

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Site	Mitigation measure	Description	Parties involved in delivery	Justification	Notes
All	SANGs and Infrastructure Projects Coordination Officer	Post to oversee SANG provision, delivery, design and maintain oversight	SEDHRP, EDDC, ECC, TDC	Necessary to ensure coherent and joined up approach to SANG and alternative green infrastructure provision, with role liaising with developers, planners, Natural England and other stakeholders	
All	Admin and accountancy support	Budget to cover annual accounting and monitoring of housing totals	SEDHRP, EDDC, ECC, TDC	Necessary to ensure in-perpetuity costs set aside appropriately and administration of finances	
Exe 109	Codes of Conduct	Codes updated, with potential for additional codes (drones/personal aircraft), also printing and distribution costs	SEDHRP, EEMP	Codes fulfil an important role in terms of information on how visitors are expected to behave and guidance. It is essential they are up to date, relevant and fit for purpose	Paper leaflets may be less likely to be used over time and essential information also available interactively on the web
Exe	Exe Leaflets	Budget for refresh and reprints of 4 existing leaflets: Exe Explorer, Exe Wildlife, Exe Activities and Exe Heritage.	SEDHRP, EEMP	Leaflets well used resource providing information on where to go, public transport, access etc alongside key messages such as location of refuges. Essential that they are up to date, accurate and relevant	Paper leaflets potentially less likely to be used over time and essential information also available interactively on the web. Update scheduled in 2023/24 so further update potentially necessary for around 2030
Exe	Schools	Review of education provision and material, and budget for creation of new material to support education work around estuary	EDDC, TDC, EEMP	Working with schools and young people a good way to reach local community	Work was undertaken prior to Covid and packs were produced at the time. There is a range of packs etc already on the web. EEMP and a range of other

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Site	Mitigation measure	Description	Parties involved in delivery	Justification	Notes
					bodies run existing education work. Scope for mitigation partnership to support through provision of material
Exe 110	Managing access at sensitive locations	Budget to cover series of small projects relating to access infrastructure around the estuary. Some initial work required to produce costed, prioritised plan (Delivery Manager). Locations/measures potentially relevant could include: Imperial Recreation Ground (measures relating to managing access onto the intertidal, creation of barrier/hedge or similar on the revetment to keep access back from shore), Eaels Dock (project relating to boat use and reducing disturbance risks), Cockwood steps (signage), Dawlish Warren (temporary fencing), range of locations (new/improved bird hides, screens or similar). Also potential to include measures to reduce disturbance on functionally-linked land outside Estuary.	various	Distribution of birds and ways people access shoreline change over time. Projects involve targeted interventions at specific locations to help influence behaviour and where people go. Options at Dawlish will allow quick response to changes in habitat there which may influence access and recreation impacts.	Some projects may require budget for annual maintenance, for example a low hedge at the Imperial Recreation Ground would need cutting. Projects on functionally-linked land should only be funded if they work to reduce disturbance on SPA birds, for example rerouting footpaths so as to avoid disturbance risks to existing roost site.
Exe	Patrol boat	Review of current patrol boat use and costs to implement changes following review. Potential to switch to different boat type to facilitate use.	SEDHRP	Boat can target watersports and those out on the water and provides a visible presence reducing particularly damaging/disturbing activities	Current boat has high sides and a cabin. Parking is difficult in the marina and the boat isn't ideal in strong winds. Review necessary to consider costs and explore options with budget to allow swap to a different craft.
Exe	Ongoing repair/maintenance of buoys at refuge	Upkeep of refuge buoys and new interpretation on the buoys		Refuges provide core areas with wildlife focus. Buoys mark these areas but need upkeep and	

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Site	Mitigation measure	Description	Parties involved in delivery	Justification	Notes
				repair. Interpretation/signage on buoys will make it clear what their role is	
Exe	Stakeholder engagement	Costs cover engagement with organisations, groups, clubs and businesses around the Estuary to ensure awareness and understanding of mitigation	SEDHRP, EEMP	Wide range of bodies, organisations etc with an interest in the Estuary. Regular dialogue ensures smooth delivery of mitigation.	
Exe 111	Review of signage and new/improved signage	Estuary wide review of signs followed by implementation of new signage as required	Multiple, including landowners	Signage needs to evolve and change over time. Signs help with wayfinding and inform behaviour (e.g. dogs on leads, launching points, shoreline access etc) and to direct people (e.g. to SANGs). Potential for new/improved signage at range of locations including groyne 9 at Dawlish Warren, Dawlish Warren car park and potentially other points around estuary.	A number of signs have been added to the Exe Estuary site by a variety of organisations since the last signage review in 2018 by the EEMP
Exe	New interpretation	Interpretation panels to provide information on wildlife interest, sensitivity and access information	Multiple including landowners	Scope for new panels outside the Centre on Dawlish Warren and in the buffer zone at Dawlish Warren and other locations around the estuary.	
Exe	Refuge monitoring	Core counts undertaken at 5 yearly intervals, as per previous monitoring		Checks of incursions into refuges, impacts of activities around periphery and check on bird use. Feeds into long term	Programming of this work potentially informed by monitoring strategy

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Site	Mitigation measure	Description	Parties involved in delivery	Justification	Notes
				provision, management and design of refuges.	
Exe	Vantage point counts	Vantage point counts (as used in refuge monitoring) extended to cover whole estuary, with counts undertaken by Wardens. Aim to provide monitoring protocol to pick up changes in activity and behaviour		Continuation of existing monitoring, undertaken by wardens and providing key baseline as to use of refuges and surrounding area	Design and scale to be informed by monitoring review, counts undertaken by wardens
Exe	Web Camera	Provision of web camera for 5 year period to highlight and showcase wildlife	Various	Cameras provide opportunity for people to experience the wildlife without undue disturbance. Camera could show wader roost and footage would help people understand frequency of disturbance and potential risks	Railway saltmarsh and the main roost at Dawlish Warren potential locations
East Devon Heaths	Additional dog bins	4 additional dog bins with costs to empty	CDE, RSPB, DWT	Bins are currently often full and overflowing. Need for additional capacity	Needs further consideration of the relevant locations
East Devon Heaths	Review of parking charging	Dedicated review to come up with recommendations relating to whether to charge for parking and any other parking considerations. Review would need to consider the impact of charging at other sites (coast, estuary, woods nearby) while the parking at the Pebblebeds remains free. Review would need to extend to consideration of infrastructure, charging approaches, messaging and provision of dedicated facilities such as charging for electric vehicles.	CDE, RSPB, DWT	Concern that current free parking provision results in site drawing recreation use from less sensitive locations that charge	
East Devon Heaths	Special projects pot	Mechanism available to fund mitigation measures in the future such as clearways (legal fees), projects relating to fire (e.g. hydrants), provision of	CDE, RSPB, DWT	Recognition that access patterns are changing and different opportunities may emerge, along	These projects dependent on other factors or monitoring results

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Site	Mitigation measure	Description	Parties involved in delivery	Justification	Notes
		alternative parking and further improvements or changes to parking		with some uncertainty around the outcomes from the parking charges review. Pot would allow part or complete funding for measures that have mitigation benefit and ensure mitigation targeted to maximise benefit.	
East Devon Heaths	Signage	Rolling budget to cover additional signs and waymarkers where required	CDE, RSPB, DWT	Low key markers and waymarkers to help people follow routes	
East Devon Heaths	Interpretation	New or updated interpretation at 5 locations	CDE, RSPB, DWT	Interpretation to convey key messages and raise awareness of conservation importance	
East Devon Heaths	Fire strategy work and review	Piece of work to review risks, emerging issues and recommendations for mitigation measures as necessary - e.g. around reducing fire load, better fire access, education/awareness raising etc	CDE, RSPB, DWT	Fire an increasing threat with climate change. Funds would cover specialist consultancy support to review current management and procedures	
East Devon Heaths	Education work around fire	Targeted awareness raising work, potentially extending to local schools and community groups to raise awareness of risks of fire and causes	SEDHRP, CDE	Fire an increasing threat with climate change. Important to ensure local community aware of risks	May be potential to learn from Firewise project undertaken around the Dorset Heaths
East Devon Heaths	Advice/specialist input re management interventions around dog walking	To date measures have been very much focussed around dog fouling and the need to pick up. Scope to expand measures to encompass dogs keeping to paths and responsible dog walking. Advice will be used to inform warden resources, campaign material and interventions through the special projects pot	CDE, RSPB, DWT	Dogs ranging widely off lead a potential issue in relation to livestock, Nightjar and Dartford Warbler. Specialist support needed to ensure messaging and communication approaches are right and proportionate.	

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Site	Mitigation measure	Description	Parties involved in delivery	Justification	Notes
East Devon Heaths	Resources for work with commercial dog walkers	Current system in place for permits etc. This needs to expand to provide clear guidance on behaviour requirements and as necessary scope to revoke permits	CDE, RSPB, DWT	Clear gap in current visitor management	
East Devon Heaths	Monitoring: ecology (birds, Southern Damsel fly)	Already undertaken but budget to ensure additional coverage/support for volunteers etc	CDE, RSPB, DWT	Ensures any gaps are filled and good coverage achieved	
East Devon Heaths	Monitoring: people behaviour	Observation survey	SEDHRP	Dedicated piece of work to assess current levels of compliance and prevalence of particular behaviours (such as not picking up, dogs off leads, bikes away from cycle routes etc); potential to check compliance with different signs and following particular campaigns	
East Devon Heaths	Monitoring: vehicle counter data collection	Vehicle counters in sample of main car parks to provide robust standardised data over time on levels of use	SEDHRP	Provides metric for how levels of use are changing, and means to check implications of different interventions	
Dawlish Warren	Visitor facility at Dawlish Warren	Some kind of focus for visitor engagement	TDC	There is a need for new facilities at Dawlish Warren to provide focal point for visitors, wardens and site-based staff for engagement.	Some uncertainty around design, function, location etc to be addressed over time
Dawlish Warren	Flexible projects pot	Budget to cover series of small projects relating to access management at the site, in particular scope to purchase and erect temporary fencing.	TDC	The dynamic front edge to the dune system creates a challenge in managing access. Infrastructure needs to change	

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Site	Mitigation measure	Description	Parties involved in delivery	Justification	Notes
				with time and needs can be unpredictable. Following storms and marked change, sudden response is often necessary, often requiring new fencing, temporary signage etc.	
Dawlish Warren	Petalwort monitoring and survey	Some funds for ongoing monitoring as needed	TDC	Regular and more systematic funding covered by Natural England but costs here to cover additional surveys and specialist support as needed and informed by monitoring strategy	Greenland lake the only population remaining. Translocation may take place in future.
Dawlish Warren	Maintenance of high tide roost at Dawlish Warren	Measures to improve, enhance and protect roost at Dawlish Warren with potential to add shingle, remove vegetation or better protect	TDC	The Dawlish Warren roost is one of the key roost sites on the estuary. Given changes at Dawlish Warren roost is vulnerable and over time there may be further opportunities to maintain in the short-term and ensure disturbance free roost site available.	

Off-site infrastructure

- 6.10 Off-site infrastructure will provide access or enhance existing land away from the European sites, with the aim of drawing some visitors and recreation use to alternative destinations. Three different approaches (see Figure 2) are possible and relevant to different types of development.

Developer led SANG (greenfield)	Strategic SANG	Rolling list of LPA projects
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individual developments (not part of wider allocation) in the region of 300 or more dwellings and allocations in the region of 300 or more dwellings are expected to provide their own SANG as well as maintenance costs. • Developers providing part of a wider allocation will need to ensure suitable Master planning for a well-interconnected overall SANGS provision. • SANGs assessed as part of HRA and agreed with Natural England • Councils (or their nominee) should be given first refusal on delivery (developer-led delivery may be acceptable). • Guidelines set out in Appendix 2 and planning application principles in Appendix 3 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SANG delivered by LPAs to provide mitigation for multiple developments over a wide area, including in most cases developments of fewer than 300 dwellings. • New sites and/or enhancements to existing sites. • Funded through developer contributions. • Guidelines set out in Appendix 2. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rolling list of local projects enhancing green infrastructure and access opportunities away from European sites. • Tailored to local needs and specific circumstance. • Guidelines in Appendix 4.

Figure 2: Different off-site infrastructure

- 6.11 Developer-led SANGs will be delivered directly by developers through on-site provision. Other types of infrastructure will be led by the local planning authority and funded from contributions. Guidelines for SANG design and implementation are provided in Appendices 2-4. These may be updated over time and/or supplementary guidance produced by the relevant local planning authority.
- 6.12 For large sites in the region of 300 or more dwellings, provision of SANGs should form part of the overall infrastructure provision of that site, particularly where urban extensions or new settlements are proposed. This approach would also be anticipated where adjacent sites or clusters of sites come forward separately. These developer led SANG will be incorporated

into the site design and master planning from the outset. SANGs provision should be delivered in advance of occupation of dwellings, however for larger proposals mitigation may be structured so as to tie in with development phasing.

- 6.13 The costs for establishment of these developer-led SANGs will be met by the developer and a means to secure the long-term maintenance and management will also need to be secured. This provision will need to be agreed with the relevant Planning Authority and Natural England, and checked as part of the HRA. The Councils (or their nominee) should be given first refusal on delivery to ensure long term security.
- 6.14 Small sites and brownfield sites within the built-up area are unlikely to be able to accommodate the scale of space required for a SANG and would therefore make a contribution towards strategic SANG or a contribution towards a range of discrete projects enhancing existing access.
- 6.15 Strategic SANG will provide large destination sites and are likely to be the most effective in drawing alternative recreation use. Dawlish Countryside Park provides an effective model to replicate. Such LPA led sites are likely to be better quality greenspaces and provide a different visitor experience to most developer-led greenspace which will be typically local to large developments. Such sites can have a council ranger presence ensuring community engagement.
- 6.16 A rolling list of projects will be produced by each authority, tailored to fit with the local needs for access and demand in the local area, and will fill any remaining mitigation need (alongside Developer-led SANG and Strategic SANG). How local greenspaces are managed will have implications for the European sites, for example dog bans on beaches could deflect use to the heaths, or footpaths that are poorly maintained are unlikely to be used. The rolling list of projects could include measures such as new footpath links, improved parking, fenced dog exercise/training areas, communication to visitors, improved path infrastructure, better access (road crossings or bridges) etc.
- 6.17 Such projects would be appropriate in the urban areas of Exeter where the recreational behaviour of urban residents may differ to those outside the city and there are limited opportunities to create large new greenspace. Such projects will also be more appropriate in more rural areas where small levels of growth and windfall come forward in locations where there is no strategic SANG.

- 6.18 Each authority will ensure a list of projects is agreed with Natural England and updated as needed. The list may well overlap with green infrastructure strategies but will be separate and clearly identified as mitigation. Costs and relevant levels of contribution will be determined by each authority. Potential projects within Exeter are listed in Appendix 5 (provided by the Council).
- 6.19 These different options provide a tiered approach to off-site infrastructure and over time will ensure robust mitigation by increasing the quality and availability of accessible natural greenspace outside European sites. The different options will mean a range of infrastructure is available to local residents including destination sites with car parks and a range of facilities, to more local and small-scale provision. The aim should be to deliver a network of inspiring greenspace that delivers the necessary mitigation and, as appropriate, fulfils a range of other functions such as climate change resilience, reduced need for car travel, nature recovery and health benefits.

7. Implementation

- 7.1 There is an already established approach to governance and implementation. The South and East Devon Habitat Regulations Executive Committee provides oversight and governance, and there is an officer working group that brings relevant organisations together and provides advice and recommendations. The Delivery Manager provides the key point of contact between the different groups and oversees the delivery of much of the mitigation on the ground.
- 7.2 It will be important, looking forward, that there is flexibility and regular review as to how money is spent and what is needed on the ground. A number of factors (such as Covid, extreme weather conditions, the cost of living crisis) have had an impact on visitor behaviour, visitor numbers, access infrastructure and/or the European sites themselves in recent years. Changes in housing delivery will affect how much mitigation revenue is collected. There is uncertainty as to how priorities might need to change in the future, and such uncertainty can only be addressed through good monitoring, adaptive mitigation and regular review.
- 7.3 Certain elements within the mitigation package have the scope to adapt and flex as conditions and priorities change. Furthermore, it is possible that additional opportunities may arise, for example as a result of changing land ownership. It is important therefore that the governance is flexible and responsive enough to enable developer contributions to be shifted to different components of the strategy easily. Annual reviews of budgets and the ability for the Delivery Manager to adjust finances as appropriate (with rapid approval from the Executive Committee) will be key.
- 7.4 We also highlight the importance of the various delivery partners, for example at Dawlish Warren, and on the East Devon Heaths there are experienced staff with the ability to deliver mitigation on the ground. It would be ideal for such organisations to work with the Delivery Manager and be able to directly bid to the Executive Committee for money for particular projects that have a clear mitigation benefit and fit with the strategy.

Developer contributions and in-perpetuity costs

- 7.5 Mitigation is secured for the duration of the impact and it is assumed the implementation of the mitigation will run for as long as it is required, with money set aside to provide long-term stability and in-perpetuity delivery. The

strategy will operate on a rolling basis into the future, adjusting as necessary to changing levels of house building and impacts arising.

- 7.6 Some measures in this strategy are short-term, one-off measures while others need to run for many years, often extending well outside the Plan period. Changes to access infrastructure, the provision of SANGs (which are secured indefinitely) alongside the increased awareness raising and education work should ensure that the need and annual cost for SAMM can decrease with time. As SANGs become better used and the refuges etc more accepted, the need for the patrol boat, high levels of warden time and other such measures should change. It will be important for regular review and revision of costs as necessary to adjust the amount set aside for long term funding of mitigation measures. As such SAMM is highly unlikely to need to be constant over time. We have derived costs for different measures to cover different lengths of time (see Appendix 6) and these will be reviewed and adjusted on a 5 yearly basis.
- 7.7 Costs for the SAMM component of the strategy are summarised Table 6 and listed by measure in Appendix 6. The overall cost of the SAMM is £25,548,729 with this being split such that £23,907,129 relates to measures that are spread across all three European sites.

Table 6: Summary of SAMM costs per European site

SAMM components	Total cost	Total dwellings in relevant zone	Per dwelling cost
All sites	£23,907,129	29,111	£821.24
Exe specific	£832,600	27,197	£30.61
East Devon Heaths specific	£809,000	16,717	£48.39
Dawlish specific	£300,000	2,395	£125.26
Total	£25,548,729		

- 7.8 The figures in Table 6 enable the SAMM costs per dwelling to be determined for a given zone. All dwellings will contribute to the measures relating to all European sites, whereas only those within 10km of the Exe Estuary will contribute to the Exe Estuary specific components etc. Per dwelling costs based on location are given in Table 7.

Table 7: Summary of costs by location

SAMM components	Total cost per dwelling (SAMM)
East Devon Heaths 10km only	£870
East Devon Heaths and Exe Estuary 10km	£900
Exe Estuary 10km only	£852
Exe Estuary and Dawlish Warren 10km	£977

- 7.9 Per dwelling costs will need to be adjusted to take into account any reserves held by the partnership at the point at which the new strategy supersedes the previous one. The tariff will be further adjusted on an annual basis to take into account inflation, any administrative costs and any other adjustments necessary (e.g. in relation to changing costs or variations in housing delivery).

Types of development

- 7.10 This strategy applies to any future development granted planning permission that results in a net increase in residential units (i.e. C3 Use Class), located within 10km of the East Devon Heaths SAC/SPA, the Exe Estuary SPA/Ramsar and Dawlish Warren SAC.
- 7.11 While the strategy is focussed towards C3 Use Class, there are other uses and forms of development that may have impacts on the European site and could trigger likely significant effects for relevant European sites. Examples of other uses that may need to provide mitigation within the context of this strategy are listed below:
- Houses in Multiple Occupation (sui generis);
 - Residential institutions within the C2 Use Class where the residents are not severely restricted by illness or mobility;
 - Student accommodation;
 - Sites for gypsy, travellers and travelling showpeople;
 - Tourist accommodation, including self-catering, caravan and touring holiday accommodation.
- 7.12 For the above types of development, this strategy provides a means of ensuring effective mitigation can be delivered, but each will need to be assessed on a case-by-case basis. While in general each unit for the above could be considered a single dwelling, there may be a need to adjust the rate of SAMM contribution for different types and off-site infrastructure provision will need to be considered on a case-by-case basis. For example, the SAMM rate could be adapted according to occupancy rates for tourist

accommodation. Project level HRA for tourist applications will need to consider the location and type of use with respect to the relevant European sites, as for example a city centre hotel in Exeter would have a very different impact compared to accommodation focussed around watersports use in Exmouth.

Review and timing

- 7.13 The strategy will operate indefinitely on a rolling basis, with this strategy commencing from spring/summer 2025 and running to 2030. The strategy has, however, been written in the context of local plans and the levels of growth likely to around 2040. The strategy will be reviewed and updated approximately every 5 years, with these reviews checking housing numbers, delivery, costs and mitigation priorities. The reviews will inform the 1 year and 5 year business plan that underpins the work of the partnership and their staff.

8. References

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Appendix 1: Existing and potential SANGs

This Appendix summarises SANG sites, highlighting those that are existing and operational as well as those that have been formally proposed, and some key sites that may have potential for SANG, or where further evidence is required are also included.

Site Name	Existing area (ha)	Proposed area (ha)	Notes
Old Park Farm – Site A, (EDDC)	Approx. 6		Integrated with development
Pinbrook Country Park (Minerva) (Tithe barn) – Site B (EDDC)	9 approx		Integrated with development. 7 in Clyst Valley Regional Park
Dawlish Countryside Park SANG (TDC)	26		Well established SANG opened in 2017. Managed by the Land Trust.
Ridgetop Park, Exminster (TDC)	38	30	Now managed by the Land Trust. A further 30ha of SANG is allocated in the TDC Local Plan.
Cranbrook E – Cobdens (EDDC)		28	One quadrant of SANGs for expanded Cranbrook. At planning application stage.
Cranbrook SE – Grange (EDDC)		15	As above. Awaiting application.
Cranbrook W – Bluehayes plus NT Elbury land (EDDC)		18	As above. Planning application due for determination soon.
Cranbrook SW – Treasebeare (EDDC)		17	As above. Planning application.
HF1 Hayes Farm, Clyst Honiton – Site C (EDDC)		14	Possible SANGs in CVRP Masterplan. S106 already requires laying out of paths.
Broadclyst Station new SANGs (EDDC)	9		Recently purchased by EDDC but not yet open to public
Ludwell Valley Park (EC)	26		Existing site with potential for enhancement to provide some SANG capacity
Mincinglake Valley Park (EC)	13		Existing site with potential for enhancement to provide some SANG capacity
Northbrook Valley Park (EC)	5		Existing site with potential for enhancement to provide some SANG capacity
West Exe Country Park (TDC)		50	Potential proposal in Teignbridge Local Plan Review
Attewells Farm, Exeter (TDC)		6	Potential proposal in Teignbridge Local Plan Review. NE have raised concerns about accessibility.

Appendix 2: Suitable Accessible Natural Greenspace (SANGs) guidelines

Developer led SANGs and strategic SANGs will be the main forms of off-site infrastructure. This appendix provides guidance on SANG design. The guidance may be superseded or updated at a later date by relevant partners.

The role of SANGs is to provide an alternative destination to those visitors who would otherwise visit the relevant European sites: Dawlish Warren, the Exe Estuary or the East Devon Heaths. They will be most effective if targeted to those visitors who have a big impact, such as dog walkers.

The effectiveness of SANGs will depend very much on the design and location, these need to work such that the SANGs has a draw equal to or greater than the European sites. In these guidelines we set out design and selection criteria for SANGs, drawing on that produced for other areas such as the Dorset Heaths (Dorset Council and BCP Council, 2020) or the Thames Basin Heaths (anon, 2021). The guidelines do not address or preclude other functions of green space, such as biodiversity net gain. Other functions may be provided within SANGs as long as these do not conflict with the specific function of mitigation.

SANGs may be created from:

- Existing land of suitable size and quality, with no existing or limited public access. Such sites would be 'opened' for public access and promoted as such.
- Land in other uses, such as golf courses, which could be converted into SANGs.

Habitat & character of the relevant European sites

The East Devon Heaths cover some 1,400 ha and make up the largest block of lowland heath in Devon. They are open, relatively undulating and attractive heathlands, with patches of woodland, scattered trees and in places extensive views (Figure 3).

Archaeological interest includes the hill fort at Woodbury Castle and a tumulus. While part of the shoreline of the Exe Estuary is built up, most shoreline areas are attractive countryside, with shoreline paths providing views across the estuary and surrounding landscape of grazing marsh (Exminster Marshes) and rolling countryside comprised of pasture, hedges and woodland. There are extensive sand dunes at Dawlish Warren.

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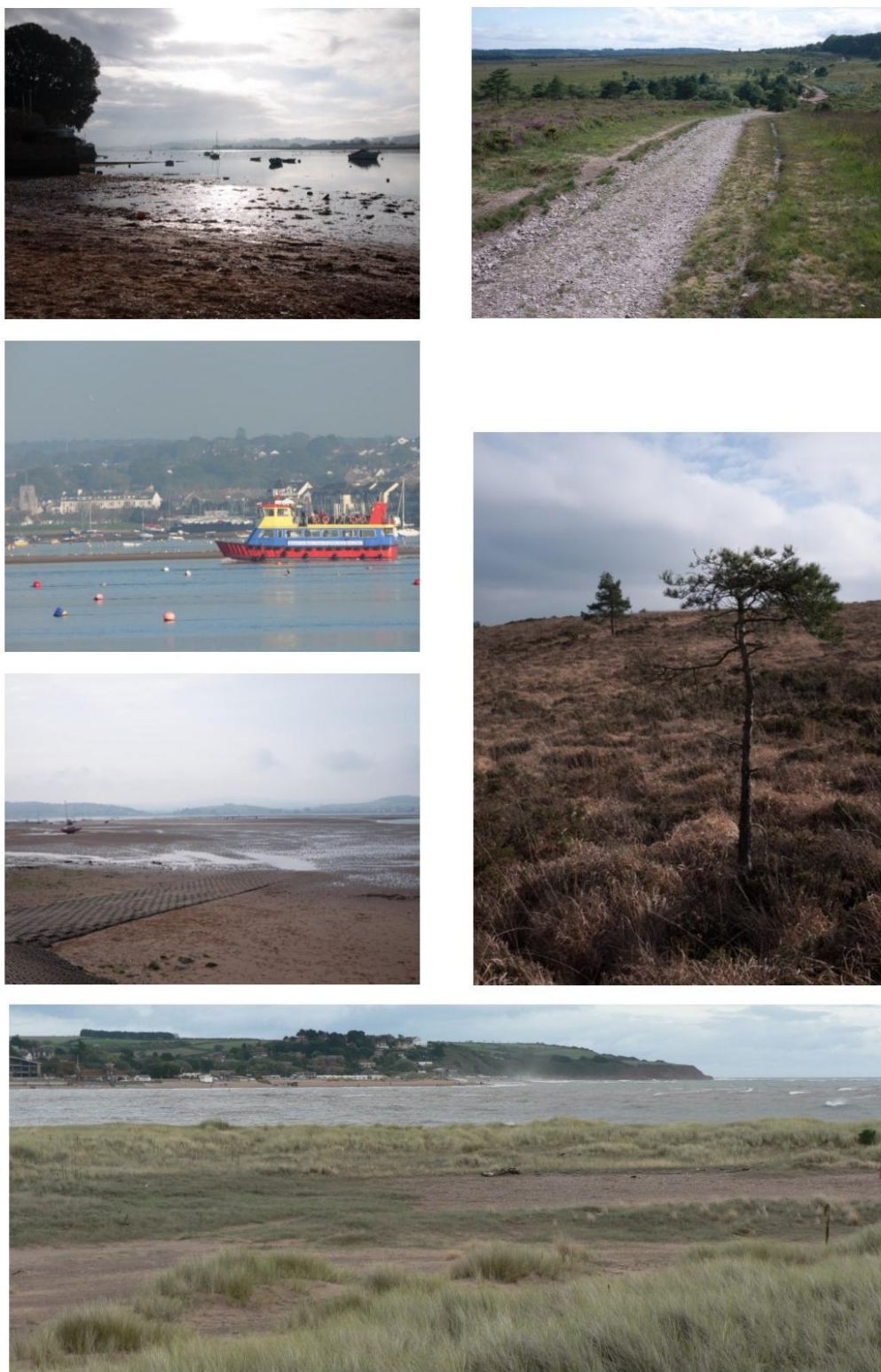


Figure 3: Character of relevant European sites. Top left: 3 images of Exe Estuary; top right: 2 images of the East Devon Heaths; lower image Dawlish Warren.

Access on the relevant European Sites

Visitor surveys on the relevant European sites have involved interviews with a random sample of visitors (Liley, Fearnley and Cruickshanks, 2010; Liley, Panter and Underhill-Day, 2016; Caals, Panter and Liley, 2022) and provide context for SANGs design. Drawing on the results from Caals, Panter and Liley (2022), dog walking is clearly a target group to focus on (the main activity for 69% of visitors at Dawlish Warren, 36% at the Exe Estuary and 63% at the East Devon Heaths). Visits are typically short (less than an hour) and interviewees tended to visit frequently (for example the percentage of interviewees visiting at least daily was 28% at Dawlish Warren, 14% at the Exe Estuary and 16% at the East Devon Heaths). The majority of interviewees (ranging from 46% at the Exe to 97% at the East Devon Heaths) travelled by car and the choice of location was driven by proximity to home as well as the scenery/variety of views and habit/familiarity. Median route length (i.e. length of walk/cycle/jog, all activities combined) was 2.1km at Dawlish Warren, 3.0km at the Exe Estuary and 2.5km at the East Devon Heaths. Home postcode data showed a median distance (postcode to survey point) of 9.2km for Dawlish Warren, 3km for the Exe Estuary and 5.3km for the East Devon Heaths.

Attributes of SANGs

In order to have confidence that greenspace is of a suitable size and quality the following attributes will need to be met:

- SANG should be provided at a minimum target rate of 8ha per 1,000 new residents; this per ha standard is equivalent to 0.0192ha per dwelling (assuming an occupancy rate of 2.4 people per dwelling) or 1.9ha per 100 dwellings.
- SANGs should be effective and available to local residents at the point of occupancy.
- Sites with sports grounds, playing fields or children's play areas are unlikely to meet the criteria for SANG or if such features are present they should not be counted towards the per ha standard.
- Where sites have existing visitor use, this existing use will need to be taken into account when applying the per ha standard. This will require visitor survey data to be available. Sites are likely to have additional capacity where average visitor use is less than 1 person per ha per hour¹⁹. Where existing sites are already well used, there will be a need to demonstrate that the measures will be effective, and this may require some delivery upfront.

¹⁹ This provides a guide or approximate benchmark, typically busier than the relevant European sites but less than an urban park (see Liley, Panter and Rawlings, 2015). Sites will need to be considered on a case-case basis.

- The focus for the SANGs should be large sites of at least 40ha (which will accommodate suitably long routes), however smaller sites may work, depending on the location and quality.
- SANGs should provide parking that is free or significantly cheaper than parking at the European sites (noting that parking at all the East Devon Heaths car-parks is currently free). A guide to parking provision should be in the region of 1.5 spaces per ha of SANG²⁰.
- They should be quiet countryside locations, away from traffic noise, industrial sites, the airport etc. They should have a sense of space, openness and be viable alternatives to the European sites.
- They should contain a variety of habitats and be scenic, ideally with views.
- They should provide attractive, informal areas for dog walking: a range of walk lengths on relatively dry terrain, including at least 3km where dogs can be safely off the lead during the whole walk.
- They should provide routes that attract walkers, potentially including families. Walks are likely to need to be circuits with some interest (such as viewpoints, heritage features etc.).
- The site(s) should provide access all year round, without paths becoming waterlogged or inaccessible due to wet or muddy terrain.
- They should provide routes that work for cycling, potentially accommodating family cycling groups and mountain bikes as a low-key destination.
- Access points to the SANG(s) should be primarily within a 5km radius or 10 minute drive and easily accessible by road from the development they are intended to mitigate. Some direct foot access and good access routes for cyclists would be ideal. Direct access on foot would mean some SANG provision within around 500m radius of proposed housing locations.
- New SANGs should be recognisable as a 'destination' such that sporadic visitors are drawn from a wide area and such that the site also attracts more regular (at least weekly) visitors. As such they will need to be positively promoted and welcoming.
- On-site infrastructure could include the following as appropriate:
 - Small scale visitor centre/shelter (not necessarily staffed);
 - Interpretation (providing information about the area);
 - Wayfinding infrastructure to direct people around the site;
 - Some surfaced paths/boardwalks;
 - Wildlife viewing facilities (such as screens);

²⁰ This figure will depend on how close the SANG is to housing and the proportion of visitors that might arrive on foot or by bicycle. A busy SANG site might be expected to have up to 1 person visiting per ha per hour. Visitor data from the East Devon Heaths suggests on average a group would spend a little over an hour per visit and groups of 1.5 per car, suggesting a level of parking provision of around 0.6 spaces per ha to accommodate 1 person per ha per hour. Given that visitor numbers will not be constant every hour (i.e. there will be peak times of visiting) and easy parking is likely to be an important draw (meaning a need to ensure confidence to park), we suggest 1.5 spaces per ha.

- Range of paths (some waymarked) that provide a range of different routes and circuits, potentially including some longer routes for cycling (perhaps family groups and relatively low-key mountain bike circuits) but not such that other access (e.g. appeal to dog walkers) is compromised;
 - Access to water for dogs to drink, bathe and splash in;
 - Benches/informal seating;
 - Viewpoints;
 - Natural Play (particularly for larger, strategic SANG);
 - Catering facilities (particularly for larger, strategic SANG).
- SANGs will need to be promoted through a range of different ways, including signage, so that they are easy to find and local residents (both new and existing) are well aware of the site.
 - SANGs will need to provide access in perpetuity, and therefore require some legal mechanism to ensure this.
 - Sites with significant nature conservation interest (SSSI) or particularly vulnerable species present are unlikely to be suitable as SANG.
 - Provision of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) ponds within SANGs is not appropriate. SANGs provision is a separate obligation to public open space/SuDS policy requirements and is secured via different maintenance means other than resident fees.

Appendix 3: SANGs planning application principles (where SANG delivery is developer-led)

The following principles are adapted from the advice issued in Dorset (Dorset Council and BCP Council, 2020), with changes to reflect the local circumstance. The principles summarise the details that will be required by Natural England and the Local Planning Authority (LPA) at the time at which a proposal is considered, this may be either at outline or a full application where outline has not been submitted. Natural England will need to advise the authority that full details of the mitigation proposed are considered and secured:

- 1) SANG maintenance and function should be secured and demonstrated to be in place for perpetuity (effectively the development needs to maintain a level of mitigation for the duration of any impact, extending to at least 80 years).
- 2) Applications for developments requiring a SANG are likely to require a Change of Use application for the SANG itself. This may be done through a separate planning application.
- 3) When the Local Authority considers the application for the development that the SANG is designed to mitigate, it will need to be certain that the SANG:
 - meets the SANG criteria;
 - is deliverable, i.e. ownership and appropriate management is secured;
 - can be managed in a suitable condition in perpetuity;
 - will be monitored for the first 5 years.

This typically involves a draft Section 106 agreement, an implementation plan, long-term management plan and monitoring arrangements being submitted for agreement with Natural England and the LPA.

- 4) Where the application for development is at an outline stage the applicant will need to provide sufficient information on the SANG to allow the SANG proposal to be considered.
- 5) The SANG land will have been assessed for its biodiversity features and the applicant will have confirmed that the proposal will not in principle lead to net harm to biodiversity. Where harm to biodiversity features is predicted then the capacity of the SANG will need to be adjusted.
- 6) A full SANG Management Plan will be required as part of a reserved matters application if not previously provided at outline stage. This will set out the implementation and maintenance of the SANG – it will record initial infrastructure (photographically) and management objectives by compartment. This will allow for future evolution of the SANG within the broad SANG criteria rather than a rigid approach.

- 7) If part or all of the SANG is already accessible to the public a visitor survey will need to be submitted as part of the application (outline or full where no-outline is submitted), and the SANG capacity discounted if necessary
- 8) Where a SANG is not co-located with a proposal Natural England will provide advice to the applicant concerning the SANG capacity/catchment on a case by case basis. Guidance is available from the Thames Basin Heaths mitigation approach.

Natural England will provide written confirmation to the relevant authority that the proposed measures (SANG, SAMM) are appropriate to secure the necessary avoidance and mitigation measures and have been secured for a duration proportionate to the timescale of the development's effects.

SANG Visitor Monitoring

Large developments may come forward in phases, so monitoring should commence prior to first occupation where there is existing SANG use. It need not be when the land has no existing public access. Monitoring should be phased at two/three years after each substantive phase and also at five years after the development is completed. It may be the case that monitoring will need to include nearby European sites. The primary aims of visitor monitoring are to inform the SANG delivery and allow for adjustments as well as demonstrating the SANGs functionality and use by existing local residents. Effective monitoring will provide a robust baseline which can be observed in future strategic monitoring events.

From 5 years after the final phase of a development future SANG monitoring will be incorporated into the ongoing SAMM programme on a strategic basis. SANG monitoring methodology may include visitor questionnaires, remote sensors and observational studies.

Strategic Access Management and Monitoring (SAMM)

SANGs are not intended to avoid all new residents accessing the protected sites, rather to enable a neutral level of visitor pressure with an equal proportion of existing European site visitors users being diverted. It is therefore necessary, as established in the Thames Basin Heaths area and Dorset, for applicants to secure SAMM relative to the level of residential development. As for SANGs, the mitigation needs to be secured in perpetuity.

Appendix 4: Guidance for other off-site infrastructure projects

For small developments where there are no options for strategic SANG (and developments within Exeter where there is limited space and opportunities for new SANG), other infrastructure projects will be delivered by the LPA. These could include (but are not limited to):

- New footpath links, potentially joining up areas of existing space to make longer routes possible;
- Increases to the parking capacity or improvements to parking at existing sites;
- Dedicated facilities for dogs, such as fenced exercise areas, dog training areas etc;
- Improved access within sites – such as boardwalks, better paths, improved drainage etc to open up areas previously under-used or inaccessible;
- Better access to sites, such as road crossings, bridges, access routes etc.;
- Better promotion of existing sites, highlighting where new works or facilities have been undertaken (e.g. through events, gazetteers, road signs etc.);
- Making sites feel more safe and welcoming, for example by addressing anti-social behaviour, litter, dog mess or other issues.

Each LPA will maintain a rolling list of projects that will provide sufficient and effective mitigation for the growth coming forward and be in suitable locations to be relevant to new housing growth. The list could include projects within a green infrastructure strategy and ideas for projects could be generated from parish councils, community groups, NGOs and other suitable delivery bodies. Projects that are included on the list will need to have sufficient housing growth within a suitable catchment to ensure they can be funded, and delivery may need to be phased to ensure mitigation in line with local housing growth. Some projects may need to be established in advance of housing delivery if there is uncertainty around their effectiveness or potential for delivery. This would allow monitoring to determine the effectiveness.

Appendix 5: Draft Exeter City Council Project List

The table below has been provided by Exeter City Council and is a list of potential mitigation projects providing off-site green infrastructure

Project Name/Location	Project Description
Riverside Valley Park Access Improvement Project	<p><i>“There is significant value in attempting to increase the recreational capacity of the park, where appropriate, especially given that visitors numbers are expected to increase in the future due to nearby development allocations.”</i></p> <p>New unsurfaced paths in underutilised areas in the south of the survey area to spread usage. Improve links, connectivity and signage between Riverside, Northbrook Valley Park and Ludwell Valley Park. Improve signage outside the Valley Park to better advertise the location of the Valley Park and associated car parking. Additional car parking facilities, where feasible</p>
Riverside Valley Park Visitor Facilities and Information Hub Project	<p><i>“The creation of a visitor centre would likely encourage more visits from existing users and new users in the future. The centre could function as an educational hub as well as provide amenity services, including toilet facilities and food and drink provision”</i></p>
Riverside Valley Park Water Sports Improvement Project	<p><i>“The possibility of improving the park for water sports users could also be considered, as this is one of the activities that causes disturbance to the European sites, particularly the Exe Estuary SPA”</i></p> <p>New access points New routes Work with businesses Existing Exeter Quayside information point.</p>
Whitycombe Valley Park Access Improvement Project	<p><i>“Whilst the site is not suitable for SANG, the site still has a strategic role in providing publicly accessible natural greenspace for the surrounding communities who have relatively limited access to such sites in their local area. As such, enhancing access into the site may encourage more people to visit the park, rather than travelling to other sites, potentially including more sensitive European sites.”</i></p> <p>Improvement to existing access points, Measures to ameliorate muddy path surfaces Provision of dog bins</p>
Duryard Valley Park (Belvidere Meadows)	<p><i>“Whilst Belvidere Meadows is not suitable for SANG, the site still has a strategic role in providing naturalistic, nature-rich greenspace in close proximity to large residential areas. The site may provide some of the functions associated with a</i></p>

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Project Name/Location	Project Description
Access Improvement Project	<p><i>SANG site by allowing people to walk their dogs, access nature and enjoy far reaching views close to their homes, rather than travelling to other greenspaces such as European sites."</i></p> <p>Improve existing access points to make them suitable for wheelchairs, pushchairs, or other users with mobility issues. Additional signage / interpretation boards installation of dog bins could help encourage responsible use of the site by dog-walkers.</p>
Targeted Advertising Campaign	<p><i>"It is considered essential to advertise the presence of the Valley Parks, especially for new residents in Exeter who don't have familiarity with the local area. It is considered the deliverability of the option is high. This could be delivered through the Habitat Mitigation Strategy as LPA Projects."</i></p> <p>Leaflet to reach each new home with map. Function could be added to DWT's webpage page for the Valley Parks which could allow users to enter their postcode to determine which Valley Park is closest to their location.</p> <p>Estimated Cost: £20,000</p>

Appendix 6: SAMM costs

The table below summarises the mitigation measures as set out in the strategy and the relevant costs for each. These have been used to calculate the overall cost of mitigation. Costs are estimates only and intended to provide the overall level to set tariff, costs to be reviewed and updated as strategy implemented, and budgets adjusted according to housing growth.

Site	Mitigation measure	One-off/ Capital cost	Rolling cost	Multiplier for rolling cost	Total cost	Notes on how cost calculated
All	Delivery Manager		£65,750	20	£1,315,000	£45,000 annual salary, plus 35% (to cover NI, superannuation, etc.) and £5,000 per annum support costs. 20 year timing covers plan period and just beyond, ensuring monitoring over key period taking place at least.
All 141	Wardens, team to scale up to 5		£210,625	80	£16,850,000	5 posts. £27,500 annual salary, plus 35% (to cover NI, superannuation, etc.) and £5,000 per annum support costs. 80 year period ensures large budget for warden team. Potentially scope for size of team to be regularly reviewed and potential for it to shrink or expand as priorities require and ensure in perpetuity coverage.
All	Vehicles for warden team		£15,500	80	£1,240,000	2 x vehicle costs at: £250 per month to lease per electric vehicle, £1,500 for livery, £2,000 p.a. insurance, 5,000 miles p.a. at 0.25p per mile running costs/charging.
All	Devon Loves Dogs staffing costs		£91,000	25	£2,275,000	2 posts. £30,000 annual salary, plus 35% (to cover NI, superannuation, etc.) and £5,000 per annum support costs. 25 year period ensures financial stability and long term employment well beyond current plan period
All	Resources for Devon Loves Dogs		£12,750	25	£318,750	vehicle costs at: £250 per month to lease per electric vehicle, £1,500 for livery, £2,000 p.a. insurance, 5,000 miles p.a. at 0.25p per mile running costs/charging. Additional costs of £5,000 to cover resources and equipment
All	Communications Officer staffing costs		£45,704	10	£457,039	1 post. £30,000 annual salary, plus 35% (to cover NI, superannuation, etc.) and £5,000 per annum support costs. 10 year period to cover pulse of enhanced engagement work shift in comms.
All	DLD Website	£21,420	£1,000	20	£41,420	Indicative, estimated budget to cover creation of content, design, coding etc Costs cover whole plan period and extend beyond
All	South East Devon Wildlife (SEDW) Website	£21,420	£1,000	20	£41,420	Indicative, estimated budget to cover creation of content, design, coding etc Costs cover whole plan period and extend beyond

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Site	Mitigation measure	One-off/ Capital cost	Rolling cost	Multiplier for rolling cost	Total cost	Notes on how cost calculated
All	DLD Brand refresh	£7,500	£7,500	3	£30,000	Indicative budget to cover basic design. Overall cost allows for 3 refreshes (assuming potentially every 5-10 years. New gazebo/table/display equipment cyclical replacement every 5 years - £1,500
All	SEDW Brand refresh		£7,500	3	£22,500	Indicative budget to cover basic design. Overall cost allows for 3 refreshes (assuming potentially every 5-10 years.
All	Wardens projects		£5,000	25	£125,000	Flexible budget to cover acquisition of equipment (temporary signage, banners, art work, optics, tables, gazebos, display boards etc) or external support as needed. Varying per year as to relevant campaigns etc.
All	Production of monitoring strategy & monitoring support	£7,000	£2,000	25	£57,000	Initial budget to cover support to warden team and delivery manager to ensure robust monitoring protocol and recording forms; with small annual budget to help with reporting in subsequent years
All	Visitor survey		£30,000	5	£150,000	Cost allows for 5 repeat surveys - potentially one survey every 5 years for 25 years.
All	SANGs and Infrastructure Projects Coordination Officer		£53,600	15	£804,000	£36,000 annual salary, plus 35% (to cover NI, superannuation, etc.) and £5,000 per annum support costs. 15 year timing covers plan period.
All	Admin and accountancy support		£3,600	50	£180,000	£3,300 per year for accounting and £300 per year for housing monitoring
Exe	Codes of Conduct	£14,000			£14,000	6 existing codes plus one new code; £2,000 per code to cover design, printing and distribution. Some consultation with user groups may be required. Potential for economies of scale (e.g. re distribution)
Exe	Exe Leaflets		£800	2	£1,600	4 leaflets, £1,500 for each leaflet to cover printing and design/refresh (SEDHRP/EEMP quote 2022).
Exe	Schools	£5,000	£2,000	20	£45,000	Rounded figure providing sufficient budget to allow review of existing education work around the estuary and work to produce new education material. Rolling costs allow annual budget to help cover cost of supporting school visits etc. Assumption is that other funding (e.g. from schools) may be available and delivery by existing staff/organisations, potentially with some input from warden team. Timing to cover at least Plan period
Exe	Managing access at sensitive locations		£10,000	20	£200,000	Some work required to confirm costs and nature of projects and these likely to change over time. Indicative budget that may need review and further refinement over time. Costs could be pooled across years.
Exe	Patrol boat	£10,000	£8,000	25	£210,000	Capital costs to cover necessary replacement. Estimated at £10k to cover swapping of current boat for RIB (Highfield Patrol 540 or similar). Over time likely requirement to

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Site	Mitigation measure	One-off/ Capital cost	Rolling cost	Multiplier for rolling cost	Total cost	Notes on how cost calculated
						change to electric outboard. Rolling costs to expand use and cover fuel, officer training, maintenance and other associated costs (marina berth). Costed to cover well beyond Plan period.
Exe	Ongoing repair/maintenance of buoys at refuge	£15,000	£2,000	25	£65,000	One off cost to cover repairs to existing buoys, design and production of lettering to go on buoys to ensure clear guidance for anyone approaching the refuge (e.g. canoeists, folk on paddleboards, walkers etc); rolling cost to provide budget for replacement, repair and maintenance (actual cost likely to vary between years)
Exe	Stakeholder engagement		£2,000	25	£50,000	Role of Delivery Manager to undertake more strategic engagement, additional costs required for wider costs on annual basis, such as venue hire and support for other bodies such as EEMP and the forum (held twice a year)
Exe	Review of signage and new/improved signage	£12,000			£12,000	Role for Delivery Manager to undertake review and identify locations, with budget to cover implementation where required. New signage likely to involve discs or similar to convey specific instructions (such as dogs on leads) or way-marking.
Exe	New interpretation	£30,000	£30,000	2	£90,000	£3,000 per board for production of timber frame and graphic panel, delivery and installation. Estimate of 10 boards across Warren and Exe. Rolling cost assumes 10 year lifespan per board with costs staggered over time
Exe	Refuge monitoring		£20,000	4	£80,000	Estimated cost of £20000 per survey by consultancy or similar in line with previous surveys to allow direct comparison, budget allows for 4 repeats
Exe	Vantage point counts		£250	20	£5,000	Low cost but budget necessary to provide printed forms or hosting/software etc if done on tablets. 20 year timing covers plan period and just beyond, ensuring monitoring over key period taking place at least.
Exe	Web Camera		£12,000	5	£60,000	Estimated cost based on other examples/projects. 5 year period provides opportunity to use as a novel way to raise awareness and promote importance of estuary for wildlife
East Devon Heaths	Additional dog bins	£2,000	£2,000	25	£52,000	Costs to cover provision and emptying
East Devon Heaths	Review of parking charging	£15,000			£15,000	Estimated budget for review

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Site	Mitigation measure	One-off/ Capital cost	Rolling cost	Multiplier for rolling cost	Total cost	Notes on how cost calculated
East Devon Heaths	Special projects pot		£25,000	15	£375,000	Estimated rolling budget to provide annual budget for specific projects, targeted as needed
East Devon Heaths	Signage		£2,000	25	£50,000	Rolling budget with potential to pool across years and extending well beyond plan period
East Devon Heaths	Interpretation	£44,000	£4,400	15	£110,000	£3,000 per board for production of "Primary" timber frame and graphic panels, estimate of 10 boards. £2,000 per board for production of "Secondary" timber frame and graphic panels, estimate of 7 boards. Rolling cost assumes 10 year lifespan per board with costs staggered over time
East Devon Heaths	Fire strategy work and review	£15,000			£15,000	Cost to provide budget for consultancy to undertake review
East Devon Heaths	Education work around fire	£10,000	£5,000	25	£135,000	Initial cost to provide funds to develop material with rolling budget to cover implementation (e.g. schools visits etc) and extending well beyond plan period
East Devon Heaths	Advice/specialist input re management interventions around dog walking	£5,000			£5,000	Budget to cover specialist consultancy input
East Devon Heaths	Resources for work with commercial dog walkers	£10,000			£10,000	Budget to cover specialist consultancy input
East Devon Heaths	Monitoring: ecology (birds, Southern Damsel fly)	£2,000			£2,000	Budget to simply help supplement existing work - e.g. mileage for volunteers
East Devon Heaths	Monitoring: people behaviour	£10,000			£10,000	Budget to commission single survey involving direct observation of visitors from a range of vantage points, to cover a range of times and days
East Devon Heaths	Monitoring: vehicle counter data collection	£20,000	£500	20	£30,000	Cost for around 10 counters for a selection of car parks, assuming £1,000 per counter, replaced every 10 years with additional budget for installation. Costs for basic counter with data logger in protective housing (post).

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Site	Mitigation measure	One-off/ Capital cost	Rolling cost	Multiplier for rolling cost	Total cost	Notes on how cost calculated
Dawlish Warren	Visitor facility at Dawlish Warren	£100,000			£100,000	Uncertainty around design, location etc. Indicative figure allowing contribution towards larger cost (e.g. match funding) for visitor centre or could be used to fund lower key shelter or similar to act as focal point for engagement. Budget sufficient to fund a roofed shelter rather than full-scale centre but how funding used dependent on opportunities and how Dawlish Warren continues to change.
Dawlish Warren	Flexible projects pot		£10,000	15	£150,000	Indicative budget that may need review and further refinement over time. Costs could be pooled across years.
Dawlish Warren	Petalwort monitoring and survey		£2,000	10	£20,000	Cost dependent on monitoring strategy; indicative cost allows for specialist consultancy and small surveys and assumption of 10 repeats.
Dawlish Warren	Maintenance of high tide roost at Dawlish Warren	£30,000			£30,000	Indicative cost and will be dependent on how the roost changes over time. Potential to implement anything will be dependent on the outcomes of Environment Agency work and may not be possible.

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