

The South Devon Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty has purchased a range of equipment listed below for loan to local educational & commercial water based activity providers.

Aquascopes



These are great for observing aquatic plant and animal life under the water. The larger aquascopes (as above) are perfect for use over the side of a small launch whilst the smaller ones would be ideal for use from the side of craft such as a canoe.

Binoculars

These are great for use on any vessel to observe life on the estuary or coast. They are waterproof & will float if accidental dropped in the water. They are suitable for both adults & children to use but younger users may need help with focusing & adjustments.

Phyto & Zoo Plankton Trawl Nets

These nets are great to use behind smaller craft (always avoiding the propeller!). The finer meshed net is for observing plant (phyto) life whilst the wider mesh will ideally collect samples of animal life in the estuary. A certain level of knowledge is needed to interpret plankton.



Field Microscope x35 magnification

Simply put a small drop of water collected from the estuary on the clear slide provided & place this on top of the microscope and focus using the thumbwheel underneath. A special magnetic holder can also be used to hold the specimen if you wish.



Bat Detector & Bat Identification CD

This clever Batbox picks up the ultrasonic sounds made by bats that are undetectable by the human ear alone. The different frequencies denote different bat species & these can be identified on the CD provided.



Hydrophone



This is a microphone designed to be used underwater for listening to underwater sound. It can simply be dropped over the side of a boat & plugged into the amplifier provided to hear what's going on in the estuary. Alternatively if your boat has its own larger amplifier, this can be used so a larger group could benefit.

Estuary Invertebrates Guide

This is a laminated guide which will help you identify what can be seen in & around the estuary & offers bite-size information ideal when you're on the water.

Estuary Management Plans

These can be freely distributed or viewed online. They have really useful information about the ecology of the estuaries in the South Devon AONB.

Leaflets

There are some great leaflets on specific environmental topics such as the seagrass beds in the Salcombe/Kingsbridge estuary, especially significant for boat users. Also available is the Explorer Events leaflet which is produced annually in March. It has walks, talks & events organised by South Devon AONB & other organisations that help spread the word on how to enjoy & look after the area.

Beach Cleaning Kit

These can be loaned out for anyone wanting to organise a beach clean. The kit includes gloves, litter pickers & sacks.

MARKETING & EDUCATIONAL MATERIAL

Video of Estuary

Underwater footage of the estuary is available but would need to be edited.

Photographs

The AONB collection of photographs can be freely used for advertising or educational use (but must not be sold on). There are a huge number of images including seascapes, underwater images, wildlife, coastal & estuary. They are all of the South Devon AONB area.

There are also a number of other photographs taken by eminent photographers & scientists such as Malcolm Nimmo (Associate Professor in Environmental Science, Plymouth University) Dr Keith Hiscock, Steve Trehella & Martin Attrill (Director of the Marine Institute, Plymouth University). This is a fantastic resource & can be used for promotional/educational purposes but usage must be negotiated with the photographers & copyright holders. Contact can be made via the South Devon AONB office.

Loan Scheme

3x waterproof binoculars
2x large aquascopes
4x small aquascopes
1x phyto- & 1x zoo-plankton trawl nets
1x field microscope
1x bat detector with bat id CD

These items can be loaned out to estuary users & their customers to help bring the estuary environment alive. There are limited resources therefore the idea is to borrow the item & if it proves successful then the tourism enterprise can purchase their own.

Equipment is available for use a month at a time & can be collected from the AONB office. You will be required to provide contact details & a deposit to ensure safe return or replacement. After one month, equipment must be returned to the office or ideally past onto the next user who will repay the deposit to you. This user must make contact with the AONB office to provide their contact details.

Contact Information

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