
1. Your updated Strategy is very much to be welcomed. It highlights the richness and diversity of East Devon's heritage and will be beneficial in ensuring that this heritage is recognised in future deliberations about establishing unitary local government in Devon.

2. I very much support the Strategy's aims as set out in para 1.48, particularly its focus on taking a partnership approach and involving communities.

3. Historic Churches: I suggest that greater emphasis is placed on the outstanding heritage represented by the District's historic places of worship. Churches are shown in some of the illustrations and get some mentions (eg in para 2.9) but I feel they deserve more recognition for their heritage significance. A high proportion of East Devon's 240 Grade I and Grade II* listed buildings are churches/chapels and they have a key role in community life. I suggest that the Church of England, as the owner responsible for so many historic churches across East Devon's 70 + parishes, should be included alongside the National Trust and others in your listing of Key Organisations in paras 1.50 - 1.65. Perhaps it could replace the Jurassic Coast Trust in para 1.64 and Appendix 3 as that organisation no longer exists to manage the WHS.

4 UNESCO designations: your Strategy rightly recognises the global significance of the Jurassic Coast WHS. There are two other types of UNESCO designation directly relevant to the District that might be included:

- UNESCO's 2019 designation of Exeter as a UNESCO City of Literature recognises the significance of the literary heritage across Devon as a whole as well as in the city, as the official City of Literature map makes that clear. It features over 20 entries in East Devon including writers such as Coleridge and Mantel.

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5e682ccf3a9c13140b8b4856/t/6849a8e53ebb310ca957c4e8/1749657839993/2025+literary+map+web.pdf>

- In accordance with the 2003 UNESCO Convention of Intangible Cultural Heritage, the UK Government is in the process of establishing a new UK Living Heritage Inventory. The public is currently being invited (until the end of March) to suggest the first entries for this new inventory. East Devon's rural and urban communities are home to many traditions, festivals and longstanding events that surely merit inclusion. I noted that the Government's 2025 announcement of the new Inventory specifically mentioned the Ottery Tar Barrels as an example of what might be covered. And, if I am not mistaken, the photograph on this UNESCO UK webpage shows the Sidmouth Folk Festival. I

realise that this is not really a planning issue but I feel it does merit recognition in your Strategy. It has real potential for encouraging community engagement with East Devon's heritage.



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