

**DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL
COASTAL COUNTER POLLUTION PLAN**

ANNEX I

**DEVON STANDING ENVIRONMENT GROUP
OPERATIONAL GUIDANCE**

Version 3 January 2010

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1 TERMS OF REFERENCE

1.1 Membership of SEG:

- Environment Agency - Chair
- Natural England – Deputy Chair
- Devon & Severn Inshore Fisheries & Conservation Authority
- Marine Management Organisation
- Devon County Council
- Torbay Council
- Health Protection Agency
- Devon Wildlife Trust

1.2 Under normal conditions, i.e. when no related incidents are underway, the Devon Standing Environment Group will meet and undertake any planning / activities required to ensure the Environment Group is ready to respond during an incident.

1.3 When activated as part of the response to an incident the group will be referred to as the 'Environment Group'. The purpose of the Environment Group is to minimise the impact of a marine incident on the environment and public health. The type of event most likely to require the activation of an Environment Group would be a tier 2 or 3 incident under the National Marine Plan. Membership will be expanded beyond the core DSEG members as needed.

1.4 The Environment Group

Provides operational advice, including:

- Advising on potential and real impacts on public health; likely to be high level overview, more detail may be sought direct.
- Advising on the relative importance of environmental features and wildlife at risk and their sensitivity/vulnerability to oil or other hazardous substances and related clean-up activities.
- Prioritising environmentally sensitive sites and wildlife in need of protection.
- Undertake the assessment of environmental risks and potential impacts arising from an incident, as well as the implications of any clean up or salvage operations.
- Advising on the environmental implications of operational response measures.
- EG-appointed members assist with advising Shoreline Clean-up Assessment Teams (SCAT).

An EG requires a range of data, information and operational advice including:

- Information on the distribution and seasonal status of all wildlife.
- Information on fishing grounds, spawning and nursery areas, shellfish beds and mariculture generally.
- Information on abstractions and discharges to all waters likely to be affected; information on other water uses.
- Information on historic environment data (archaeology)
- Real time information on wildlife, fishing activity and ecosystems in affected areas.
- Overview of the progress and success of clean-up operations.

Advises on monitoring, including:

- Risks and acute effects to public health.
- Preparation or identification of environmental baselines against which later environmental evaluations can be compared.
- Monitoring the environmental effects of clean up operations in sensitive areas, ensuring that such activities match the strategy of DSEG as agreed in the relevant response centre; and;
- Baseline monitoring of impact on wildlife, fisheries and sensitive sites/habitats threatened by pollution.

Initiates long-term impact assessment, including:

- Impact on human health.
- Impact on fisheries (including shell fish beds and salmon farms etc.);
- Impact on all aspects of the natural environment.

1.5 Within the National Marine Plan the main role of the Environment Group is to provide the above advice and guidance to:

- SOSREP (Secretary of States Representative)
- The Salvage Control Unit (SCU)
- The Marine Response Centre (MRC)
- The Shoreline Response Centre (SRC)

To carry out its role the group will:

- Provide advice and guidance to all groups as required within necessary timescales to minimise the impact of the incident and clean up response on the environment and public health, informed by local knowledge and specific information collected.
- Advise on monitoring of the environment and assessment of the impact of the incident and clean up response in both the short and long term.

- Appoint an Environment Liaison Officer (ELO) to each of the response units established e.g. the SRC, MRC or SCU, to provide a communication channel to and from the Environment Group.
- ELOs will convey advice from the group, they will not be providing advice as individuals.
- The group and ELOs will record the advice given and the rationale for it in writing.

For further details on the role of the EG in a Marine incident refer to the National Contingency Plan for Marine Pollution from Shipping and Offshore Installations (NCP).

- 1.6 The Devon Standing Environment Group will meet twice yearly and will meet after an incident to advise, collect data and report in writing on the work and costs of the Environment Group response.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 The Devon Standing Environment Group Guidance is an appendix to the Devon County Council Coastal Counter Pollution Plan (DCPP) and is compiled in accordance with the Government Guidance Document on 'Emergency Response and Recovery'. The Devon coast is rich in wildlife and is used extensively for recreation. Any damage to it would have an immense detrimental effect on flora and fauna and the tourism industry.
- 2.2 Local Authorities have no statutory responsibility for dealing with coastal pollution incidents. However, they have agreed to respond to such incidents. Devon County Council has produced the Coastal Counter Pollution Plan (DCPP) which is written within the framework and provisions of the National Contingency Plan for Marine Pollution from Shipping and Offshore Installations (NCP). The CPP details how the county would respond to mitigate the effects of a major marine spill on the coast of Devon. As part of the command structure a Shoreline Response Centre (SRC) may be established.
- 2.3 During an incident an Environment Group (EG) would be established to provide a focal point for the provision of environmental advice to the SOSREP, SCU, MRC & SRC. The initial Environment Group membership will reflect the DSEG members who will provide a locally focused perspective on all environmental issues that would need to be considered during a major incident. As the incident progresses other staff from within the DSEG member organisations may be bought in to relieve or replace these individuals.
- 2.4 This guidance details how the local EG should respond when the coast of the County of Devon is threatened or impacted by a pollutant arising from either maritime or terrestrial sources.
- 2.5 **This Guidance details:**

- **The membership of the EG and roles of EG members.**
- **How and when the EG is formed.**
- **How the guidance is activated.**
- **How the EG communicates and with whom.**
- **The information the EG must be able to provide and where that information is found.**
- **Logistics and administration of the EG.**

3 OPERATIONAL AREA

- 3.1 The Operational Area of the Guidance is defined by the Devon County Council Coastal Counter Pollution plan as:

North

From Marsland Mouth (North of Morwenstow) to Lynmouth Bay (West of Foreland Point)

South

East of Wembury Point to Canary Ledges (East of Lyme Regis).

See **Appendix 2.**

- 3.2 **The DSEG should have the competency and resources to be able to provide advice on the effects of any pollutant on all of the ecosystems and amenities that are found on the Devon coast.**

4 ACTIVATION OF THE GUIDANCE

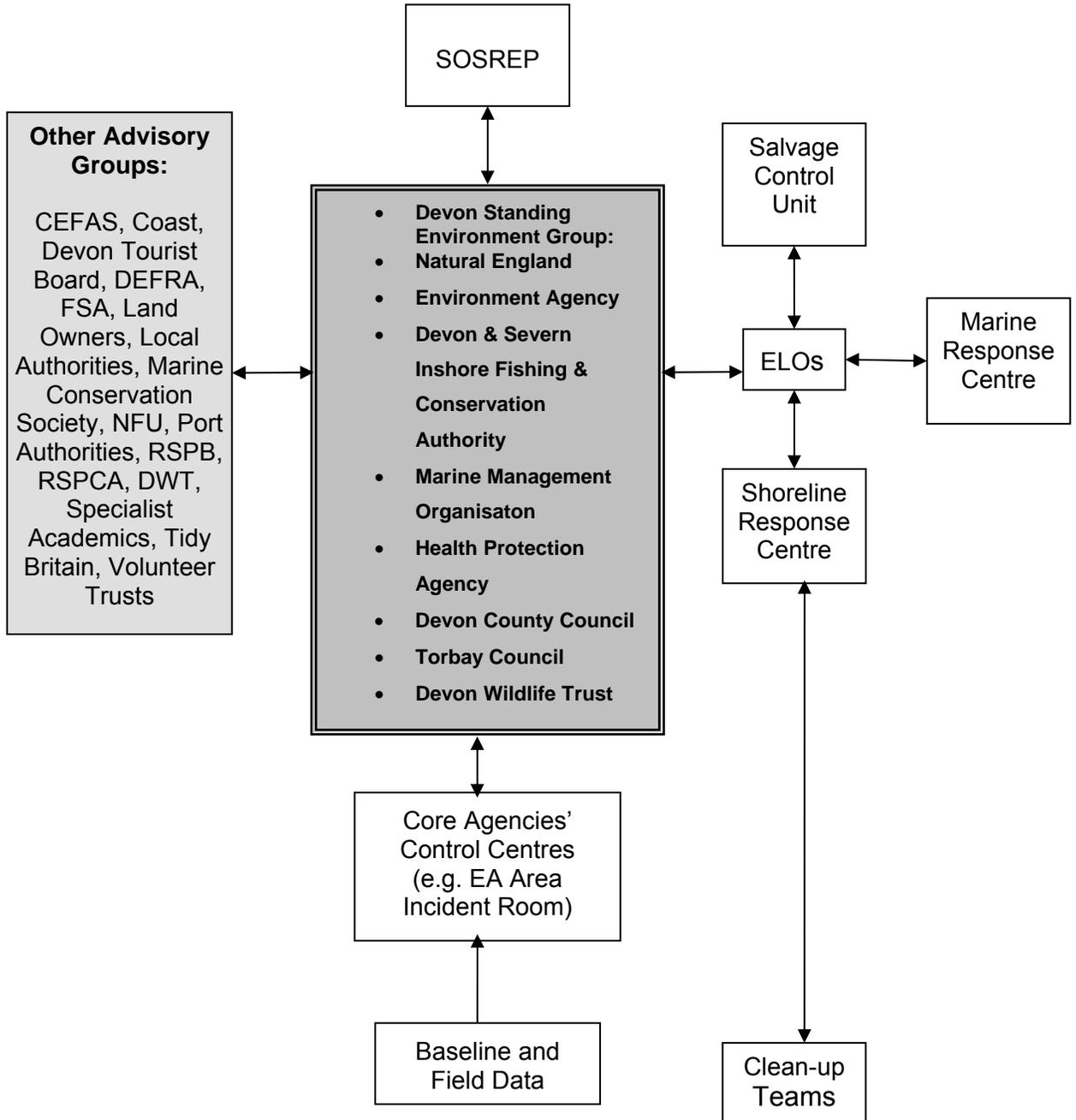
- 4.1 The Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) will initiate the activation of the National Contingency Plan. However, the CPP may be activated by Devon County Council separately or prior to, the activation of the NCP, dependant on the size or scale of the pollution threat or incident.
- 4.2 Where an incident affects a wide area the area impacted may incorporate more than one Standing Environment Group. Only one group will be active, usually the initially activated group (that nearest the initial impact) will continue to stand throughout the incident. Members of other groups may join the operational group to provide additional expertise as required.
- 4.3 On notification of activation of either the DCP or the NCP or on receipt of the first pollution report (POLREP) from the MCA the Chair of the DSEG will contact the nominated competent officer from each of the core agencies/organisations of the DSEG to hold a telephone conference to discuss the incident and response / organisations. A list of the nominated officers (or deputies) and their contact details are provided in Appendix 4.

- 4.4 During the conference call the following items will be determined:
- Whether or not the Environment Group should be activated
 - A suitable location to meet, if required (Appendix 3)
 - Personnel required.(Appendix 4)
 - Associated Members required
 - Communication Routes
 - Administrative Assistance
- 4.4 The MCA may ask the EG to establish itself at a venue proposed by them commensurate with the nature and geography of the particular incident.
- 4.5 The SRC will normally be established in the [Emergency Centre at County Hall, Devon](#)
- 4.6 The EG should be established in a location suitably equipped with sufficient communication and other facilities.
- 4.7 In the absence of direction by the MCA the EG may be established at any of the locations listed below:
- Environment Agency, Manley House, Kestrel Way, Exeter, Devon EX2 7LQ (Tel: 01392 354011)**
- Natural England, Natural England, Level 9, Renslade House, Bonhay Road, Exeter, EX4 3AW (Tel: 0300 060 1110)**
- 4.8 On Activation of the Environment Group the Chair will:
- Identify the core agencies that are required and ensure that they are notified of the incident.
 - Consider the need to meet in person and assess alternative means of communicating.
 - Consider the need to contact associated members.
 - Assess the suitability of the meeting venue and ensure it has all the required facilities.
 - Provide an early assessment of the likely duration of the incident, paying particular regard to succession and health and safety.
 - Appoint Environment Liaison Officers (ELOs) to the SCU, SRC and MRC management teams as required.
 - Establish communication routes with the SCU, SRC, MRC etc via the appointed Liaison Officer(s).

5 COMMUNICATIONS

- 5.1 The Chair of the EG will appoint an administrative assistant whose role will be to maintain a log of all communications. Establishing a log of events must be one of the first priorities of the EG. This person may come from any of the DSEG member organisations.
- 5.2 The Environment Liaison Officers (ELOs – Appendix 5) nominated by the EG will identify themselves to the SOSREP, SCU, MRC or SRC and establish communications with EG.
- 5.3 The ELOs will also maintain a comprehensive log of the involvement with the incident and should record key events and discussions, resources requested or committed etc. (The ELOs should obtain administrative support, usually from their own organisations, in order to maintain this function).
- 5.4 Devon County Council's Emergency Contact Directory should be available and used for consistency and ease of reference. Core agencies must ensure they hold a current version.
- 5.5 Communication with the media will be made through a EG member designated by the Chair. All direct communication with the media must be co-ordinated through the SRC Management Team via the ELO, or via the MCA structure for SOSREP, SCU or MRC.
- 5.6 Each member organisation should establish communication with their respective organisations command centres. Direction of field staff involved in reconnaissance and monitoring will be made through the respective agency's command structures NOT by the EG.
- 5.7 Communications with Clean-Up teams must not be made directly by EG. These teams are co-ordinated through the Management Team of the SRC.
- 5.8 The representative of each of the member agencies to the EG must have sufficient breadth and depth of knowledge of their respective organisations roles and responsibilities to enable the EG to fulfil its remit.

6 COMMUNICATIONS SCHEMATIC



7 PROVISION OF INFORMATION

7.1 The information that each individual organisation can provide during an incident is listed in Appendix 8.

7.2 The key areas of information that the EG will provide are:

- The prioritisation of areas requiring clean-up.
- The location of temporary beach head storage sites and medium term inland storage sites.
- Advice on disposal options, see Appendix 7.
- The location of recovery and disposal sites.
- The sustainability of clean up and disposal measures.
- Consideration of the 'do nothing' approach, with an assessment of the feasibility of natural dilute and disperse techniques.
- Technical advice on bioremediation options and techniques.
- Advice on sensitive species and habitats and the vulnerability of 'at risk' receptors.
- Provision of baseline data on speciation, biomass and ecology of the various habitats around the Devon Coastline, giving consideration to the toxicology and environmental fate of the pollutant within the framework provided by the baseline data.
- To provide environmental fate and toxicological modelling information where possible.
- Advice on public health issues to include exposure limits for the general public as well as for a health and safety risk assessment for clean up teams.
- Impact assessments on the human food chain, for example shellfisheries.
- An assessment on the potential impact on statutory environmental standards, such as those included in the Habitats Directive and the European Directive on Bathing Water Quality. A list of all the statutory water quality standards is provided in Appendix 10.
- Advice on the suitability of dispersants and degreasants, with consideration of the polluting effects of the clean up chemicals as well as any synergistic effects when mixed with the pollutant.
- Advice on the suitability of booming locations in respect of the protection of sensitive sites and habitats.
- Monitoring of the effect and efficacy of the clean up operation, providing real time information to direct the clean up operation based on the evaluation of incoming information and data.

7.3 Cessation of clean up

The EG will provide guidance on the targets that will trigger the cessation of the clean up activities. Parameters that the EG may wish to consider include:

- Baseline data for the area affected
- Environmental data obtained during the incident
- The usual use of the receiving environment
- The expected recovery time for the receiving environment
- The recovery phase on costs
- Public expectation

8 ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

8.1 Chair

8.2.1 The establishment of the Chair of the EG will be decided during the conference call. The Environment Group Chair would usually become the initial Chair of the EG.

8.2.2 The Chair must be independent. Whichever organisation provides the Chair will also need to provide someone to represent their organisation within the EG.

8.2.3 The Chair will be responsible for:

- a. The management and co-ordination of the EG.
- b. Ensuring that strategic objectives are clearly defined and adhered to.
- c. Ensuring that the requirements of the SCU, MRC and/or SRC are met.
- d. Appointment of the roles within the EG, namely:
 - Environment Liaison Officers (ELOs)
 - Communication Officer(s)
 - Administration Support Staff
 - Communications and Media Liaison Officer.
- e. Ensuring that an incident log is maintained, recording:
 - Decisions taken and reasons why.
 - Important events such as the pollution fate.
 - Resource deployment and recall times.
 - Media enquiries.
 - Key discussions with external groups.
 - ELOs' Communiqués both outgoing and incoming.
 - Organisation 'stand down' times.

- Closure of the incident.
- f. Ensuring that EG members keep records of resources expended. These records should include all staff time and equipment used. Individual members should use their usual recording systems, this need not be carried out centrally by the EG.
- g. Maintaining the focus and morale of the EG.
- h. Ensuring that the EG has sufficient provisions and victualling.
- i. Appraise the EG membership, calling on other groups if required, to meet the needs of the ongoing situation.
- j. Ensuring that the EG has sufficient resources to enable it to operate over a protracted incident. Ensure that suitable rotas are in place for EG members during an incident. An early assessment of possibly duration will allow member organisations to put people 'on standby' to populate rotas.
- k. Ensuring that all records kept meet the requirements of the Freedom of Information Act and the Data Protection Act and manage potential conflict.
- l. Ensuring that all records kept are clear and accurate and are maintained post incident to enable a EG Incident File to be compiled and in such a manner that they could be made readily available to any enquiry into the incident.

8.2 Environment Liaison Officers

8.3.1 This is an important role within the EG. ELOs should be competent and trained officers provided by the core member organisations. The ELO should have sufficient authority and responsibility within the core member organisation to be able to fulfil this role.

8.3.2 Each organisation should maintain a list of suitable staff that could be called upon to fulfil the role as and when required. (See Appendix 5)

8.3.3 ELOs will undertake the following tasks:

- Take advice from EG and convey it accurately to the SCU, MRC or SRC.
- To receive information and questions from the SCU, MRC or SRC and communicate these accurately back to EG.
- Provide an environmental perspective to any statements to the media produced by the SCU, MRC or SRC.

8.3 Administration Support Officer / Logist *(NE may be able to offer marine advisers to fill this role – MP investigating Dec 2011)*

- Take notes and maintain records/logs as required.
- Co-ordinate and prioritise incoming communications during busy and potential overload periods.

8.5 Communications and Media Liaison Officer

- To receive and disseminate information via the ELOs.
- Consider how the media may best convey the information provided by EG.
- Provide the only direct link to the media from EG.
- Ensure that the information provided to the media is clear and unambiguous and reflects the views of the EG.

9 RECORD KEEPING

- 9.1 Each member must record their individual actions in a contemporaneous incident log. An example of a log is provided at Appendix 9.
- 9.2 Records of all communications must be kept. The communications could be in the form of:
- Fax
 - Telephone Conversations
 - E mails
 - Press releases
- 9.3 The records should be in chronological order to provide a timeline of the incident. It will be the responsibility of the Chair through the administration assistant to ensure a continuous record is made of the EG proceedings.
- 9.4 See section 8.2.3 e for log content.
- 9.5 ELOs should keep a separate running log of their actions.
- 9.6 The incident file will be compiled by the Chair within one month of the closure of the incident.
- 9.7 The file should make reference to the ongoing post incident requirements
- Recovery times

- Waste management.
- Inquiry work
- Criminal and/or Civil legal cases
- Liaison with insurance assessors
- Liaison with salvage assessors.

9.9 All documents created within the SCU, MRC or SRC or by the ELOs during the incident must be retained and not destroyed. The Chair will arrange for the retention of the records and will liaise with his Head of Legal Service regarding the period of their retention.

10 STAND DOWN PROCEDURES

- 10.1 It will be the responsibility of the Chair to stand the EG down when no longer required.
- 10.2 The stand down time and reasons will be entered in the incident log.
- 10.3 The Chair will ensure all interested parties are informed that the EG has stood down.
- 10.4 The Chair will collate and preserve all records relating to the incident after the incident. See Paragraph 9.9.

11 TRAINING AND EXERCISING

- 11.1 The Guidance will be trained for and exercised within the LRF training and exercising programme. The format and the scope of the exercise will be agreed in advance by the core agencies and submitted to the LRF.
- 11.2 The frequency and scale of training and exercising of the plan should be considered by the group. The initial assumption is that something will be undertaken approximately once every two years. This plan may be tested as part of a wider exercise, it need not be a stand alone activity.
- 11.3 For the exercise to be meaningful all member organisations should fully participate.

12 GUIDANCE REVISION

- 12.1 This Annex will be reviewed annually by the Chair of the DSEG.

- 12.2 Changes to the guidance will be administered by the Chair's organisation.
- 12.3 Any updates such as changes in personnel or contact numbers must be provided to the Chair as soon as is practical.
- 12.4 Any revision of the substance of the guidance must be agreed by the core agencies.
- 12.5 The plan will be reviewed after changes in legislation and exercises and incidents to see if a full review is required

APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1: Responsibilities of SEG members

Natural England

Natural England is the Governments statutory advisor on nature conservation in England. Its powers and duties are provided by obligations set out in various European Directives and Nature Conservation Regulations.

Natural England **will**:

- a. Provide an advisory service out to 12nm from the baseline (the low water line as shown on large scale charts and from which the breadth of the Territorial Sea is measured).
- b. Where required, provide staff to act as chair of the EG and when this occurs in an actual marine incident situation we will provide an additional staff member also to sit on the EG (because the chair must be unbiased).
- c. Provide staff to act in positions as the ELOs where and when required (in particular when an SRC and MRC is convened).
- d. Provide staff to be involved as advisors to the SCAT and the EIA Team (if required).

NOT to be involved in the actual cleaning up of oil. An exception to this is where a spill impacts on NNR's (where NE owns the land).

NE understands that an EG will be formed for any incident that requires a regional, national or international response to a marine incident.

Roles and responsibilities for NE staff are included in the NE Marine Pollution Response Plan.

It is assumed that the staff employed within NE will play a similar role to the current NE roles.

The National Plan (which introduces the SEG's under SToP 2/09), states that there is no formal powers for the SEG members but the participating statutory bodies (agencies) can exercise their own power if required. Due to the National Plan introducing the SEG's, it may be construed that the legislation is covered under the Merchant Shipping Act - however, this is only a link.

Natural England carries out its role through its obligation under the EU Directives and the Nature Conservation Regulations.

Environment Agency

The Environment Agency is a non departmental government agency responsible for protecting the environment from pollution and flooding in England and Wales. Its main powers and duties are set out in the Water Resources Act 1991, The Environment Act 1995 and the Land Drainage Act 1994.

The Environment Agency is responsible for enforcing anti pollution legislation which in respect to the marine environment ranges from the Mean High Water Tide mark to three miles off shore.

Inshore Fishing & Conservation Authorities (IFCA)

The statutory duties of the D&S IFCA are the regulation and management of the inshore fisheries around Devon with due regard to the marine environment. The Committee is empowered to make byelaws for controlling activities that impact on the fish and shellfish and/or the environment.

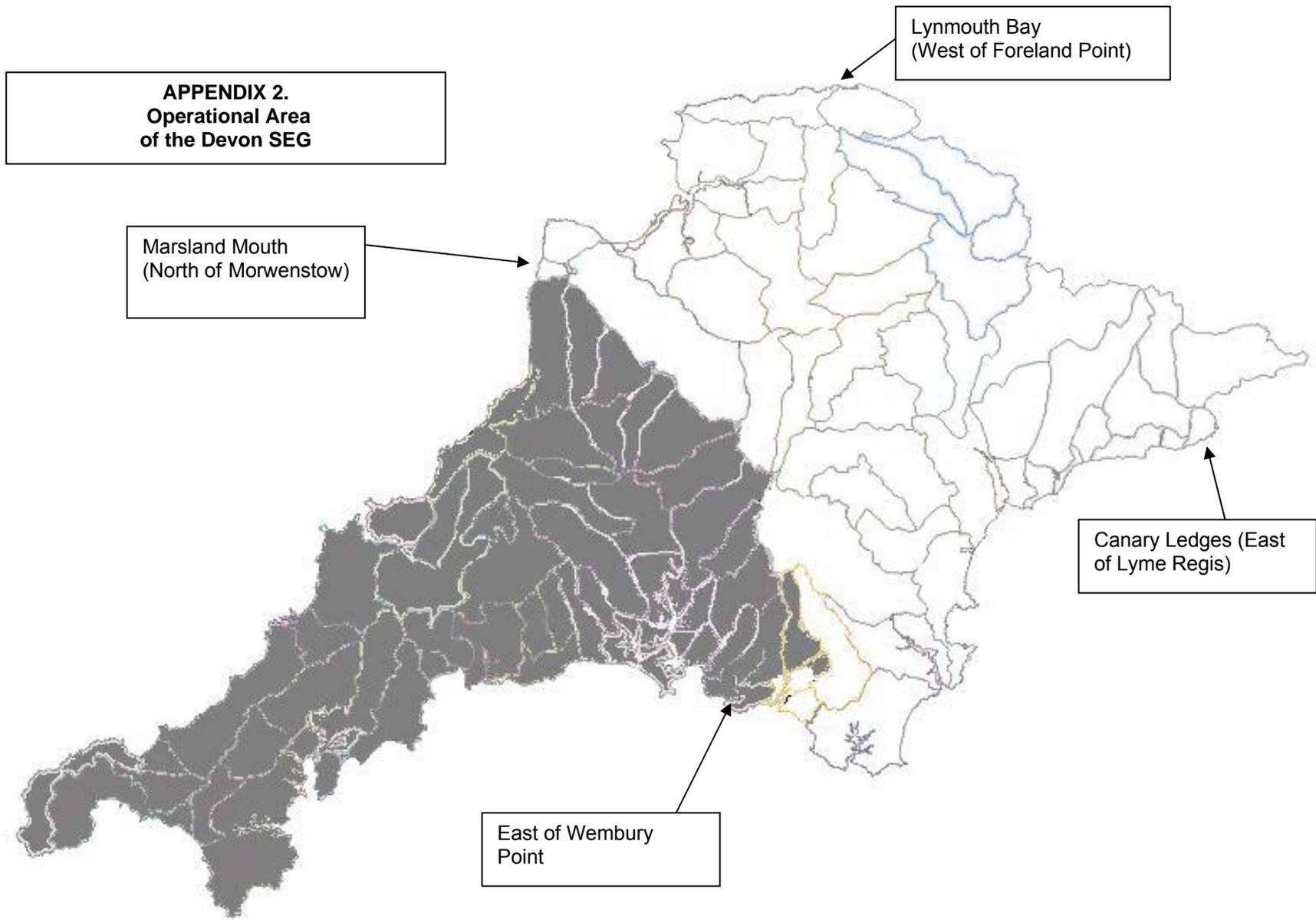
Health Protection Agency

The HPA is an independent body that protects the health and well being of the population. The Agency plays a critical role in protecting people from infectious diseases and in preventing harm when hazards involving chemicals, poisons or radioactive substances occur.

Marine Management Organisation (MMO)

The MMO is responsible for delivering the Government's inspection and enforcement activities in England and Wales with respect to the sea fishing industry and other marine stakeholders.

Devon Standing Environment Group Operational Guidance - Appendices



APPENDIX 3: Maps - Possible EG venues

The Environment Agency, Manley House
 Kestrel Way, Exeter, EX2 7LQ
 Tel: 01392 352 401 Fax: 01392 444 238
 email: facili.exeter1.sw@environment-agency.gov.uk



How to find us

By Foot or Bike: A map of cycle routes is available at <http://www.devon.gov.uk/excguide.pdf>. Showers, bike racks and lockers are available on site.

By Rail: National Rail Enquires Tel: 08457 48 49 50.

Digby & Sowton – from the station platform turn left along the path to Sowton Industrial Estate. We are at the bottom of the hill on the right, a 10 minute walk to the office.

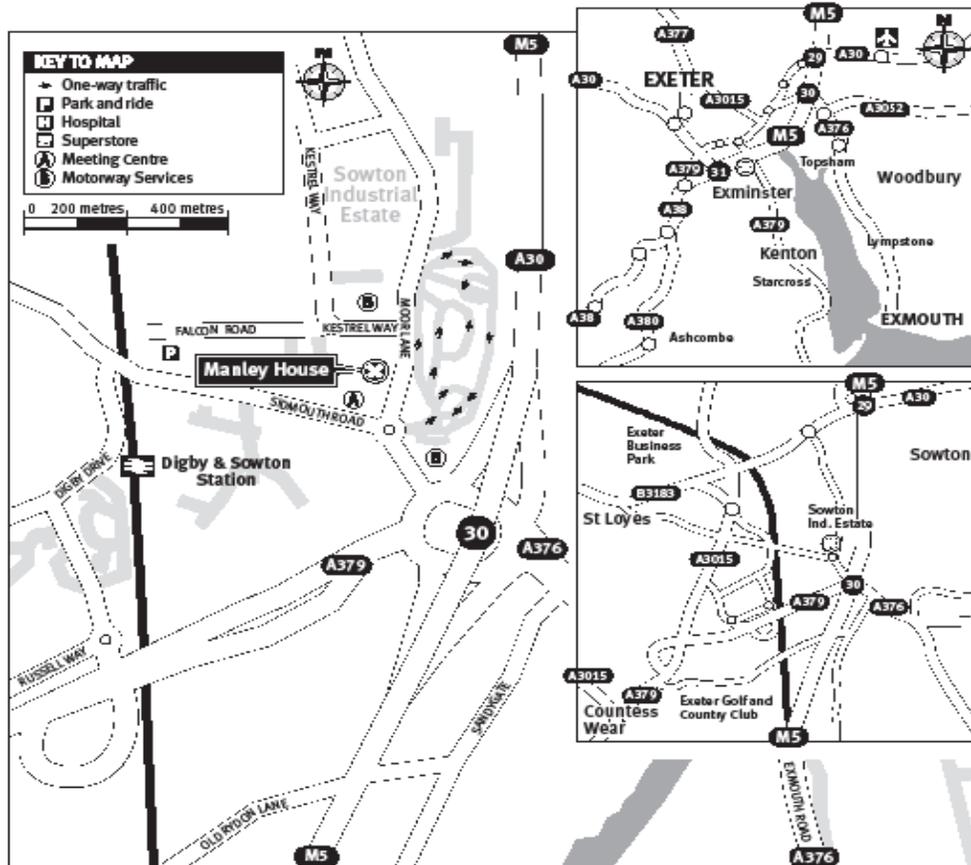
By Bus/Coach: Devon Buses Enquiries Tel: 01392 382 800. Stagecoach buses Tel: 01392 427 711. Buses from Exeter High Street at 12 minute intervals, up to 10.25 the buses are SR4, after that the buses are PR4.

By Road: From M5 J30 – at the Motorway Services roundabout, turn off for Sowton and first left into Kestrel

Way. From Exeter – head to Sidmouth and at the Motorway Services roundabout turn off for Sowton then first left into Kestrel Way. Manley House is on the left.

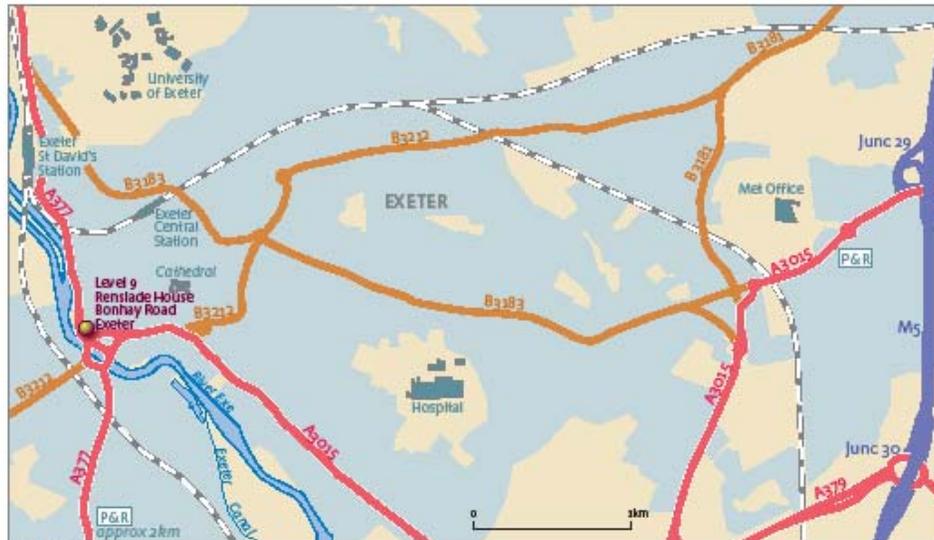
Meeting Centre – Go to the rear of the site and register at the Meeting Centre reception. There is limited parking on site.

From Exeter Airport: Turn right onto the B3184, take 2nd exit onto A30 Exeter and on to Honiton Road A3015, at traffic signals carry on forwards. At Moor Lane roundabout take 1st exit onto Moor Lane (Sowton Ind Estate). Turn right onto Kestrel Way. Manley House is on the left. Journey time 7 minutes.

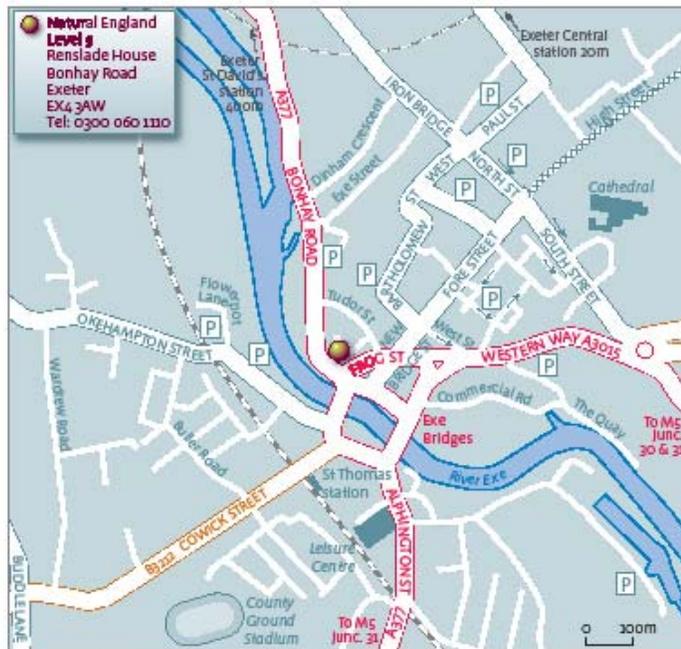


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Devon Standing Environment Group Operational Guidance - Appendices



P&R Park & Ride



HOW TO GET TO US

By Public transport
Walking from the railway stations, it is 30 minutes from St David's, 10 minutes from Central, and 3 minutes from St Thomas. Bus routes D, E, F & G from High Street to Exe Bridges. Two Park & Ride sites - see map.

By car
Limited 2 hour visitor parking available. Pay & Display car parks as shown on the map.

Cycling
There are many cycle routes around Exeter. The website shown gives further information.

Disabled access
Yes

- parking
- one-way
- pedestrian access

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To help plan your journey, you may find this website useful:
www.transportdirect.info

**RENSLADE HOUSE
EXETER OFFICE**



APPENDIX 4: DSEG MEMBERS

Name	Organisation	Work	Mobile		E Mail
Aidan Winder	Devon County Council	01392 383019	07967 456362		aidan.winder@devon.gov.uk
Peter Chamberlain		01392 382257	07539 401605 07976 456361		peter.chamberlain@devon.gov.uk
Nick Wright	MMO	01752 228001	07767 695024		nick.wright@marinemanagement.org.uk
Rachel Irish	Brixham MMO	01803 853383	07767 694245		rachel.irish@marinemanagement.org.uk
Pia Bateman	Brixham MMO	01752 228001	07766 423408		Pia.bateman@marinemanagement.org.uk
Phil Whitby	Plymouth MMO	01752 228001	07711 238770		phil.whitby@marinemanagement.org.uk
	MCA CPSO	0151 931 6601			
Richard White	Devon Wildlife Trust	01392 279244	07790 651320		rwhite@devonwildlifetrust.org
Tim Robbins	IFCA	01803 854648	07974 786950 W 07843 097033 H		t.robbins@devonandsevernifca.gov.uk
Dave Brogden	Environment Agency	01392 354006	07721 390125		dave.brogden@environment-agency.gov.uk
Mark Kealy	PHE	08442 253557	07970 537208		Mark.Kealy@phe.gov.uk
Sarah Clark	IFCA	01803 854 648	07515 050887		s.clark@devonandsevernifca.gov.uk

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			W 077368 00693		
Ruth Porter	Natural England	0300 060196 4	078259 35024		ruth.porter@naturalengland.org.uk
Simon Porter	Maritime coastguard agency	02380 329480	07501 228157		simon.porter@mcga.gov.uk
Chris Packer	Torbay Council	01803 207045 (9-5) emergency planning 01803 550405 (out of hours) Operations Hub			Chris.Packer@torbay.gov.uk
Kevan Cook	Natural England	0300 060131 6	07500 065385		Kevan.Cook@naturalengland.org.uk
Brian Grant	Environment Agency	01392 354011	07990 796629		brian.grant@environment-agency.gov.uk
Chris Lawson		01392 354008	07768 695520		Chris.lawson@environment-agency.gov.uk

APPENDIX 5: ENVIRONMENT LIAISON OFFICERS

Environment Liaison Officer	Organisation	Title	Office Tel. Number	OOH Number
	Environment Agency			
Contact EA Area Base Controller for further ELOs	Environment Agency			
	Natural England		0300 060 0229	
Beshlie Pool	Marine Management Organisation	Marine Officer	01752 228001 07900 136313	
David Putt	Marine Management Organisation	Marine Officer	01803 853383 07767 694593	
Pia Bateman	Marine Management	Marine Officer	01752 228001	

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	Organisation			
	Devon & Severn Inshore Fishing & Conservation Authority	Senior Fishery Officer		
Chris Widdecombe	Torbay Council		01803 208010	

APPENDIX 6: OPTIONS FOR DISPOSAL

Disposal advice provided by the DSEG will always be based on the waste hierarchy principle of:

Reduce → **Reuse** → **Recycle** → **Recover**

Disposal should only be considered as the final option.

1. Natural Dispersal

This is the first option to consider. It may be possible if the amount of pollutant is minor to allow the natural dilute and disperse principle. For example a light fuel oil lost in a rough sea state will break up and volatilise before any environmental damage will occur.

The DSEG may come decide on this course of action after considering these parameters:

- Accurate/valid identification of the pollutant
- Actual and predicted weather forecast
- Actual and predicted sea state
- The amenity and sensitivity of any potential receptors
- The prevailing tidal movements and currents

The decision to effectively take a 'do nothing' stance will need to be extensively recorded in the incident log as it will need to be defensible to any external scrutiny. The DSEG will need to be mindful of the possible negative manner in which the media could portray this outcome.

2. Chemical Dispersal

Dispersants and degreasants can only be used with the prior approval of the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) - (Marine Environmental Team). They provide the following hotline numbers:

MMO Emergency Response Line (24 hours)	0870 785 1050
OOH	07770 977825
Defra back-up emergency response line (24 hours)	0845 051 8486
MMO Pollution Response (Email):	dispersants@marinemanagement.org.uk
Fax Number Defra Duty Room (24 hours)	0845 051 8487
Fax Number MMO (not 24 hours)	0191 376 2682

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- Marine Management Organisation, PO Box 1275, Newcastle Upon Tyne, NE99 5BN

MMO are the responsible authority for the authorising of deposits at sea. This includes dispersants and degreasants. Failure to obtain MMO prior approval could constitute an offence under Part 2 of the Food and Environment Protection Act 1985. Approval is granted under Paragraph 21 of the Deposits in the Sea (Exemptions) Order 1985.

It is the responsibility of the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) Counter Pollution Branch to use the dispersants and degreasants.

The MCA will only spray with the approval of MMO as outlined above. There is no statutory requirement for the MCA to obtain the permission of the DSEG.

However, if the MCA were to use dispersants and degreasants without the DSEG's approval, they would need to justify such action and would need to be able to demonstrate such to any subsequent Inquiry. In reality the MCA would obtain the approval of MMO and act on the advice of DSEG through the SRC.

It is therefore imperative that the DSEG is established as soon as practicable to provide timely and accurate advice on the potential impact of dispersants and degreasants.

Specifically advice will be sought on:

- The prioritisation of areas that require clean up
- The sensitivity of specific sites to the dispersants and degreasants being used
- The evaluation of a do nothing approach as against using dispersants and degreasants
- An evaluation of whether or not the use of dispersants and degreasants would cause more harm than letting the oil degrade naturally
- The effect on tides and the weather conditions on the environmental fate of the dispersant and degreasants

DEFRA permits the use of De. Solv. It 1000 for shoreline use as a degreaser.

3. On Site Bioremediation

A number of commercial companies offer a product which they claim will break down hydrocarbons to harmless compounds which would be assimilated in the Environment. Use of these compounds is limited as they are really only effective on small amounts of light oils. It is most likely that in most instances of marine oil spills this technique will not be applicable.

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Any organisation which the SRC chooses to assist in the clean up must be accredited by the UK Spill Association (UKSpill). **The DSEG must advise the SRC or MRC that all organisations that are involved in the clean up must be UKSpill accredited.**

A list of accredited companies can be found through the web link in Appendix 7. It should be noted that a number of these companies offer the complete clean up service which could include bioremediation if applicable.

4. Temporary Storage

Devon County Council Emergency Planning Unit produces District based Beach Clean-up Guidelines. Copies of these guidelines are distributed to all the core members of the DSEG. Copies of the relevant guidelines for the area affected must be made available to the DSEG. The Beach Clean-up Guidelines will assist the SRC in directing the clean up teams.

These guidelines identify potential areas within the immediate vicinity of the beach which can be utilised for temporary storage of the recovered wastes. These sites will have been previously risk assessed by the core member organisations. As such they will not require any formal permission, providing best practice techniques are used to prevent further harm. The DSEG must deploy suitable officers to ensure that these sites do not cause further harm during the clean up process.

5. Incineration

This option can be considered if the amounts of oil to be disposed of are small. Suitable sites in the future are likely to be located in Plymouth and Exeter

6. Landfill Disposal

This is the least preferred option for disposal as there are long term risks to the environment. Landfills in the county are of a very limited capacity.

APPENDIX 7: WASTE DISPOSAL SITES

The responsibility for allocating the contract for the clean up operation and subsequent waste disposal would rest with the procurement team within the SRC or MRC. However it is possible that they will approach Devon SEG for advice on the environmental credentials of any clean up or waste disposal contractor that they are considering.

Any company involved in the clean up operation must be accredited by the UK Spill Association (UKSpill) www.ukspill.org

Suitable local disposal options are currently being evaluated and work on-going and will be included within any subsequent revision of this document.

APPENDIX 8: PROVISION OF INFORMATION

The following Agencies and organizations can supply information and advice, including legislation, regulations and procedures, to assist the DSEG in its deliberations.

Environment Agency (EA)

- Sites subject to the provisions of the European Directive on Bathing Water Quality: EC/76/160
- Sites subject to the provisions of the European Directive on Shellfish waters quality: EC/79/923
- Ecotoxicological advice through the Ecotoxicity Advisory Service (ETAS), obtained through the [Incident Communication Service 0845 850 3518](#)
- Access to Chemdata database, is also obtained through ICS.

Natural England (NE)

Natural England is not a competent authority but holds details of the boundaries and importance for:

- Locations and boundaries of Special Areas of Conservation (SACs)
- Locations and boundaries of Special Protection Areas (SPAs)
- Locations and boundaries of Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs)
- Locations and boundaries of other Marine Conservation Areas

English Heritage

- Scheduled Ancient Monuments.

EA has access to a GIS mapping system which has an overlay of these sites. In addition Devon County Council provide a list of:

- Sites and Monuments Records.

[The contact for English Heritage is Matthew Hart on 07795 120541](#)

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Devon Wildlife Trust

Devon Wildlife Trust hold, through the records centre, details on the boundaries and importance on:

- County Wildlife Sites.(Also Known As sites of Local Importance for Nature Conservation)

These are mainly estuary sites. The Local District Councils also hold lists of these sites as they are regulated by the Local District Planning Authority under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 and must be provided for under The Local Development Framework

[Contact Richard White, Marine Advocacy Officer on 01837 848111/ 07790 651320 or refer to Devon County Council's Emergency Telephone Directory \(25th Edition\)](#)

Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)

The contact for the RSPB is Helen Booker (Conservation Officer) on 01392 453762 or Mobile 07855 246790.

Devon & Severn Inshore Fishing & Conservation Authority (D&S IFCA)

- Fish and Shellfish speciation by area
- Local information on all marine issues
- Tides/currents/weather patterns and likely movement of pollution slick or plume
- Probable impacts on fishing industry/fleets affected
- Seasonal variations in fishing activities
- Lists of vessels and operators and who would be affected by the pollution
- Lists of shell fisheries
- Baseline data on fish stocks and catch numbers
- Dispersant usage

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Devon County Council Emergency Planning Unit

- Assistance with plan provision and operation
- Beach Clean Up guidelines for nominated amenity beaches with associated scientific support information, maps etc.
- Ensure DSEG provides advice in accordance with the Devon County Council Coastal Counter Pollution Plan
- Waste Disposal Contractors
- Knowledge of clean up procedures
- Incident overview
- Advice to the DSEG on the marine spill command structures

APPENDIX 10: WATER QUALITY STANDARDS

BATHING WATER

Parameter	Parametric value	Minimum sampling frequency	Methods of analysis and inspection
Microbiological			
Total Coliforms	10000/100ml	Fortnightly (see note 1)	Fermentation in multiple tubes. Sub-culturing of the positive tubes on a confirmation medium Either counting according to MPN (most probable number) or membrane filtration, culturing on an appropriate medium, sub-culturing and identification of the suspect colonies
Faecal Coliforms	2000/100ml	Fortnightly (see note 1)	The incubation temperature is variable according to whether total of faecal coliforms are being investigated
Salmonella	Absent in 1 litre	(see note 2)	Membrane filtration, culturing on an appropriate medium, sub-culturing and identification of suspect colonies
Enteroviruses	No plaque forming units in 10 litres	(see note 2)	Concentration (by filtration, flocculation or centrifuging) and confirmation
Physio-chemical			
pH	6 to 9	(see note 2)	Electrometry with calibration at pH 7 and 9
Colour	No Abnormal change in colour	Fortnightly (see note 1)	Visual inspection or photometry with standards on the platinum-cobalt scale.
Mineral oils	No film visible on the surface of the water and no odour	Fortnightly (see note 1)	Visual and olfactory inspection
Surface-active substances reacting with methylene blue	No lasting foam	Fortnightly (see note 1)	Visual inspection

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Parameter	Parametric value	Minimum sampling frequency	Methods of analysis and inspection
Physio-Chemical (Cont.)			
Phenols (phenol indices)	No specific odour <0.05 mg/litre (C ₆ H ₅ OH)	Fortnightly (see note 1) (see note 2)	Olfactory inspection Absorption spectrophotometry 4-aminoantipyrine (4 AAP) method
Transparency	1 metre	Fortnightly (see note 1)	Secchi's disc

APPENDIX 11: Environmental Quality Standards and Minimum Sampling Frequencies for Shellfish Waters

Parameter	Minimum Sampling Frequency per annum	Mandatory Standard
pH	4	7 - 9 ⁽ⁱ⁾
Temperature	4	No mandatory standard
Colour	4	Derivation from 'normal' must not be > 10 mg Pt/l
Suspended solids	4	Derivation from 'normal' must not be > 30 %
Salinity	12	40 % Derivation from 'normal' must not be > 40 %
Dissolved oxygen	12	> 70 % (average value) Not < 60 % unless no adverse effects
Hydrocarbons	4	No visible film. No adverse effects
Lindane	2	100 ⁽ⁱ⁾
Dieldrin	2	100
DDT	2	33 ⁽ⁱ⁾
Parathion	2	100 ⁽ⁱ⁾
Silver	2	10 ⁽ⁱ⁾
Arsenic	2	3000 ⁽ⁱ⁾
Cadmium	2	330 ⁽ⁱ⁾
Chromium	2	1000 ⁽ⁱ⁾
Copper	2	10 ⁽ⁱ⁾
Mercury	2	1 ⁽ⁱ⁾
Nickel	2	100 ⁽ⁱ⁾
Lead	2	100 ⁽ⁱ⁾
Zinc	2	40 ⁽ⁱ⁾

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Notes

- i) Standards for dissolved metals and organohalogenated substances are given in µg/l.
- ii) 100% of samples must meet the above standards.
- iii) Reduced sampling frequency may be applied where water quality has been demonstrated to consistently exceed the required standards and it is believed no deterioration of water quality can have occurred.

APPENDIX 12: ENVIRONMENTAL BASELINES FOR MONITORING**Current state**

Environmental data around the Devon Coast is patchy in nature, and of varying quality and completeness.

The most comprehensive data sets from some areas date from the South West Britain Sublittoral Surveys (SWBSS) and the Intertidal Survey of Great Britain, which date from the late 1970's. The estuaries have been more comprehensively surveyed, although again much of this data is from the mid to late 1980's. Areas within designated sites (Special Areas of Conservation) have more up to date information. Elsewhere, there is a sparse selection of sites which are visited regularly by researchers from South West Universities or the Marine Biological Association. This data would be extremely valuable in the event of a spill, but there is no consistent approach to recording where these sites are.

Data needed

Information on marine communities for prioritising clean up actions, and ensuring appropriate response – probably only need general shore type and broad habitat categories – no need for detailed species information.	Some from Oil spill sensitivity maps (magic.gov) some from beach clean up guidelines. Further site based information possibly from JNCC (MERMAID) or MARLIN/NBN Need to stock take what data is available, and what the gaps are
Information on mobile species and sensitivities (birds, fisheries)	Seasonal information on birds on Oil spill sensitivity maps (magic.gov) Gap in fisheries information?
Detailed information to monitor post spill impacts	Sparse distribution of sites with detailed up to date information. Difficulty in establishing a robust network and maintaining up to date information. Potential rapid response baseline monitoring to be put in place at time of spill

Action

Assess data availability and relevance; establish protocol for rapid response baseline monitoring.

Record locations of existing long term datasets, with clear link to available data.

GLOSSARY OF ACRONYMS

DCCPP	Devon County Council Coastal Counter Pollution Plan
DSEG	Devon Standing Environment Group
EA	Environment Agency
ELO	Environment Liaison Officer
EPO	Emergency Planning Officer
ETAS	Ecotoxicity Advisory Service
ICS	Incident Communication Service (Environment Agency)
D&S IFCA	Devon & Severn Inshore Fishing & Conservation Agencies
MCA	Maritime & Coastguard Agency
MMO	Marine Management Organisation
MRC	Marine Response Centre
NCP	National Contingency Plan for Marine Pollution from Shipping and Offshore installations
NE	Natural England
NNR	National Nature Reserve
SAC	Special Area of Conservation
SCU	Salvage Control Unit
SEG	Standing Environment Group
SITREP	Situation report
SOSREP	Secretary of State's Representative
SPA	Special Protected Area
SRC	Shoreline Response Centre
SSSI	Site of Special Scientific Interest
SToP	Scientific, Technical and Operational Advice Notice (MCA)
SWBSS	South West Britain Sublittoral Surveys
UKSpill	UK Spill Association (Formerly BOSCA)