

Exe Estuary Partnership Management Plan 2022-2027 Consultation

Full details on

[6-week Exe Estuary 2022-2027 Management Plan consultation is now OPEN. - Exe Estuary Management Partnership \(exe-estuary.org\)](https://exe-estuary.org)

Who is the Exe Estuary Partnership?

The Exe Estuary Management Partnership (EEMP) coordinates management of the estuary, on behalf of local authorities, government agencies and conservation, commercial and recreational interest groups, as well as providing a contact point for local communities of the estuary. The EEMP, which has been in place since 1995, takes an impartial approach to help ensure that there is a balance between human use and the protected nature of the Exe. The work of the partnership is guided by the Exe Estuary Management Plan and a Partnership Committee

The Partnership seeks to conserve and enhance the estuary's special nature and promote sustainable economic and social activity by managing competing demands and addressing any conflicts as they arise, to ensure that interests and activities are harmonised.

What is the Management Plan?

The Exe Estuary Management Plan details management measures to guide key and statutory organisations in delivering their statutory duties in a co-ordinated manner. It outlines policies, issues and five-year objectives to ensure sustainable use of the Exe for the future. The plan incorporates the Management Scheme for the Special Protection Area (Regulation 34, Habitats Directive), identifying policies which aim to achieve favourable condition of the protected wildlife and supporting habitats.

The Exe Estuary Management Plan is written to provide guidance on delivering statutory compliance and best practice in managing this special place. It will:

- Promote the sustainable use of the Exe Estuary, balancing the demands made on its natural resources and resolving conflicts of interest where they arise.
- Provide a framework for the co-ordinated management of the Estuary and improve communications between users and organisations with authority over the Exe.

Why Renew the Plan?

The old plan covers the period of 2016-2021 and was based on the scientific report, the 'State of the Exe Estuary 2014', which detailed the information available on the condition of the environment at that time. However, things will have changed considerably since then. The environmental conditions of the estuary will have changed, and policy and legislation are different today than in 2014. Not only this, stakeholders have also changed, with new emerging user groups and businesses being present on the estuary.

Consultation details

The consultation is open for 6 weeks - closing on 10 October, 23:59
All responses will be considered but may not be included in the Final Plan in order to reflect a balanced approach.

The Plan incorporates sub-themes under three sections:

- **Partnership**
- **Environment**
- **People.**

From the Devon Countryside Access Forum's perspective the sub-theme on Public Transport, Access & Land Based Recreation (People section) is most relevant and falls with its statutory remit.

Public Transport, Access and Land Based Recreation sub-theme

Below is an example of an issue from the existing 2016-2021 Management Plan and an action which was taken to address this:

Issue: Lack of promotion of accessibility of Exe Estuary Trail.

Action: Produce an improved version of the Exe Explorer leaflet including more detailed insets showing the route of the Exe Estuary Trail through built-up areas, e.g. Topsham.

Q: Using bullet points list up to THREE current issues for this Sub-Theme

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Q: Using bullet points please list up to THREE actions which could be taken to address the issues mentioned above

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

The existing Policies in the 2016-2021 Management Plan are as follows:

PTA1: Promote use of the bus and train networks to access the Estuary from outside the area.

PTA2: Encourage walking and cycling as a means of accessing and exploring the Estuary through improved information and signage, including promotion of accessibility of the Exe Estuary Trail for all abilities.

PTA3: Develop partnerships to make the best of opportunities presented by the completion of the Exe Estuary Trail including integration with public transport and ferry service improvements.

PTA4: Investigate and mitigate the effects of public transport on the SPA, SSSI and SAC.

PTA5: Identify and provide input into addressing the effects of natural and physical changes on public transport and access provision, including extreme events.

PTA6: Encourage greater access and the provision of facilities for less able users of the Exe Estuary Trail, for example, wheelchair accessible toilets and convenient electric charging points for electric mobility vehicles.

Q: Do you feel the existing Policies for this Sub-Theme are relevant for the next 5 years?

Yes/No

Q: Can you provide examples of any additional or amended Policies within this Sub-Theme which could be included in the 2022-2027 Management Plan?