

Thu 22/05/25 08:32

Dear Colleagues,

New Osprey Towers at Slapton

Earlier in the Spring, the team at Slapton successfully applied for Farming in Protected Landscapes funding to create osprey towers on the nature reserve. Ospreys typically nest at the top of tall trees by lakes and large bodies of water. This is so that they have a good line of sight across the horizon to keep an eye on potential predators, but also to enable them to dive for fish.

Ospreys are migratory birds of prey, historically they have faced persecution and in the UK are classified as 'Amber' under the Birds of Conservation Concern. The tower is made from a long, thick wooden pole with a platform securely attached to the top in which ospreys can build their nest. By adding to the network of nest platforms now in South Devon, Field Studies Council can support the return of breeding ospreys to Devon and support UK conservation efforts.

Well done to National Nature Reserve Ranger, Kieran Shaw-Flach and all the staff involved, as they worked closely with the South Devon Osprey Partnership, our volunteers and local farmers to create two of these platforms. As you can see, a close eye is being kept on the towers so we can let you know of any arrivals.



16/05/2025 11:32:33 FRI

Slapton Osprey LSG



New All Party Parliamentary Group for Outdoor Learning Launched

We are really pleased that this cross-party group has been set up and several MPs that we invited who all have Field Studies Council centres in their constituencies attended. It is chaired by Tim Farron, MP for both Blencathra and Castle Head. MPs listed as group supporters include Nigel Huddleston for Bishops Wood and Neil Hudson for Epping Forest but also MPs who are relatively new to us including Irene Campbell for Millport, Rachel Gilmour for Nettlecombe and Slapton MP Caroline Voaden also attended and with whom we are meeting shortly.

With both the current curriculum review and a new youth strategy underway it's a critical time for us to keep engaging politicians with the role that outdoor learning can play in both of these areas of public policy.

New Employee Hub

As mentioned last week, the new [Employee Hub](#) is up and running and is the new one-stop-shop for key Human Resources information. You can access it on the [intranet](#) where it is listed on the left hand menu.

Final Call – Pulse Survey Closes Soon

The deadline to complete the Staff Pulse Survey is fast approaching. We're pleased to see that over a third of you have already responded, so thank you. You can take part using the link in the email sent on the 12th May or by scanning one of the QR codes displayed in workplaces. The survey closes at **midnight on Sunday 25 May 2025** – don't miss your chance to have your say.

There are no new starters to welcome this week and there will be no catch up next week as I am on leave and it's been suggested that I should set a good example about being away from emails.

Previous catch ups can be [found here](#).

Best regards

Mark