



## **The Fixed Post Photography Project 2007- 2018**

The project is based on photography taken from key vantage points throughout the North Devon Coast Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, which will capture changes to the landscape throughout a twenty year period.

It involves the use of a mounted digital camera, located on either a fixed pole, or permanent structure at key locations within the designated AONB. The images captured are likely to record the important changes to the AONB landscape over time and monitor this change providing important background information which will help inform the Management Plan.

### **Background Information**

The Fixed Post Photography Project came about as a result of a South West Protected Landscape Project in 2006, aimed at monitoring landscape change.

North Devon Coast AONB along with South Devon AONB led the way in pioneering this experimental work, by installing a number of fixed post photography sites and trialling the equipment. The North Devon using the basic methodology, developed this project and has been successfully capturing images since May 2007.

### **The Fixed Post Photography Locations**

The fixed post photography locations selected, were intended to represent the AONBs distinct landscapes and originally it was intended to locate a position within each of the five Landscape Character Areas.

In addition, sites were chosen where landscape change was anticipated and where there was a suitable vantage point.

In certain locations, the priority was for monitoring habitat and management work on specific sites, rather than the wider landscape. However, wherever possible the locations chosen were designed to cover both landscape and habitat.

### **The Equipment**

The equipment used is a heavy duty demountable 5 ft pole that attaches to base plates that are concreted into the ground at each site.

On the top of the pole there is a rotating camera mount that can turn through 360 degrees and can be locked in place at 22.5 degree intervals. This enables shots to be taken at 16 standard compass points.

This ensures, that the same photographs can be taken, each time the equipment is used. Thereby allowing comparisons to be made with the images captured.

It was decided to use a Fixed 50mm lens for image capture. This, in 2007, was very close to the fixed lens, used to create photomontages for wind turbine applications. It also ensured that the image captured was consistent, which other variable focal length cameras could not ensure.

### **The Photos**

In North Devon 32 images are taken from each fixed post location (the 16 compass points and the interim shots for panoramic photosets) in one run.

Images are taken at the highest quality to ensure that as much information can be captured during the photography.

A minimum of one visit is made to each fixed post photography position each year, this was Occasionally, during periods of change or for specific projects interim runs may be taken.

The project has been taking images now for over ten years. Most of the change is quite slight or quite subtle. However, cumulatively this can build up to having a greater impact upon the landscape.