

Taw - Torridge Estuary Management Plan

Report 3: Action Plan 2010 - 2015

North Devon AONB and Biosphere Reserve Service
Bideford Station • East the Water • Bideford

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Abbreviations

AONB	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty	NDC	North Devon Council
BAP	Biodiversity Action Plan	NDCCS	Northern Devon Coast and Countryside Service
BR	Biosphere Reserve	NDYC	North Devon Yacht club
DBWPS	Devon Bird Watching and Preservation Society	NE	Natural England
DCC	Devon County Council	NERC	Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act
Defra	Dept for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs	PSA	Public Service Agreement
EA	Environment Agency	RNLI	Royal National Lifeboat Institute
EMP	Estuary Management Plan	RSPB	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
FLAG	Fisheries Local Action Group	RYA	Royal Yachting Association
FWAG	Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group	SID	Strategic Investment Framework
IFCA	Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority	SMP	Shoreline Management Plan
LNR	Local Nature Reserve	SSSI	Site of Special Scientific Interest
MCA	Maritime and Coastguard Agency	SWW	South West Water
MCZ	Marine Conservation Zone	TDC	Torridge District Council
MoD	Ministry of Defence	TTEF	Taw Torridge Estuary Forum
NDABS	North Devon AONB and Biosphere Service (formerly NDCCS)	WFD	Water Framework Directive

1. To reverse the decline in biodiversity

Policies

- B1 To ensure that the aquatic and terrestrial habitats of the estuary support biodiversity and that it is protected accordingly through policies, laws and bylaws and is valued, by all, as a conservation zone
- B2 To increase stakeholder awareness of the biodiversity and conservation issues of the estuary
- B3 To develop and implement an estuary Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) and associated Habitat Action Plan
- B4 To ensure that there is an improvement in the Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) units in the estuary

Objectives

- BIO1 By 2012 there will be improved understanding of the effects of recreation and commerce on the habitats of the estuary
- BIO2 By 2015 there will be an increase in suitable roosting habitats for birds within the estuary
- BIO3 By 2015 the estuary will be valued by governing authorities and stakeholders as a marine conservation area and afforded additional protection where appropriate
- BIO4 By 2015 there will be better stakeholder and public understanding of the conservation issues of the estuary environment
- BIO5 By 2015 all BAPs for the estuary will be fit for purpose and monitored every 5 years
- BIO6 By 2014 95% of all SSSI units in the estuary will be favourable or recovering

Context: UK BAP; Shoreline Management Plan (SMP); High-level Target Public Service Agreement (PSA); Habitats Directive; Water Framework Directive (WFD)

1 To reverse the decline in biodiversity (cont.)

Action	Policy Objective	Summary of Action	Achievement	Agents
Habitat disturbance	B1 BIO2	Investigate the possibility of restricting dog access to Skern beach for two hours either side of high tide	An increase in migratory birds	NDABS, DBWPS
	B2 BIO4	Continue to control disturbance to habitats by education through notices, leaflets and internet.	Reduction of disturbance to habitats by the public at sensitive sites	All stakeholders
Habitat creation	B1 BIO4	Support local farms which enter higher-level stewardship agreements	An improvement in farming methods resulting in a decrease of negative impacts on wildlife	Defra, NE
	B1 BIO2	Use Green Infrastructure, SMP2 and Taw Torridge Estuary Flood Risk Strategy to define and deliver land that would be suitable for habitat creation, Local Nature Reserves or Country Parks within the estuary area	Provision of further suitable habitats for over wintering and migratory birds	NDABS, NDC, TDC, DCC, EA, NE, RSPB
Habitat maintenance	B1 BIO2	Upgrade (where needed) and maintain current habitats and LNRs within the estuary area	No net loss of habitats	NDABS, DCC, NDC, TDC, Volunteer orgs
Taw Torridge Estuary Disturbance Study	B1 BIO1	Research performed that will increase knowledge of disturbance caused by recreation to estuary birdlife, using the methodology of the Exe Estuary disturbance study.	Sustainable recreation within the estuary	NDABS, local educational institutions
Biodiversity Action Plans	B3 BIO5	Continue to apply Regional, County and Local Biodiversity Action Plans and assess regularly whether they are still fit for purpose	BAPs are up to date, implemented and monitored	NDABS, DCC, NDC, TDC,
Northam Burrows grazing study	B2 BIO4	Research the effects of grazing on Northam Burrows	An understanding of the impacts of grazing on the SSSI	TDC, local educational institutions, NDABS, Northam Town Council
Inter-tidal Habitats	B1 BIO2	Ensure areas of inter-tidal habitat keep pace with the rise in sea level	No net loss of inter-tidal habitat	NDABS, DCC, NDC, TDC,
Marine Protected Area	B1 BIO3	Explore the implications of a Marine Conservation Zone on the estuary	MCZ for the whole of the estuary	Biosphere Reserve Partnership marine group

2. To conserve and celebrate our heritage and culture and best landscapes

Policies

- H1 To ensure that the estuary maintains areas of character, beauty and tranquillity and that further sites, such as Braunton Great field and Marsh, are protected through planning policy and development control
- H2 To ensure that estuary side locations for development are selected only when a need has been proven and environmental consequences have been established and mitigated
- H3 To value the heritage and culture of the estuary and publicise it to visitors as a tourist attraction whilst ensuring continued sustainable use of the estuary by residents
- H4 To ensure that access to the estuary side is maintained and protected without detriment to the environment
- H5 To ensure that the archaeological interest of the estuary is mapped and evaluated

Objectives

- HCL1 By 2015 there will be appropriate conservation management for each area around the estuary as defined by the Landscape Character Assessment and other policies
- HCL2 By 2015 the fishing and shipbuilding and heritage of the estuary will be celebrated at, at least, two visitor sites around the estuary
- HCL3 By 2015 access to the estuary will be well maintained, documented and mapped
- HCL4 By 2015 efforts will be made to expand the AONB boundary to include Braunton Great field and Marsh
- HCL5 By 2015 the archaeological heritage of the estuary will be established, mapped and will be available through the internet and other media
- HCL6 By 2015 there will be no new development estuary side

Context: Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act; Cultural strategy; Planning Policy Statement (landscape), Marine and Coastal Access Act, Countryside and Rights of Way Act

2. To conserve and celebrate our heritage and culture and best landscapes (cont.).

Action	Policy Objective	Summary of Action	Achievement	Agents
Braunton Marsh	H1 HCL4	Seek to revise AONB boundary to include Braunton Great Field and Marsh	Protection for this environmentally and historically sensitive site	AONB, Natural England
Signage policies	H1 HCL1	Continue to ensure that townscape and highways policies regarding signage are maintained	Waterfront areas free from unnecessary signage clutter to maintain the character of the area	DCC, TDC, NDC, local commerce
Access to estuary	H3 HCL3	Catalogue and map current access points and usage for the whole of the estuary and make readily available to residents and visitors. Protect and enhance accessibility to the estuary by maintaining and/or upgrading all current access points	No loss of access to estuary. Readily available information about access to estuary for all users and visitors	DCC, NDC, TDC, Parish Councils
Archaeology	H5 HCL5	Seek to extend the baseline archeological survey for the estuary area outside the North Devon Coast AONB	Archeological baseline survey for whole of estuary which will identify future threats, risks and opportunities for the heritage management of the estuary	DCC, EH, NDABS
	H3 HCL5	Make sure that all relevant authorities and the public are aware of the archaeological interest in the area.	Publication of findings from field surveys through heritage gateway and other internet sites and media	DCC, NDAS, DAS, NDABS
Coastal Access	H4 HCL3	Put in place access measures according to the Marine and Coastal Access Act that will have no detrimental effect on the environmental assets of the estuary	Coastal access is mapped and Green Infrastructure for Torridge and North Devon districts is complete.	DCC, NDC, TDC
Heritage, culture and best landscape	H3 HCL2	Promote local culture, heritage and landscape as a tourist attraction.	Access to information to tourists via the internet, leaflets books etc.	NDABS, North Devon+, NDC, TDC, DCC, museums
Houseboats/ liveaboards	H1 HCL1	Seek to collaborate with houseboat/ liveaboard owners to produce and implement policies regarding moored vessels that are used as residences. With emphasis on estuary access, pollution control and maintenance and upkeep of vessels	Prevention of pollution and landscape enhancement	Local Authorities, NDABS
Sustainable development	H2 HCL6	Estuary frontage use is enhanced only through re development of existing developed land within the local development framework.	Re-development recognises the value of an estuary side location. No net decrease in natural estuary frontage	NDC, TDC, North Devon+, local commerce
Common Rights	H3 HCL1	Protect and monitor the common rights within the Estuary.	Maintain cultural and heritage value for the Estuary	All stakeholders

3. To use our resources wisely

Policies

- R1 To support and encourage good land management practices for the landowners surrounding the Estuary
- R2 To ensure that the Taw Torridge estuary meets the requirements of the EC Water Framework Directive
- R3 To support and encourage sustainable fisheries and shell fisheries within the Taw Torridge Estuary
- R4 To provide, where possible, a safe and litter free foreshore
- R5 To ensure sediment remains in the estuary system to accommodate a rise in sea level and that any capital or maintenance dredging is performed after proper environmental appraisal or to pre-determined protocols
- R6 To ensure that any oil spill has a minimal impact on the water quality and environment of the estuary

Objectives

- RES1 By 2015 there will be a measurable improvement in the water quality of the Taw Torridge Estuary
- RES2 BY 2015 there will be 150 more farms within the estuary catchment area that will have been advised on a reduction of pollutants
- RES3 By 2015 there will be an improvement in the spawning grounds in the estuary catchment which will be demonstrated by an increase in egg recruitment for Salmon and Sea Trout.
- RES4 By 2015 the water quality in the estuary will be able to support more sustainably managed shell fisheries
- RES5 By 2013 in areas where the foreshore is used by the public there will be a reduction in motorised vehicles
- RES6 By 2015 there will be efforts made to reduce litter in the public open areas of the estuary
- RES7 By 2012 there will be a protocol for maintenance dredging, for the whole of the estuary
- RES8 By 2010 the oil spill contingency plan will have been reviewed and tested
- RES9 By 2015 commercial fishing/ shell fishing in the estuary will be officially recognised as sustainable
- RES10 By 2015 the codes regarding bait collection will be updated and accurate

Context: UK Man And Biosphere (UK MAB); SMP; High-level target PSA; Habitats Directive; Water Framework Directive (WFD)

3. To use our resources wisely (cont.)

Action	Policy Objective	Summary of Action	Achievement	Agents
Water quality	R1 RES2	Continue to promote catchment sensitive farming using leaflets, workshops and farm visits and encourage farms to enter the high level stewardship scheme	A reduction in diffuse pollution	Defra, NE, NDABS
	R2 RES1	Ensure legal minimum standards are met for sewage discharges appropriate to the use of the receiving water complying with Water Framework Directive.	Estuary compliant with WFD	EA, SWW, DCC, NDC, TDC
	R2 RES1	Continue to pursue issues of misconnections and leaking sewers	Improvement in water quality	EA, SWW, DCC, NDC, TDC
	R2 RES1	Ensure Instow meets mandatory standards of bathing water quality of the WFD	Water suitable for bathing at Instow	EA, SWW, DCC, NDC, TDC
	R2 RES1	Investigate the impacts of discharges on Instow Bathing Water	Will be reviewed by EA and recommendations will be made for improvements, if necessary	SWW, EA
	R2 RES1	Seek to educate boat users on appropriate behaviour about water pollution.	A reduction in pollution from leisure craft and houseboats	EA, NDABS,
Oil spill	R6 RES8	Continue to apply the Oil Pollution Contingency Plan and ensure that it is tested and updated accordingly.	This needs to be a transparent process to stakeholders	DCC, NDC, TDC,
Sustainable Fisheries	R3 RES9	Seek to encourage local fisheries to become MSC certified	Sustainable fisheries for the estuary	MSC, EA (IFCA)
	R3 RES9	Maintain current catch restrictions for salmon and sea-trout and continue to enforce fisheries legislation to combat illegal exploitation.	A reduction in the landing of illegal catch resulting in an increase in adult salmon and Sea Trout in the estuary	EA, (IFCA)
	R3 RES3	Continue with efforts to improve spawning gravels and nursery habitat in freshwater part of Taw and Torridge.	An increase in juvenile fish	NDABS, NE, EA, Defra,
	R3 RES9	Continue to monitor and licence the elver fishery on the Taw and Torridge and enforce closed seasons	Sustainable fisheries for the estuary	EA
	R3 RES10	Research crab tiling and bait digging impacts and extent within estuary and update codes of conduct and maps accordingly	May be used to guide IFCA regulatory orders	NDABS, local authorities

3. To use our resources wisely (cont.)

Action	Policy Objective	Summary of Action	Achievement	Agents
Sustainable Fisheries	R3 RTES9	Encourage local fishing interests to work with Finding Sanctuary to establish the Marine Conservation Areas for the Estuary	Sustainable fisheries for the estuary	Finding Sanctuary, Local fishing interests,
	R3 RES9	Seek to establish a Fishing Local Action Group (FLAG) for North Devon	A local voice for fishing concerns	North Devon+
Shell fisheries	R3 RES4	Use shellfish water investigation for estuary to guide recommendations where necessary	Compliance with the WFD for the whole of the estuary	EA, SWW
	R3 RES4	Consider introduction of regulations for shell fish harvesting.	Sustainable fisheries for the estuary	EA, (IFCA)
	R3 RES4	Establish and enforce sustainable mussel harvesting practices for time when water quality permits	Sustainable shell fisheries for the estuary	EA, (IFCA)
Dredging	R5 RES7	Define and establish a protocol for the whole of the estuary for small- scale, maintenance dredging that does not harm the SSSI	Protocol that protects the SSSI status of the estuary	NE, EA, Harbour master, North Devon+, local commerce
	R5 RES7	Seek whenever possible a full environmental appraisal for any mineral extraction in the Estuary or its approaches.	Proper assessment of any impacts of mineral extraction	DCC, NDC, TDC
Safe public areas	R4 RES5	Seek methods to leave foreshore area free of motorised vehicles	Disturbance reduction to wildlife and beach users whilst maintaining access for genuine estuary need	NDC, TDC, DCC, Landowners
Litter reduction	R4 RES6	Educate the public further and enforce laws relating to removal of dog faeces and litter in public open areas around the estuary	Safe, clean and healthy public areas, reduction in beach and foreshore litter	NDABS, All stakeholders
	R4 RES6	Raise awareness about marine litter using initiatives, such as bag and bin, don't flush	A reduction in marine litter	NDABS, DCC, NDC, TDC,

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4. To tackle on a local, national and international basis the issues relating to climate change

Policies

- C1 To ensure that there is no net loss of inter-tidal area through coastal squeeze
- C2 To provide information to the stakeholders of the estuary regarding climate change impacts and opportunities
- C3 To use the estuary as a sustainable transport medium consistent with the conservation of the estuary and sustainable transport to the areas around the estuary
- C4 To support and encourage renewable energy where it has no detrimental effect on the conservation and biodiversity of the estuary
- C5 To ensure that the estuary side is kept free from unsuitable development to maintain the character, beauty and tranquillity and to mitigate against issues related to climate change
- C6 To ensure that the Shoreline Management Plan 2 is used and the recommendations are put into effect specifically regarding realignment within the estuary

Objectives

- CC1 By 2015 there will be 15 hectares of new estuary-side habitat
- CC2 By 2015 the stakeholders of the estuary will have access to information that will inform them of the affect and cost of climate change on a local, national and global level and the opportunities for habitat creation
- CC3 By 2015 The Port of Bideford will be recognised as a sustainable freight transport option
- CC4 By 2015 the potential renewable energy contribution of the Taw Torridge estuary will be better understood, along with any impacts
- CC5 By 2015 there will be safe, sustainable transport options to appropriate areas of the estuary
- CC6 By 2015 the recommendations of the Shoreline Management Plan 2 will be in action

Context: UK Climate Change Strategy; Flood and Coastal Defence Policy (UK); Shoreline Management Plan

4. To tackle on a local, national and international basis the issues relating to climate change (cont.)

Action.	Policy Objective	Summary of Action	Achievement	Agents
Coastal squeeze / sea level rise	C1 CC1	Use the flood risk strategy to ensure that no net loss in inter tidal area occurs	The location of new buffer zones to mitigate against sea level rise	EA, NDC, TDC, DCC, NE, landowners
	C1 CC1	Where possible allow re-alignment of flood defence back from existing line. Estuary-wide strategy for re-alignment of flood defences.	Well managed re-alignment to combat coastal squeeze.	NE, EA, NDABS, Landowners, RSPB
	C2 CC2	Educate the stakeholders of the estuary on the impacts and opportunities that arise as a consequence of climate change and sea level rise.	Better understanding of the issues, response and cost of sea level rise for stakeholders	NDABS, Local educational institutions ,
Sustainable transport	CC5 C3	Promote public transport and special public transport packages to residents and visitors.	Increased use of sustainable transport systems. Introduction, if feasible, of new transport systems such as the surf bus and park and ride to AONB areas.	Local transport companies, NDABS, DCC, North Devon +
	CC5 C3	Seek to re-instate the Appledore- Instow ferry which is suitable for disabled access and wheelchair and bicycle carriage.	Link for the coast path and cycle trail	Local businesses
	CC5 C3	Continue to maintain and promote the current routes for cyclists around the estuary.	Increased use of sustainable transport systems and sustainable tourism.	NDABS, DCC, DCC
	CC5 C3	Support extension of the off-road trail network around Braunton	Improved cycle routes around Braunton	DCC
Sustainable freight transportation	C3 CC3	Investigate the use of Bideford port as a method for reducing road miles due to freight transport	Good use of the port as a freight transport option	Harbour master, TDC
SMP2	C6 CC6	Follow recommendations of the SMP2.	Acceptable flooding risk for estuarine properties	NDC, TDC , DCC
Sustainable renewable energy	C4 CC4	Investigate outline impacts and feasibility of sustainable renewable energy contribution of estuary area and develop and implement appropriate policies	Guidance for Local and Regional Authorities	NDC, TDC, DCC, North Devon+, Landowners

5. To develop and strengthen a robust economy that enhances the environment

Policies

- E1 To encourage and promote produce distinct to the estuary environment to ensure that the economic value of the estuary is recognised.
- E2 To encourage and promote the reversal of intensive farming methods around the estuary whilst maintaining economic viability
- E3 To ensure that all estuary commerce is sustainable and is not detrimental to the wildlife and users of the estuary
- E4 To promote the beauty, landscapes and unique environment of the estuary as a tourist attraction whilst maintaining the integrity of the conservation efforts of the stakeholders

Objectives

- ECON1 By 2015 there will be 2 farms offering salt marsh reared lamb and 3 farms offering speciality breed organic beef within the immediate estuary area.
- ECON2 By 2015 20% of businesses associated with the estuary will sign up to the Biosphere Reserve Business Charter
- ECON3 By 2011 the MoD Standard Operating Procedures will have been assessed annually to be fit for purpose
- ECON4 By 2015 there will be readily available information to tourists about the estuary environment through the internet, leaflets interpretation boards and other media
- ECON5 By 2015 there will be 20 more farms within the catchment area that are part of the environmental stewardship scheme
- ECON6 By 2015 there will be an improvement of the bathing water quality of the estuary
- ECON7 By 2015 Bideford port will see an increase in income without detriment to the environment

Context: Economic Regeneration Strategy (Devon, North West Devon); Strategic Investment Framework (SID)

5. To develop and strengthen a robust economy that enhances the environment (cont.)

Action	Policy Objective	Summary of Action	Achievement	Agents
Sustainable farming methods	E2 ECON5	Continue to promote existing schemes e.g. Environmental Stewardship to encourage a reversal intensification of farmland.	An increase in sustainable farming methods around the estuary.	Defra, EA, NE, NDABS, FWAG
Promote local produce	E3 RES9	Support local fisheries management and development measures that are compatible with the sustainable objectives of the Biosphere Reserve.	The sustainable development of local fisheries produce, that is distinctive to the estuary.	NDFA , North Devon+, Local commerce,
	E1 ECON1	Increase economic value of lowland marsh e.g. through promotion of specialist products such as salt marsh reared lamb and Devon Red Cattle.	Integrates environmental and economic considerations at no cost to taxpayer	Local commerce
Tourism	E4 ECON4	Support the Explore the coast project	Access to information about the coast and estuary	AONB
	E4 ECON4	Support, develop and encourage sustainable tourism to the estuary area.	Tourism specific to the estuary environment - bird watching, river related non powered sport.	NDABS, North Devon+, volunteer groups
	E4 ECON6	Encourage Blue Flag status for Saunton beach, with environmental safeguards. Continue to maintain blue flag standard for Westward Ho! beach	Excellent bathing water quality for beaches around the estuary area	NDC, TDC, EA, Landowners
Sustainable commerce	E3 / C3 ECON7/ CC3	Identify sustainable methods through which Bideford port can be diversified.	Increase in income to port with minimal impact on environment	TDC, North Devon+
	E3 ECON2	Encourage businesses with vested interest in the estuary to sign up to BR business charter/ EMAS	An increase in the number of local businesses that are dedicated to sustainable behaviour and improvement in the local economy	NDABS, NDC, TDC, local commerce
Ministry of defence	E3 ECON3	Monitor the MoD Standard Operating Procedures for the Estuary on a yearly basis to assess whether they are still fit for purpose	Safe, accountable, use of the estuary by the MoD	MoD, NDABS

6. To have a safe strong and healthy community in North Devon

Policies

- S1 To ensure that all inter-tidal and foreshore areas of the estuary have a known management authority, ensuring that the public open areas and around the estuary are safe for all
- S2 To ensure that recreation on the estuary is sustainable, safe, and accessible to all, regardless of age and ability
- S3 To ensure that the Taw Torridge estuary is properly valued as a sports facility for all
- S4 To establish how the 'Enjoying Water' strategy relates to the Taw Torridge Estuary
- S5 To ensure that the public rights of way review and Marine and Coastal access act are recognised as methods through which public access and rights of way to the estuary can be maintained and managed

Objectives

- SSH1C1 By 2015 there will be a recreational users group for all recreational users of the estuary
- SSH1C2 By 2011 the estuary code of conduct and mooring code of conduct will have been re-publicised using local media and sent to all waterborne recreational clubs and organisations that are sited near the estuary
- SSH1C3 By 2015 there will be a definitive organisation or local authority that will be accountable for managing each area of the estuary
- SSH1C4 By 2015 the location of suitable access to the estuary for people with disabilities will be mapped
- SSH1C5 By 2015 there will be a reduction in marine crime on the estuary and an increase in sea safety
- SSH1C6 By 2015 there will be quantifiable information about who uses the estuary for recreation with suitable literature that is accessible for all
- SSH1C7 By 2015 there will be 6 businesses that have signed up to the water sports trail around the estuary
- SSH1C8 By 2015 the access and footpaths of the estuary will be well mapped and maintained.

Context: Sustainable Community Strategy (Devon, North Devon and Torridge); Enjoying Water Strategy

6. To have a safe strong and healthy community in North Devon (cont.)

Action	Policy Objective	Summary of Action	Achievement	Agents
Equitable use of the Estuary	S2 SSHC4	Assess and map steps, slipways and points of access to establish which are suitable for disabled recreational use	Access to the estuary for all users regardless of ability	NDABS, NDC, TDC, DCC,
	S3 SSHC6	Carry out an audit of users of the estuary to identify socially excluded groups.	An understanding of who uses the estuary for recreational purposes	NDABS, NDC, TDC, DCC,
	S3 SSHC6	Ensure that all publications etc are suitable and appeal to all users and potential users of the estuary	Interpretation suitable for all users of the estuary	NDABS, NDC, TDC, DCC,
Sustainable Waterborne recreation	S2 SSHC2	Continue to use, promote and monitor the voluntary agreements and codes of conduct to manage recreation.	Reduction of disturbance at sensitive sites	Landowners, NDC, TDC, TTEF
	S2 SSHC1	Identify sustainable limit of recreational use through studies such as the Exe Estuary Disturbance study	Research to identify the effects on wintering birds of current levels of recreational activity which will be used to inform recreational management.	NDABS, TTEF, North Devon+, Local educational institutions , EA,
	S3 SSHC7	Encourage local water sports businesses to sign up to the Water Sport trail for the estuary	Good sustainable and responsible use of the estuary for water sports	North Devon+, EA, Local sporting organisations, Sports governing bodies
Sea safety	S2 SSHC5	Seek to promote local courses which encourage good and safe seamanship	Safe recreational use of the estuary	Local recreation groups, RYA, North Devon Yacht Club, RNLI
Access	S3 SSHC3	Seek to establish protocol for the use of the waterfront areas in Barnstaple for boats	Access for boats that need lifting onto the Taw river with a crane. Reduction in road miles	NDC
	S5 SSHC8	Use the Countryside and Rights of Way Act act and Marine and Coastal Access Act to define and maintain access to all areas of the estuary	Well managed and mapped access to all areas of the estuary	DCC, NE, NDC TDC
Marine Crime	S2 SSHC5	Seek to promote craft registration and Marine Crime Watch	Reduction in marine crime	NDABS, RYA, North Devon Yacht club, Local waterborne recreation groups, D & C constabulary
Foreshore management	S1 SSHC3	Define who is responsible for foreshore areas and encourage effective management of mooring, houseboats/liveboards and abandoned vessels	Better understanding for all stakeholders of who is responsible for the foreshore areas around the estuary.	Local authorities
Mooring	S2 SSHC2	Promote mooring code of practice	A reduction of conflict between moored boat users.	TTEF, NDABS, NDC, TDC,
	S2 SSHC2	Investigate and, if necessary, find methods to control the spreading of mooring into or near to navigable channels.	Safe passage for all waterborne users of the estuary	NDABS, MCA, NDC, TDC Landowners,

7. To be a community of learning for the wider world

Policies

- L1 To ensure that information regarding the estuary environment, LNRs and bird reserves is readily available to visitors and residents
- L2 To establish the Taw Torridge estuary as a centre for research
- L3 To promote the Taw Torridge estuary environment, as a learning tool, to local educational institutions

Objectives

- CL1 By 2015 the location and information about the LNRs, bird reserves and hides of the estuary will be readily available via the internet.
- CL2 By 2015 there will be at least one PhD and two MSc projects performed which are directly related to the Taw Torridge Estuary Management Plan
- CL3 By 2015 there will be an education centre linked to Braunton Burrows that is directly related to the estuary as part of the Biosphere Reserve.

Context: Biosphere Reserve interpretation strategy; Biosphere Reserve education strategy

7. To be a community of learning for the wider world (cont.).

Action	Policy Objective	Summary of Action	Achievement	Agents
Information dissemination	L1 CL1	Promote and support the Explore the Coast project	Information about the coast and estuary readily available to residents and visitors alike	AONB
	L1 CL1	Make known information available and easily accessible to all	Information about the estuary and its environment available via the internet, leaflets, brochures and workshops/ field days	NDABS, local educational institutions , volunteer orgs, TTEF
	L1 CL1	Ensure that all reserves around the estuary have well mapped and marked access routes and interpretation to better inform the public of the importance of protecting such areas	Better understanding of the resources found in the estuary for birdwatchers/ naturalists . A reduction in contentious activities at sensitive sites	NDABS, local educational institutions , volunteer orgs, TTEF
	L1 CL1	Seek to establish a website that is a conduit for information specific to the estuary environment, its tourism, footpaths, recreation, access to the water and nature reserves.	Information about the estuary environment available via the internet to the wider public. An increase in interest in the Taw Torridge Estuary as a place to study/ visit	North Devon+, NDABS, TTEF
Data collection and availability	L2 CL2	Seek to collaborate with users of the estuary in possible data collection before or during future surveys	A basis for comprehensive research with low cost to taxpayers	Royal Marines at Instow, local educational institutions, Volunteer orgs
Centre of research	L2 CL2	Establish a method through which data can be readily available, in a predetermined format, to the wider world about the Taw Torridge estuary.	An improvement in the data that can be found for anyone with an interest in research of the Taw Torridge Estuary or any estuary environment.	All stakeholders
	L2 CL2	Use methods established in other estuary studies, such as the Exe Estuary Disturbance study, to guide research within the Taw Torridge estuary	A good, well researched suite of documents that can be used for research in other estuaries	NDABS, local educational institutions , volunteer orgs,
	L2 CL2	Research, value and map ecosystem services for the estuary	Proper evaluation of the contribution of the estuary ecosystems to the area.	local educational institutions, NDABS
Education centre	L3 CL3	Seek to establish an education centre on Braunton Burrows or elsewhere	An all weather location for local and visiting educational institutions	Landowner, NDC, TDC NDABS

8. To develop organisation and delivery mechanisms

Policies

D1 To ensure good governance of estuarine and marine issues

D2 To seek funds from a range of sources for the delivery of the plan

D3 To ensure the plan is actively adopted and implemented by all responsible bodies

D4 To ensure that the volunteer sector of the estuary is properly valued and supported

Objectives

ODM1 By 2015 there will be a well established point of contact for all estuarine and marine issues and enforcement of applicable bylaws

ODM2 By 2015 there will be a standard format for data for all stakeholders of the estuary which will be freely available.

ODM3 By 2015 there will be a forum style website or other method of interaction for local volunteer organisations of the estuary

Action	Policy Objective	Summary of Action	Achievement	Agents
Data sharing	D1 ODM2	Set up data sharing agreements, protocols and formats.	Agreements set up	All stakeholders
	D1 ODM2	Maintain existing and establish new links with institutions and establishments.	Links established and/or strengthened	All stakeholders
Volunteer organisations	D4 ODM3	Seek to encourage collaboration between local volunteer groups that have an interest in the Estuary environment.	A strong, linked volunteer community within the Taw Torridge Estuary	Volunteer orgs, TTEF
Estuary 'Who is who'	D1 ODM1	Develop a knowledge data base for the estuary environment	A resource for all stakeholders for use in the day to day management of the estuary.	All stakeholders
Governance of the Estuary	D1 D2 ODM1	Establish governance of the Estuary, through the TTEF and NDABS or other organisations and seek funding to support this.	A publicised co-ordinating body for all estuarine issues.	local Authorities NDABS, TTEF
	D3 ODM1	Define the role and update the policies of the TTEF and publish	Better understanding and use of the TTEF as a consultation body	TTEF