



## an open photographic commission led by beaford

<https://www.devonwildlifetrust.org/saving-devons-treescapes>  
<https://beaford.org/archive>

Beaford is part of an exciting new partnership, 'Saving Devon's Treescapes', led by Devon Wildlife Trust on behalf of the Devon Ash Dieback Resilience Forum. The partnership aims to mitigate the impact of ash dieback and other threats to our county's treasured treescapes.

Ash dieback in Devon will become increasingly visible over the next nine months and will continue for many years, resulting in the loss of at least 90% of all ashes - up to two million trees. In response, the partnership, supported by the National Lottery Heritage Fund, will inspire and enable people to take action that protects and restores our internationally renowned treescapes. It will work directly with over 45,000 people and support the planting of at least 250,000 new trees.

**Beaford, on behalf of the partnership, wants to commission a photographer to record ash dieback's impacts in the broadest sense**, drawing on the spirit of rural social documentary photography pioneered by James Ravilious for the Beaford Archive. These impacts will become increasingly clear as we move through the seasons from high summer to spring, and so **the commission will run from July 2020 to April 2021.**

**Commission proposals are now invited. Proposed budgets, including expenses, should not exceed £9,000** (including VAT if applicable). Please consider the section of this document headed "Working during Covid-19" before deciding to apply.

## background to the commission

Ash trees enrich our lives. If Devon loses these trees without planting new trees with similar characteristics, our natural and cultural heritage will be denuded, our communities' emotional connections with their treescapes damaged, and our local economies severely impacted.

This new photographic commission will record these potential impacts, and the work being done at all scales to address them, over a period of eight months. Beaford and Devon Wildlife Trust are working together to commission a photographer who will be supported by the wider partnership, ensuring that the resulting collection accurately captures the changing features of our treescapes and their social impacts in both urban and rural settings.

We want the commission to start as soon as possible, so that it can record treescapes before the full onslaught of ash dieback. Signs of infection are already apparent in the run-up to high summer; the impact of the disease will be increasingly visible during the autumn and winter. As other trees return to growth in the spring, the result for our treescapes is likely to be starkly clear.

Online exhibition of the images produced during the commission - possibly through iterative dissemination of the developing practice - will raise public awareness of the impact of ash dieback. Beaford will manage digital distribution on behalf of the partnership, but we are keen to give agency to the commissioned photographer in shaping this dissemination of their work.

# Saving Devon's Treescapes



We hope that the finished collection will provide future generations with a priceless legacy, capturing both what has been lost and the collective community action taken to Save Devon's Treescapes.

## details of the commission

Guidance to applicants is highlighted in bold.

1) The commissioned work will be considered for accession to the Beaford Archive, but we are seeking a contemporary photographic response. **The successful proposal need not reflect the photographic styles of Roger Deakins and James Ravilious, but it will be inspired by the spirit of rural social documentary photography which they pioneered.** We think their work effectively balances social impact, environmental documentation, and emotional connection.

2) The photographer will revisit the areas covered by James Ravilious, but they will also spend time within Saving Devon's Treescapes' five priority landscapes, a map of which can be found at the end of this document.

The commission should reflect on the emotional connection between communities and their treescapes. James's work exemplifies such environmental connections for many Devonians. We expect the commission, therefore, to relate primarily to the area he photographed.

In northern Devon, Saving Devon's Treescapes' work will be led by communities, supported by advice from the partners who are rooted in their local areas. The project's priority landscapes, however, are located in other parts of the county. Specialist-led work in these landscapes will show what can be achieved when change is driven by more intensive community intervention. We hope that visits to the priority landscapes will help the photographer to reflect on the role of empowered communities and the value they place on the treescapes around them.

The photographer will be supported by the partnership in identifying relevant sites and communities and will be advised on the likely impact of identified outbreaks. Choices of what and where to photograph are, therefore, expected to evolve during the commission. **The successful proposal will outline the photographer's initial approach to such choices, and will indicate what the photographer would set out to deliver over the life of the commission.** We recognise that this may change as the commission progresses.

3) Beaford, Devon Wildlife Trust, and the partnership will work with the photographer to ensure widespread digital dissemination of their work. Beaford will manage this, but we are keen to give agency to the successful candidate in shaping how their work is shown. **We invite applicants to share with us their experience of using online platforms as exhibition spaces for public dissemination of work.** We are also interested in any experience applicants may have of using outdoor spaces for exhibiting work; the partnership may seek to test this as a separate project, if circumstances permit, to develop future phases of Saving Devon's Treescapes.

4) The photographer will retain the copyright of the images, but will be expected to grant a non-exclusive perpetual licence to Beaford, DWT and the SDT partners for non-commercial use of the images. This will enable us to consider the collection for accession into the Beaford Archive.



## working during Covid-19

1. To ensure we manage risks associated with Covid-19 and to adhere to our high environmental standards, **we are strongly encouraging submissions from photographers who are based locally**, thereby reducing the need for high vehicle mileage and movement between counties. We expect to award the commission to a photographer who meets this condition.
2. Applicants are expected to hold a current driving licence and to own a vehicle suitable for safe private travel between sites.
3. The commissioned photographer will be required to follow working protocols and risk assessment procedures reflecting those which Devon Wildlife Trust has put in place to protect its staff and the public. These will cover, among other things, socially-distanced working in community settings. Details of DWT's protocols will be sent to shortlisted applicants prior to interview.
4. **We expect that the photographs will only be exhibited online during the commission.** We don't expect to begin planning for any subsequent public exhibition until 2021 at the earliest.

## how to apply

Applicants should send an email to [info@beaford.org](mailto:info@beaford.org) attaching:

- **Their CV**, including two referees
- A link to a **relevant portfolio** of 15-20 images saved online (e.g. via a shared Dropbox folder)
- **A short proposal** of no more than three sides of A4, outlining their approach to the commission as set out in this document, and how they will help uphold our environmental standards as set out in condition 1 of the 'working during Covid-19' section above
- **A short outline budget**, which should not exceed £9,000 including VAT. We expect to make a series of staged payments, which will be conditional on agreed milestones.

Applications will be shortlisted using the following criteria:

- Experience and portfolio: 35%
- Proposed approach to delivery: 30%
- Capacity to deliver: 20%
- Value for money: 15%

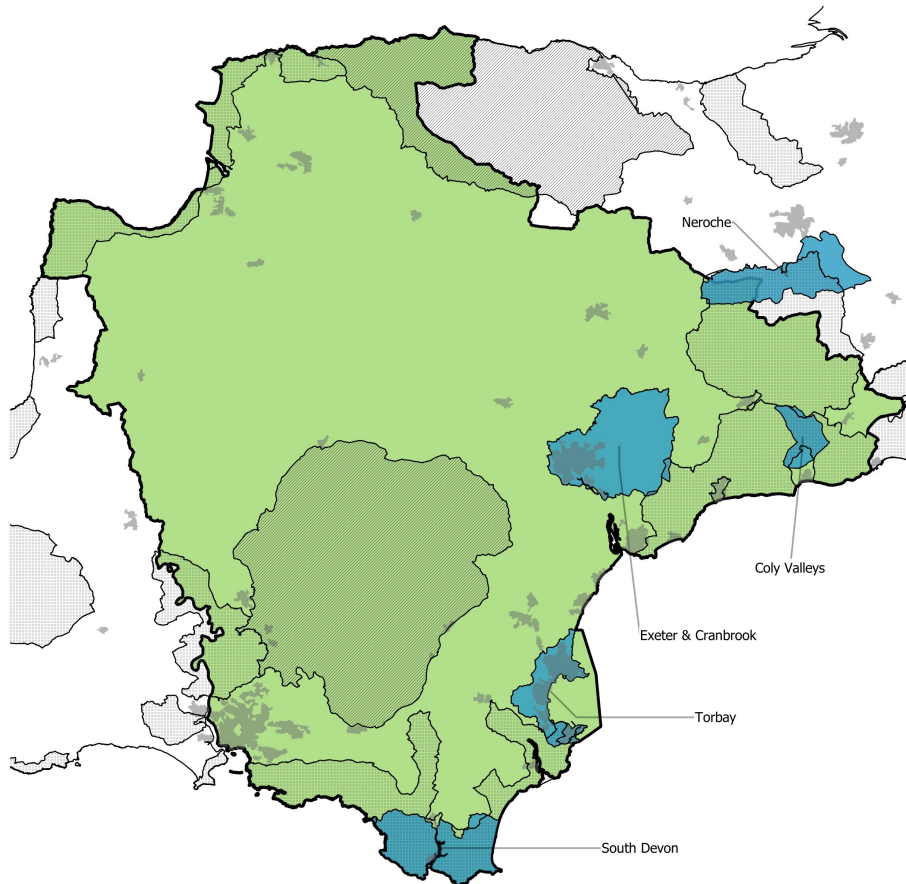
Shortlisted candidates will be contacted in the week beginning July 6th to arrange an online interview to discuss their proposed approach in more detail. The commissioned photographer will be expected to begin work in July. Orientation visits with partnership specialists will be offered.

The selection panel comprises:

- Mark Wallace, Director, Beaford, who will be the commission's lead manager
- Dr Simon Standing, Beaford Trustee and Associate Professor of Photography at Plymouth University
- Martyn Warren, Beaford Trustee and Chair of Beaford's Archive Project Board
- Peter Burgess, Director of Conservation and Development, Devon Wildlife Trust

**The deadline for submissions is Tuesday 30th June. We regret that we are unable to enter into correspondence ahead of this deadline.**

# Saving Devon's Treescapes



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