

# Nature recovery actions to help Croyde & Georgeham

Finding  
Nature's  
Footprints



North Devon  
Coast  
National  
Landscape

## Why nature recovery matters?

Croyde's dunes, ponds and stream support rare wildlife. By working together, we can protect these habitats for future generations and ensure wildlife continues to thrive.

## Actions

1. Reduce light pollution around campsites, caravan parks and sensitive locations, supporting considerate lighting schemes.
2. Reduce pollution through better run-off management, chemical education and wetland restoration.
3. Support residents and business to understand and implement suitable habitats for diverse pollinator needs (e.g. deadwood, standing water, bare ground).



Scan the QR code to learn how you can get involved in helping restore habitats, support local wildlife, and shape the future of nature recovery across Croyde Bay.



## Get involved

### Actions for businesses & campsites

- Reduce light pollution with wildlife-friendly lighting improve water run-off and waste management – (windproof bins).

### Actions for residents

- Create pollinator-friendly gardens (deadwood, water dishes, bare ground)
- Avoid chemicals that harm soils, water and insects

### Actions for everyone

- Stay on dune paths to reduce erosion
- Reduce litter and plastic on the beach and footpaths
- Don't light BBQs or campfires in the dunes
- Respect the wildlife and insects
- Take part in regular Ruda beach cleans, check their FB page for dates
- Volunteer as a Smart Biosphere water tester with North Devon Biosphere – visit their website for details.



Get involved in species recording using the iNaturalist app.



## Threats



**Disturbance:** High visitor numbers on a seasonal basis put the village of Croyde under huge demand. This can cause wildlife disturbance, litter, coastal erosion and light pollution. The Croyde sand dunes are under pressure from heavy footfall each summer.



**Pollution:** Sewage overflows, plastic waste and agricultural runoff all pollute the waters of Croyde bay, harming the coastal ecosystem.



**Invasive species:** Invasive species such as those planted within holiday parks like New Zealand Flax out compete native plants and disturb the ecological balance of Croyde.



**Disconnected habitats:** Development and fragmented habitats cause a lack of habitat connectivity for many species such as frogs, newts, birds and hedgehogs, preventing species from being able to forage, nest and breed.



# Croyde Nature Recovery Map

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## What's special in Croyde?

### Croyde Species:



**Barn Owl** – Barn owls in Croyde depend on healthy, diverse grasslands and connected hedgerows for hunting and nesting, making habitat restoration vital to support their declining populations.



**Common Toad** – Once abundant in the ponds here, common toads rely on safe, connected habitats to reach their breeding ponds each spring, making garden refuges like log piles, dense hedges, and clean wildlife ponds especially important for their survival.



**Bats** – Croyde's diverse bat communities – including the rare Greater Horseshoe bat – relies on dark skies, healthy roosts, and insect-rich habitats, making their protection vital to the local ecosystem. The hedgerows leading down the valley are vital to help bats navigate and feed.



**Brown-Banded Carder Bee** – Farmland in Croyde supports rare species like the brown-banded carder bee, which relies on wildflowers, scrub, and patches of bare ground to thrive.



**Rare fly** – The Crydda stream in Croyde supports two exceptionally rare fly species found nowhere else in the UK, underscoring the importance of protecting this unique habitat.

### Croyde Habitats:



**Sand dunes** – Croyde's sand dunes, are dynamic, ever-shifting habitats shaped by wind and tides, supporting diverse wildlife but needing careful conservation to protect them for the future.



**Maritime cliff and slope** – Croyde's maritime cliffs and slopes around Baggy Point form a rugged, wildlife-rich coastline, providing vital nesting and feeding habitats for coastal species.



**Rocky shore** – Bordering the beach, shaped by powerful tides and swells, a rich and ever-changing habitat where resilient marine life thrives in rock pools and along the shoreline.



**Wildflower meadows** – Flower-rich meadows nestled behind the sand dunes, shaped by centuries of traditional hay-cutting and grazing, support an abundance of wildlife and remain a precious link to the UK's cultural countryside heritage.



Barn Owl



Brown-Banded Carder Bee

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