

Spring 2020



South West Partnership for Environmental and Economic Prosperity newsletter

We hope that this latest newsletter finds you safe and well, and managing to stay positive in these challenging times.

We are conscious that the Covid-19 crisis is affecting everyone in different ways, but grateful that many of our colleagues, partners and stakeholders (who are well enough and able to) have been finding new ways of working in order to maintain progress with SWEEP projects. For example:

- In some instances our partners and on-site colleagues are helping us with collecting field data and sampling, ensuring the continuation of long-term data recording
- We have been using different platforms and tools to conduct outreach activities (such as workshops and surveys)
- We are developing contingency plans and reorganising scheduled work so that activities that cannot be done from home are moved to the latter part of the programme
- We are exploring how existing projects and activities could refocus to respond to the Covid-19 crisis. SWEEP is well-placed to support decision-makers in the South West, as well as developing new activities that respond directly to the crisis.

We'd like to extend our thanks and appreciation to everyone who has supported our continuing activities, and to our fantastic team of colleagues and partners who have remained undeterred by the current challenge. Please read on for some good news and positivity from SWEEP!

Best wishes
the SWEEP Delivery team

SAVE THE DATE - SWEEP Natural Capital in the South West Expo coming soon.



The concept of natural capital may have been around for many years, but it has really gained traction in recent times (in no small part due to the Government's wide-spread adoption) as a way of facilitating sound environmental decisions.

SWEEP has been at the forefront of natural capital thinking - particularly when it comes to applying natural capital approaches in the real world - and there's much to share from our work so far. That's why we are planning to host our first **Natural Capital in the South West Expo**.

The Expo will feature hands-on demonstrations of our tools, alongside workshops and masterclasses, and presentations from leaders in environmental decision-making. We're thrilled to say our confirmed key-note will be **Tony Juniper**, current chair of Natural England and renowned environmentalist.

Please save the date - Thursday 17th September, University of Plymouth.

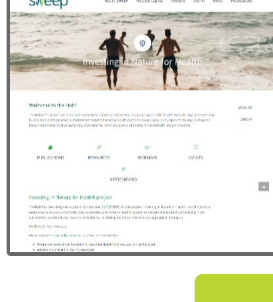
Naturally, we are mindful of the times and will not hesitate to postpone the event should any concern remain around gatherings. We are in the early stages of planning the event and will keep you posted as we know more.

Investing in Nature for Health project launches new webinar and online hub

Despite current challenges in the realm of public health and wellbeing, the SWEEP **Investing in Nature for Health** project team has been very busy of late.

A new webinar (the third in this popular series) discussing findings from the Dartmoor Naturally Healthy project will take place live on **Friday 22 May, from 11.30am - 12.30pm**. They welcome **Orlando Rutter, Head of Outreach & Understanding at Dartmoor National Park Authority** to share his learning from the project which aimed to encourage public engagement with nature. **You can register for the event now.**

[Register now >](#)



The team have also created a new online Hub in response to stakeholder feedback. The Hub aims to help build a cross-sectoral network of professionals from across the health and wellbeing sectors in the South West and beyond. It will provide a space for talking, exchanging ideas, sharing best practice and policy, accessing the latest resources and staying connected with upcoming events.

[Visit the Investing in Nature for Health Hub >](#)



New project utilises SWEEP OWWL tool to assist shellfish industry

In what feels like a natural progression, a new project powered by the earlier work from the **SWEEP Wave Forecasting project** is now underway.

Gerd Masselink, Tim Poate and Kit Stokes, from the University of Plymouth Coastal Processes Research Group are working with **Offshore Shellfish** to provide the shellfishery with a more accurate picture of the sea conditions at the mussel farms, and from their launch point at Brixham.

Mussels can only be harvested effectively in certain conditions, and maintenance of offshore equipment is best done in calmer seas. Using data from the **Operation Wave and Water Level Model (OWWL)**, the team will develop bespoke forecasts that will help the company assess the safety and efficacy of each trip - potentially saving money and increasing productivity.



NCC report highlights natural solutions for net-zero and the need for the right tree in the right place

A new report from the Government's independent advisors, the Natural Capital Committee (NCC), of which SWEEP colleagues professors Mel Austen and Ian Bateman are both members, highlights the massive contribution that careful management of the natural environment can provide towards reaching the UK's goal of net-zero emission of greenhouse gases. But it also shows that it is vital to ensure that actions take into account their full effects before they are carried out.

In particular, the report highlights the major benefits which planting the right trees in the right place can bring not only to the climate but also wildlife, water quality, flooding, outdoor recreation and health. The report also highlights that ignoring this information could mean that schemes do more harm than good.

[Read the full report >](#)

Support for Cornwall's economic and environmental growth continues during lockdown



An initiative to support Cornish enterprises to become more efficient with their natural resource use and to minimise their waste has quickly reacted to the challenges arising from the coronavirus outbreak.

The team at Tevi (Cornish for 'growth') have worked hard to reassure businesses that their services will continue - quickly setting up facilities for teleconferencing, knowledge exchange and one-on-one online support. As well as moving their business assistance online, Tevi has also devised a series of online events, including:

- Revisiting the Local Industrial Strategy. The LIS was largely in place before Covid-19 struck; how can we take it forwards with resilience, renewal, circular economy and environmental growth at its heart, and what are the sectoral priorities? With Mark Duddridge, LEP. 20th May.
- Money: what financial help is available? And what might the longer-term future be for investment and support? Date TBC

[Visit the Tevi website >](#)



Your help needed to assess the effects of lockdown on wellbeing

Researchers investigating the connections that outdoor spaces can have on our well-being during the COVID-19 lockdown are seeking voluntary participants to complete an online survey.

AZTI (Spain) in collaboration with University of Exeter (UK) and Norwegian University of Life Sciences (Norway) are exploring how the types of outdoor spaces (blue and green) that people can access during lockdown can affect our moods and emotions. The aim is to assess what value these spaces have on us in this type of situation.

The short internet survey totally anonymous and open to anyone older than 18 years old - whether currently in lockdown/self-isolation/quarantine or not.

[Complete the survey here >](#)

For regular news and progress updates, please visit the SWEEP website at www.sweep.ac.uk.

We very much hope you enjoyed our round-up, and welcome your feedback. Do feel free to share this newsletter with anyone you think would be interested.

[Forward this newsletter to a friend or colleague](#)



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