



National Trails UK

Member Newsletter

Issue 16 May 2026

Over the past few weeks I've had the pleasure of attending a number of National Trail partnership meetings. While it's always wonderful to share updates on NTUK's work, the highlight for me is hearing about all the incredible projects and initiatives happening across the National Trails. We're now hitting one of the busiest and most exciting times of year along the Trails, with so much inspiring work underway and plenty more to come.

NTUK is also kicking off a number of exciting new projects, co-created with the National Trails. We cannot wait to tell you more about them in the coming months. Our programme of field trips has also got off to a great start this year. I've heard fantastic feedback from the recent Offa's Dyke trip, and there are still a few spaces available on the upcoming Cleveland Way visit in June, so do sign up if you'd like to join us, (keep reading for the details).

I'd also encourage you to explore our latest guest blogs, which continue to highlight a wider range of voices and experiences from across the UK's 21 National Trails. Film maker and community organiser Roxanna Barry shares a powerful [story](#) about how our Trails can foster confidence, community and connection. While in his [guest blog](#), Gareth Davies of RNIB Cymru reflects on how our Welsh National Trails became places of resilience, possibility and recovery following the loss of his sight.

And finally, speaking of bringing people together, I'm thrilled to share that tickets for the 2026 NTUK Summit are now live! I'm really looking forward to what promises to be an inspiring celebration of innovation, collaboration and ambition across the National Trails and LDRs.

NTUK Summit tickets on sale now

10 September 10:00 – 17:00

The National Archives, Kew, London

Join leaders from government, industry and across the National Trails family to explore how innovation is shaping the UK's 21 National Trails.

Discover how Trails are delivering impact at scale, driving nature recovery, improving health and wellbeing and creating more inclusive, accessible outdoor spaces.

[Click here to book your place at the Summit](#)

If you have any questions about the event, please get in touch:
events@nationaltrails.uk

Policy Corner

National Trails Funding call with DEFRA and Natural England

We're working in partnership with DEFRA and Natural England on long term National Trails funding, including opportunities for National Trails funding in wider government programmes and alternative income sources.

We're putting together a call to bring together National Trail reps with DEFRA and NE to look ahead at future funding options to help shape collectively agreed action and next steps.

An invite has gone out to a range of National Trail Officers, National Trail Chairs and Senior Leadership of National Trail host organisations for a call at the end of June. We'll be updating the wider network with outcomes and actions once the call has happened.

Stories from our Trails

Our National Trails are shaped by those who care for and explore them. Catch up on the latest news and activity from across the network.



Thames Path turns 30

It's a busy summer ahead on the Thames Path as they celebrate 30 years with a 24 day walking relay, poetry trail, an anniversary photo competition and a new riverside mural.

[Explore the celebrations](#)



Celebrating 10 years of the Somerset stretch of the KCIIECP

The Somerset Trail Partnership is celebrating its anniversary with a season of guided walks, coastal events and community activities, including an 80 miles in eight days Challenge Walk.

[Discover more:](#)

Putting down routes

This project set out to improve access and enrich the experience along the North Downs Way. As it draws to a close, discover what its achieved, from trail improvements to new engagement and stronger connections.

[Discover more](#)



How is data shaping our protected landscapes?

Discover how shared evidence delivered through the Protected Landscapes Partnership is driving action and guiding decisions on nature recovery, climate resilience and public access.

[Discover more:](#)

Stories from our Trails cont....

What if every journey you make carries a story?

Our National Trails are living threads of memory, movement and meaning, connecting people to place and past to present. Reimagine National Trails as cultural heritage corridors with this guest blog from Anooshka Rawden.

Rethink our trails



Woolly Moor Rescue

As our ten Test and Trial projects wrap up, it's encouraging to see them attracting wider attention. Our innovative wool-based restoration work on Marsden Moor has made the news for its success supporting wildfire recovery, boosting biodiversity and strengthening long term nature resilience.

Read the story

Opening Somerset's Coast to more people

It's exciting to see new accessibility resources launched along Somerset's King Charles III England Coast Path, including 360 degree virtual tours, graded walking routes, accessibility guidance and downloadable visitor leaflets.

Find resources:



South West Coast Path centre officially opens

This new accessible hub in Plymouth will act as a workspace, meeting place and volunteer hub, and bring people together to celebrate this world class trail. You can read more about the opening [here](#).

A trail of inspiration

Discover how the Pennine Way inspired 17 artists through music, poetry, film and art in this beautiful online exhibition celebrating 60 years of the Pennine Way.

[Visit the online exhibition](#)



Who gets to belong on the Trail?

As we continue to spotlight more diverse voices from across the UK's 21 National Trails, read [this personal reflection](#) from film maker and community organiser Roxanna Barry on how she discovered confidence, community and connection on our National Trails.

How can National Trails be experienced beyond sight?

Discover how our Welsh National Trails offered Gareth Davies of RNIB Cymru spaces of resilience, possibility and recovery after losing his sight, and inspired him to set up See Cymru Differently.

[Read guest blog](#)



West Highland Way on film

Get a sneak peek of new film 'The North' that features a storyline set against the majestic, raw beauty of the Scottish Highlands. In UK and Irish cinemas now.

[Watch the trailer](#)

On the border - Access, Nature and Heritage on Offa's Dyke Path and Monument Fieldtrip

Over 20 representatives from 11 organisations spanning eight National Trails descended on a thankfully dry Offa's Dyke Path and Monument in late April to learn how to embed outcomes for access, nature and heritage in trail management.

The trip combined thought provoking presentations with real world challenges on the day long fieldtrip. Roger Baker, National Trail Volunteer & Projects Coordinator on the Ridgeway and Thames Path shared "It was wonderful to come together with people undertaking similar, if not the same roles in different settings. Lots to share in common, but also plenty to learn from the differences.

Hannah and Kate from NTUK were humbled to see over 100 years of combined trail and heritage experience in the room. A big thank you to all who attended and supported the event, especially to Helen (Offa's Dyke Conservation Project), Dave (Offa's Dyke Association) and Fiona (Offa's Dyke Path).



National Trail Ranger Meet up

Monday 1st June 2-3pm, Online

For National Trail Rangers across the UK to share common challenges and opportunities.

To join: [email hannah@nationaltrails.uk](mailto:hannah@nationaltrails.uk)

June NTUK Fieldtrip (LAST CALL)

Cleveland Way, Coast to Coast Path and King Charles III England Coast Path Field Trip: Partnership working for people and nature

Monday 29th June 5pm - Wednesday 1st July 12pm

Based around Danby, Whitby

Join fellow National Trails professionals for an inspiring two day field trip exploring how partnership working can deliver better outcomes for access and nature along our coastline.

Hosted by National Trails UK and the Cleveland Way/Coast to Coast Path/King Charles III England Coast Path team at the North York Moors National Park, this hands on visit will showcase practical projects, shared learnings and innovative approaches to trail management in one of the country's most spectacular landscapes.

Designed for National Trail Officers, rangers, public rights of way teams, volunteer coordinators and nature recovery and heritage officers, the trip will focus on the real opportunities and challenges facing those working on and around National Trails today.

Expect site visits, practical discussions and plenty of opportunities to connect with colleagues from across the Trails family.

Sign up [HERE](#) by COB Wednesday 27th May. Further details can be found in the booking form.

Note: Please hold off booking travel and if applicable, your own accommodation until you receive a confirmation email of your place.

Any questions, please contact: hannah@nationaltrails.uk

"100% of attendees to the Offa's Dyke Path Fieldtrip strongly agreed/agreed that it was a valuable use of their time".

Funding

Major funding success for Nature Ridge project

A new partnership project connecting wildlife, heritage and access to nature across some of England's most iconic chalk landscapes has secured major funding support.

Congratulations to The Ridgeway National Trail, North Wessex Downs National Landscape and Chilterns National Landscape on the success of their Nature Ridge Landscape Connections Project. The initiative will help strengthen nature recovery, celebrate cultural heritage and improve opportunities for people to connect with these nationally important landscapes and trails.

The project team is now recruiting for a Project Development Manager and Project Support Officer. Please share these opportunities widely across your networks.

Funding secured for Scoping the Coast to Coast Nature Trail project

A major new project exploring the creation of a nature-rich corridor along the newly designated Coast to Coast Path National Trail has secured funding to begin developing its vision and next steps.

The project brings together North York Moors National Park, Lake District National Park, Yorkshire Dales National Park, North Pennines National Landscape, Natural England, National Parks Partnership, North Yorkshire Council, Westmorland and Furness Council, Cumberland Council and National Trails UK to investigate opportunities for more than 60,000 hectares of connected, wildlife-rich landscapes linked to the National Trail.

NTUK is also delighted to be hosting a new Data and Evidence officer, who will work with partners over the coming year to help shape the project's future direction.

**Both projects are made possible
with the National Lottery Heritage
Fund, thanks
to National Lottery players.**



NTUK Talks: tackling the challenges facing our Trails

Over the past quarter, NTUK hosted four NTUK Talks sessions, bringing members together to share experiences, ideas and practical solutions to some of the most pressing issues facing National Trail teams.

Discussions ranged from coastal erosion and disappearing beach access on the Pembrokeshire Coast Path and King Charles III England Coast Path, to the complexities of charging for temporary closures over open access land.

Members also explored accessibility challenges on urban stretches of the England Coast Path, including the growing impact of climate change and severe storms, with valuable insights shared on reducing volunteer fatigue.

The final session focused on mental health and suicide prevention across the National Trails network, with guest speaker Ross Macleod from RNLI sharing guidance, [support resources](#) and [free suicide awareness training opportunities](#) for officers and volunteers.

If there's a topic you'd like to explore with fellow members, contact Kate at kate@nationaltrails.uk to help organise a future session.



And finally.....

Falling Fog

This atmospheric image by Neil Barnes, a photographer from Dorset, of mist rolling over the high cliffs at West Bay is the winner of the South West Coast Photographer of the Year 2025. Congratulations Neil!

