



Exploring Barriers and Opportunities for Inclusive Coastal Blue Access in the East Devon National Landscape

1. Project Overview

We want to understand how accessible beaches are within the East Devon National Landscape for people living with long-term health conditions and disabilities, and to identify practical opportunities to improve this access.

When we refer to "beach access," we mean the end-to-end journey: the ability to travel to the coast, transition smoothly from arrival onto the beach, safely reach the water's edge and enter the water, whether independently or with support.

Why are we doing this?

Around 16.1 million people in the UK live with a disability—approximately one in four. Furthermore, 50% of the population live with long-term health conditions that can restrict their physical activity. While the East Devon National Landscape attracts millions of visitors to its stunning coast each year, 20% of our resident population also lives with a disability that limits their day-to-day activities.

Findings from the national A Coast for All report (2026) revealed a clear, consistent gap between the desire to access the coast and the practical ability to do so. Notably, 98% of respondents living with disabilities stated they would like to visit beaches more often, and 85% expressed a desire to reach the water.

The data demonstrates that providing equitable beach access delivers immense societal value through significant mental and physical health benefits. Furthermore, when people can experience and enjoy the coast firsthand, they are far more likely to value and protect the natural environment.

2. Objectives

What are we hoping to achieve?

The East Devon National Landscape has a dedicated annual capital budget available over the next three years to improve access to and within the landscape. We intend to utilise some of this funding to improve beach access. In the past, we have worked alongside East Devon District Council to install beach matting and now we want to identify where else we can make a meaningful impact along our coast using these funds.



While we have dedicated funding through the Access for All Fund, resources are finite and intended to support targeted, high-impact interventions rather than large-scale infrastructure. Projects typically cost between £5K to £20K. We are therefore seeking practical, smaller-scale improvements or collaborative partnership projects that can realistically be delivered within a one- to three-year timeframe. Any recommendations must align with these funding limitations and be achievable within our current operational capacity.

Because East Devon National Landscape does not own any land, bringing partners together and consulting the public is vital. We are entirely open to innovative ideas centered on stakeholder collaboration. For instance, we would like to explore whether we could establish a dedicated forum—perhaps guided by an experienced specialist—to understand how best to build long-term momentum on this issue.

3. Deliverables

The successful consultant will be required to deliver the following:

1. **Site Audit Template:** A template for auditing coastal sites to evaluate current infrastructure – we may be able to share to other coastal sites.
2. **Completed Audits:** Completed accessibility audits for Exmouth, Budleigh Salterton, Beer, Branscombe, and Seaton.
3. **Publicly sharable information:** Content should be provided in a clear, shareable format for the East Devon National Landscape website to ensure our beach accessibility information is up to date.
4. **Project Identification:** A list of potential projects, distinguishing between actionable, capital-funded "quick wins" (utilising our *Access for All Fund*) and longer-term infrastructure or partnership projects. We may be able to secure additional small amounts of revenue funding through other funding streams where that may make a big difference e.g for training etc.
5. **Community Engagement:** In partnership with the East Devon National Landscape team, initiate conversations with local community groups to gauge where there is energy to support changes, and bring together an energised, proactive working group to drive these projects forward.
6. **Strategic Alignment:** Conduct a high-level review of wider coastal strategic documents in East Devon (e.g beach management, coastal erosion plans) that cross-over with Blue Access and investigate risks and opportunities. The final report must demonstrate that all recommended infrastructure upgrades align with long term coastal management and identify where there are synergies with overlapping local strategies.



4. Budget & Timeline

Budget: This is an invitation to quote. Please briefly outline your proposed approach to this commission, drawing on your experience to demonstrate how you would successfully deliver these objectives along with a price for completing the project. Max 4 pages.

Delivery window: Mid July 2026 to February 2027.

Scoring Matrix (applicants will be scored against the following):

- Methodology and approach – 20%
- Project Management and timeline – 20%
- Relevant experience – 20%
- Stakeholder and community facilitation – 20%
- Value for money -20%

Deadline to apply: 9am on Friday 3rd July 2026. Please submit your application to stephanie.aburrow@eastdevon-nl.org.uk

Future potential: There may be opportunities for the appointed consultant to support subsequent implementation phases in future years, dependent upon funding and work streams.

5. Terms and Conditions

East Devon National Landscape Partnership is hosted by East Devon County Council and so East Devon County Council's standard contract terms apply.

Before the Council engages a contractor to provide services, it must ascertain whether the contractor's employment status meets the requirements of the IR35 tax rules relating to services provided through an intermediary. Should the Council determine that the contractor is to be regarded as employed for tax purposes, the Council is required to deduct income tax and national insurance contributions from payments to the contractor. (See Chapter 10, Income Tax (Earnings and Pensions Act) 2003.)

Bidders will fully co-operate with the Council to provide all necessary information to enable the Council to accurately determine employment status. Note: The intermediary may be liable for tax and national insurance contributions if fraudulent information is provided. East Devon County Council are not bound to accept the lowest priced or any quote and shall not be bound to accept the supplier as sole supplier. Prices quoted shall remain firm for the duration of the contract. Value Added Tax (VAT) should be shown separately and the VAT registration number given.



East Devon
National
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By providing us with a quotation you agree to be bound by East Devon County Council Terms and Conditions ([Standard Purchase Order Terms and Conditions](#)) which will apply to any contract awarded to you after you have provided us with our quotation.