

22 December 2021

Steve Hearse
Chief Executive
Torridge District Council
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Dear Steve

We thought you would be interested to hear about progress with the Devon Nature Recovery Network (NRN) map and toolkit.

We're delighted to say that a critical milestone was reached on 30th November when the first iteration was presented. The results of our work were well received, and we're very pleased that around 90 people attended from the great majority of local authorities, statutory agencies, protected landscapes and environmental NGOs in Devon. We were able to display a series of maps that show: -

- The natural habitat that currently exist in Devon, both protected sites (e.g. SSSI) and unprotected ones
- The potential for restoring or recreating specific natural habitat types (e.g. wetland, neutral meadow) across the county
- Some initial work showing clusters of habitat and giving an indication of possible target areas for restoration and recreation efforts

This is a really significant step forward and builds on the lessons learned from similar maps created elsewhere in the UK. As well as creating the single most comprehensive and up to date analysis of wildlife habitat in Devon, the maps will be a vitally important decision-making tool as we plan to achieve the 30% coverage for nature set out in the Environment Act 2021. The maps will form a central pillar in the Local Nature Recovery Strategy, and they will also play a crucial role in our efforts to tackle climate change and reach net zero emissions by 2050 or earlier.

There is much work still to be done. Existing data will continue to be refined, and we intend to add further layers that will include: -

- Connectivity modelling, so we can refine the ability of the maps to identify strategic areas for targeting policy and funding interventions on the ground
- Coverage of the marine areas around Devon, where half of our wildlife resides
- Carbon sequestration potential of existing and possible new areas of natural habitat

The NRN mapping and toolkit has been funded by the majority of local authorities, statutory agencies and protected landscapes in Devon. Torridge District Council suggested they would like to pledge towards this work earlier in the year. We are

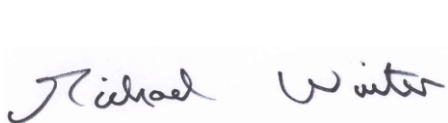
very much hoping that you will now be in a position to make funds available. If there is anything you need from us before you can do this please let us know.

The NRN map and toolkit will be made available online via Devon County Council's Environment Viewer very shortly. We will continue to update and improve it.

The map and toolkit will be shown at the Devon local authority CEO (Team Devon) meeting on 2nd February as part of a presentation and discussion with Natural England and the Devon LNP around Local Nature Recovery Strategies.

We would be delighted to meet up with you and present the NRN map and toolkit if that would be helpful, in which case please don't hesitate to get in touch with Ed Parr Ferris (Conservation Manager, Devon Wildlife Trust).
eparrferris@devonwildlifetrust.org

Yours sincerely



Professor Michael Winter
Chair of Natural Devon



Harry Barton
CEO of Devon Wildlife Trust and Vice Chair of
Natural Devon