

Local Nature Recovery Strategy Briefing Note No. 24 - 12

Service : Natural and Historic Environment

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What is a Local Nature Recovery Strategy?

Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRS) are a mechanism to deliver nature recovery at a local and regional scale as introduced in the [legislation.gov.uk: Environment Act 2021 - Local nature recovery strategies Section 106](https://legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2021/124/section-106). Wiltshire Council has been appointed by DEFRA as responsible for preparing the LNRS for Wiltshire and Swindon.

The Wiltshire and Swindon Local Nature Recovery Strategy will consist of a document containing biodiversity priorities and a habitat map which will inform and guide nature recovery across Wiltshire and Swindon.

The Local Nature Recovery Strategy will:

- agree priorities for nature's recovery
- map the most valuable existing areas for nature
- map specific proposals for creating or improving habitat for nature and wider environmental goals

In February 2024, we held six usability testing workshops with different stakeholder groups. This has given us practical feedback and guidance on how to produce the mapping element of the LNRS from end users. We have attached a copy of our report detailing the methodology and outcomes from these usability testing workshops.

In March 2024, we ran three interactive, in-person events in Swindon, Salisbury and Trowbridge to hear from stakeholders across the public, private and voluntary sectors, encouraging their support for delivering the strategy and to gather their views and expertise on what should be included in the LNRS. We have attached a copy of our report detailing the methodology and outcomes from these longlist workshops.

Having gathered a long list of suggested nature recovery priorities through direct engagement with locally active organisations and individuals, we are currently in the

shortlisting stage. This is being led by a small group of experts who are refining the list of nature recovery priorities for Wiltshire and Swindon which will feed into the production of the LNRS first draft documents.

The reason for this project

The Wiltshire Council Business Plan states that our mission is to ensure:

- The people of Wiltshire are empowered to live full, healthy and enriched lives.
- Our communities continue to be beautiful and exciting places to live.
- Our local economy thrives and is supported by a skilled workforce.
- We lead the way in how council and counties mitigate the climate challenges ahead.

To support this, Wiltshire Council has produced a Climate Strategy and a Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategy to help meet these aspirations. A central part of these strategies is to support nature recovery across Wiltshire for the benefit of people, nature and to help mitigate climate change.

Next steps

The shortlisting process has been taking place throughout May 2024. Once completed, the chosen priorities will be mapped in draft form.

County wide engagement and opportunities for feedback on these mapping drafts will take place in July 2024 through an online interactive survey, supported by a video and a public webinar. Several engagement opportunities are also being planned across July exclusively for farmers, who are key stakeholders in the LNRS. Details will be confirmed in a briefing note in due course.

We will also be hosting a members only first look event at the end of September. Details to be confirmed in due course.

The project programme aims to seek sign off by the supporting authorities; Swindon Borough Council, New Forest NPA and DEFRA at the end of October 2024 ahead of formal public consultation in November and December 2024, with final council approval and adoption in February 2025.

Suggested actions for councillors

We would welcome your support. Please read the attached reports and share the opportunities for feedback on the initial LNRS mapping once invitations are shared in the next briefing note.

If you have any questions please get in touch
localnaturerecoverystrategy@wiltshire.gov.uk

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