



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



News Service

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CAREFUL WATCH BEING KEPT ON FOOT AND MOUTH ALERT

You can still enjoy East Devon's glorious coastline and countryside

EAST DEVON is well and truly open for business to people who want to enjoy our stunning coastline and glorious countryside.

That's the message from EDDC Leader Sara Randall Johnson as her officers continue to monitor developments in Surrey, where a Foot and Mouth alert is in operation, and to work with colleagues in Devon County Council's animal health unit.

Below are two useful helpline numbers:

Devon County Council's special animal health and welfare advice line is available on **0845 155 1999** and is now open from 8 am to 6 pm every day until further notice.

DEFRA also have a helpline, which is **08459 33 55 77** or can be contacted by email at helpline@defra.gsi.gov.uk. Information is also available at <http://www.defra.gov.uk/>.

Meanwhile, EDDC still awaits the departure of the bow section of the MSC Napoli from the coast off Branscombe. Efforts are continuing to monitor the cleanliness of beach and to remove any patches of oil that wash ashore.

Implications

Sara Randall Johnson said: "Now that the weather is improving, there is a possibility that the public may switch their concerns from the beaches and start to wonder if the livestock alert in Surrey has any implications for us here in the South West.

"We are obviously keeping a careful watch on the situation to ensure that we know at the first opportunity if there are any implications for us here in East Devon. At the moment, the message is that footpaths are all open and people can move freely round the countryside. We are pleased that the flow of information to all interested parties is much more effective than in the previous Foot and Mouth outbreak".

An immediate ban on all movement of cattle, pigs and sheep has come into effect in Devon as part of a nationwide clamp-down.

It is emphasised that there are no cases in Devon, but vigilance and tight bio-security are vital. Farmers are advised to remain vigilant, step up their bio-security and allow only essential vehicles onto their premises.

Livestock movements will only be allowed under strict licence and information about those arrangements will be communicated as swiftly as possible. If livestock owners are anxious about the need for an urgent movement of livestock they are advised to speak to their local contact for the national Animal Health Service, familiar to farmers under its old name of the State Veterinary Service.

The legislation that prohibits the movement of livestock (unless licensed) also includes the following restrictions:

- No movement of carcasses (unless for human consumption) from premises - farmers are advised to cover carcasses with a tarpaulin or a similar robust covering.
- Farmers should take steps to prevent livestock straying
- No animal gatherings and no gathering of people in connection with a sale of animals
- No hunting , stalking or other trail sports
- No shearing, or dipping of sheep unless it's own sheep on own premises

Sheep dog trials are not specifically controlled, but the best advice is that they should not take place.

Ends

For information, please contact:

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www.eastdevon.gov.uk