

Taw Torridge Estuary Forum meeting 21.7.25 Devon Wildlife Trust activities : A brief summary of some contacts/updates in the North Devon Rivers and Estuaries areas

Local Reserves [Nature Reserves](#) | [Devon Wildlife Trust](#)

Horsey

Swanpool Marsh Some management work has taken place over the past few months

Horsey Island. No update at this time

Marine/Coastal :

Coastwise North Devon has done intertidal surveys for the **Wildlife Trust Shoresearch projects** at Westward Ho! Combesgate Woolacombe and has more planned including at Hele Bay . INNShore invasives surveys have also been taking place.

The Marine Strandings Network has a number of volunteers recording along the coasts. In November a Female Thresher Shark was found washed up at Clovelly “**Do you know what to do if you see a marine stranding?**

Is the animal alive? Please call **British Divers Marine Life Rescue** immediately on 01825 765546 (office hours) or 07787 433412 (out of hours). Keep your distance, and keep other people and dogs away.

If the animal is dead, please call **Devon Marine Strandings Network** on 07719 086531 or email strandings@devonwildlifetrust.org. Please include photos, a location and when you found it. Save the numbers in your phone and spread the word by [downloading our leaflet.](#) “

For more details the Marine Engagement and Awareness Officer is Coral Smith

Save Devons Seas is a project to protect the seas around Devon . For more details contact Carli Cocciardi The Marine Nature Recovery Officer and see the link [Code Blue: Save Devon's Seas | Devon Wildlife Trust](#)

Planning Applications. The DWT Planning team are still sending in objections and responses to some local applications . Please see the following link for more information about responding to planning applications [Wildlife, planning and development | Devon Wildlife Trust](#)
planning@devonwildlifetrust.org

The Planning and Infrastructure bill is being challenged nationally by the Wildlife Trusts and other NGOs eg the RSPB with petitions and lobbying to amend the bill .It is also being challenged by the Devon Wildlife Trust locally. This bill may make it even easier for planning applications to be approved piecemeal in the Taw Torridge area. (examples of recent approvals with conditions : Chilpark and the White Cross Wind farm cable/substation/landfall plan.)

Barnstaple and District Local Group :

Have a series of walks in the area planned for Tuesday evenings and will start talks again in Fremington in September. Please see the DWT Website events section for more information [Events | Devon Wildlife Trust](#)

Land advice to landowners: Advice is continuing to be available to landowners in the area through the **Working Wetlands Project, Northern Devon Natural Solutions and Saving Devon's Treescapes**. To find out more: www.devonwildlifetrust.org/working-landowners-and-farmers
www.devonwildlifetrust.org/news/new-saving-devons-treescapes-award
[Working Wetlands & Upstream Thinking | Devon Wildlife Trust](#)
[Northern Devon Natural Solutions | Devon Wildlife Trust](#)

Wilder Communities

This project is working in the North Devon area to engage with and support communities on a wide range of projects with advice on funding too

[Wilder Communities | Devon Wildlife Trust](#)

Sites for Nature : The DWT looks at a range of different designated sites and we have a number in the Taw Torridge Estuary area : Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protected Areas (SPAs) These are the top area of designation and protection ; Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) these are the next tier of designation ; County Wildlife Sites (CWS) These are recognised for their county-level importance to Wildlife but don't carry the same level of statutory protections as the

others above. There are other designations eg UNESCO Biosphere . DWT in partnership with Devon Biodiversity Records centre and the Devon County Council are hoping to survey as many as possible of the **Unconfirmed Wildlife Sites** (UWS) which are waiting to find if they qualify as County Wildlife Sites. For more information see [Sites and Habitats - DBRC](#) Volunteers are being asked for who may be able to help with the surveying. For more details contact volunteering@devonwildlifetrust.org

Beaver Project

DEFRA announced earlier this year that Beavers can be allowed to live wild in England. DWT is managing and supporting projects. Populations already on the river Taw will be allowed to remain and expand naturally. Future beaver reintroductions will need to be managed under a licence system run by Natural England. For more information please contact Dr Matt Holden DWT's Beaver Project Lead. For more information see the link [Beavers | Devon Wildlife Trust](#)

Devon Bat Survey : The 2025 Survey is underway with individuals booking out bat detecting and recording information over the summer months. Local collection points include Braunton Countryside Centre however the kits are all fully booked for the whole season now covering a wide range of habitats in the North Devon area. For more information see the link [The Devon Bat Survey 2025 | Devon Wildlife Trust](#)

Corporate Membership

The Trust is relaunching the Corporate membership scheme for companies. For more information see the DWT website [How your business can help Devon's wildlife | Devon Wildlife Trust](#)

Debbie Frazer (DWT Barnstaple and District Group Volunteer)3.7.25