



East Devon Heritage Strategy (2024-2042) Consultation Representation Form

Name of the Plan to which this representation relates: East Devon Heritage Strategy 2024-2042

Please return to East Devon District Council, Planning Policy, Blackdown House, Border Road, Honiton, EX14 1EJ, email to PlanningPolicy@eastdevon.gov.uk by **26th January 2026**.

This form has two parts:

Part A – Personal Details: Needs to be completed only once.

Part B – Your representation(s): Please fill in a separate sheet for each section of the strategy you wish to comment on or provide further comments via an accompanying email/letter when returning your consultation form.

Part A: Personal details

1. Personal details

Full name

Karen Williams

Are you acting as an agent for another party?

Yes

Organisation (where relevant)

Norman Lockyer Observatory Society

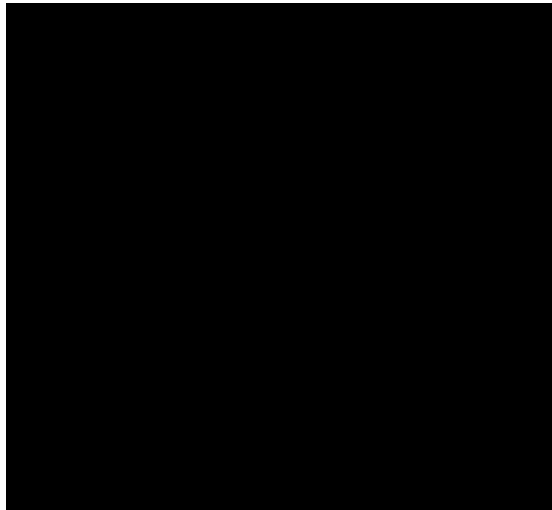
Address line 1

Address line 2

Address line 3

Postcode

Email address



Part B – Representation

Please use the following section to provide us with your response.

2. If your response relates to a specific part of the Heritage Strategy, please tell us which part here (e.g. Section 2, or Paragraph 4.1, or Theme A, or Action C1) *(please refer to the Heritage Strategy consultation site to view a numbered list of actions)*

Section	<input type="text"/>
Paragraph	<input type="text"/>
Theme	<input type="text"/>
Action	<input type="text"/>

3. Please use this box to set out your comments.

(Continue on a separate sheet if necessary or please use another form to comment on multiple parts of the strategy)

I am not sure where my comments would sit as the Norman Lockyer Observatory does not appear on any of your heritage lists, nor indeed on a map of sites of interest in East Devon. As a private individual I am horrified and worried about the future of the Observatory. As a director of the NLO I am uneasy about the proposed Community Asset Transfer for which we are currently preparing a business plan.

Sir Norman Lockyer, discoverer of helium in the sun, and founder of the journal 'Nature' retired to Sidmouth in 1912 to land belonging to his second wife Mary Browne - her sister is remembered +

4. If you have any other general comments about the Heritage Strategy, please write your feedback in the box below.

(Continue on a separate sheet if necessary)

East Devon District are looking to increase community engagement with heritage assets across the district. We ran a pilot project in 2019 in East Budleigh to build skills and knowledge amongst volunteers to help manage, protect and enhance our heritage assets.

6.(a) If you or your organisation would like to be contacted in the future with an invite to get involved in the pilot scheme, please indicate below:

Yes, I would like to be involved

My organisation would like to be involved

I would like to be contacted with further information to decide then

My organisation would like further information in the future
(please leave an email address or phone number in the box below)

No, I do not want to be involved.

6.(b) If you would like further information about future engagement to be sent to a different email to the one you have provided above, please leave it here:

For more information on how we use your data – please read the privacy notices at the following links: <https://eastdevon.gov.uk/access-to-information/data-protection/privacy-notice> and [engagement-consultation-and-surveys.pdf](#)

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Sir Norman Lockyer, discoverer of helium in the sun, and founder of the journal 'Nature' retired to Sidmouth in 1912 to land belonging to his second wife Mary Browne - her sister is remembered by a bridge in the Byes. Both Mary and her sister were renowned suffragettes, with much information held in the Sidmouth Museum. The archives at the NLO contain a wealth of lantern slides, documents, and other artefacts relating to Sir Norman, the Maclean family, and a complete set of 'Nature'. Running the site as an active resource in the manner in which it was intended would bring in many more visitors and revenue to the area. The historic telescopes, one of which belonging to Sir Norman, are working - so it is definitely not a museum, but a living resource. Visitors and students are particularly taken with the working Victorian telescopes, which could be used for current observations. Prof Tim Naylor and his team of astrophysicists at the University of Exeter are keen to look at the historic observations with a view to understanding how historic telescopes were used, as well as using historic data relating to gamma Cassiopeia which is still being studied for its unusual variability. I very much hope that the Norman Lockyer Observatory along with recognition of Sir Norman Lockyer and Mary Browne will be included as part of your long term vision for the area before heading down the CAT route which is unpredictable and dependent upon sufficient volunteers to run it. The site is worthy and would quickly repay, of paid staff who would have time and expertise to source funding and to open the site more often to visitors.