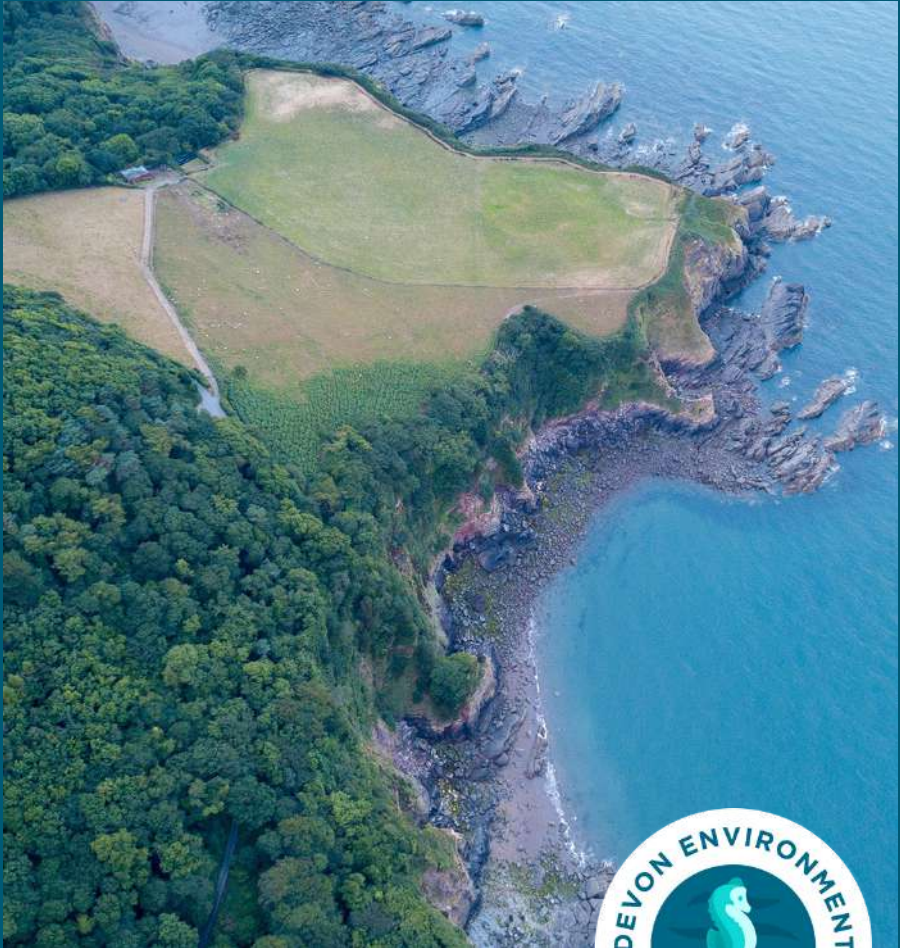


DEVON ENVIRONMENT FOUNDATION



ANNUAL REVIEW 2024





CONSERVATION
COLLECTIVE

Devon Environment Foundation is a member of the Conservation Collective, a global network of local foundations funding effective grassroots initiatives that protect and restore nature, and mitigate the effects of climate change.

OUR VISION

Given the scale of the climate and ecological emergency, our ambition is to expand and accelerate nature protection and restoration across Devon.

Protecting and restoring nature is an inspiring and cost-effective way to sequester carbon; increase biodiversity; prevent flooding, droughts, and soil erosion; and reduce and clean up pollution.

We are excited by the power of grassroots nature restoration to tackle the climate and nature crises; while igniting hope and wider action.

OUR STRATEGY

DEF specialises in identifying the most innovative and impactful grassroots nature restoration projects in Devon, providing vital kick-start or scale-up support.

We fill a funding gap for smaller, pioneering projects requiring flexible funding and mentoring support.

We are independent and agile, directing funds where they are needed quickly to deliver the greatest benefits for nature.

Our Advisory Board of leading local nature experts helps to optimise our grant-making process.

In our first 3.5 years, we supported 56 brilliant grassroots projects tackling the climate and nature crises, awarding more than £740,000.



2020-2023

AT A GLANCE



PROJECTS

56



PARTNERS

35



GRANTS AWARDED

£740,000



OUR IMPACTS



PROTECTING & RESTORING NATURAL HABITATS



HELPING NATIVE SPECIES TO THRIVE



SLOWING DOWN & ADAPTING TO CLIMATE CHANGE



REDUCING POLLUTION



OUR WORK

1 Peatland Restoration

Experimenting with ways to regenerate peatlands with the communities who live nearby, such as growing sphagnum moss and transplanting it onto the moor to discover whether this practical approach can deliver results at significant scale.



2 Crayfish Hatchery

Establishing a new hatchery and nursery for white-clawed crayfish to increase their population and prevent extinction. Helping this crucial native species will increase biodiversity, improve water quality, and restore freshwater ecosystems.





3 Regenerative Agriculture

Kick-starting a new School of Regenerative Land-Based Studies that offers practical training to fill a skills gap and grow the next generation of regenerative farmers - sequestering carbon and mitigating the effects of climate change.



4 Mycelium & Biochar

Trialling mycelium and biochar recipes to sequester carbon, enhance soil quality, and clean up river pollution via mycofiltration; identifying replicable low-cost, low-tech solutions that empower landowners and communities.



OUR WORK

1 Wild About Devon

Providing a small grants fund to empower communities to take action for wildlife: creating new wildlife sites or changing the management of parks, gardens, churchyards, orchards, ponds, ditches, and buildings to benefit a range of wildlife species.



2 Beaver Reintroductions

Exploring different landowner incentives to enable nature's engineers to re-populate Devon's waterways where they increase biodiversity and carbon sequestration, reduce flooding and soil erosion, and enhance water quality.





3 Native Kelp Restoration

Trialling 'Green Gravel', a low-cost, scalable, practical method of kelp transplant to future-proof kelp beds against climate change. Kelps offer multiple benefits, including nutrient recycling, carbon sequestration, and nursery & feeding grounds for marine life



4 Plastic Clean Up

Supporting adventure style beach cleans using ribs and kayaks to reach parts of the coast that other cleaners can't reach, engaging the community, and having fun connecting with nature, while cleaning up plastic pollution.



IMPACT STORY

Protecting & Restoring Natural Habitats and Mitigating Climate Change

Moss and Moor is experimenting with creative ways to restore peatlands with the communities who live nearby, with the aim of discovering whether this participatory approach can be delivered at significant scale.

Phase 1: > 600 people engaged via school & community events, and reached an audience of > 1 million via TV and other media, while transplanting sphagnum mosses at 5 key Dartmoor sites.

Phase 2: Working with farms to grow sphagnum moss at scale, and with Plymouth University to better understand the carbon sequestration potential of translocating sphagnum moss.



>600

people growing
moss on the moor

“

We're sharing the story of how tiny mosses bury carbon in the ground as peat, to help people understand the importance of looking after our precious moorland landscapes to help tackle climate change, while improving water quality, and supporting biodiversity.”

NAOMI WRIGHT, PROJECT LEAD, ART AND ENERGY



Importance of Peatlands

When peatlands are drained or burned they go from being a carbon sink to a carbon source, releasing into the atmosphere centuries of stored carbon.

State of Local Peatlands

In Dartmoor, only 1% of the original peat bog is currently healthy. It will take a massive effort from many sources to restore and regenerate it.



OUR TEAM

Being part of the Conservation Collective allows us to share world-class knowledge and expertise across the network.



Amanda Keetley
Executive Director



Amber Veacock
Project Coordinator



Ben Goldsmith
Founder



Simon Nicholls
Chair



Jade Brudenell
Conservation Collective



Steering Committee

Simon Nicholls (Chair)
Mitch Tonks
Ben Goldsmith
Wynne Griffiths
Galahad Clark
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Robin Bowman
John Tiner
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Jane Brady, Bioregional Learning Centre
Laurence Couldrick, West Country Rivers Trust
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Sarah Jennings, Devon Local Nature Partnership
Naomi Oakley, Dartmoor Regenerative Farmer
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“

Nature-based solutions are the biggest source of hope in this era of climate and nature emergencies. If we learn to share space better with nature and recognise its true value, we will be rewarded by seeing it recover and thrive.”

**AMANDA KEETLEY, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,
DEVON ENVIRONMENT FOUNDATION**

WHAT'S NEXT

Our priority is to increase the amount of funding available for local, tangible, nature restoration projects in Devon by inspiring more people and organisations to get involved.

We encourage more grassroots nature restoration projects to start up or scale up, by providing mentoring, expertise, connections, and funding.

Your support would enable us to seed even more local nature restoration, while showcasing project successes to inspire wider action, and accelerate systemic change.



THANK YOU

to all our donors for your support. We couldn't do our work without you.

SUPPORT US



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