

Local Nature Recovery Strategy Briefing Note No. 24 - 15

Service : Natural and Historic Environment

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Date Prepared: 9/7/2024

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://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2021/17/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

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.

LNRS Update

Priorities and measures for nature recovery in Wiltshire and Swindon have been developed and refined from suggestions gathered at stakeholder engagement opportunities and events earlier this year. To read our latest reports detailing the methodology for the LNRS User Testing and Longlisting processes please look at our webpage or see our previous LNRS Briefing Note.

Mapping for the LNRS is currently underway, and initial drafts are now being applied to the whole of Wiltshire and Swindon. Once drafted for the whole area, we want to hear feedback from local people about what we've done so far.

Next steps

County wide engagement and opportunities for feedback on the LNRS draft mapping will take place in July 2024, through an online interactive survey which will be live between 22nd July – 9th August. It will be supported by a video and two webinars on Tuesday 23rd July at 7am (exclusively for farmers and landowners) and on Thursday 25th July at 6pm (open to all). More information on how to book a place or where to access the survey is in the attached letter.

Alison Levy, LNRS Officer for Wiltshire Council, will be visiting farmer groups throughout July to speak about the LNRS directly with farmers and landowners, who are key stakeholders in this project.

We will also be hosting a members only first look event at the end of September. Details to be confirmed via a briefing note 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 attendance at one of our webinars and invite you to complete the online survey. Please see the attached invitation letter for information on how to book your place and where and when you can access the survey.

In addition, to ensure we have a wide range of participants attending these webinars and completing the online survey, please could you raise awareness of these sessions and the survey with your networks, town and parish councils and to the wider community, particularly farmers and landowners, nature related local interest groups and residents.

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

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