



Love where you live!

Four Villages Environmental Group



FVEG report January to May 2026

Welcome to the Four Villages Environmental Group (FVEG) report for January to May 2026. A copy has also been submitted to Burlescombe Parish Council Clerk, by email.

Environmental

On our Facebook page we continue to high light many important **environmental and wildlife topics** to help promote wider environmental issues to our members. These included sharing information with and from GW Canal Rangers, including

- Avian Flu, local outbreaks and any recent advice/ restrictions.
- Impending storms and potential hazards arising, i.e. falling trees
- Bat Conservation Trust information.
- Reported serious issues with rats along parts of the canal.
- The Rangers have pointed out that the rats have benefited from enthusiastic bird feeding at benches, posts & car parking areas, and that since birds should not require additional feeding other than during winter months, the RSPB have advised that the public should “feed seasonally and feed safely” i.e. not between May and December.
- The Rangers continue to carefully monitor local environmental issues and potential problems/issues, seeking to enhance biodiversity and conservation. FVEG is committed to liaison and communication with the Rangers on these matters.

Community / issues

We continue to monitor and draw attention to community issues that have been raised to us by members, including:

- Road safety
- The very poor condition of the roads within the boundaries of the Four Villages.
- FVEG highlighted Openreach working on new Fibre Broadband in the villages.
- FVEG posted information about Mental health and other issues during the Christmas season and gave information on support.

Community engagement:

We continue to liaise with our members about local and wider issues.

The Grand Western Canal

- The Rangers continue to observe and monitor our local environment and wildlife
- Helping to maintain hedges/ verges
- Monitoring the canal and water quality.
- Maintaining the memorial benches.

- The Rangers are a small and committed team who are grateful for the excellent work offered by community volunteers and are always open for continued support.

FVEG is committed to ongoing support of the GWC wherever/whenever possible.

Local Authorities

We continue to liaise with the Local Authorities such as the Burlescombe Parish Council, the Holcombe Rogus parish Council, the Mid-Devon District Council and the Devon County Council.

Westleigh Quarry

As always, we dealt with many quarry related things:

- We attended the Quarry Liaison meetings, with other Quarry Liaison members.
- Quarry night work and blasting updates were shared with members.
- A number of issues including lorries not following the agreed one way system/ routes, mud on the roads, yellow hazard lighting on lorries being kept on during village transit (posing a risk to oncoming drivers and illuminating and disturbing sleeping village residents) all were reported to the quarry manager and estates manager.
- The damaging environmental impact of mud and silt on local roads and water courses was strongly emphasised. It should be possible for the quarry to ensure that appropriate measures should be adopted to contain dust and silt within the quarry boundaries.
- We emphasised that Holcim and the quarry should contain the dust, silt and contaminants within their own boundaries, and that the community should not have to put up with it affecting roads, gardens, water courses and air quality.

Other general Social Media posts

We also highlighted the following on our social media:

Posts on the history of Burlescombe and the surrounding areas.

End of Report.

May 2026