

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF YEALMPTON PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY, 14th JULY 2025 AT 7.30 PM AT THE COMMUNITY ROOM, STRAY PARK, YEALMPTON.

Members of the public present: 0. No one spoke in the Open Forum.

Councillors present: Cllrs Endicott (chair), Craddock, Tucker, Street, Thomas, Riley, Barton (minutes) and Hopkins.

No	Minute	Action
1)	Apologies for absence. Cllrs Baldry and McKay. District Councillor Edie. Yealmpton Parish Council Clerk	
2)	County Council Report – Cllr Dan Thomas a) Cllr Thomas said that the council are implementing a pilot project repairing all defects to lower category roads at the same time. b) Residential places for children in care are being created. c) DCC finance report (see Appendix).	
3)	District Council Report – Cllr Tom Edie a) Encourage your residents to have their say Following the launch of our first phase of our engagement on Local Government Reorganisation, we have now published a video from our Leader, Cllr Dan Thomas, encouraging our communities to have their say. Messages for residents: • We need your help to shape the future of local government in Devon by letting us know what matters to you. • Everyone with a connection to South Hams is being asked what matters to them to help shape our final proposals so they reflect the needs and aspirations of people living and working in the area. • Take part in the short survey https://www.southhams.gov.uk/your-council/local-government-reorganisation-and-devolution. • Over the next few months, a series of engagement events around South Hams will be taking place. Details on how you can get involved will be available soon. b) Parking fine text scam (see Appendix) c) South Hams Rally for Nature (see Appendix)	
4)	Councillors Declaration of Interest: None. Councillor Tucker had an interest in payments made in June, as approved at the last meeting.	
5)	To agree and sign the previous minutes The minutes of the meeting on 9 th June 2025 were unanimously approved and signed by the Vice-Chairman.	
6)	Exclusion of the Public No matters required the exclusion of the public.	
7)	Planning Matters a. A brief update was given on applications relevant to the Parish. b. An email regarding (c) below was discussed. c. The following planning decision was unanimously agreed, with Cllr Thomas abstaining from voting, due to his role with the District Council. i. 1809/25/FUL 6 Waltacre, Yealmpton, PL8 2LY YPC Decision: Object. Comment: Whilst this application seeks to modify a recent approval of similar design on this site, YPC have	Clerk to send decisions to Cllrs

	concerns. We note the agreed acceptance of privacy in the former decision for this site, has been lost in this application. We have concerns with respect to the foul drainage which we believe to be a shared facility (septic tank). This in the context of capacity as this proposal is much larger than the existing dwelling. Also, the proposed soak away to the rear of the property appears to be above some of the rain water gutters/drains! d. The Clerk to have delegated authority to determine and submit planning responses on behalf of Council on any applications requiring a response prior to September's Council meeting. The planning sub-committee will continue receive and review the applications from South Hams District Council (via the Clerk), to advise the Clerk about planning decisions to be made. Decisions made will be sent to all Councillors not just the planning sub-committee over this period.	
8)	Yealmpton Bowling Club Certificate There was no objection to an alcohol certificate to cover members of the bowling club. All in favour except Cllr Thomas who abstained because he is on the licensing committee.	
9)	Financial matters a) Transactions in June were approved b) Proposed payments in July were approved c) Pre-authorised payments in August were approved. Total spend £4997.19. d) Cllr Craddock requested the Clerk send invoices to himself and Cllr Endicott before they approve payments. e) Cllr Barton requested that James Roberts let her know which footpaths he has strimmed. f) SHDC economy team - Chris Shears will talk to Cllr Hopkins and the Clerk about the Churchyard, he may also provide some money to improve heating in the Parish Room.	Clerk to arrange payments.
10)	Environmental Report (See attached report)	
11)	Local Government Reorganisation a) Report following Plymouth City Council's (PCC's) consultation in Yealmpton 25th June Members of the Council and the Clerk attended the Plymouth City Council "Big Conversation" events. The one in Yealmpton was well attended, the tickets were sold out. It was not intended to be a sales pitch by PCC, it was to gather information about what residents value in the village. b) Report following PCC's meetings with the 13 parishes 16th June and 8th July Cllr Baldry and the Clerk attended 16th June meeting. This meeting was mainly information gathering on the part of PCC. Ross Jago discussed the initial feedback from Government. It was stressed that Parish Councils would remain. Potentially with more powers. Cllr Craddock and the Clerk attended the meeting on 8th July. This focussed on Area Boards, which are something that the White Paper raised. Area Boards would sit between	

	the Parish Council and the Unitary Council – it was felt that this would be an unnecessary layer between Parishes and the Unitary. c) Report following meeting of the 13 parishes and County Council representatives 16th June Hosted by Yealmpton Parish Council. Not all parishes had consulted with the public or yet formed a view as a Council, however everyone indicted concern about the Plymouth City Council proposal and it was likely that it would not be endorsed by any of the Parish Councils and all are opposed. d) This meeting was to gather feedback from the 13 parishes and town council on the PCC proposal. Some questions focused on whether the 1,4,5 proposal could be altered to make it the 5,5 proposal. e) It was agreed that Cllr Craddock would attend the Town and Parish briefing by SHDC 23rd July. f) Consultation with parishioners – this will be done by encouraging parishioners to participate in SHDC's survey https://www.southhams.gov.uk/your-council/local-government-reorganisation-and-devolution g) Response to Rebecca Smith's survey. This had been seen by councillors, no response was thought necessary. h) The correspondence from Cornwood Parish Council was noted. It was agreed that Yealmpton Parish Council would continue in its current approach of reviewing each invitation to be involved in meetings on its merits and deciding whether to be involved.	
12)	Village old VR post box The council are committed to replacing it. The Clerk is still investigating the whereabouts of the original one, if it is not possible to find it the responsibility for agreeing the purchase of the replacement will be delegated to Cllrs Baldry and Endicott.	
13)	Ford Road and Yeo Lane – road marking scheme a) Installation of signs warning drivers of no footway over Torr Bridge. A new roundel on Ford Road entrance and 2 or 3 new Bus Stop cages (subject to consent from Devon Highways) were proposed. The total costs were about £5,000 plus traffic management, agreed with 2 abstentions. b) Other work including remarking centre lines, remarking roundels and slow signs on Yeo Lane will be requested by Cllr Thomas from the Devon Highways Parish remarking scheme.	Clerk & Cllr Thomas
14)	Temporary Traffic Orders The Yealmpton Show traffic notice was noted. Yealm Bridge to Wonnel Barn 4th – 8th August – Cllr Thomas requested that the Clerk email him detailing the proposed work.	Clerk & Cllr Thomas
15)	Report from Councillors / Clerk on actions arising from previous meetings Provision of a Dog Waste Bin at the South end of the village (New Road / West Park), £500 for the bin and installation and £5 per emptying. Cllr Baldry to advise on siting it. Clerk to find out if it will be adopted by SHDC and why there is a charge for emptying it, Cllr Thomas to be copied in.	Clerk & Cllr Baldry
16)	Reports on allocated areas of responsibility where matters arise Footpath 19 surface - to consider a request for hard core surfacing for safety reasons. Cllr Tucker to contact the Shire Horse Centre for a meeting to include Cllrs Barton, Thomas and the Clerk	Cllr Tucker to arrange meeting
17)	Correspondence	

	a) From Brixton Parish Council about road speeds, they request 20mph in the village north and south of the A379. They are requesting a reduction to 40mph on the A379 between Brixton and Yealmpton. b) Consultation of South Devon National Landscape Management Plan on 16th July 6pm, Cllr Endicott agreed to attend. Meeting closed at 9.20pm Minutes prepared by Cllr Barton
	Date of next meeting: 8th September 2025

Appendix – Reports

DCC – July 2025

We have ended the last financial year in balance – but tough choices lie ahead

We have ended the 2024/25 financial year without going over budget, but only by relying on temporary savings and one-off government funding.

A report presented to cabinet today showed that we managed to stay within its £637.5 million budget and ‘balance the books’ despite growing demand for services like social care and support for children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities.

We had been expecting to overspend by nearly £4 million in November but managed to avoid this through a mix of short-term measures, including delaying some projects, not filling vacant jobs, and using a one-off grant from government.

The report also showed that £40 million in planned savings were delivered across council services, though this fell short of the £50 million target.

Councillor James Buczkowski, Cabinet Member for Finance, said:

“This isn’t a moment to celebrate, but it is a moment to be honest. Officers have worked incredibly hard to help balance the books, and that deserves recognition.

“But let’s be clear: this balanced position was only achieved by using temporary fixes. “It’s not a sign that everything is fine. We’ve inherited a fragile financial position, depleted cash balances and a special educational needs deficit now over £169 million.

“The public deserves honesty. We are facing some of the most difficult financial conditions in decades, and we cannot keep doing things the old way. Our new administration is committed to rebuilding trust and making services more sustainable, by working differently, being open about the challenges, and focusing on what really matters to people.”

He added that the Council must now plan ahead carefully and work closely with partners to find better, more sustainable ways to support Devon’s communities.

SHDC – July 2025

Parking fine text scam

We’ve been made aware that some residents are receiving scam text messages about supposed outstanding parking fines.

Messages for residents:

- These messages may look official, but they are not from the council
- The web addresses in the texts are fake
- The payment amounts are often incorrect or suspicious
- Do not click on any links or provide any personal or payment details
- If you're unsure whether a message is genuine, please contact us - <https://www.southhams.gov.uk/parking>

Please share this to help protect others.

South Hams Rally for Nature

We're working with our partners, Sustainable South Hams, to help people connect with nature and the beauty of the South Hams and in so doing increase awareness of and care for our beautiful surroundings.

One such project we're working together on is the South Hams Rally for Nature; the hope is that as well as creating some new events specifically for the rally, many existing projects and activities can be incorporated and promoted as part of the celebration.

Messages for residents:

- The South Hams Rally for Nature programme is designed to help people connect with nature and the beauty of the South Hams and in so doing increase awareness of and care for our beautiful surroundings.
- Two sessions are being held at Follaton House on 15 July for anyone wanting to be involved.
- The first is for communities wanting to be involved - click here to find out more and book your place.
- The second is for event providers and creatives - click here to find out more and book your place.

Environment Report

Yealmpton Environment Group

Yealm Water quality

A set of specific projects that would help to prevent further pollution events and improve Yealm river water quality has been prepared with YEM and RYWQG. A bid for funding for these projects has been submitted on our behalf by Westcountry Rivers Trust to the EA. We have since heard that this initial proposal has been approved in principle and are now awaiting sign off by the EA's legal team.

Mudspotter is a standardised system for collecting information on run-off from land into the river. <https://modularriversurvey.org/mud-spotter/>. In September there will be an initial assessment of what this would involve locally, after which volunteers will be recruited.

The episode of pollution on the River Piall reported to EA earlier this year has been deemed 'within allowable limits'. RYWQG considers that the relevant licence really needs to be renegotiated.

RiverFly project: volunteers continue to monitor Yealm water quality regularly and have recently had training (funded by YPC and Wildfish) on identifying freshwater invertebrates. The results of

these surveys give objective evidence if there is degradation of a river environment. This evidence can then be used to inform remedial action locally and the scale of response required nationally. WildFish is a national organisation and runs a “Smart Rivers” programme collecting river fly data nationwide.

Noxious weeds

This year’s ‘Himalayan Balsam pulling & Brush Cutting’ programme begins soon. All the riparian landowners we have been contacted regarding access. The HB and Japanese Knotweed locations have been reviewed and it is encouraging to see that last year’s large stands of HB have been very considerably reduced due to our efforts. A ‘call for volunteers’ for 2025 has begun.

Schools’ involvement and Biodiversity monitoring.

Seven of the primary schools within the Yealm catchment are taking part in an art challenge with title “Where the Sea Meets the River”. The top three pictures from each school will be judged at Yealmpton Show. Tree seed Sunday this year will take place on Sunday 5th October.

Late in June, Ivybridge Community College students undertook two days’ field work on the Research Methods Module of the AQA A Level in Environmental Science at Rubies Wood. This resulted in a standardised data set that will act as a template for the future. The module is rigorous and challenging:

https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/environmental-science/a-level/environmental-science-7447/specification/subject-content/research-methods#Research_methods

There is a second cohort of 23 Environmental Science students at ICC. Their survey in Rubies Wood include methods such as quadrant analysis, transects, camera capture, setting traps, nests, sweep surveys etc. On another day the focus is on water analysis, testing for turbulence, phosphates, nitrates, kick surveys, river flora and fauna surveys etc.

Yealm Catchment Management Plan

YEM is still in the early stages of developing the Yealm Catchment Management Plan that will bring together many aspects of wild habitats and biodiversity, water and land management (including natural solutions to flood/drought management), water quality and pollution and community engagement.

Organising everything to improve our natural environment falls on the shoulders of a few volunteers, and environment improvement would be faster if there was more **volunteer support for project management.**

Linda Durman, chair YEG

July 2025

Finance Report for September 2025 meeting

Transaction Date	Transaction Description	Debit Amount	Credit Amount	Balance
01/07/2025	SOUTH WEST WATER (Parish Room)	£ 25.87		£ 1,491.00
02/07/2025	BRITISH GAS (Parish Room)	£ 22.58		£ 1,468.42
15/07/2025	Clerk Salary and expenses (June)	£ 762.80		£ 1,498.68
15/07/2025	SLCC registration fee CILCA training	£ 450.00		£ 2,261.48
15/07/2025	K K CONTROLS (fire alarm servicing Parish Room)	£ 105.60		£ 2,711.48
15/07/2025	JASON FRANCIS (maintenance)	£ 682.75		£ 2,817.08
15/07/2025	ART SOFTWARE Accounting software	£ 9.99		£ 3,499.83
15/07/2025	JAMES ROBERTS (strimming and gardening)	£ 400.00		£ 3,509.82
15/07/2025	SOUTH HAMS GARDEN SERVICES (grass cutting)	£ 517.00		£ 3,909.82
15/07/2025	ARGOS FIRE PROTECT Fire equipment servicing	£ 141.60		£ 4,426.82
15/07/2025	YEALMPTON PARISH (inter account transfer)		£ 3,100.00	£ 4,568.42
21/07/2025	SERVICE CHARGES BANK	£ 4.25		£ 1,494.43
24/07/2025	HMRC NI and TAX	£ 719.55		£ 774.88
28/07/2025	TALKTALK INTERNET (Parish Room)	£ 35.21		£ 739.67
01/08/2025	BRITISH GAS (Parish Room)	£ 23.83		£ 715.84
11/08/2025	TRANSFER (fixed term investment maturing)		£ 40,557.38	£ 41,273.22
15/08/2025	YEALMPTON PARISH (inter account transfer)	£ 38,000.00		£ 3,273.22
18/08/2025	JASON FRANCIS (maintenance)	£ 469.34		£ 1,928.94
18/08/2025	Clerk Salary and expenses (July)	£ 727.45		£ 2,398.28
18/08/2025	JAMES ROBERTS (footpath strimming)	£ 137.50		£ 3,125.73
18/08/2025	ART SOFTWARE Accounting software	£ 9.99		£ 3,263.23
19/08/2025	SERVICE CHARGES BANK	£ 4.25		£ 1,924.69
27/08/2025	TALKTALK INTERNET (Parish Room)	£ 35.21		£ 1,889.48

Bank Balances at the end of August 2025

Main Account	£1,889.48
Savings account	£78,912.29 (fixed term investment matured in August 2025)
Total	£80,801.77

Payments for approval to be made in September

PKF Littlejohn	Audit fees	£ 315.00	£ 63.00	£ 378.00	
Clerk	Expenses and salary	£ 29.08	£ 5.82	£ 775.05	
SHDC	Swings in the park			£ 300.00	(we hold Cllr Thomas' Localities funds to cover this)
YCA	Room hire			£ 139.66	
YCA	Postal address rental			£ 20.00	
Suzanne's Gardening Services	Memorial Garden			£ 250.00	
Tavy Signs	Sign for permissive path	£ 36.00	£ 7.20	£ 43.20	
Luscombe Maye	Red Book valuation	£ 475.00	£ 95.00	£ 570.00	(required by South Hams to consider the Parish Council purchasing the Village Car Park)
X2 Connect (phonebox library signs)	Signs for Book Box	£ 100.00	£ 20.00	£ 120.00	
J Friend Garden Services	Pavement clearing	£ 142.17	£ 28.43	£ 170.60	(clearing pavement before the Yealmpton Show)
KK controls	Fire alarm system servicing	£ 88.00	£ 17.60	£ 105.60	
The Plastic Company	Compost bin	£ 99.00	£ 19.80	£ 118.80	
South Hams Garden and property services	Grass cutting and gardening			£ 1,398.00	(about £350 of this is from the gardening budget)
Total payments				£ 4,388.91	

Donations to be made upon receipt of the second instalment of precept

Samaritans	£ 200.0
Citizens Advice Bureau	£ 200.0
Ivybridge Ring'n Ride	£ 300.0
Athletics Club	£ 500.0
YCA building fund	£ 3,000.0
Brixton & Yealmpton Community Vols	£ 1,250.0
Dementia Friendly Parishes	£ 500.0
Brownies and Rainbows	£ 250.0
Total donations	£ 6,200.0

N.B SH Community Volunteers closed so their £200 isn't in the list.

Active travel

The long awaited 'Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan' (LCWIP) for South Hams has been published. An LCWIP aims to prioritise investment in infrastructure to increase walking, wheeling, and cycling. The full report of 598 pages includes analysis and recommendations for infrastructure in West Devon and South Hams and can be accessed here:

<https://www.southhams.gov.uk/communities/local-cycling-and-walking-infrastructure-plan-lcwip>

The report includes information on possible sources of funding and highlights the danger of active travel along the A379 from Yealmpton to Elburton. It suggests an alternative route from Yealmpton to Sherford through narrow rural lanes, accepting that this is not ideal either (pages 396,7). In the prioritized list of "longer-term" projects for South Hams, one of the routes is "South Hams Route 17 Brixton - Yealmpton". The proposed interventions for this route include exploring the feasibility of upgrading Woodland Drive and Silverbridge Way to a walking and cycling path, continuing this path up to Yealmpton, and removing gates on Silverbridge Way to provide a dedicated cyclist link to/from the A379.

Liz Hitchins, chair of Brixton Parish Council, chairs the Silverbridge Way extension group that will report to Yealmpton PC. The need for a walking and cycling route separate from motor traffic is emphasised: 'for the inter-urban routes which follow the A379 corridor, including those that start/end in Sherford, and Yealmpton. The results show that all these routes score less than 70%, the threshold considered acceptable for Active Travel England or a good/Dutch-quality level of provision. These routes were scored between 32% and 44%.' (page 352) Pages 492,3,4,5 lists the main projects recommended for improving access to safe walking and cycling in and through Yealmpton, with detail on work to achieve this. A safer route between Yealmpton and Ermington (page 546) also has a fairly high priority.

Trees

The tree nursery team assembled at Lodge Gate Field on Bank Holiday Monday to undertake maintenance: weeding the polytunnel, sowing hazel nuts and weeding and watering the beds. Planting that day included planting out 25 hazel saplings and 672 small trees from their root trainers. Councillors are welcome to visit and to see how well the system of growing from locally sourced seeds is going. When the planting season arrives, usually November to March, the team will dig out the trees that are ready to be planted at the final destination.

Air quality at Yealmpton sewage treatment facility.

A well-functioning sewage treatment plant should contain odours within the facility, with any release being a sign of a problem, such as excessive surface water entering the system, an inadequately maintained plant or insufficient capacity. **This summer** the stench of deeply unpleasant smells emanating from the Yealmpton sewage treatment plant has been regular and excessive. In addition, there now seems to be an almost daily procession of South West Water's trucks taking away significant waste, suggesting that their current sewage treatment infrastructure is inadequate.

Information on how to complain about smell from any of **South West Water's** sewage treatment plants, is already available on the Parish Council website and has been added to the River Yealm Water Quality Group's Facebook page. To complain, call SWW wastewater services line at 0344 346 2020 or use the online report-a-problem form online at <https://www.southwestwater.co.uk/household/help-support/report-a-problem/pollutions/report-a-pollution> Be prepared to provide your address and details

about the smell to help them investigate the cause, which could be due to higher temperatures, wind direction, blockages, or wastewater volume.

In view of the increased frequency of noxious odours this summer, we are asking members of the public to let the Parish Council know (clerk@yealmpton-pc.gov.uk) about the issue and the complaint so that they may collate evidence of the problem and then make their own formal complaint to SWW on behalf of us all. Hopefully such complaints will boost SWW's ability to apply for funding to increase the capacity of Yealmpton Sewage Treatment Plant.

Monitoring Yealm water quality

The over-riding purpose of measuring water quality of the Yealm, is to present reliable data to enforce improvement, as this does not appear to happen otherwise. We work with standardised methods that are also used across the UK. Following training, CSI volunteers took part in a low cost nitrate test comparison study on 12 August, run by the University of Bristol, School of Geographical Sciences. The aim was to test the performance of the different kits used by citizen scientists across the UK against lab analysis of nitrate in samples; to understand the benefits and limitations of each test and how citizen science methods for nitrate collection might be improved, thus building trust in citizen science data sets. 4 different samples were collected at each of our 6 selected sites within the Yealm catchment. 1- sample for lab analysis, 2 - Hanna Nitrate Checker (high range, marine), 3 - Hach nitrate strips, 4 - La Motte nitrate test strips. The sites sampled were as follows: Puslinch Bridge, Yealm Bridge, Long Brook, Coffin Stream, Newton Stream, Silverbridge Lake (Smithhaleigh), R Piall Marks Bridge, Lee Mill Stream@ Lee Mill. All results were recorded on the Epicollect5 app and submitted to the U of Bristol. All samples for the lab analysis were collected by 12.30 on 12 August and transported to the U of Bristol that afternoon. A full report will be produced by the U of Bristol in Spring 2026. This exercise and report will reduce the risk that CSI readings could be successfully challenged authorities.

YEM and RYWQG were represented at the Yealmpton Show on 30 July 2025. It was a highly successful show and 8 new volunteers came forward for water quality testing or Mudspotter training.

Linda Durman, Chair, Yealmpton Environment Group



INFORMATION FOR CONSULTEES

WHO ARE WE?

We are the “**Newton & Noss Bathing Water Status Group**” – a sub-group of the Newton and Noss Environment Group, and we have formed to try and obtain “Bathing Water Status” for the areas of Noss and Newton Creeks.

BACKGROUND

The stretch around Pope’s Quay and Newton Brook in the Yealm Estuary is a very popular swimming location. We want to apply for “designated status” to help ensure ongoing attention to the water quality and the impact this has on the local community’s health and the environment. If successful in achieving designated bathing water status, it means that the Environment Agency will monitor the site and inform bathers of how safe the water is to enter. This will help water users understand the water quality in our local environment and help ensure water companies and others take the appropriate action to clean up any sources of pollution.

Our estuary contributes to the mental and physical health of residents, achieving designation will be an important step in protecting water users and those spending time around this area. We also have the support of many other interested groups.

UPDATE

We have already carried out the bathing water survey. This took place over the bank holiday weekend (23/24 August 2025) and we easily exceeded the required target of 100 bathers on each day!

There has already been much local activity with meetings and informal consultations - details are on the Facebook site - <https://www.facebook.com/newtonnossenvironmentgroup/>.

REQUEST

As a consultee suggested by Defra, if you were able to formally reply to this letter by 30th September 2025 it would be most appreciated.

The email address is given below

Many thanks

Newton & Noss Bathing Water Status Steering Group

CONTACTS

If you would like to contact us please email newtonnossbathingwater@outlook.com

SHDC – September 2025

LGR engagement events

Please feel free to share events for our public engagement events near you - you can download them from the links below.

The engagement events start at 6:15 p.m. and end at 8:00 p.m. with doors opening at 6:00 p.m.

- 16 September - Sparkwell Parish Hall, Sparkwell - [Poster](#)
- 19 September - Yealmpton Community Centre, Great Hall, Yealmpton - [Poster](#)
- 23 September - Newton and Noss Village Hall, Noss Mayo - [Poster](#)
- 30 September - Rose & Crown, Yealmpton - [Poster](#)

It's win-win with SeaMoor Lotto

Please help spread the word about the SeaMoor Lotto. Residents who take part will support a good cause and be in with the chance of winning weekly cash prizes of up to £25,000. Entries made before Saturday 27 September, could also win a £1,000 Aldi Gift Card, all for just £1 a week!

SeaMoor Lotto is a lottery for the people, by the people. It's a fun way to help good causes without giving up precious time.

Tickets are just £1 in the weekly draw, and you can choose exactly which good cause you would like your money to go to. More of your money goes to your chosen cause than with any other major lottery - you can see the exact breakdown, where every penny goes, on our website. www.SeaMoorLotto.co.uk

South Hams Way launch - Sunday 14 September

Borough Park, Totnes 10:30

Attached is a recent press release about the South Hams Way in case it is of interest or use. In the meantime, arrangements for the official launch have been finalised. An opening ceremony will be held at 10:30 in Borough Park, Totnes, followed by a mass walk departing at 11:00 (staggered departure dependent on numbers). The walk is 7.5 miles from Totnes to Buckfastleigh. Walkers will be accompanied by South Hams Ramblers leaders.



SOUTH HAMS WAY
www.southhamsway.org.uk

PRESS RELEASE

South Hams Ramblers launch a new 100 mile trail to showcase the stunning diverse landscapes of the South Hams.



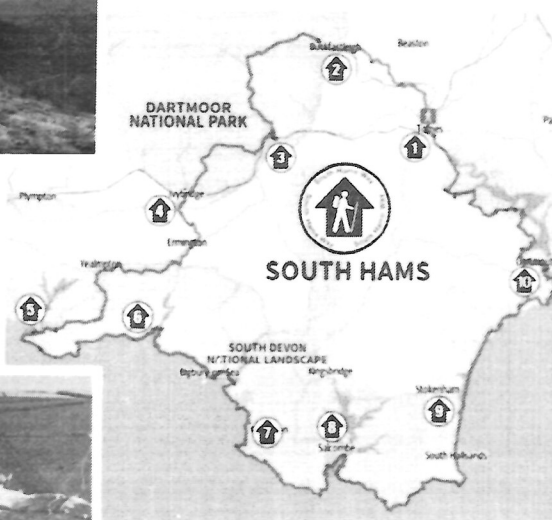
The wilds of Dartmoor National Park



The South Devon National Landscape



50 miles of the South West Coast Path



5 estuaries all different in nature

The new South Hams Way is a 100 mile hiking trail that circumnavigates the South Hams area of South Devon. The route is divided into ten sections of roughly 10 miles each following existing footpaths, lanes and byways. The sections are deliberately centred on community hubs where there is public transport access, shops, refreshments and accommodation.

Created for walkers by South Hams Ramblers, it travels through four very different types of landscape and terrain including moorland, coast paths, estuaries, river valleys and countryside. Its highest point is 1,281ft, just above the Avon Dam reservoir on Dartmoor, and its lowest is sea level.

Along the way discover:

- Fifty miles of the South West Coast Path. From Noss Mayo in the west, along to Salcombe and onwards to Dartmouth in the east.
- The wilds of Dartmoor National Park to the north, so different it is like stepping into another country.
- The South Devon National Landscape comprising deep green valleys between soft rounded hills, native hardwood forests and rivers extending from springs on Dartmoor all the way to our estuaries.
- Five lovely estuaries, all different in nature. The Yealm at Noss Mayo, the Erme at Mothecombe, the Avon at Bantham, the Kingsbridge and Salcombe estuary and the Dart at Dartmouth.

- 1000 years of history in our villages, hamlets and market towns. Totnes, the heart town of the South Hams is famed for its independent shops and numerous listed buildings, including a 16th century guildhall and a motte and bailey castle built early in the Norman Conquest.

This trail has the potential to bring new opportunities for tourism and our economy in catering for a different kind of tourist - walkers. The trail is free for all to follow and you don't have to be a member of the Ramblers to walk it. Businesses can take advantage of this new attraction to benefit their marketing.

Walking and spending time in nature offer a wide range of physical, mental, and emotional health benefits. The trail provides opportunities not only for long-distance walkers but also for visitors and residents to enjoy walking as a means of exploring and discovering the best of the South Hams region.

"I've been a resident of the South Hams for 30 years, and known it even longer. I thought I knew this area like the back of my hand, until I joined the Ramblers. The best way to discover South Devon is to walk it." John Lloyd, member of South Hams Ramblers Group

Go to the website for all details of the trail including maps, GPX files for navigational apps and route guides to download or follow on your smartphone.

www.southhamsway.org.uk

NOTES



The trail has been created by the **South Hams Ramblers** group, a local branch of the Ramblers Association, focused on promoting walking in the South Hams area of Devon, England. The group organises regular walks, catering for various abilities, so that members can explore the beautiful landscapes, coastal paths, and countryside of the region. In addition to group walks, the South Hams Ramblers also engage in activities to protect local footpaths and promote access to the outdoors, fostering a community of walking enthusiasts who appreciate the natural environment.

The **Ramblers Association**, now known simply as **Ramblers**, is a UK-based charity dedicated to promoting walking and protecting the rights of walkers. Founded in 1935, it advocates for access to the countryside and the preservation of public footpaths. The organization works to ensure that everyone can enjoy walking in natural spaces, offering resources such as walking guides, maps, and organized walks. Ramblers also engages in campaigns to improve access to walking routes and to safeguard the environment, making it a key player in outdoor recreation and conservation efforts in the UK.

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