



# 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** \_\_\_\_\_

**Postcode** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email Address (optional)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_

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



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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/we will do the following to help nature's recovery:

- Help nature to recover in my garden / on land that I/we are responsible for by creating wildlife friendly habitat
- Reduce/avoid the use of pesticides/herbicides, peat-based composts and single-use plastics
- Join, or support a locally-active nature conservation organization
- Volunteer for nature, join a community nature group or set one up
- Think more about what I buy and eat and where it comes from, sourcing locally whenever possible in support of local farmers/produces who are helping nature's recovery
- Encourage friends, neighbours, businesses, employees/colleagues at work to sign this Declaration and take actions for nature
- Follow the Countryside Code – Leave no trace – Do not light fires in countryside – Keep dogs under control – Bag and bin dog poo
- Join the Nature Friendly Farming Network

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](mailto: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. If you sign as an individual, your first name and postcode will be shown on the Biosphere's Pledge Map. Organisational signatories will also 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](http://www.biosphere.org.uk/pledgefornature).