

Dynamic Dunescapes



What's the project?

Dynamic Dunescapes is restoring sand dunes across England and Wales for the benefit of wildlife, people and communities, funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund and the EU LIFE Programme. Project partners are Natural England, Plantlife, National Trust, Natural Resources Wales, Cornwall Wildlife Trust, Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust and Cumbria Wildlife Trust.



The coastal dunes of England and Wales are internationally important habitats for wildlife, listed as one of the most threatened environments in Europe for biodiversity loss. Dunes are a sanctuary for rare species like orchids, sand lizards and natterjack toads. However, dunes are suffering from widespread over-stabilisation and vegetation growth. This is putting wildlife at risk.

Healthy sand dunes need to be free to move and be dynamic. Many species need areas of open sand to thrive, so this project will bring life back to the dunes by creating areas of open sand.

Fleetwood dunes are important

The sand dunes at Fleetwood are truly special for a diverse range of coastal plants and wildflowers adapted to live on the sandy mobile dunes. Fleetwood dunes are abundant with sea holly, sea spurge, rest harrow, sea cabbage, important for our pollinators. The sandy dunes systems found at Fleetwood are becoming a nationally scarce habitat.

Why are Fleetwood dunes at risk?

Along the promenade you made have noticed a lot of bright pink flowers. This is *Rosa rugosa*. As pretty as it may seem, this is a non-native invasive species which outcompetes rare and specialised plants, putting dune wildlife here at risk. It is a vigorous scrub which can quickly establish, take over and spread across a dune system. This is threatening the mobile dunes systems here and it's special wildlife.



What are we doing to help Fleetwood?

The conservation team will be removing *Rosa rugosa* along the promenade:

- It will be dug out mechanically or removed by brush cutter in sections with follow up control to reduce disturbance
- Where patches are removed, the sand will be protected and covered whilst pioneer species colonize



We work with skilled local and national experts, and involve schools and local groups, volunteers and visitors of all ages and abilities to help rejuvenate our dunes.

Dynamic Dunescapes work here is led by Natural England, Cumbria Wildlife Trust and National Trust.

Find out more, explore our events, volunteering opportunities and sign up to our newsletter:

dynamicdunescapes.co.uk
[@dynamicdunes](https://twitter.com/dynamicdunes)

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