

Exe Estuary Action Plan 2008 - 2009



Exmouth Town
Council



for birds
for people
for ever



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Section 1 Summary Action Plan

Outcomes by March 2009

Community

Education: Delivered at least 10 education sessions at Exmouth LNR and 10 at Dawlish Warren involving 400 students in total.

Volunteer Opportunities: Delivered at least 5 volunteer events.

Friends Of: Developed a network of volunteers willing to participate in the long-term support and monitoring of the Estuary.

Clean Up Events: Delivered two Clean Up events, one in spring and one in autumn, involving the coordination of the whole Estuary.

Exe Action and Issue Groups: Involved local communities in the Estuary partnership through the organisation of Task and Finish groups to deliver specific actions or address current issues when required, for example to develop the Coastal Access Strategy.

Exe Estuary Festival: Raise awareness of the nature conservation and amenity value of the Estuary through a celebratory event.

Public Awareness

Leaflets: A revised addition of the Exe Explorer 2008 launched by the March 1st. Produced two information leaflets to accompany the Exe Explorer giving greater detail of two of the key elements of the Estuary.

Website: Maintained a fresh interactive website that improves the transparency of the workings of the partnership

Newsletter: Produced and distributed two copies of Exepress Newsletter for 2008, a spring/summer edition and an autumn/ winter edition and be in the process of gathering items for a spring 2009 issue.

Calendar of Events: Produced an events calendar for the Estuary for 2009

Forum

Spring: Delivered an interactive event with the opportunity for attendees to debate Estuary or partnership related issues as well as hear presentations on relevant topics and hear feedback on the partnerships progress.

Autumn: Delivered an autumn forum with consideration to outcomes and feedback of the spring forum

Partnership

Promoting the Partnership: Raised the profile and public awareness of the Exe Estuary Management Partnership.

Representing the Partnership: Attended and contributed to all relevant meetings associated with the Exe Estuary on behalf of the partnership.

Partnership: Maintained regular contact with members and Supporting Officers through the Officers Working Group and Management Group.

Researching Funding: Investigated sources of long-term partnership funding as well as for one-off projects, events.

Supporting Strategies

Coastal Management Study: Supported development and aided consultation.

Coastal Access Strategy: Updated and produced

Exe Health Study: Updated and produced

Disturbance Study: Manage a study examining disturbance levels and indicators.

Eel grass study: Map the distribution of eel grass beds and compare to previous results

Crab Tile Survey: Record the distribution and quantity of crab tiles on the Exe

Action Plan April 09 – March 10: Developed and consulted on by OWG and MG.

Section 2 Introduction

1.1 The Exe Estuary Management Plan 2006 - 2011

The Management Plan states the Exe Estuary Management Partnership's (EEMP) objectives for a 5 year period from 2006 – 2011. The Management Plan incorporates the Scheme of management for the Special Protection Area (Regulation 34 Habitats Directive). Thereby identifying the actions needed to achieve favourable condition for the wildlife and supporting habitats protected under the SPA.

The Management Plan is the overarching document from which all further action plans will be prepared from within this 5 year period. Throughout this action plan each objective is followed by a list of the Management Plan aims which it will contribute to achieving. Where the aims appear in bold this indicates those aims which are a requirement to the Scheme of Management for the SPA.

The Management Plan is based on 'The State of The Exe' a scientific report displaying the information currently available on the condition of the environment.

The Management Plan is the sole document from which the Exe Estuary Officer will be guided as an official representation of the Management Partnership's views and objectives.

1.3 The Management Partnership

The structure of the management partnership has existed since the mid 1990s and is the management group responsible for the delivery of the scheme of management for the SPA. The Management Partnership consists of the organisations that fund the group; Devon County Council, East Devon District Council, Teignbridge District Council, Exmouth Town Council, Natural England and the RSPB along with organisations invited due to their relevance and knowledge of the Estuary. These are Devon Sea Fisheries, The Environment Agency and Exeter City Council.

1.4 Meeting Dates

| Group | 2008 | 2008 | 2009 |
|------------------------|----------------------------|---|--------------------------|
| Management Group | Mon 4 th Feb | Mon 30 th June | Mon 2 nd Feb |
| Officers Working Group | Thurs 17 th Jan | Mon 16 th June 07/04/08 06/10/08 | Mon 19 th Jan |
| Forum | Sat 7 th June | November | |

All meetings will convene at 10am unless previously agreed otherwise

Section 3 Community Projects

3.1 Education

Delivery of 10 educational sessions at Exmouth Local Nature Reserve involving at least 300 students. This will be a joint delivery with James Chubb allowing the facility to invite larger groups of students and divide into subgroups to deliver activities.

Delivery of 10 educational events at Dawlish Warren, involving at least 100 students, supporting the current educational programme delivered by the Teignbridge District Council Rangers.

Execute a flexible work scheme which allows for delivery to students of different ages and abilities

Management Plan Objectives

6.1 Education and Interpretation:

- **Improve education and interpretation facilities around the Estuary.**
- **Improve awareness and understanding**

3.2 Wildlife: Achieve greater appreciation and awareness of biodiversity.

3.2 Volunteer Opportunities

Deliver at least 5 volunteer events, exclusive of Estuary Clean Up events, involving local volunteers in Estuary management such as access improvements and habitat creation

Maintain and build links to volunteers through local organisations, clubs and societies, press involvement and community liaison.

Management Plan Objectives

6.1 Education and Interpretation: **Improve awareness and Understanding**

3.1 Habitats and Designations: **Identify all habitat re-creation opportunities and progress with the priority sites.**

5.3 Waste Management and Recycling: Prefer and choose businesses using and supplying sustainable packaging when purchasing or contracting services and suppliers.

7.1 Contingency Planning: Identify and put in place structures and procedures for the management of volunteers.

3.3 Friends of the Exe Estuary

Continued development of Exe Estuary 'Friends of' group with involvement in Estuary events.

Management Plan Objectives

3.1 Habitats and designations: **Produce and implement an integrated monitoring plan for the designated sites.**

3.2 Wildlife:

- Ensure all biodiversity interest is appropriately monitored
 - Achieve greater appreciation and awareness of biodiversity
- ##### 3.4 History and Archaeology: Raise awareness of existing reporting schemes when archaeological or historical discoveries are made on land, at sea or in the inter-tidal zone.

7.1 Contingency Planning: Identify and put in place structures and procedures for the management of volunteers.

Section 3 Community Projects Continued

3.4 Clean up Events

Build on the success of the autumn 2007 clean up event with 2 further events during 2008.

Spring Event: Saturday 3rd May Low Tide: 11.33am. The spring event will be sponsored by the Environment Agency for £400

Autumn Event: Saturday 20th (low tide 4.23) or Sunday 21st September (Low tide 5pm) to coincide with the Marine Conservation Society National Beach clean event

- As with the 2007 clean up we will look to coordinate whole estuary events that draw in as many sites and volunteers as possible.
- Both to be carried out on a weekend day to optimise volunteer availability.
- Where possible recruit volunteers to aid with organisation and preparation of event.
- Maximum press coverage is a key priority of the event
- Identify methods of transporting collected litter to the shore so that volunteers do not have to carry it back themselves e.g. RNLI and DSF have quad bikes that could be used.
- Approach organisations who work on or around the Estuary to seek their involvement in the clean up event e.g. ferries, RNLI, fishermen, users associations, mooring groups, community groups etc.
- Secure sponsorship from local organisation(s) to provide refreshments for volunteers. The 2007 event was sponsored by Halcrow who provided funding for refreshments and safety devices.

Management Plan Objectives

3.2 Wildlife: Increase awareness of the threats posed to wildlife by the presence of litter and waste on the Estuary.

5.2 Water Quality: **Educate and inform about the impact of human activities on water quality.**

5.3 Waste Management and Recycling:

- **Reduce the amount of waste, litter and fly tipping on the Estuary.**
- **Promote regular beach and shoreline clean-ups**
- **Prefer and choose businesses using and supplying sustainable packaging when purchasing or contracting services and suppliers.**

3.5 Exe Action and Issue Groups (Task and Finish Groups)

These groups will have a clear objective to meet over a defined time frame. They will be brought together when there is an activity to action or an issue to discuss. Examples of this are:

Action: A recreational leaflet which will look to pull together information and advice on all aspects of recreational activity on the Exe. A group of representatives from user associations around the Estuary as well as clubs and organisations will be invited to attend a Task and Finish Group for two meetings over which the content and design of the leaflet will be discussed.

Highlighted Issue: Representatives from relevant organisations and user groups met on 18th December 2007 and discussed disturbance issues on the Estuary. Several actions were agreed including better signage at Exmouth to raise awareness of the exclusion zone and promotion of the Local nature reserve.

Exe Action and Issue Groups will not bring together the same group of individuals each time as the Focus groups did.

Section 3 Community Projects Continued

Exe Action and Issue Groups will:

- Have a clear, specific objective or purpose for meeting
- Will meet over a clearly defined time schedule
- Will invite a representative of all relevant organisations, clubs and groups to ensure the appropriate people have been involved
- Be brought together when there is an issue that directly or indirectly concerns the organisations or communities who live, work and enjoy the Estuary.
- Be brought together when there is an activity to be carried out
- Address issues from the Management Plan identified by the Management Partnership

All groups will be chaired by either the Forum Chair or Vice Chair. The Estuary Officer will attend all Groups and will accept agreed actions from the group in order to achieve the group's objectives. Where actions are proposed that would incur a notable cost or are outside of those agreed in this action plan the Chair and Officer will present the recommendations to the Officers Working Group and / or the Management Partnership for approval.

All actions recommended to the partnership will be judged on the following criteria:

- Legally Compliant
- Relevance to the Management Plan
- Budget
- Time Demands
- Balance of work priorities
- Environmentally sustainable

In order to gather information as to where groups would like to nominate an individual to represent them on a specific subject we will be forming a database of topics so that as an issue or activity arises the Estuary Officer may use the database to identify the relevant individuals to be invited.

Details of the groups, including minutes, will be available on the Estuary website with further opportunity for comment and input from those who have not attended.

Management Plan Objectives

4.3 Recreation:

- Achieve a balance of interests on the Exe where conflicts arise.
- **Increase awareness and understanding of each other's needs amongst users of the Exe.**
- Continue to work with recreation organisations such as those representing sailing, mooring and angling to optimise opportunities and minimise conflict and environmental damage.
- Facilitate a responsible approach to any new recreation activities emerging on the Exe.

6.1 Education and Interpretation: **Improve awareness and Understanding**

3.6 Exe Estuary Festival (subject to funding from Natural England)

Organise a festival style event which celebrates the conservation and amenity value of the Exe Estuary. Co-ordinate with the tourist season for maximum attendance and to provide opportunities for visitors and local residents to learn about the Estuary and why it is so important. The festival will look to involve local businesses, clubs and organisations in the celebration of the diverse value of the area providing locally produced food and refreshments.

Management Plan Objectives

3.1 Habitats and Designations: **Achieve a wide understanding amongst all users of the implications of the designated sites**

3.2 Wildlife: Achieve greater appreciation and awareness of biodiversity.

5.3 Waste Management and Recycling: Prefer and choose businesses using and supplying sustainable packaging when purchasing or contracting services and suppliers.

6.1 Education and Interpretation: **Improve awareness and understanding**

Section 4 Public Awareness

4.1 Leaflets

Monitoring of the popularity of the Exe Explorer 2008 with a view to keep distribution outlets continuously stocked. The Exe Explorer will be updated during January / February 2009 and launched before the Easter Holidays. Yearly additions will continue in this format.

The production of two of the remaining three accompanying leaflets; wildlife on the Exe, Historical Features and Local towns to explore with the priority as listed. The production of users information as and when necessary in relation to specific issues on the Estuary e.g. the Crab tiling leaflet which was produced to address issues relating to crab collection for bait.

Management Plan Objectives

3.4 History and Archaeology: Improve the general level of understanding of the value and sensitivity of historical and archaeological sites, features and related evidence.

4.3 Recreation: Identify and promote further recreation opportunities and resources on the Estuary.

4.5 Public Transport and access:

- Promotion of sustainable transport to access the Estuary
- Encourage walking and cycling as a means of accessing and exploring the Estuary.

6.1 Education and Interpretation:

- **Improve education and interpretation facilities around the Estuary**
- **Ensure that an improved consistent approach to interpretation of the many qualities of the Estuary is created**

4.2 Website

Dedicate a minimum of 2 hours per week to keep the website up-to-date and fresh. Incorporate new services regularly to keep the website interesting and interactive to encourage regular visitors.

4.3 Newsletter

Produce two newsletters for 2008, the first a spring / Summer edition to be available in April in time to advertise for the May Forum and Clean Up event. The second an autumn/winter newsletter available by October. Create clear links between all of the information services that the partnership provides ensuring a cohesive approach to information dissemination.

4.4 Calendar / Leaflet of Events

Following on from the 2008 events leaflet produced during the 07-08 action plan period to evolve into a calendar for 2009. The calendar would contain images of the Estuary and could be sold through local outlets and the website to generate funds for the partnership.

Public Awareness Management Plan Outcomes

4.4 Tourism: Develop the Exe Estuary 'brand'.

5.3 Waste Management and Recycling: Prefer and choose businesses using and supplying sustainable packaging when purchasing or contracting services and suppliers.

6.1 Education and Interpretation:

- **Improve awareness and Understanding**
- **Implement the development of an holistic and innovative promotion strategy for the Exe**

Section 5 Exe Estuary Forum

5.1 Spring Forum

Date: Saturday 7th June 2008

Time: 11.00 - 4.00

The timing of the Forum coincides with the beginning of the public consultation period for the Coastal Management Study.

Location: To be decided, options to be considered include

Lympstone Marines
Environment Agency
Starcross Yacht Club
Stuart Line Ferry

Powderham Castle
Sandy Park
Darts Farm

Theme:

The Changing Face of the Exe

Format:

11.00 Arrive, Tea and Coffee available

11.30 Welcome from Chair

11.40 Update from the Partnership – Exe Estuary Officer

Presentations:

- Coastal Management Study
- Shoreline Management Plan

Subject to the progress of the study, other possible topics include: The Marine Bill, Lower Clyst Project, Managing navigation and the Bathymetric study

12.30 Question and Answer Session

1.00 Lunch

2.00 Workshops (topics dependent on interests of attendees as specified when requesting tickets)

2.30 Tea Break

3.00 Workshops session 2

3.30 Feedback from workshops to the Forum

4.00 Finish

5.2 Autumn Forum

A November event, with details and format to be discussed at the June Officers Working Group and Management Group meetings, depending on the success of the spring forum and relevant issues at the time.

Management Plan Objectives

6.1 Education and Interpretation:

- **Improve awareness and Understanding**
- **Ensure that an improved consistent approach to interpretation of the many qualities of the Estuary is created**

Section 6 Partnership

6.1 Management Group

The Management Group will convene twice during the duration of the Action Plan. The first meeting will be during June in order to assess progress so far in delivering the 08-09 action plan. The second will be during January / February 09 in order to approve the 2009/2010 Action Plan

6.2 Officers Working Group

The Officers Working Group will meet twice to monitor progress a minimum of two weeks prior to the Management Group Meetings, to prepare items. The OWG will comprise of the Supporting Officers from each of the funding bodies.

6.3 Promoting the Partnership

Liaise with local organisations and community groups whenever appropriate in order to raise the profile of the EEMP. Use events, such as the Estuary Clean Up, to involve local organisations, clubs, societies, community groups in the management of the Estuary wherever possible.

Consider press coverage as a key component of any event, delivery outcome (e.g. Exe Explorer launch) in order to raise public awareness of the EEMP.

Keep abreast of current local and National events and issues in order to respond promptly to enquiries and make the most of possible linkage with National events e.g. The Marine Conservation Society National Beach Clean Day.

Attend relevant conferences and training events in order to network with other Estuary Partnerships and exchange best practice whilst keeping informed of current issues and increasing knowledge base e.g. Coastal Futures Conference

6.4 Representing the Partnership

Continue to represent the partnership on Estuary Related Projects such as:

- NCN consultation
- Exmouth Visitor Centre PPG
- Police Boat Patrol Planning Meeting
- Devon Estuary Officers Meeting
- Exmouth Town Management Plan
- Halcrow progress review meetings.
- Exmouth Festival

6.5 Researching Funding

Investigated potential sources of funding to improve the sustainability of the partnership by encouraging additional partners to join as well as applying for one off grants to deliver a specific project or event such as the Exe Estuary Festival.

Section 7 Supporting Strategies

7.1 Coastal Management Study

Keep involved in the development of the Coastal Management Study to be released in spring/summer 2008. Offer website as a forum for consultation of the document as with the Strategic Environmental Assessment. Link to any current information supplied about the Exe.

Management Plan Objectives

- 2. Climate Change: **Assess the effects of climate change on the SPA and identify suitable mitigation**
- 3.1 Habitats and Designations: **Ensure all flood defence plans adhere to nature conservation legislation**
- 4.4 Tourism: Consider and limit the impact of coastal defences and coastal management on beach amenities, wherever possible

7.2 Coastal Access Strategy

Review progress made so far on this document with a view to update and produce as official document of the EEMP. Consider ways in which the information generated can be incorporated into future initiatives on the Estuary.

Management Plan Objectives

- 3.1 habitats and designations: **Ensure recreational access and use does not adversely affect the designated sites.**

7.3 Exe Health Study

As above for the Coastal Access Strategy

7.4 Disturbance Study

Management Plan Objectives

- 3.2 Wildlife: Limit conflict with recreation and protect biodiversity through revision of the zonation scheme
- 4.3 Recreation:
 - Develop an effective strategy for ensuring that the disturbance caused by recreational activities is minimised
 - Seek to investigate the recreational capacity of the Estuary
- 4.6 Commercial and Other Uses: Understand the effects of military and commercial and recreational activity on the Estuary

7.5 Eel Grass Study (subject to funding from Natural England)

Management Plan Objectives

- 3.2 Wildlife: **Ensure all biodiversity interest is appropriately monitored**

7.6 Crab Tile Survey (subject to funding from Natural England)

7.7 Action Plan April 09 – March 2010

Section 8 Budget - Predicted Expenditure Items

| Item | Activity | Expenses | Predicted Cost | Quantity | Total |
|-----------|------------------------------|--|-------------------|--------------|-------------------|
| 3 | Community | | | | |
| 3.1 | Education | Printing and mailing | DCC * | | / |
| | | Resources | | | £500 |
| 3.2 | Volunteer Opportunities | Printing and mailing | DCC * | | / |
| | | Refreshments | £200 | | £200 |
| 3.3 | Friends of | Printing / advertising | | | £500 |
| 3.4 | Clean Up Event | Skip hire / waste removal / resources (bin bags, litter pickers, gloves) | £300 | 2 | £600** |
| 3.5 | Exe Action/Issue Group | Meeting rooms | | ? | £500 |
| | | Refreshments | | ? | £200 |
| 3.6 | Exe Estuary Festival | | Externally Funded | | |
| | | | | | £2500 |
| 4 | Public Awareness | | | | |
| 4.1 | Leaflets – Exe Explorer | Reprint | £2000 | 1 | £2000** |
| | Leaflets- accompanying | Design and printing | £2000 | 2 | £4000** |
| 4.2 | Website | | / | / | / |
| 4.3 | Newsletter | Design and printing | £1250 | 2 | £2500** |
| 4.4 | Calendar of Events | Design and printing | £1500 | 1 | £1500** |
| | | | | | £10,000 |
| 5. | Forum | | | | |
| | | Room hire | £300 | 2 | £600 |
| | | Refreshments | £300 | 2 | £600 |
| | | Printing | £150 | 2 | £300 |
| | | | | | £1500 |
| 6 | Partnership | | | | |
| 6.1 | Management Group | Refreshments | £100 | 2 | £200*** |
| | | Room Hire | £350 | 2 | £700*** |
| 6.2 | Officers Working Group | Refreshments | £100 | 2 | £200*** |
| | | Room Hire | £350 | 2 | £700*** |
| 6.3 | Promoting / | Attending conference | £300 | / | £300 |
| 6.4 | Representing the Partnership | | | | |
| | | | | | £2100 |
| 7 | Supporting Strategies | | | | |
| 7.2 | Coastal Access Strategy | Production / printing | £500 | / | £500 |
| 7.3 | Exe Health Study | Production / printing | £500 | / | £500 |
| 7.4 | Disturbance Study | | | | Externally funded |
| 7.5 | Eel grass study | | | | |
| 7.6 | Crab Tile survey | | | | |
| 7.6 | Action Plan 09 - 2010 | Printing | £500 | / | £500 |
| | | | | | £1500 |
| | | | | Total | 17,600 |

Note: * Single identifiable print charges will be charged to the partnership.

** Possible offset with sponsorship or by selling e.g. calendar

*** Possible offset by the partners taking it in turn to host meetings.

Full statement available at appendix 1

Section 8 Predicted Time Frames

| Item | Activity | Time Allotted (in days) | Percentage |
|----------|---------------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------|
| 3 | Community | | |
| 3.1 | Education at Exmouth | 12 | 5.2 |
| | Education at Dawlish Warren | 12 | 5.2 |
| 3.2 | Volunteer Opportunities | 10 | 4.4 |
| 3.3 | Friends of | 8 | 3.5 |
| 3.4 | Clean Up Event | 8 | 3.5 |
| 3.5 | Exe Action/Issue Group | 10 | 4.4 |
| 3.6 | Exe Estuary Festival | 5 | 2.2 |
| | Total | 65 | 28.4% |
| 4 | Public Awareness | | |
| 4.1 | Accompanying Leaflets | 20 | 8.7 |
| 4.1 | Monitoring Exe Explorer | 1 | 0.4 |
| 4.1 | 2009 Update | 8 | 3.5 |
| 4.1 | Other appropriate info displays | 5 | 2 |
| 4.2. | Website | 10 | 4.4 |
| 4.3 | Newsletter | 20 | 8.7 |
| 4.4 | Calendar of Events | 10 | 4.4 |
| | Total | 74 | 32.2% |
| 5 | Forum | | |
| 5.1 | Spring | 5 | 2.2 |
| 5.2 | Autumn | 5 | 2.2 |
| | Total | 10 | 4.4% |
| 6 | Partnership | | |
| 6.1 | Management Group | 3 | 1.3 |
| 6.2 | Officers Working Group | 3 | 1.3 |
| 6.3 | Promoting the Partnership | 10 | 4.3 |
| 6.4 | Awareness of relevant issues & events | 5 | 2.2 |
| 6.4 | Conferences | 6 | 2.6 |
| 6.5 | Researching and applying for Funding | 5 | 2.2 |
| | Total | 32 | 14% |
| 6 | Supporting Strategies | | |
| 7.1 | Coastal Management Study | 8 | 3.5 |
| 7.2 | Coastal Access Strategy | 7 | 3 |
| 7.3 | Exe Health Study | 7 | 3 |
| 7.4 | Disturbance Study | 10 | 4.4 |
| 7.5 | Eel grass study | 5 | 2.2 |
| 7.6 | Crab Tile Survey | 5 | 2.2 |
| 7.7 | Action Plan 09 - 10 | 4 | 1.8 |
| | Total | 48 | 21% |
| | Total Number of days | 229 | |
| | Total Number of Days Available | 229 | |