



DEVON ENVIRONMENT FOUNDATION

Protecting and restoring nature in Devon

OUR VISION

Given the scale of the climate and ecological emergencies, DEF's ambition is to expand and accelerate nature protection and restoration across Devon.

We are excited by the power of grassroots nature restoration to tackle the climate and nature crises at the same time.

DEF channels funding to the most innovative and impactful grassroots nature restoration projects in Devon.

We share uplifting stories of what local nature restoration projects can achieve, to ignite hope and wider action.



Nature-based solutions are the biggest sources 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**



Our four areas of impact are:



**Restoring
natural habitats**



**Building
climate resilience**



**Protecting
native species**



**Reducing
Pollution**

OUR STRATEGY

- DEF specialises in **identifying the local projects** that are best-placed to restore nature on the ground in the place they love.
- We **fill a funding gap** for smaller or pioneering projects that require flexible funding, providing vital kick-start or scale-up 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 optimise our grant-making process.
- We showcase project successes, share best practice, and enable collaboration and replication to amplify impact.
- In our first 4.5 years, we have supported **81 local grassroots projects** awarding more than **£1 million**.

2020-2024

AT A GLANCE



PROJECTS

81



PROJECT PARTNERS

42



GRANTS AWARDED

£1,000,000



OUR PROJECT EXAMPLES



Washfield Wetland

Supporting the start-up costs of the ambitious new wetland site – a collaboration of local farmers and landowners creating a haven for wildlife in Mid Devon, to increase local biodiversity whilst improving river water quality, reducing soil run-off, and reducing flooding at key sites downstream in Tiverton.



Swift Boxes

Restoring Devon's Swift population to address the drastic decline in numbers over the last 25 years by installing nest boxes and audio lures into village church towers to attract breeding pairs and kickstart new colonies.



Native Kelp Restoration

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



Plastic Free North Devon

Tackling plastic pollution, inspiring reconnection with nature, and facilitating sustainable behaviour change via community education, events, and campaigns to foster a healthier relationship between the people of North Devon and the natural world.





OUR PROJECT EXAMPLES

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 wide range of wildlife species.



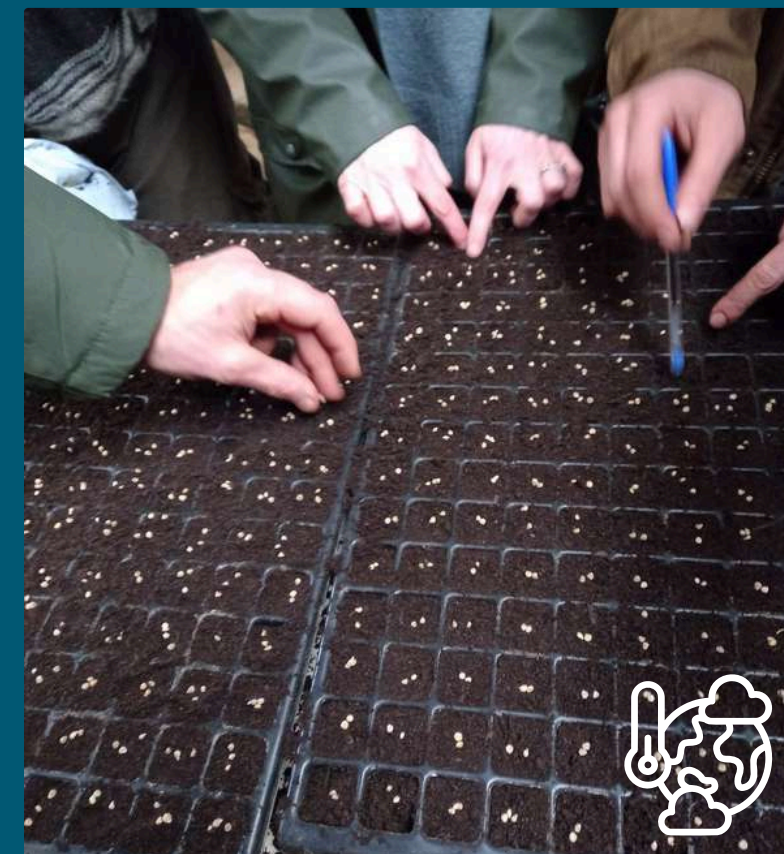
Crayfish Hatchery

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



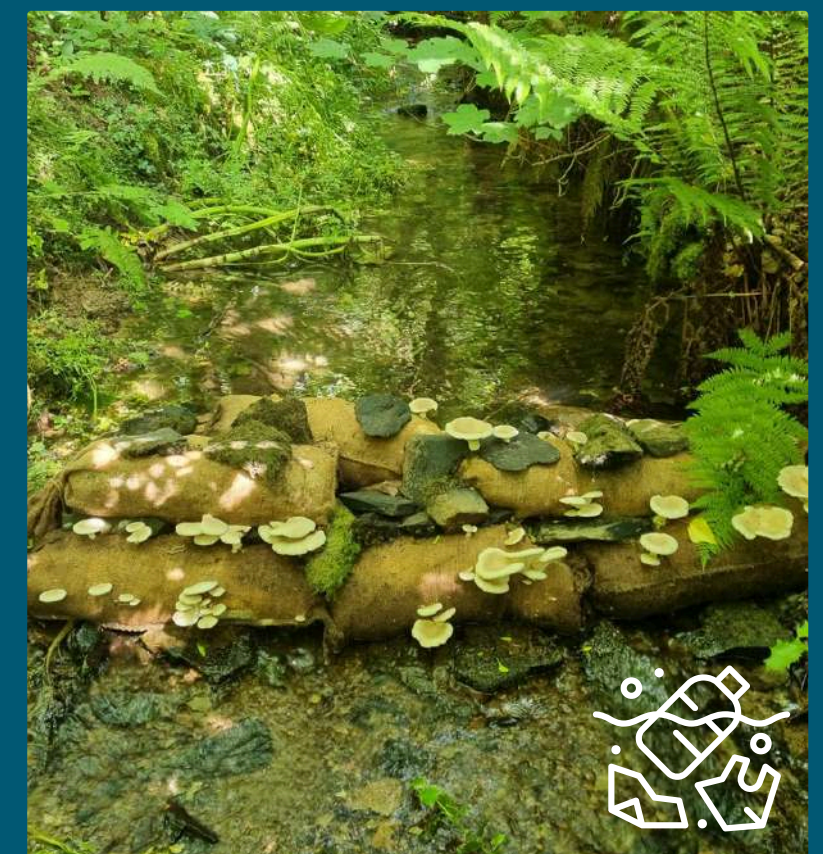
Regenerative Agriculture

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 & mitigating the effects of climate change.



Mycelium & Biochar

Trialling mycelium & 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 PROJECT EXAMPLES



Pesticide-Free Bradley

Encouraging and supporting households across the ward of Bradley, Newton Abbot, to go pesticide-free with an ultimate aspiration to work with other local community groups to launch a Pesticide-Free Devon initiative.



Beaver Reintroductions

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



Peatland Restoration

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



River Water Quality

Conducting year-round bacterial and chemical testing along the River Dart, working with SWW to drive infrastructure updates to restore water quality and river health., while engaging the community through a series of events and workshops.



WHY PARTNER WITH US

DEF identifies the most effective local nature restoration projects, providing the financial boost they need to replicate and scale. Here are some business reasons to support DEF:

- Attract and keep eco-minded customers and employees.
- Meaningful and uplifting stories to share and cross-marketing opportunities.
- Our name on your marketing materials, website, etc.
- Credible way to off-set/give back via tangible, local, nature restoration.
- Being a leader in sustainable, regenerative business practices, delivering UN [SDG 13](#), [SDG14](#), and [SDG15](#).
- Access to our network of businesses and local partners.
- Doing good is good for business.



DEF is doing an incredible job of discovering pioneering nature regeneration projects. Supporting them is a brilliant way to expand our mission of reconnecting people to nature and their natural human potential, and to kickstart a regenerative future.

GALAHAD CLARK CEO
VIVOBAREFOOT



WAYS YOUR BUSINESS CAN SUPPORT



Your business can get involved and help us support even more of the many local nature restoration projects in Devon by:



Direct Corporate Contributions

- Donating a % of your sales/profit, e.g. [via 1% for the Planet](#).
- Making ad hoc or end-of-year donations, e.g. [DEF's Crowdfunder](#).
- Co-funding / Adopting a DEF Project, e.g. [Washfield Wetland](#).



Employee & Customer Fundraising

- Adding £1 per bill to fundraise from your customers on our behalf.
- Employee fundraising efforts, e.g. [Dip into Nature Winter Challenge](#).
- Match-funding your employee donations – 'give as you earn'.



Direct Involvement & Engagement

- Offering prizes for prize draws, auctions, raffles, e.g. [Christmas Prize Draw](#).
- Joining our Steering Committee. Steering Committee Members act as DEF's ambassadors and decision makers on projects to fund.

OUR TEAM

We are a branch of Conservation Collective, a global network of local foundations funding the most effective grassroots initiatives to protect and restore nature and build climate resilience. Being part of Conservation Collective allows us to access world-class knowledge, expertise, and networks; and share learning and best practice with other environmental foundations.



Amanda Keetley
Executive Director



Maise Layla Glass
Operations Officer



Tom Amey
Projects Officer



Simon Nicholls
Chair



Ben Goldsmith
Founder
Conservation Collective



Jade Brudenell
Executive Director
Conservation Collective

OUR SUPPORTERS



HUBLLOT

ROCKFISH



VIVOBAREFOOT



dryrobe®



SALCOMBE
BREWERY CO.



LIGHTROCKPOWER

READY TO GIVE BACK TO NATURE?

You can make a tangible difference by supporting grassroots projects that protect and restore nature in Devon.

To learn more, see our:

- [2024 Impact Snapshot](#)
- [2023 Annual Review](#)
- [Theory of Change](#)
- [DEF Video](#)
- [The Nature Restorers Video Series](#)

Please reach out to:

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