



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.

School/College Name _____

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

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

- Help nature to recover around our school/college and grounds by creating and managing nature-friendly habitat.
 - Educate our students more about the state of nature and nature's recovery in northern Devon by using more local examples in our curriculum.
 - Think more about the food we offer in school meals and where it comes from, sourcing locally whenever possible from local farmers/fishers and producers who are helping nature's recovery.
 - Reduce/avoid the use of pesticides, herbicides, peat-based composts and plastics in our school/college (grounds).
 - Encourage our students and staff to sign this Declaration and share it with their family and friends.
 - Other (please specify below)
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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. 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: www.biosphere.org.uk/pledgefornature.