



National Trails UK

Member Newsletter

Issue 14 February 2026

I feel like February has been a difficult month for many people in the outdoors sector. At National Trails UK, we stand alongside our colleagues in the National Landscapes who have faced unacceptable abuse as a result of deliberately provoking articles in the press. All for wanting to make the countryside they steward more inclusive.

As upset and disappointed as I have been about the racist, ableist comments directed at the National Landscapes, I have been heartened to see so many organisations and individuals from the wider countryside sector come together and support the National Landscapes. The outdoors is for everyone, for every body, and I'm delighted to stand with sector colleagues and friends working to make that a reality.

While I sincerely hope that no one has to deal with any abuse, if we're going to make the outdoors safe for everyone, we need to know how to properly respond to hate, discrimination and challenging behaviours when they occur.

For those of you who work in National Parks, National Landscapes and National Trails, there is funded training and workshops on how to manage discrimination and challenging behaviours available through the Protected Landscape Partnership. You can find full details in this newsletter. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank Saskia Luqmani, EDI Lead at the Protected Landscapes Partnership for pulling together these events.

On a more optimistic note, we're drawing closer to the completion of both the Coast to Coast National Trail and the King Charles III England Coast Path, (KCIIECP). These trails have increased the National Trails network hugely, and with the KCIIECP, each section opens up not just more routes, but also increases the open access land for all of us to enjoy. Because it is for all of us.

Making trails count

The National Trails and coastal margin run through 38 of England's 48 Local Nature Recovery Strategies areas, putting them right at the heart of how nature recovery is planned.

Over the past year, we've submitted more than 30 consultation responses to make sure National Trails and the coastal margin are recognised for all they can deliver in terms of connecting people to nature and acting as vital nature corridors. Thanks to everyone who helped review our draft submissions. We're now on the home straight with just three strategies left.

Greater Lincolnshire (covering 127 km of the King Charles III England Coast Path) is now open for consultation until 8th March and Herefordshire (covering 22 km of Offa's Dyke Path) until 22nd March, with Tees Valley still to come.

We've already seen strong early successes and we're building real momentum. Keep an eye out in March for our summary report of impact.



West Highland Way, Loch Lomond & Trossachs National Park

Stories from our Trails

From the teams who maintain them, to the people who explore them, our National Trails are shaped by many voices. Here are the latest trail stories from across the UK:

Beyond the footprint

Our National Trails are stepping up to be more than just routes through nature. They're becoming part of nature's recovery. Discover how across the network, practical action on the ground and strong partnerships are transforming well-loved paths into thriving corridors for wildlife. [Read more:](#)



Redefining Trail Access

How do we open up our National Trails to more people? NTUK Trustee, wheelchair user and Managing Director at Experience Community, Craig Grimes, explores practical ways to improve accessibility. Catch his inspiring reflections [here:](#)

KCIIIIECP hits new milestone

Public access along the King Charles III England Coast Path takes a major leap forward with the opening earlier this month of South Hayling to East Head. A huge well done to everyone involved – all the planning, hard work and on the ground effort has finally paid off and you can enjoy the new stretch in action [here:](#)



Trails for Every Body

Can body shape and size prevent people from accessing our National Trails? It shouldn't but it does. Discover what one plus size campaigner is doing about it [here:](#)

Stories from our Trails continued

Secrets of the Ridgeway

From the enigmatic White Horse at Uffington, to traces of the past etched across the landscape, uncover the fascinating stories of the Ridgeway National Trail in this free lecture series on YouTube.

[Watch now.](#)



From the North Downs Way to Turkey

A new Sounding Art Trail links the North Downs Way with the Lycian Way in Turkey, inviting walkers to listen, move and create with the landscapes they cross. The collaboration was sparked by a North Downs Way Arts Trail presentation at an international workshop, made possible by NTUK funding, demonstrating how investment in shared learning can lead to meaningful global partnerships. [Read More](#)

South West Coast Path costs top £1m

It now costs over £1 million a year to protect and maintain the South West Coast Path, as climate pressures and rising footfall reshape the demands on this iconic National Trail. Read the full press release [here](#).



How does being on a National Trail make you feel?

Help shape the future of our protected landscapes. Take 10 minutes so share what these places mean to you before 27th Feb. [Get started](#)

Partner Events & Resources

Managing Discrimination in Protected Landscapes

Across March and April
Online

Protected landscapes should be welcoming for all, but incidents of hate and discrimination do occur.

These online workshops, offered through the PLP to all NTUK members, are run with Diversiti UK. They're designed to help staff and partners build confidence in responding, supporting others, and tackling challenging behaviours effectively.

[Sign up here.](#)

Any questions: email Saskia Luqmani, EDI Lead, PLP

saskia.luqmani@naturalengland.org.uk

A Buffet of Nature Returns

Tuesday 24 March 12:30-2pm Online.
Free

Hosted by our partners at the National Landscape Association, this webinar will provide a variety of talks showcasing the latest evidence from the Nature Returns programme run by Natural England. [Sign Up.](#)



Evidence in action

From soils and carbon in the Blackdown Hills, to the launch of the first National Trails Nature Hub, read how evidence is driving delivery, including natural capital insights, heritage skills, green infrastructure mapping and more. [Read the PLP Data Download newsletter.](#)

For the latest data/evidence stories across the protected landscapes, [sign up.](#)



Who leads our Protected Landscapes?

6 March 11.00am to 1.00pm online.

What does women's leadership look like in protected landscapes? And how can we learn from one another? This free event invites anyone working in or for these places to explore ideas, experiences and new ways of leading together. [Sign up](#)

Dates for your Diary

NTUK Talks series

Over the past three months, our Coast Path Forum talks have brought members managing coastal trails together to explore shared challenges and sticky issues. We received great feedback from attendees. We also heard that similar discussions would be valuable across other National Trails. We've listened to your feedback.

In response, we're expanding the NTUK Talks series throughout 2026. These 1-hour lunchtime sessions (mostly between 12-1pm) are for Officers only, providing a space to connect, share ideas and explore opportunities. While not formally facilitated by NTUK, they offer a chance to build community and inspire future events and resources.

If you're interested in attending the final event in the series below, or have suggestions for future NTUK Talks, get in touch with events@nationaltrails.uk

Mental health and suicide prevention on National Trails

Tuesday 10th March – 12 – 1pm



National Trail Ranger Meet up

Monday 2nd March 3-4pm, Online

An introductory call for National Trail Rangers across the UK to share common challenges and opportunities.

To join, email hannah@nationaltrails.uk

Partnership working for people & nature along the Cleveland Way & King Charles III England Coast Path

Monday 29th June 4pm – Wednesday 1st July 12pm

Based around Danby, Whitby

Save the date and keep an eye out for sign ups in the March newsletter.



Field Trip Ridgeway

Early June dates TBC

Keep an eye out for sign ups in the March newsletter.