



## THE NATIONAL TRUST

Firstly I would like to wish everyone a happy healthy new year. My name is Lorna Sherriff (National Trust warden for the Yealm and Avon team) and I have taken over writing these articles from Chris Lingard who has now left for a new job with Torbay Coast & Countryside.

Well, it's back to our busy winter work programme. You will see the team out and around Wembury, scrub cutting to help regenerate the maritime grassland. Since the 1950's this important habitat has been in decline with the reduction in grazing. This in turn has allowed the grassland to become smothered by scrub and gorse. Weather permitting, in January and early February we hope to do some swaling at Noss Mayo and Stoke. Fires are set to burn off the older woody plants and their heat helps to germinate seeds deep in the soil. A much needed flush of new vegetation is then created that supports the flowering plants growing on the cliff. It also provides a flush of grasses which the ponies grazing on the cliffs love to eat. This richer, diverse landscape is food and habitat for many animals and birds

We continue to carry out essential woodland and path maintenance – improving access and wildlife habitats on our sites. Keep an eye out for the new gates at our New Barton Farm boundary just east from Cliff road. These are hand crafted from chestnut and should be installed this coming month. These gates are being installed to replace the existing gateway so it is easier for people to use whilst still being stock proof.

Please stop and have a chat to the team if you see us out working or if you have any comments about the work of the National Trust. For further information please call Lorna Sherriff on 01548 810197 or email [lornasherriff@nationaltrust.org.uk](mailto:lornasherriff@nationaltrust.org.uk)