



Nature Recovery Declaration

Our contribution to tackling the global ecological emergency in northern Devon

PLEASE SIGN and stand up for nature in northern Devon!

This declaration is open to any individual, organisation, business or visitor with an interest in northern Devon.

Here in northern Devon, our economy, quality of life and ability to address climate change all depend on a nature-rich environment. Yet, our wildlife is a shadow of its former glory. Nature has been corralled into smaller and smaller fragments of suitable habitat as land use has intensified. Many key species are in severe long-term decline or have already been lost. We must help nature to recover before it's too late. It is possible with transformative local action, but it's vital we act now.

That's why the North Devon Biosphere has launched an ambitious Nature Recovery Plan (visit <https://www.northdevonbiosphere.org.uk/nature-recovery-plan.html> to read it and provide your comments). With ever greater public interest in the environment and changing priorities for land management, this is a time of opportunity. Please help us to make it happen.

Our Vision for Nature in the North Devon UNESCO Biosphere

By 2030, nature is recovering across northern Devon. There is more wildlife-rich habitat for us all to enjoy – covering 30% of the area - in our fields and woods, on the moors and coast, along our rivers and across the sea. Wildlife has the space it needs to flourish. Thriving farming, fishing and forestry are helping nature to recover right across the Biosphere area. Communities, councils and businesses are putting nature back into our towns and villages. Declining species like salmon, hedgehog, cuckoo, skylark, lapwing, swift and house martin are recovering – and once again there are myriads of wildflowers and insects to enjoy in the countryside and marine wildlife is thriving. Ambitious projects have helped bring back icons like beaver, pine marten, chough, white-tailed eagle and osprey. Our quality of life, the economy and our response to climate change are stronger for it. More is required, but we are proud to be playing our part in tackling the global ecological emergency.

First Name/Name of Farm _____

Postcode _____

Email Address (optional) _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Would you like to sign up to the Biosphere's newsletter? (please circle): Yes/ No

www.northdevonbiosphere.org.uk

@northdevonbiosphere



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What happens next?

Your name and postcode will join a list of individuals/organisations supporting nature's recovery, on the Biosphere website. You can also tell us more about the actions you plan to take for nature. Family members sign separately, please. We'll keep you informed of progress via the Biosphere newsletter. Thank you!

Optional Section

I will do the following to help nature's recovery:

- Help nature to recover over the land in our management, by safeguarding and carefully managing good or potentially good nature habitat and creating new nature habitat including flower-rich grasslands, wetlands, broadleaved woodlands and scrub.
- Integrate nature-friendly measures into the management of our fields and buildings (extensive grazing, agroforestry, wildlife strips and seed mixes, barn owl nestboxes etc.).
- Carefully manage soils, slurry and nutrients to avoid erosion and run-off into water-courses, and establish wide buffer strips along them
- Strive to reduce/avoid the use of herbicides, nematicides, insecticides, rodenticides and plastics.
- Create new woodlands on land that is not already valuable for nature (including in field corners) and manage existing woods to be more nature friendly by encouraging natural regeneration, linking with other woods, and allowing scrub to develop around the edges.
- Manage hedges to be more nature-friendly by reducing the frequency of trimming, increasing the height of trimming, putting more hedges into a laying regime and fostering at least one standard tree per 40m.
- Encourage family, friends, neighbours and colleagues to sign this Declaration.
- Join the Nature Friendly Farming Network. Find out more: <https://www.nffn.org.uk/>

Other (please detail):

Thank you!

Please return this declaration to a member of the Biosphere Team, or email it to **biosphere-mailbox@devon.gov.uk**. You can also post it to North Devon Biosphere, Taw View, North Walk, Barnstaple, EX31 1EE.

Thank you for taking the time to sign this declaration. Organisational signatories will be listed on the Biosphere website. Here, you can also find specific actions you can pledge to do to help nature's recovery in your local area. You can visit our website here: www.biosphere.org.uk/pledgefornature.