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Potential to reduce sediment and contaminant loss and reuse dredging material in Devon and Cornwall, UK

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ABSTRACT

Westcountry Rivers Trust are a charity working to restore and protect the rivers, lakes, estuaries and coastal areas of the south west UK for the benefit of people, wildlife and the local economy. Fields of expertise include: characterisation and monitoring of sediments; facilitating local partnerships on water and environment; water quality modelling, risk assessment and decision making support through GIS, database and other tools. As part of the European Interreg IVA funded project 'Using sediment as a resource' USAR, Westcountry Rivers Trust (WRT) will be working with local stakeholders to understand the potential to reduce sediment and contaminant loss and reuse dredging material in Devon and Cornwall in a more sustainable manner. WRT will help determine the sediment quality, contamination levels and dredging needs in harbours at the bottom of river catchment areas. WRT will then help to develop sediment recycling strategies for Harbour Authorities (HA) they work with, highlighting specific sediment recycling opportunities for those harbours, present concrete business cases for the HAs to recycle their sediment and prepare for the implementation of innovative recycling practices piloted by other USAR partners. This will ultimately reduce the landfill of dredging waste.