



Hello

And as we all bundle up for windy, wintry walks, we've been thinking about our dune wildlife - much of which is hunkering down for the coldest season. For some, like natterjack toads and sand lizards, hibernation will be well underway.

Spring and summer might get all the glory, but in fact winter, with the stormy weather that it brings, is an important time for our sand dunes.

Storm waves can push more sand up onto beaches and, if the wind is blowing onshore, the strong winds can blow sand around the dune system, building up ridges and changing the shape of blowouts. It may seem destructive, but often these processes breathe new life into the dunes, providing new habitat for the specialist bare sand-loving creatures. Learn more about [the dune lifecycle here](#).

In this month's newsletter, you'll find out all about some of the conservation works that we've undertaken which are best done at this time of year to avoid many species' breeding seasons. We've removed some [invasive species](#) and even created some new ponds!

Plus, scroll down to see this month's pick of some of our favourite Dunescapes [blogs](#) and [YouTube](#) videos, best enjoyed with your feet up.

Best wishes,

The Dynamic Dunescapes team

We've launched our new app!

Environmental monitoring is an essential part of any conservation project. We want to know the health and distribution of the species that we're supporting and whether our actions are helping.

So, we've created a [free smartphone app](#) to help us and our volunteers gather reliable, long-term data at our project sites, with our site leads.



Can you help us?

Help us grow our sand dune monitoring at your local site! We need volunteers to work with our site managers and to help set up new transects across our dunes.

[Find out more and register to volunteer](#)

What we've been up to: Removing invasive species and creating new habitats

In [Cornwall](#) this week we've been working on removing sea buckthorn, an [invasive species](#) which has been taking over large sections of Penhale Dunes.

We've also been creating new habitats at South Walney Nature Reserve in [Cumbria](#) with Cumbria Wildlife Trust. This has included removing some sections of turf to expose the bare sand for beetles and plant species that need it, and we've dug some new ponds for toads and aquatic invertebrates.



Have you spotted our giant sand art in South Wales?

Following the end of the Welsh firebreak lockdown in November, Wales Engagement Officer David has started our Young Persons Training Programme in the area, leading beach and dune cleans and surveying plant species. He's also been creating giant beach art and sharing messages of hope in the sand at Crymlyn.

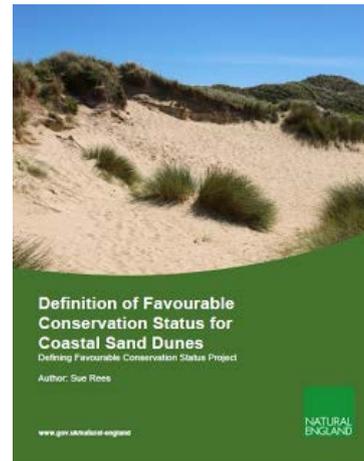
Have you seen any? Tag us in your photos! @dynamicdunes #DynamicDunes



New Sand Dune Conservation Status Publication

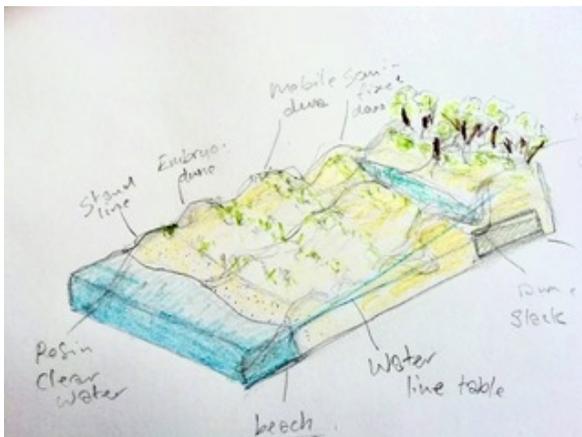
Sue Rees, Senior Environmental Specialist Coastal Habitats at Natural England and part of the Dynamic Dunescapes team, has authored a new report published by Natural England, titled Definition of Favourable Conservation Status for Coastal Sand Dunes (RP2942).

[Click to read the report](#)



Enjoy dunes from home: staff picks!

Read: How a modelmaking student is helping dune restoration in Studland



How can modelmaking help a conservation project? Find out how James Taberner is working with Dynamic Dunescapes in Dorset, to produce a model of the dune system that will help visitors understand how a dune system works, and explore the different habitats that a healthy dune system should have.

[Read the blog](#)

Watch: The wildlife and conservation of Haverigg dunes, Cumbria

Want to know more about our work in [Cumbria](#)? Catch up on a recent talk by Eve Mullholland, Cumbria Wildlife Trust. Sat at the edge of the Duddon Estuary with a backdrop of Black Combe, Haverigg is a special place enjoyed by many and a hotspot for local wildlife. Here we will be removing invasive species, conserving pools for natterjack toads and helping our specialised wildlife to thrive.



[Watch the video](#)

Read: What is changing at Studland Bay?



Studland Bay is on the move. As of 2020, as part of the new Dynamic Dunescapes project, the National Trust has been busy at work getting this sand dune habitat restoration project underway!

Julia Galbenu, Dynamic Dunescapes Engagement Officer for Dorset, shares an update on what's happening in the historic dunes at Studland Bay.

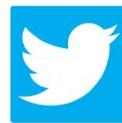
[Read the blog](#)

Do you have a story to tell?

Whether you're a creator whose work is inspired by our sand dunes, a local expert who knows all about a particular coastal species, or you've got some wonderful photos that you'd love to share with us - [get in touch!](#)

For more information on how to pitch an article, email dynamicdunescapes@naturalengland.org.uk or use [this page on our website](#).

Find us on social media



Dynamic Dunescapes is a partnership project, supported by the National Lottery Heritage Fund and the EU Life Programme

