



NORTH DEVON JOINS WORLD RECORD TREE PLANTING ATTEMPT

The Northern Devon Coast and Countryside Service has joined forces with the BBC's Breathing Places campaign to help set a new world record for the number of trees planted in one hour across the country.

Landowners and community groups across North Devon's Biosphere Reserve were invited to apply for up to 200 free trees each including oak, ash, hazel and alder saplings. Amongst those responding was Wings South West, which works with young people in North Devon including providing opportunities for young people not in education, employment or training; they will be planting free trees in the North Devon Coast Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty as part of the AONB's 50th anniversary celebrations.

Since there are a limited number of trees available, each application was assessed for the benefits the planting would bring to wildlife and the landscape. Commenting on the rural initiative Fraser Marchbank, Youth and Conservation Worker from Wings South West said, "We are really pleased and excited to be involved in the record attempt. It's a fantastic opportunity for the young people we work with to be able to make a positive and lasting contribution to the environment, for theirs and future generations."

For the world record breaking attempt the trees will need to be planted between 11am and midday on Saturday, 5 December. The aim is to beat the previous record of 653,143 trees by planting over a million in one hour at multiple locations throughout the country. The Coast and Countryside Service will be providing volunteers to help on the day.

For further details visit www.northdevonbiosphere.org, or call Tom Hynes at the Coast and Countryside Service on 01237 423655.

The North Devon Coast AONB was designated on 10 September 1959 and confirmed on 25 May 1960 in recognition of its stunning coastal landscape, which is of national and international importance. The spectacular stretch covers some 66 square miles from the boundary of Exmoor National Park at Combe Martin to Marsland Mouth on the Cornish border. For fifty years the Partnership has protected and conserved the area and will honour this landmark birthday with a series of events highlighting the different aspects of life, culture, history and wildlife across the region from September 2009 to May 2010. For more information visit www.northdevon-aonb.org.uk.

- Ends -

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29 October 2009

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Notes for Editors

1. The North Devon AONB Partnership - The work of the AONB staff Unit is guided by the AONB Partnership, which includes representatives from: Natural England, Devon County Council, Torridge District Council, North Devon Council, Environment Agency, National Farmers Union, Tarka Country Trust, North Devon Biosphere Foundation, Country Landowners and Business Association, National Trust, Taw Torridge Estuary Forum, Forestry Commission, South West Forest, North Devon Plus and North Devon Biosphere Reserve Partnership.

2. The North Devon AONB is a stunning coastal area which is nationally protected for the beauty of its landscape. It is made up of several distinct landscapes, each with their own special habitats and geology with many of them receiving extra protection in their own right. The AONB contains many Sites of Special Scientific Interest including Braunton Burrows, which is the core of a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve. <http://www.northdevonbiosphere.org.uk/>.

3. This spectacular stretch, which covers some 66 square miles from the boundary of Exmoor National Park at Combe Martin to Marsland Mouth on the Cornish border, was nominated as an AONB on 10 September 1959 and confirmed on 25 May 1960.

4. Further information about the North Devon Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty can be found on www.northdevon-aonb.org.uk, www.northdevoncoast.org.uk and www.explorebraunton.org.uk.