

DISCOVER OUR WILDLIFE

From bluebells at Brownsham to porpoises at Morte Point there is accessible wildlife for everyone to see and enjoy throughout the year within the Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Explore the strandline on sandy beaches for shells, seaweeds and mermaid's purses.

The rocky shores have some of the most extreme environments for animals. Find anemones, shrimps and crabs sheltering in the pools at low tide. Up on the cliff tops you can spot seabirds and maybe seals or porpoises offshore. Behind you on the downland or heathlands are flowers, birds, bees and butterflies. The coastal woodlands provide every shade of green with Spring flowers or Autumn colours.

Check out the different seasons and these particular highlights to look out for:



Spring / early Summer

Bluebells – Hartland Abbey, Brownsham, Lee Valley, Berrynarbor and Worthygate Wood, Buck's Mills

Flowering cliffs with pink thrift, white sea campion and yellow kidney vetch at Baggy Point, Morte and Bull Point, and along the Hartland coast

Peregrine falcon – Hartland Quay and the coast between Morte and Ilfracombe

Fulmar – Lee Bay in spring and early summer

Wheatear – on any of the points and rocky clifftops

Strawberry anemones and the green/purple Snakelocks anemones in shallow rockpools in mid-beach areas

Summer

Flowering sand dunes – Braunton Burrows, Croyde, Northam Burrows and Woolacombe Warren

Flowering Culm grasslands – at Bursdon Moor, Hartland

Greater horseshoe bats – at dusk at Braunton, Fremington and Combe Martin

Harbour porpoise – off Downend Point, Saunton and Mouthmill

Spider crabs moulting & mating near shore on Saunton, Croyde or Woolacombe beaches

Autumn

Grey seals – Morte Point and Lundy Island

Sanderling – Saunton Sands from September to March

Blue-rayed limpet – on low shore kelp at Lee, Ilfracombe, Hele and Combe Martin beaches

Winter

Migrating seabirds and waders – Taw Torridge estuary at The Skern at Northam Burrows Country Park and Crow Point near Braunton

Curlew, golden plover and lapwing – anywhere on the Taw Torridge estuary

Wildlife Trails to Download

These three trails will reveal the homes of some of our coastal creatures:

Woolacombe Wildlife Trail – <https://www.northdevon-aonb.org.uk/resources/woolacombe-wildlife-trail-coastal-creatures>

Ilfracombe Wildlife Trail – <https://www.northdevon-aonb.org.uk/resources/ilfracombe-and-hillsborough-wildlife-trail-coastal-creatures>

Northam Burrows Country Park Wildlife Trail – <https://www.northdevon-aonb.org.uk/resources/northam-burrows-country-park-wildlife-trail-coastal-creatures>

Coastal Creatures Spotter Guide – www.northdevon-aonb.org.uk/resources/coastal-creatures-spotter-guide

- North Devon Coast Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty
- A road
- B road
- Minor road
- South West Coast Path
- Tarka Trail
- Tarka Line (railway)
- Woodland
- Dunes
- Sandy beach in AONB
- Pebble beach
- Cliffs
- Rocks
- Stream
- 224m High point
- Tourist Information Centre
- Ferry service

Wildlife watching areas

- Bats
- Birds
- Seals
- Lizards and snakes
- Butterflies
- Flowers
- Marine mammals

Heritage sites

- Hillfort
- Museum
- Countryside Centre
- World War 2 site
- 19th Century limekiln
- Historical mining
- Bronze age Neolithic site

Activities

- Rockpooling beach
- Watersports
- Seasonal RNLI lifeguard cover
- Boat trip
- AONB self-guided walk
- Woodland
- Ilfracombe Aquarium
- Parkrun
- National Trust site
- Blue Flag Beach

(N.B. not all minor roads are marked on this map)

Wildlife in Detail

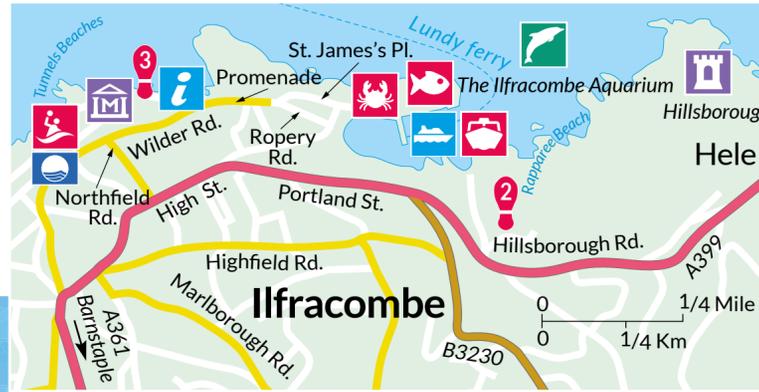
North Devon has many museums, centres and attractions that contain stunning displays, activities and exhibitions about our local wildlife:

- Ilfracombe Aquarium** – from Exmoor to the Sea with live exhibits and displays
- Combe Martin Museum** – includes geology, mining and marine exhibits, plus rockpool rambles (summer)
- Ilfracombe Museum** – includes seabirds, seaweeds and shells

- Morte Museum** – heritage and tractor & trailer rides to the coast (summer)
- Braunton Countryside Centre** – nature on Braunton Burrows and Marsh, bat trail (www.devonbatproject.org)
- Museum of Barnstaple and North Devon** – coast explorer and wildlife exhibits
- Northam Burrows Visitor Centre** – dunes, coast and family activities



Peregrine falcon



Heritage in the Landscape

Whilst looking for wildlife you may see evidence of how humans have influenced their habitats and landscapes. Most visible are the enclosed fields surrounded by ancient Devon hedgebanks, with isolated windswept trees and small pockets of woodland. These provide wildlife corridors for dormice, bats and birds alongside the flowering verges of country lanes.

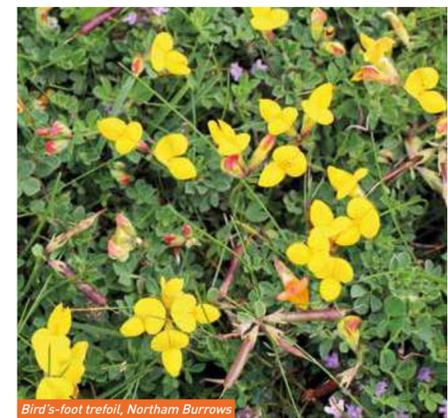
Inland, the skyline is marked by ancient burial mounds whilst along the coast, promontory hillforts have been home to strategic defences from the Iron Age to the Twentieth Century including WW2 and Cold War uses. Some of the major sites are shown on the maps. Devon's maritime heritage is reflected in the historic harbours, quays and fishing villages that pepper the coast such as Hartland Quay and Clovelly.

For more detailed information about heritage sites please see the downloads for Walks 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 10, 12, 13 and 14, or on our website <https://www.northdevon-aonb.org.uk/our-landscape/heritage>

North Devon Circular Walks

- All walks downloadable from <https://www.northdevon-aonb.org.uk/explore>

- 1. Silver, Smoke and Strawberries** – Combe Martin's Industrial Heritage, 9.5km, Challenging. **Start:** Kiln car park, Combe Martin.
- 2. Hillsborough Cultural Trail**, 2.5km, Moderate. **Start:** Swimming Pool car park, Ilfracombe.
- 3. Wreckers, Railways and Rockpools – Ilfracombe and Lee Bay Cultural Trail**, 14km, Moderate to Strenuous. **Start:** Landmark Theatre, Ilfracombe.
- 4. Lee Valley and Bull Point Cultural Trail**, 8km, Moderate to Strenuous. **Start:** Small car park near beach.
- 5. Georgeham and Putsborough Easy Access Trail**, 2.2km, Easy. **Start:** Georgeham.
- 6. Croyde and Saunton Down Cultural Trail**, 5.5km, Moderate. **Start:** Croyde Village car park.
- 7. Braunton Burrows Nature Walk**, 3km, Easy. **Start:** Sandy Lane car park.
- 8. Braunton Burrows History and Nature Walk**, 4km, Moderate. **Start:** Broadlands / Crow Point Toll Road car park.



Bird's-foot trefoil, Northam Burrows

North Devon Beaches

- Barricane** – Shingle/sandy. Access via steps. Limited parking on esplanade or 10 min walk from Woolacombe car parks.
- Broadstrand** – Sandy. Public Right of Way access down 120 steep steps, park on the Old Coast Road (Barton Road) near to Sandy Cove Hotel over 600m away.
- Combe Martin** – Sandy. Access slope from Kiln car park or slipway off A399.
- Combesgate** – Sandy/rocks. Access via steps, limited parking along Esplanade or Woolacombe car parks 1km away.
- Croyde** – Sandy. Slope from main beach car park, pathway and steps from Downend, or across rocks from Sandleigh Tea Rooms (NT). Access mid beach via Footpath from village. Parking: NT Baggy Point; Croyde Burrows; Croyde Village and Downend.
- Hele Bay** – Shingle. Slipway near Hele car park.
- Ilfracombe Harbour** – Sand. Access from slipway or stairs.
- Lee Bay** – Rocky with sand at low tide. Access ramp and small walkway across the higher shore. Parking round village.
- Putsborough** – Sandy. Access from beach car park down steps or steep ramp.
- Rapparee** – Patchy sand with rocks. Access via steep steps down the cliff. Parking – Cove car park, Larkstone or Swimming Pool in Ilfracombe
- Saunton** – Large, sandy beach, access from car park down slipway or via a 50 min walk across Braunton Burrows from Sandy Lane car park.
- Tunnels Beach** – Rock/sand. Access charge. Natural open-air swimming pool.
- Woolacombe** – Sandy. Access via slipway or steps from main car parks or from Marine Drive across the dunes.



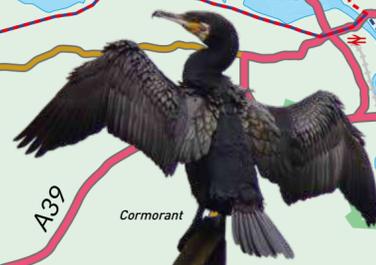
Bluebells



Oystercatcher



Strawberry anemone



Cormorant