



South West Partnership for Environmental and Economic Prosperity
newsletter

Summer 2019

Welcome to the SWEEP newsletter.

SWEEP is now well underway, and our first phase of Impact Projects are already helping to firmly place the environment at the heart of policy and decision-making in the South West - and beyond! Just take a look at our [Impact Highlights](#) below for a flavour of what we've achieved so far. We'll be issuing these updates periodically to keep you informed of project progress, let you know what else is happening in SWEEP, and what's planned for the future.

Read on to discover some key achievements and tools to come out of our work so far.



Next round of SWEEP Impact Projects approved

A total of seven new projects were approved by the SWEEP Management Board for funding earlier this year, and they form the core of the second phase of work in our 5-year investment from NERC (2017-2022).

SWEEP projects use existing NERC-funded research as a base from which our unique interdisciplinary teams, working with Partners, ensure that this knowledge is applied to fully benefit the environment, public health and wellbeing, and the economy.

New projects include:



Coastal Change Management Areas
Supporting local planning authorities to understand and prepare for changes to the coastline.

Delivering Natural Capital Assessment Tools for the Marine Economy in the South West

Developing tools and approaches to assess marine natural capital in the South West. (There is a varied range of sub-projects that fall under this banner.)



Water Quality and Aquaculture
Water quality management underpinning sustainable aquaculture and its expansion in South West England.

Informing Environmental Investment for Health and Wellbeing

Working with partners across the South West to inform and support activities that provide benefits to health and wellbeing, and the environment.



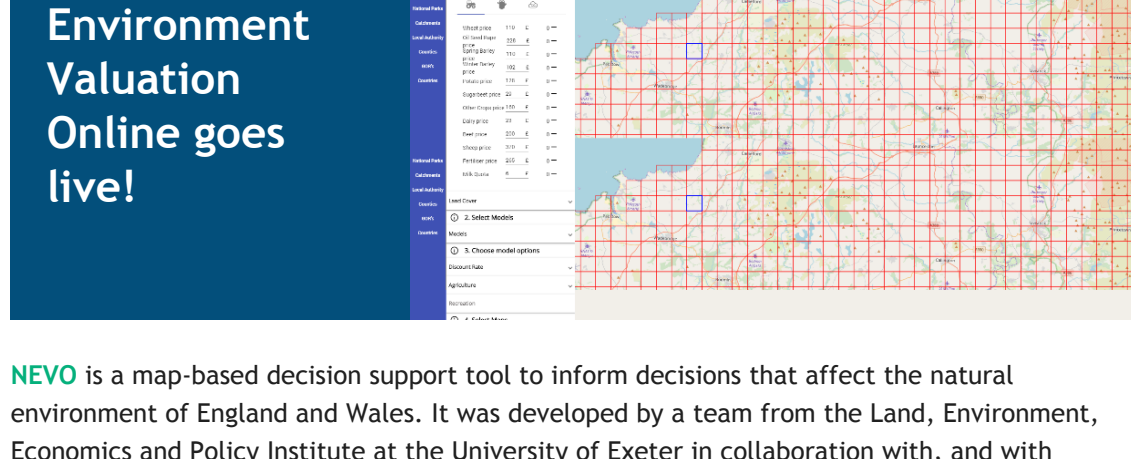
Policy for Pollinators
Building policy and legacy opportunities for pollinator management in the South West and beyond.

Quantitative Habitat Mapping

Developing and embedding novel remote-sensing methods for mapping of woodland, moorlands and key habitats in support of more profitable and sustainable landscape management.



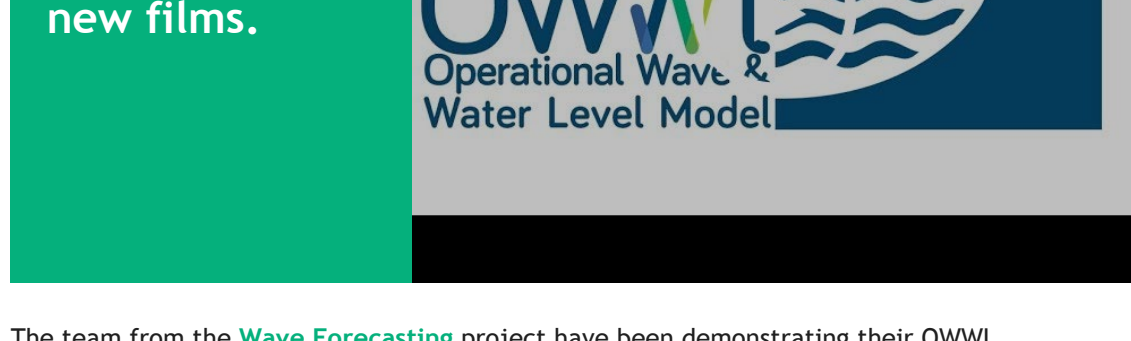
[Browse all SWEEP Impact Projects >](#)



NEVO is a map-based decision support tool to inform decisions that affect the natural environment of England and Wales. It was developed by a team from the Land, Environment, Economics and Policy Institute at the University of Exeter in collaboration with, and with funding from, Defra. Through SWEEP the tool will be further expanded and enhanced.

NEVO has now launched for public trial use, and to mark the occasion, Prof. Brett Day and Dr Nathan Owen presented a [webinar](#) showcasing the tool, and inviting participants to take part in case study trials of its usage.

[Try NEVO for yourself >](#)



The team from the [Wave Forecasting](#) project have been demonstrating their OWWL (Operational Wave and Water Level) model nationwide, including attending the Flood & Coast 2019 event.

To help explain how the model works and give some real-life examples of its application, two films have been created - [an explainer film](#) and a [fly-through of the model](#) itself. Both films are available on the [Wave Forecasting Project page](#) along with more information.

You can take a look at the OWWL model in action at the [Channel Coastal Observatory website](#). Wave and water level forecasts for the region are available, as are wave run-up and overtopping predictions. You can also sign up to receive detailed daily forecasts of wave overtopping hazards for specific locations.

[Watch the explainer film >](#)



Coastal cities are among the fastest-growing population centres on the planet, but as these urban communities expand, their reliance on the seas - and the potential damage caused to them - is increasing.

One potential solution is to create a city marine park, connecting urban areas on the coast and their people with the reciprocal benefits the marine environment can offer. Plymouth has committed to becoming the UK's first example of this and is striving for formal designation as a National Marine Park.

Researchers from the University of Plymouth have detailed how other cities - in both developed and developing countries across the world - have achieved this status. SWEEP colleagues Prof. Martin Attrill and Dr Sian Rees were among the collaboration of experts in maritime law, marine ecology, marine policy, social science and ecological economics that contributed to the research.

[Read the full article >](#)

Impact Highlights

Since beginning in February 2017, SWEEP has engaged with over 100 Partners (from the private, public and civil society sectors) and has secured over £6m of match funding. A wide range of policy impacts are also in development, which will ultimately benefit the South West's environment, economy and business sector and the health and wellbeing of those living here.

- We have been working with Dartmoor National Park Authority looking into the possible effects and opportunities of a growing local population in surrounding areas. This resulted in the [Population futures and Dartmoor National Park](#) report and its findings are now feeding into discussions around the Dartmoor National Park Management Plan Review (2020-2025) and long term vision through to 2045.
- A new tool has been developed to help land managers assess the costs and benefits of re-introducing valuable saltmarsh in collaboration with the North Devon Biosphere Reserve and feeding into the [North Devon Landscape Pioneer](#) project. This work featured on BBC Spotlight, and the [press release with a link to the study](#) was picked up by several news outlets.



- SWEEP team members contributed to a report from the Natural Capital Committee (a high level independent advisory body to government) sent to the Secretary of State and Shadow Secretary of State for the Environment in Jan 2019. The report argues that urgent action is required to get the UK back on track with the aims underpinning the 2009 UK National Ecosystem Assessment and the Natural Choice white paper (2011). A [news release](#) was published to explain more.
- Academics from SWEEP have been working directly with HM Treasury, Defra and the Natural Capital Committee on the new version of the "Green Book", the official guidelines for the appraisal of public spending projects across Government. This new edition incorporates environmental benefits and costs of government spending into the decision-making process for the first time. In April, SWEEP hosted senior economists and advisors from more than a dozen government departments, together with a variety of government agencies and their practical implementation bodies, for a [special event discussing these new guidelines](#) and their practical implementation in more detail.



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 any feedback you might have. Do feel free to share this newsletter with anyone you think would be interested.

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