

Press Release



360 kgs of rubbish including bread crates, a bollard, an inflatable boat and even the kitchen sink were collected by volunteers with the Northern Devon Coast and Countryside Service at Greencliff beach on Sunday.

15 volunteers helped clear the beach of any rubbish that had come in from the winter storms. The great majority of the rubbish was plastic including bottles, fishing net, rope and various crates. None of this plastic is biodegradable and therefore will exist indefinitely at sea or on the beach eventually breaking up into smaller and smaller pieces.

“When we left at the end of the day, the beach looked spotless, with none of the usual brightly coloured strandline of plastic” said Tom Hynes of the Coast and Countryside Service. “The coast is an important part of North Devon’s Biosphere Reserve and it is great that there are people who care enough about their local environment to spend time clearing up rubbish that may have come many, many miles away. Anyone visiting any of North Devon’s beaches should remember to take any rubbish home with them to keep them looking good for the public and safe for wildlife.”

The next Coast and Countryside Service beach clean will be at Braunton Burrows on Sunday 17th May. All are welcome to attend. For further details contact the Coast and Countryside Service on 01237 423655.

~ Ends ~

Notes for Editors

1. **Northern Devon Coast and Countryside Service** is a partnership organisation based in Bideford and hosted by Devon County Council. It is core funded by Natural England, North Devon Council and Torrington District Council. The Service co-ordinates and delivers activities set out in the North Devon's Biosphere Reserve strategy and the North Devon AONB Management Plan, and works with a wide range of local, regional, national and international partners. It also helps maintain and develop the South west Coast path and Tarka Trail. More information about the work of the service can be found at <http://www.devon.gov.uk/ndccs>
2. **North Devon's Biosphere Reserve** is the first and so far only new-style Biosphere Reserve in the UK with core functions of conservation, learning and research and sustainable Development and three different management zones. The Biosphere Reserve is centred on Braunton Burrows and includes the North Devon Coast Areas of Outstanding National Beauty (AONB), the Taw and Torrington Estuary, Lundy Island and communities in towns and villages from the coast to the edge of Exmoor and the foot of Dartmoor.