



National Trails UK

Member Newsletter

Issue 9 October 2025

Autumn is here in full colour, and with the falling leaves, come National Trail Partnership meetings! It's been a real pleasure hearing about all the brilliant work happening across the National Trails at the meetings I've joined so far and sharing updates from NTUK too. If you've got a Partnership meeting in the diary, [please do invite us along](#), we'd love to be there.

I'm also delighted to welcome a new face to the NTUK team - Kate Conway, our Senior Communications Officer. Kate brings over 20 years' experience in communications, most recently at WWT. She's a passionate storyteller, who believes in the power of evidence-led narratives to inspire people to love and protect nature. Living with hearing loss, Kate knows first hand the health and wellbeing benefits that wild spaces bring and why it's so important they're accessible and inclusive for everyone. Kate will be getting in touch with many of you in the coming weeks, as she settles in to her new role.



Policy corner

New DEFRA Secretary of State

Following the September reshuffle, DEFRA has a new Secretary of state: Emma Reynolds, MP for Wycombe, who has the Thames Path right on her doorstep. Emma previously represented Wolverhampton North East (2010 – 2019), before returning to Parliament in 2024, where she was appointed to roles in the Treasury before accepting the SoS role. We've written to Emma, introducing her to the National Trails and NTUK, and we look forward to building a positive and productive working relationship.

Autumn Budget Submission

With the Autumn Budget set for 26th November, NTUK has once again made a submission on behalf of our members, demonstrating the strong business case to invest in National Trails. Drawing on much of the same information gathered from the National Trails for the Second Stage spending review in the Spring, (huge thanks again to the National Trails who were a part of that work), we have again asked Government to increase funding for the National Trails in line with inflation and the increase in the National Trails network. Together, we're showing just how strong the business case for National Trails really is.

Access for all Funding - building the case studies

Despite the challenges of the short-term notice, and having to deliver capital projects in-year, it has been amazing at Partnership meetings to see how National Trails have used the Access for All funding. The projects we have seen so far are going to make a meaningful difference to increasing access for everyone along the National Trails network.

We'd love to hear how you're using your Access for All funding. Sharing your projects with us helps build a collective picture of the impact this funding is having and creates a pool of inspiring ideas for other Trails to draw on in the future.

Please send information about your projects to Rob, Fundraising and Development Manager
rob@nationaltails.uk

Responsible Dog Ownership on National Trails Webinar

A big thank you to the over 50 people who joined last week's webinar on Responsible Dog Ownership on National Trails. We were fortunate to have presentations from Clare Webb and Bruce Cutts from Natural England and Rachel Elliot from NatureScot who took us through the Countryside Code in England and Wales and the Scottish Outdoor Access Code, this was followed by useful tips and examples from Shona Jenkins from Bird Aware Solent and Anneke Kempton from Dorset Dogs, thank you to all of our brilliant presenters!

Couldn't join us live? Catch up via the unlisted YouTube recording here
<https://youtu.be/N8Cyu78rW1M>

We'd love your feedback or suggestions on next steps. Share your thoughts with hannah@nationaltrails.uk or, if you'd like to feedback to Shona's question about 'what you'd find helpful' to influence 'The Better Dog Walk Project', please get in touch with her at Shona.Jenkins@hants.gov.uk.



Protected Landscapes Partnership (PLP) Corner

National Trails Nature Recovery Tender: Calling all innovative ecologists!

The NTUK Nature Recovery Programme is currently seeking support in developing a 'A multi-method approach to habitat baselining National Trail corridors'. This is an exciting first step towards a standard framework that's flexible, inclusive, reflects the diversity of the Trails and can be delivered by different users, from citizen scientists to trained ecologists. This will support targeted delivery and advocacy of National Trails as corridors for people and nature. Find out more (and share widely!) on our website: <https://www.nationaltrails.uk/news/tender-alert-a-multi-method-approach-to-habitat-baselining-national-trail-corridors>

Submissions close 9am Friday 24th October.

We're always keen to hear your thoughts. If you have any feedback or would like to be involved in reviewing the draft deliverables (February 2026) or piloting one of the survey methods (June-August 2026), please get in touch with hannah@nationaltrails.uk.

NTUK National Trails Test and Trial Fund - Closing 6th October!

We've been blown away by the quality of applications to the fund so far, and are really excited to see these trials start all across England!

With only a limited amount of funding remaining, we will be closing both the Nature Recovery and Coastal Wildbelt pots at midnight on Monday 6th October and will review all remaining submissions together.

PLP Data Download - Deer, Birds and Climate - September Newsletter

Collated by the PLP's Evidence Officer, this newsletter will keep you up to date with the latest data/evidence stories across the protected landscapes and National Trails.

In its second edition, you'll find inspiring examples of how Protected Landscapes are using evidence in different ways, from managing deer impact with GIS and drone surveys, or archaeology and storytelling, to creating engaging tools like pocket guides and ArcGIS StoryMaps to share bird survey results.

Read more [HERE](#) and sign up to future newsletters [HERE](#).

Local Nature Recovery Strategies

A reminder to submit your responses to your Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) consultation. Current deadlines are:

- Shropshire and Telford and Wrekin – 15th October (Offa's Dyke Path (45 km))
- Gloucestershire – 19th October (Cotswolds Way (124 km), Offa's Dyke Path (30 km), Thames Path (16 km))
- Greater London - 29th October - Thames Path (104 km), ECP (21 km)
- Somerset - 31st October (South West Coast Path (72 km), ECP (134 km))

With the following soon to be released for consultation:

- Devon - South West Coast Path & ECP (380 km)

Short on time? Hannah (NTUK Nature Recovery Programme Manager) will be in touch by email, with draft responses you can review, contribute to, or use directly. Wondering what LNRSs are and why they matter for National Trails and coastal margins? [Check out our recent blog post.](#)

World Trails Network Survey - Citizen trail monitoring

Do you or a partner org run a citizen trail monitoring programme? The your insights and thoughts are needed!

The World Trails Network's Design and Stewardship Task Force (DSTT) is running a quick survey to learn more about how citizen-based trail condition reporting and monitoring is done around the world. If you're involved with a programme, or know of one, they'd love you to share your experiences.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfflYTLQPcWd_aEdxpVtZTSUYIyXt2-ekH3kpcVJRAKoyJ50w/viewform?mc_cid=da72832aab&mc_eid=2a0d5de091



PLP Nature-centric governance webinar series

This series of webinars is developed to be an introduction to nature-centric governance methods and approaches with the hope that some of these tools resonate with protected landscapes and National Trails. There will be a follow up face to face event in the new year to help those who want to trial these approaches to shape and develop their plans. Open to all National Trail Officers, rangers, partnership members and chairs and wider protected landscape partners, all welcome.

Tickets are free for the webinars (links below) and the events will be hosted via Teams, with the expert speakers being recorded so others are able to listen back.



Introduction to Nature Governance & Rights of Nature

Wed 5 Nov 2025 10:00 - 11:00am



Introduction to Interspecies Councils

Wed, Nov 5, 2025 3:30-4:30pm



Introduction to Nature Guardianship / Nature on the Board

Wed, Nov 12, 2025 at 10:00-11:00am



Introduction to Nature / River Charters

Wed, Nov 19, 2025 10:00 - 11:00AM