

Taw Torridge Estuary Forum meeting 28.4.25 Devon Wildlife Trust activities : A brief summary of some contacts/updates in the North Devon Rivers and Estuaries areas. Please see links in blue below for more information

Local Reserves Nature Reserves | Devon Wildlife Trust

Horsey: Horsey Island | Devon Wildlife Trust

Swanpool Marsh Is 1 mile west of Braunton and has a range of wetland habitat

DWT Reserves manager: Matt Boydell mboydell@devonwildlifetrust.org

Marine/Coastal :

Key contacts for Marine Issues : ccocciardi@devonwildlifetrust.org and csmith@devonwildlifetrust.org . Update from Carli :

- “We finally have a DWT Marine Team, which includes me, Coral (Marine Awareness & Engagement Officer), Jake (Marine Engagement Assistant), Dean (Team Manager), and Ed (Conservation Advocacy Manager). This is very exciting news, as it demonstrates DWT’s commitment to marine work.
- Our new marine strategy was signed off by leadership and the Board of Trustees last month – I’d be happy to give a quick update on it at the next TTEF meeting .
- Following this new strategy, we are currently exploring potential projects and funding opportunities. We will continue running our existing citizen science initiatives (Strandings Network and Shoresearch in North Devon), and we’re hopeful that increased capacity and funding will allow us to support and expand them in the future.”

Coastwise North Devon have started the intertidal surveys for the Wildlife Trust Shoresearch project and have completed them so far for Westward Ho! , Combesgate and Hele Bay. They are also starting INNShore surveys wc 28.4.25 looking at invasive species at Westward Ho! and Lee Bay

Planning Applications. The DWT Planning team are continuing to monitor local applications related to the estuary area and also further afield linked to the White Cross wind farm landfall plans. Please contact them direct if you wish to raise any queries

planning@devonwildlifetrust.org

Barnstaple and District Local Group :

The programme of evening talks at Fremington Parish Hall has finished and a programme of Tuesday evening walks has started .Please see the DWT Website events section for more information and also the TTEF Website events section [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..

They offer practical support including specialist machinery , volunteer labour, free trees and wildflower trees, advice on land subsidies. Local team : Tom Parsons Robbie Mack. To find out more:

www.devonwildlifetrust.org/working-landowners-and-farmers

www.devonwildlifetrust.org/news/new-saving-devons-treescapes-award

Northern Devon Natural Solutions | Devon Wildlife Trust

South West Water in collaboration with organisations such as the Devon Wildlife Trust , Westcountry Rivers Trust and others are working on the third phase of the conservation project “ Upstream Thinking “ which includes advisers covering river catchments including Barnstaple Yeo and Wistlandpound Reservoir working upstream from where drinking water is taken to help with water quality management.For more information see [Working](#)

[Wetlands & Upstream Thinking | Devon Wildlife Trust](#)

Saving Devons Treescapes . Have set up an award for community groups/Parish councils. The aim of the project is to replace trees lost through Ash dieback. For more details see devonwildlifetrust.org/news/new-saving-devons-treescapes-award . A walk is being planned at Griggs Field in August. See DWT events page for more information

North Devon Natural solutions has included advice about water quality , water management such as using Leaky Dams/woody dams in water courses which can help trap some sediment and agricultural run-off. You need to register your interest for these via the web link

Wilder Communities

See some blogs and ideas from other communities Wilder Diaries : [Wilder Diaries | Devon Wildlife Trust](#)

[Wilder Communities | Devon Wildlife Trust](#)

wildercommunities@devonwildlifetrust.org

Skern lodge have been taking action for nature across their 22 acre site and have been awarded the Devon Wildlife Trust Wildlife Garden Award.

For some information on Funding Opportunities see [Funding Opportunities | Devon Wildlife Trust](#)

Wildlife Champions [Wildlife Champions | Devon Wildlife Trust](#)

Wildlife Champions award programme: For local schools to encourage more outside learning

Pine Martens : 15 have been released in the Dartmoor area. For more information see www.twomoorspinemartens.org .

Beavers_:In March the Government decided that Beavers can be allowed to live wild in English rivers once again. Existing beavers can remain and new reintroductions will be allowed under a carefully managed licence system run by Natural England.They are also a “ European Protected Species” Recent surveys have found around 60 Beaver territories across Devon including the Taw river catchment area. The Trust is also working with landowners giving advice including practical management to manage unwanted impacts. See [Our work with beavers | Devon Wildlife Trust](#) for more information.

Debbie Frazer Barnstaple and District Local Group Volunteer . April 2025