North Devon wildlife spotter guide











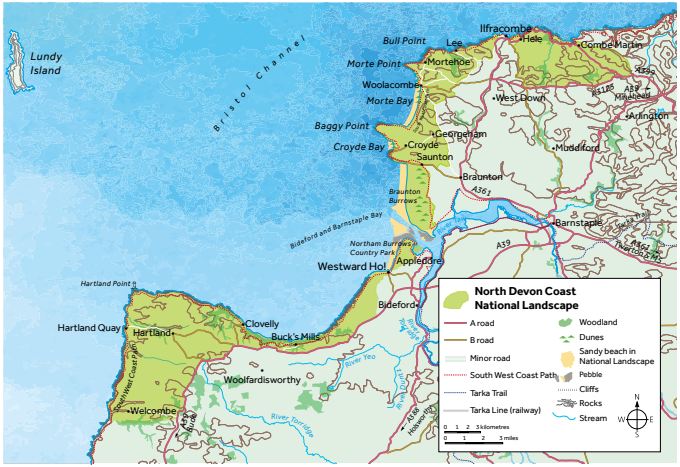
North Devon Coast National Landscape

Made possible with Heritage Fund

North Devon Coast National Landscape

Made possible with Heritage Fund

Enjoy using this spotter guide as it will lead you to some of the best wildlife found along the coast. Collect points as you spot each species or landform or element of coastal life, they are graded on their difficulty, then add them up to see how many you get by the end of your visit to the North Devon Coast National Landscape. How many can you spot? Use the handy ruler on the back page and measure how big some of the creatures and plants are!



The North Devon Coast National Landscape is a stunning coastal area which is nationally protected. It covers 171 km² of the coastal landscape including special places such as Combe Martin, Lee Bay, Woolacombe, Croyde, Saunton, Braunton Burrows, Westward Ho! and the Hartland Peninsula.

Learn more on our website: www.northdevoncoast-nl.org.uk

This guide was originally created as part of Coastal Creatures and has since been edited as part of Finding Nature's Footprints. Both of these projects were supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund

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CITIZEN SCIENCE

If you have enjoyed using this spotter guide you might want to get involved in Citizen Science. Citizen science is the practice of involving non-scientific people in scientific research and data collection. Instead of research being done only by professional scientists, citizen science projects invite volunteers to gather information about our natural world. Anyone can take part! You can find out more about opportunities in your area on our website.

Examples include recording bird species in your garden, monitoring river health, or uploading wildlife photos to platforms like **iNaturalist**, where experts and enthusiasts help identify species.

iNaturalistUK

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1. ROCKY SHORE

The rocky shore is one of the most extreme gradients of environmental change. Covered twice a day by the sea, the jewel encrusted species that live here are a hardy bunch! Good places for rockpooling are Westward Ho!, Lee Bay, Croyde and Combe Martin.



This section was researched and written by the rockpooling club from Combe Martin Primary School.





Points: 10

Date:

2. GREEN SHORE CRAB

(Carcinus maenas)

This is one of the most common crab species and is usually found under rocks and in rock pools. They can grow up to 8cm across the carapace (shell) with five distinctive points from the edge of its back to the eye. They can give a 'good' nip so hold the crab either side of the carapace!



Points: 10

Date:

3. EDIBLE CRAB

(Cancer pagurus)

Often found under rocks or in crevices from the middle to lower shore. This crab has a distinctive orange-brown black tipped pincers. The carapace can grow to 25cm. Larger adults can crush open mussel shells so, fingers don't stand a chance. Be careful!



Points: 20

Date:

4. VELVET SWIMMING CRAB

(Necora puber)

These crabs are typically found further down the beach towards the low water mark under rocks in pools. They have bright red eyes and flattened back legs which are used as paddles for swimming. These crabs are fast moving predators and tend to pinch if you try to pick them up. Be careful and use a net!



5. MONTAGU'S CRAB

(Xantho hydrophilus)

Found mainly from the middle to lower shore under rocks in pools. Although the carapace is not usually larger than 7cm across, these crabs have large powerful pincers commonly with black tips and a brown carapace.

Points: 15

Date: ☐☐☐



6. RISSO'S CRAB

(Xantho pilipes)

Often mistaken as a Montagu's crab. The easiest way to tell them apart is the fringing hair on the Risso's crab's legs. They are also often a lighter colour with marbling across the carapace.

Points: 15

Date: ☐☐☐



7. HERMIT CRAB

(Pagurus bernhardus)

Frequently found all over the rocky shore in pools. They are commonly orange-brown in colour and favour shells that match their surroundings. If they sense danger, they recoil into the shell and wait. Sit quietly next to a pool and observe their behaviour.

Points: 20

Date: ☐☐☐



8. COMMON PRAWN

(Palaemon serratus)

Often found in groups under rocks in pools across the rocky shore. The body is almost transparent with numerous red lines across it. The easiest way to identify them is to look at the legs for yellow bands around the joints. They are curious, so if you keep your hand still near them, they often come to investigate.

Points: 15

Date: ☐☐☐



9. BARNACLE

(Various species)

Barnacles are tiny and found in huge numbers across the rocky shore but mainly at the upper shore. They feed by catching passing food and kicking it into their mouths within the hard case in which they live. When the tide is out, they shut the plates at the opening of their 'house' to stop them dehydrating.

Points: 5

Date: ☐☐☐



10. BEADLET ANEMONE

(Actinia equina)

Found all over the rocky shore. They are usually deep red in colour and at low tide resemble a blob of jelly. When covered by water, they have a dense covering of tentacles that reach out for passing food. Around the edge of the tentacles are a ring of blue bulges which are used for defence against other anemones.

Points: 5

Date: ☐☐☐



11. STRAWBERRY ANEMONE

(Actinia fragacea)

They live in the mid-lower shore often found clinging to the underside of a rock. They are a similar deep red colour to the beadlet anemone, but with distinctive greeny-yellow spots around the column and are bigger (up to 10cm across).

Points: 10

Date: ☐☐☐

12. SNAKELOCKS ANEMONE

(Anemonia viridis)

They live in the mid to lower shore, on rocks and in well- lit pools. They are usually either green with purple tips on their 200 tentacles or a grey colour and can grow up to 20cm across.



Points: 15

Date: ☐☐☐



13. LIMPET

(Patella spp.)

These are amongst the most common mollusc species on the rocky shore. They are identified by their cone shaped shell. They often create a 'home scar' on the rock's surface which they will travel away from when the tide is in, to graze the algae on the rocks, before returning to their 'home scar' before the tide retreats.

Points: 5

Date: ☐☐☐



14. EDIBLE PERIWINKLE

(Littorina littorea)

This species can be found all over the rocky shore, often congregating in cracks and gullies in huge numbers. The shell is often black, grey or brown and resembles a land snail.

Points: 5

Date: ☐☐☐



15. FLAT PERIWINKLE

(Littorina obtusata)

Commonly found amongst seaweed, they have a smooth shell with flattened spires. They are bright yellow, brown or olive green in colour. The colouration depends on the habitat they're in, often yellow is found towards the upper shore and olive green towards the lower shore.

Points: 15

Date: ☐☐☐



16. DOG WHELK

(Nucella lapillus)

Abundant on rocky shores and looks similar to a snail with a pointier end. This carnivorous sea snail preys on other mollusc species such as mussels and limpets by boring through the shells before devouring the occupant!

Points: 10

Date: ☐☐☐



17. BLUE MUSSEL

(Mytilus edulis)

Mussels usually live in large groups on the rocky shore. They have two halves to their shell and are usually blue or black in colour. They use sticky threads to anchor themselves to the rocks and each other. Lots of animals prey on them such as dog whelks, starfish, crabs and people.

Points: 5

Date: ☐☐☐



18. HONEYCOMB WORM

(Sabellaria alveolata)

The honeycomb reefs are usually found towards the lower shore. Lots of individual worms create tubes to live in by sticking sand grains and shell fragments together. Living next to each other forms a colony of tubes that resembles honeycomb.

Points: 10

Date: ☐☐☐



19. SAND MASON WORM

(Lanice conchilega)

These worms are found on the low shore and glue grains of sand together to create a protective tube to live in. They have finger-like extensions from the top of the tube making them look like a stone tree.

Points: 15

Date: ☐☐☐



20. GREEN LEAF WORM

(Eulalia viridis)

Usually found between or under rocks throughout the shore. This worm is usually dark green with many body segments, each with a pair of legs. This worm is quite often missed because it is hard to spot amongst the seaweed.

Points: 15

Date: ☐☐☐



21. COMMON BLENNY

(Lipophrys pholis)

The common blenny, also known as shanny, is a rockpool fish and has a maximum size of 20cm and feeds on marine invertebrates. The common blenny is found in all three zones of the rocky shore and they live among seaweed and rocks in rock pools. They are commonly browny-green.

Points: 15

Date: ☐☐☐



22. COMMON STARFISH

(Asterias rubens)

Found on the lower shore often near mussel beds and under rocks. Their colour is usually orange or sandy yellow. They typically have a 5 pointed star shape. They can regenerate lost arms, which is handy! Larger individuals are usually found below the low water mark and can grow up to 50cm across.

Points: 15

Date: ☐☐☐



23. CUSHION STARFISH

(Asterina phylactica)

These starfish have short arms and a larger central, squishy body. They are relatively small, up to 5cm across and can most often be found on the underside of overturned rocks. (So don't forget to check the underside of the rocks!) They are often mottled shades of green, brown and orange.

Points: 15

Date: ☐☐☐



24. BLADDER WRACK

(Fucus vesiculosus)

This distinctive seaweed is large and greeny-brown with air bladders in pairs or in threes. It's found commonly on the mid shore and the air bladders help it float underwater.

Points: 5

Date: ☐☐☐



25. KNOTTED WRACK

(Ascophyllum nodosum)

Large air bladders divide this brown seaweed into sections. Each air bladder represents a year of growth. These seaweeds survive best on sheltered shores. A red seaweed is normally seen growing on knotted wrack.

Points: 10

Date: ☐☐☐



26. SEA LETTUCE

(Ulva Lactuca)

Bright green in colour, sea lettuce looks just like its sandwich filling cousin. It's found all over the shore and feels slimy to the touch.

Points: 5

Date: ☐☐☐



27. IRISH MOSS

(Chondrus crispus)

You'll need to delve around in rockpools to find this small red seaweed. Its flattened appearance spreads out underwater. Sometimes you can see iridescent (shimmering) blue tips at the end of the fronds.

Points: 10

Date: ☐☐☐



28. WIREWEED

(Sargassum muticum)

This long bobbly in appearance seaweed is normally greeny-yellow. In recent years this non-native seaweed has invaded our shores and grown in abundance.

Points: 15

Date: ☐☐☐



29. OAR WEED

(Laminaria digitata)

You can only see this seaweed at a very low tide on the shore. It's a kelp which is a very large and strong type of seaweed. This one has a long stipe (stem) and hand like fronds.

Points: 20

Date: ☐☐☐



30. ROCK PIPIT

(Anthus petrosus)

This small olive-brown coloured bird calls the coast its home. It breeds near rocky shores where you can sometimes see it hopping about.

Points: 20

Date: ☐☐☐

31. SALT MARSH & MUD FLATS

These coastal wetlands form mainly on sheltered environments and mainly in estuaries (where rivers meet the sea). The salt marsh hosts a variety of salt tolerant plants often surrounded by mud which is an important feeding habitat for wading birds. These can be found at the Skern and near Crow Point.



32. MARSH SAMPHIRE

(Salicornia europaea)

This succulent plant grows on the salt marsh during the summer months. It's often harvested for its crisp and salty taste which best accompanies fish dishes.

Points: 5

Date: ☐☐☐



33. HORNED WRACK

(Fucus ceranoides)

This seaweed is best found in estuaries where fresh water and sea water mix. It attaches to hard ground and has inflated fronds which are green in colour.

Points: 5

Date: ☐☐☐



34. LAVER SPIRE SHELL

(Peringia ulvae)

These teeny-tiny animals, no bigger than your fingernail live around estuaries. They look like elongated sea snails. You may see them in large patches on the strandline or making trails in the mud.

Points: 5

Date: ☐☐☐



35. ESTUARY RAGWORM

(Hediste diversicolor)

The ragworm requires some digging to find as they live within the mud in a U or J shaped burrow. They have many pairs of legs and a red stripe running the length of its body. They are very talented worms as they can both swim and crawl!

Points: 15

Date: ☐☐☐



36. COMMON COCKLE

(Cerastoderma edule)

These beautiful ridged shells can be found scattered around coastal areas or buried in the mud. They are white in colour and quite tough. Traditionally cockles were eaten as a treat when you visited the seaside.

Points: 10

Date: ☐☐☐



37. OYSTERCATCHER

(Haematopus ostralegus)

This distinctive black wading bird with a bright orange bill and legs, cheeps loudly as it flies over coastal areas. They feed on mussels and cockles meaning that they are commonly seen at the coast.

Points: 5

Date: ☐☐☐



38. REDSHANK

(Tringa totanus)

With a bright orange bill with a black tip and bright orange legs, these birds can be seen from afar. Their body is brown with a white underside. They stick their bill into soil and mud to eat animals within.

Points: 10

Date:



39. LAPWING

(Vanellus vanellus)

November – February

The lapwing's name comes from their wavering flight pattern. Their white bib, iridescent (shimmering) green and purple feathers and crest on top of their head make them a very distinctive bird.

Points: 10

Date:



40. SHELDUCK

(Tadorna tadorna)

This big colourful duck has a beautiful white, green and brown pattern on its body and a big red bill. Find them feeding on mudflats, swimming in the water or flying overhead.

Points: 10

Date:



41. CURLEW

(Numenius arquata)

August – February

This is the largest wading bird in Europe and can easily be spotted by its medium brown body and large down turned bill When it calls it sounds like "Curr-lew," hence its name.

Points: 10

Date:



42. GREY HERON

(Ardea cinerea)

This is a beautiful tall bird with grey, black and white feathering. It has a wingspan of up to two metres. Sometimes you will see them hunched up or with their neck extended where they are looking for food.

Points: 15

Date:



43. SANDERLING

(Calidris alba)

August – March

When the tide goes out this little bird can be seen following the water out and eating all the newly exposed animals in the sand and mud. These birds visit many continents in the world over winter and will travel up to 6,000 miles in the summer to breed in the high Arctic.

Points: 10

Date:

44. SAND DUNES

Sand dunes are home to an incredible range of wildlife. Thousands of tons of sand have slowly been blown inland from the beaches over many hundreds of years. Find them at Northam Burrows, Braunton Burrows, Croyde, and Woolacombe.





ITEM FOUND ITEM FOUND

Points: 5

Date: ☐☐☐

45. MARRAM GRASS

(Ammophila arenaria)

This plant is a pioneering grass found on sand dunes. They survive well in this hostile environment with their rolled leaves, which help to reduce water loss and long roots which allow it to survive in strong winds and shifting sands.



ITEM FOUND ITEM FOUND

Points: 5

Date: ☐☐☐

46. BIRD'S-FOOT TREFOIL

(Lotus corniculatus)

June – September 👁

Also known as 'bacon and eggs' due to the three petals being yellow and orange, this plant gets its name from the seed which looks like a bird's foot!



ITEM FOUND ITEM FOUND

Points: 10

Date: ☐☐☐

47. DUNE PANSY

(Viola tricolor)

April – September 👁

This beautiful wild flower can show a variety of colours on the 5 petals from yellowy-oranges to purple-blues.



48. EVENING PRIMROSE

(Oenothera biennis)

June – September

This tall plant has large bowl-like flowers of varying colours which normally open up in the evening during late summer.

Points: 10

Date:



49. SEA STOCK

(Matthiola sinuata)

June – August

This rare plant has beautiful pink/mauve flowers and hairy green-grey leaves. It can grow to a height of 50cm tall. You'll have to be quick to see it as it only flowers between June and August.

Points: 20

Date:



50. GORSE

(Ulex spp.)

Gorse is a shrub and can be found on the cliff grassland in North Devon. You'll easily recognise it from its bright yellow flowers, even in winter and its sharp needle-like leaves. The flowers have a distinctive coconut scent.

Points: 5

Date:



51. SEA SPURGE

(Euphorbia paralias)

This plant can be found in dunes and coastal areas flowering between June to October. These plants produce a sap which is toxic and has been used in other countries as poison for arrow heads.

Points: 10

Date:



52. VIPER'S BUGLOSS

(Echium vulgare)

May – September

This towering plant has vivid blue flowers growing up the stem. The stamens look like a vipers forked tongue. This is one of the best flowers to attract bumblebees.

Points: 15

Date:



53. WILD THYME

(Thymus serpyllum)

May – August

This plant forms a mat with small green leaves. Can be fragrant at times. In the past is has been used as an antiseptic and to treat coughs and colds.

Points: 15

Date:



54. PYRAMID ORCHID

(Anacamptis pyamidalis)

May – August

This is just one of 56-native species of orchid in the UK. These flowers are in a cone shaped cluster and are densely packed on the top of a stem.

Points: 20

Date:



55. WATER GERMANDER

(Teucrium scordium)

June – October

Big points for spotting this tiny flower as it is very rare to the UK but can be found in North Devon. Its beautiful purple clustering flowers can be seen on a short green stem.

Points: 25

Date:



56. COMMON BLUE BUTTERFLY

(Polyommatus icarus)

May – October

Living up to its name, this is the most widespread blue butterfly in the UK. The upper wing of the male and female can differ significantly as the male has a blue colouration and the female a brown colouration.

Points: 15

Date:



57. RED ADMIRAL BUTTERFLY

(Vanessa atalanta)

March – November

This striking butterfly has velvety black wings with bands of red across and flecks of white. You will see more of these butterflies in summer as some will migrate from mainland Europe.

Points: 10

Date:



58. SIX-SPOT BURNET MOTH

(Zygaena filipendulae)

June – August

Most moths are known to come out during the night but this one is a day flier. The spots on their black wings are normally red.

Points: 15

Date:



59. COMMON LIZARD

(Zootoca vivipara)

March – October

Usually brown-greyish in colour with spots or stripes down the side. Can often be seen basking in the sun. Can grow 10-15cm long and live up to 5-6 years.

Points: 20

Date:

60. COASTAL WATERS

You're never far from the sight of the sea in the North Devon Coast National Landscape. From cliffs and vantage points sometimes it's possible to see some majestic, far-travelling wildlife.





ITEM FOUND ITEM FOUND

Points: 20

Date: ☐☐☐

61. HARBOUR PORPOISE

(Phocoena phocoena)

The porpoise is one of the smallest marine mammals and are hard to spot at the surface as they have small dorsal fins and don't jump out of the water. They are very shy and may travel alone or in pairs.

62. GREY SEAL

(Halichoerus grypus)

This large marine mammal has a long body with a large powerful tail fin and flippers. They have large eyes on a round head. Female grey seals come to the North Devon coast in the summer to use the area as a foraging ground before they go to Lundy to pup.

ITEM FOUND ITEM FOUND



Points: 20

Date: ☐☐☐



63. GANNET

(Morus bassanus)

August – October

This most beautiful white seabird has black tipped wings, a long neck, and long and pointed beak, tail, and wings. They feed by flying high and circling before diving into the sea to catch fish.

Points: 15

Date:



64. HERRING GULL

(Larus argentatus)

These gulls are distinctive with their pink legs and yellow bill with a red spot. They are often seen in urban areas but these majestic birds are most at home on the coast. Here you can sometimes see them catching crabs from the shore.

Points: 5

Date:



65. JUVENILE GULL

In their first year-or-so of life, gulls have a mottled brown appearance and are hard to identify the different species at this age. After a couple of years the juvenile (young) gull will grow in their adult plumage (feathers).

Points: 10

Date:



66. FULMAR

(Fulmarus glacialis)

March – September

This gull-liked bird has a great mechanism for dealing with consuming water with their filtering salt gland above their nasal passage. They have a white and grey body and a hooked yellowy-black beak.

Points: 15

Date:



67. CORMORANT

(Phalacrocorax carbo)

This large black seabird has a long neck and is often see off the coast with its wings stretched out. It looks very similar to the closely related 'shag' but is slightly larger and more powerful.

Points: 15

Date:



68. STARLING

(Sturnus vulgaris)

October – March

Starlings can be found all over the UK, not just on the coast. They have shiny green and purple feathers flecked with white 'stars' and are often seen flying in large groups called a murmuration.

Points: 10

Date:

69. WOODLANDS

The southwest of the UK was once covered in Temperate Atlantic Rainforest. Today there is not much left, but the North Devon Coast is home to several of the remaining pockets, e.g., Buck's Mills. Gnarled oak trees draped in ferns, lichen, and fungi, support many wild animals and plants, including some very rare species, like the pine marten (*Martes martes*). These woods are ancient and truly wild habitats.



Points: 5

Date: ☐☐☐

70. POLYPODY FERNS

(Polypodium vulgare)

Polypody meaning "many feet". Triangular ferns with long finger-shaped leaflets joining at the central stem. They grow on other plants (epiphytic) and are usually found on the moss of old trees.



Points: 10

Date: ☐☐☐

71. LESSER CELANDINE

(Ficaria verna)

March – May ✿

Glossy heart shaped leaves and yellow flowers resembling buttercups but with 8-12 long oval petals. They can also be found in hedgerows, and they bloom in the spring before the trees regrow their leaves.



Points: 15

Date: ☐☐☐

72. BLUEBELL

(Hyacinthoides non-scripta)

April – June ✿

These tall drooping purple bell-shaped flowers are a hallmark of the UK's ancient woodlands. In spring, they form carpets of bluey-purple beneath the trees. The leaves are long, narrow, and shiny with a central ridge.



73. WILD GARLIC

(Allium ursinum)

April – June

Usually found in damp broadleaf woodlands. It grows from the ground, with long oval leaves which taper to a point and smell strongly of garlic. Large areas of wild garlic often indicates an ancient woodland.

Points: 10

Date:



74. COMMON DOG VIOLET

(Viola riviniana)

April – June

Five purple petals, with darker purple stripes leading to a white centre and two tufts of white hairs. Unlike other violet species, behind the flower is a pale cream spur curving upwards. The leaves are scalloped and heart shaped, growing in clumps in woodland glades and clearings. Also found on grasslands.

Points: 20

Date:



75. RED CAMPION

(Silene dioica)

May – September

Attractive hot-pink flowers with five delicate, deeply notched petals. Grows up to a metre tall. From May to June, it often blooms alongside bluebells, creating a sea of pink and purple on the forest floor.

Points: 10

Date:



76. BANK HAIRCAP MOSS

(Polyrichum formosum)

Large and tall star-shaped moss, forming spongey carpets. Up-close the pointed leaves have serrated margins. They don't have roots, they absorb water directly into their leaves.

Points: 10

Date:



77. ENGLISH OAK

(Quercus robur)

Able to live to over 1000 years, this is Britain's most iconic tree. It supports thousands of animal species and many other plants and fungi. The stem of each lobed leaf is very short. Stalked green acorns form that turn brown before dropping to the ground.

Points: 5

Date:



78. TURKEYTAIL

(Trametes versicolor)

Best in autumn

A thin, colourful semi-circular bracket fungus can have rounded bands of orange, cream, yellow, green, red, purple, black or brown. Resembling a turkey's tail feathers, it grows in fanned-out, tiered layers on decaying wood.

Points: 15

Date:



79. KING ALFRED'S CAKE

(Daldinia concentrica)

This solid, bulbous, brown-black, charcoal-like fungi grows from decaying wood, particularly from beech and ash trees. Named after the famous tale of King Alfred, where he burned cakes in a peasant's oven while hiding from the Vikings.

Points: 10

Date: ☐☐☐



80. CANDLESNUFF

(Xylaria hypoxylon)

Best from October – February 👁

Although variable in size and shape, candlesnuff is easy to identify – with a black base and white tips. They often grow in a similar branching pattern to an antler, giving it the alternative name, "stag's horn."

Points: 10

Date: ☐☐☐



81. SCARLET OR RUBY ELF CUPS

(Sarcoscypha austriaca / coccinea)

December – April 👁

These unmistakable vivid red fungi are a characteristic winter feature of Britain's native woodlands. Find them growing from rotting deciduous wood. These were once used as rouge (blusher) on the cheeks.

Points: 20

Date: ☐☐☐



82. STRING OF SAUSAGES LICHEN

(Usnea ceratina and U. articulata)

These lichens resemble a wiry wizard's beard from afar, and a sausage string up-close. Found hanging draped over the branches of old trees in well-lit areas.

Points: 15

Date: ☐☐☐



83. SPECKLED WOOD BUTTERFLY

(Pararge aegeria)

March – October 👁

Brown with yellow speckles the speckled wood is seen on sunny days, in partially shaded woods. The caterpillars eat a variety of common grass species.

Points: 20

Date: ☐☐☐



84. WOODLAND DOR BEETLE

(Anoplotrupes stercorosus)

March – October 👁

This dung beetle is matte black with a blue-purple sheen and shiny blue and purple underneath. It is rounder than other dor beetle species and has shallow grooves on its wing cases.

Points: 20

Date: ☐☐☐

85. INSECTS

Known as arthropods these animals have an exoskeleton (hard shell), no backbone, and jointed legs. These animals are utterly vital to nature due to the services they provide, such as, pollination, pest control, and contributing enormously to the food-chain. They live in a variety of habitats throughout the National Landscape.





ITEM FOUND ITEM FOUND

Points: 20

Date: ☐☐☐

86. BLOODY-NOSED BEETLE

(Timarcha tenebricosa)

April – September 👁

This flightless beetle can often be found bumbling around on the various paths of the North Devon coast. Birds leave them alone because, when threatened, they produce a foul bright-red liquid from their mouth, hence the name.



ITEM FOUND ITEM FOUND

Points: 10

Date: ☐☐☐

87. DOCK BUG

(Coreus marginatus)

This bronzy- brown bug feeds on dock plants. All year round the adults can be found alongside their spikey nymphs. Look closely to reveal their pattern of dots and ridges covering their entire body.



ITEM FOUND ITEM FOUND

Points: 20

Date: ☐☐☐

88. THICK-LEGGED FLOWER BEETLE

(Oedemera nobilis)

April – September 👁

These shiny, iridescent, green beetles forage pollen and nectar from flowers. Frequently seen on white and yellow flowerheads on sunny days.



89. BUFF-TAILED BUMBLEBEE

(Bombus terrestris)

Late February – October

This species' queen is the largest bee in the UK. Each queen constructs an underground nest and can produce over 500 worker bees every year to forage pollen which is fed to her larva (offspring).

Points: 10

Date:



90. MEADOW GRASSHOPPER

(Pseudochorthippus parallelus)

April – November

The song of the grasshopper is made when they rub their legs against hardened wings. Meadow grasshoppers can be found in many colours. *If you find a pink grasshopper you get **20 pts!**

Points: 10*

Date:



91. LARGE RED DAMSELFLY

(Pyrrhosoma nymphula)

Mid-April – August

A dainty, strikingly red and vicious predator that ambushes its prey. Unlike dragonflies, damsels close their equally sized wings while resting. Found near freshwater bodies.

Points: 25

Date:



92. GOLDEN ROD CRAB SPIDER

(Misumena vatia)

June – October

This spider doesn't spin a web, instead it waits on a flower to ambush other insects! The female can change colour over a week or so, to blend into her surroundings, and the male is about a third of her size.

Points: 20

Date:



93. LABYRINTH SPIDER

(Agelena labyrinthica)

June – October

A recognisable spider from its web – a thick white sheet with a tube in the centre – and its back which has a repeating V-shaped pattern. They can be found in spikey or thorned bushes, or close to the ground

Points: 10

Date:



94. DRAGONFLY

May – September

They have existed for over 300 million years. Habitats range from lakes, ponds, rivers, canals as well as bogs and streams. Important for controlling insect populations as the prey on small insects including mosquitos

Points: 5

Date:

95. ROCKS AND SPECIAL PLACES

This dynamic coastline has been eroded and shaped over the years by changing climate and weather. The result is that we have bays made of softer rock and headlands and one island made of harder rock. Follow the South West Coast path to find these places.





ITEM FOUND ITEM FOUND

Points: 10

Date: ☐☐☐

96. LUNDY

This island is three miles long and visible from most of the North Devon coast. It's formed of hard wearing granite which with stands big waves from the Atlantic. Visitors are welcome all year around. Depending on the time of year visitors may see puffiins, guillemots, kittiwakes and seals.



ITEM FOUND ITEM FOUND

Points: 15

Date: ☐☐☐

97. MORTE POINT

Morte Point extends out of Mortehoe next to Woolacombe beach. If you're lucky you may see grey seals swimming or resting on the rocks near the point during the Summer.



ITEM FOUND ITEM FOUND

Points: 15

Date: ☐☐☐

98. BAGGY POINT

Extending out between Putsborough and Croyde this headland is popular with climbers and walkers.



Points: 15
Date:

99. BRAUNTON BURROWS

This huge sand dune system is the largest in England measuring over 1,000 hectares. Inside the sand dunes there are 470 species of flowering plant and many animals including 33 species of butterfly.



Points: 10
Date:

100. WESTWARD HO! PEBBLE RIDGE

This natural landform between the beach and the dunes is made of sandstone which has fallen from cliffs round the bay and been pushed along the coastline due to longshore drift. As the pebbles are pushed around by the sea they become smoother and rounder.



Points: 25
Date:

101. BLACKCHURCH ROCK

This large arch stack at Mouthmill is an iconic land form on the coast. It can be seen from the coast path and can be visited up close during a low tide.



Points: 15
Date:

102. HARTLAND QUAY GEOLOGY

The folded rock layers around the Hartland coast were formed 320 million years ago and alternate between greyshales and sandstones.

103. LANDMARKS

The coast has been used by humans for many years. You can see evidence all along the coast, many of the land marks here form the character of the coastline.





104. A LIGHTHOUSE

During the night and in low visibility these incredible structures help boats navigate at sea by flashing bright lights.

Points: 15

Date: ☐☐☐



105. A LIME KILN

These structures were heated up to high temperatures and used to produce quick-lime through the calcination of limestone to fertilise the soils. Limestone was often brought to the North Devon coast from Wales.

Points: 20

Date: ☐☐☐



106. A COASTAL HOTEL

These often large hotels are scattered along the coastline and provide beautiful sea views for many holiday makers.

Points: 5

Date: ☐☐☐



107. A HARBOUR

Tucked away from the prevailing winds, there are a couple of harbours along the North Devon coast, which host local and visiting vessels.

Points: 15

Date: ☐☐☐



108. A COASTAL SCULPTURE

There are many ways to tick this one off your list. A few coastal sculptures already exist but why not build your own out of sand or a towering stack of pebbles?

Points: 20

Date: ☐☐☐



109. AN AQUARIUM/MUSEUM

Learn more about the natural history around the coast in some impressive educational centres. If you're visiting during the winter months visit these places to see if you can find some of the species in this guide.

Points: 15

Date: ☐☐☐



110. A SHIPWRECK

At low tide these are sometimes found where boats navigating the coast came to an unfortunate end.

Points: 25

Date: ☐☐☐

SEASHORE CODE

When on the shore, remember to:

- Leave live animals and seaweeds where you find them and only take photos home!
- Always put overturned rocks back carefully as you found them.
- Make sure a shell is empty before taking it home.
- Take your litter home with you or put it in a bin.
- Be careful on the shore at all times - check the tides and keep away from the cliffs.
- Walk and climb carefully, so you don't knock animals or crush shells.

PHOTO CREDITS
All photos taken by the North Devon Coast National Landscape team (Cat Oliver and Dave Edgcombe) except:
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SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT AROUND THE NORTH DEVON COAST NATIONAL LANDSCAPE
Some of the coast is accessible by bus. Please visit: www.traveldevon.info/bus/timetables to download bus timetables.

TIDE TIMETABLES
For your safety and access to the beach it's important to plan your trip to the coast around the tides. The best time to visit is during low tide. Tide tables are available online here: www.tidetimes.org.uk
Tide tables are available for Clovelly, Appledore and Ilfracombe.

It's time to discover the beaches, sand dunes, salt marshes, woodlands, insects and rocky shores to be found in the North Devon Coast National Landscape!

By using this spotter guide you will be able to tick off the wildlife that you find on the coast plus a few other features of coastal life!

How many can you find?

Learn more about the North Devon Coast National Landscape (including activities and events):

www.northdevoncoast-nl.org.uk



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