



Nature Recovery
Shropshire and
Telford & Wrekin

Resources
FOR CHANGE

LNRS IN-PERSON WORKSHOP REPORT

CLARE FEATHERSTONE

RESOURCES FOR CHANGE LTD

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Resources for Change Ltd
Directors: D Jones, M King, N Smith, S Sullivan
VAT number: 996 4504 72. Company Number 7310220.
Registered Address: Cwrt Isaf Farmhouse, Llangattock, Crickhowell, Powys NP8 1PH.

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1. INTRODUCTION

Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRS) are new statutory strategies for nature and environmental improvement, the development of which is led by Local Authorities. Shropshire Council is the responsible authority for the Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin LNRS and they are working closely with supporting authorities Telford & Wrekin Council and Natural England. There are many other partner organisations guiding the strategy development to ensure the strategy is fit for purpose.

A series of engagement events with community interest groups, environmental professionals, farmers and landowners, Town and Parish Councils, Council staff and specialist waterways partners have been delivered to make sure that the Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin LNRS reflects local priorities and benefits from local knowledge.

This report summarises the feedback from three in-person workshops, which were arranged to give anyone with an interest in nature the opportunity to contribute.

2. WORKSHOPS

The three workshops were:

1. Community Centre, Craven Arms, SY7 9PS
Wednesday, 15th January 2025, 10:00 – 15:00
2. Meeting Point House, Telford, TF3 4HS
Friday, 17th January 2025, 10:00 – 15:00
3. Shropshire Wildlife Trust HQ, Shrewsbury, SY2 6AH
Saturday, 18th January 2025, 10:00 – 15:00

2.1 PURPOSES

The purposes of the workshops were to:

1. Gather stakeholder feedback on draft priority outcomes, identify potential activities and measures, highlighting any key priorities not yet considered.
2. Share information on how the LNRS map is being developed and share the draft map.
3. Raise awareness of opportunities to monitor delivery
4. Start to identify “What success looks like” for each habitat.

2.2 AGENDA

All three meetings shared the following agenda:

Time	Agenda
9.30	Registration
10.00	Welcome and introductions

10.10	Future nature imagination exercise
10.30	The story so far National context – Dave Cragg, Natural England Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin Local Nature Recovery Strategy – Lynn Parker, LNRS Co-ordinator Mapping – Richard Hammerton, Shropshire Council What is important and why – draft outcomes / priorities – Lynn
11.15	Break
11.30	Outcome discussion. Everyone – activity at tables – carousel
13.00	Lunch
13.45	Activities to achieve draft outcomes. Everyone at tables – informal carousel
14.30	Feedback / reflections. From each habitat
14.45	Summing up and next steps
14.55	Evaluation
15.00	Finish

The presentations from the workshop are attached separately.

2.3 ATTENDANCE

The workshops were well attended, as shown below.

Workshop	Number of attendees
Craven Arms	41
Telford	29
Shrewsbury	38
TOTAL	108

3.1 FUTURE IMAGINATION EXERCISE

3.1.1 WHAT'S WORKING WELL?

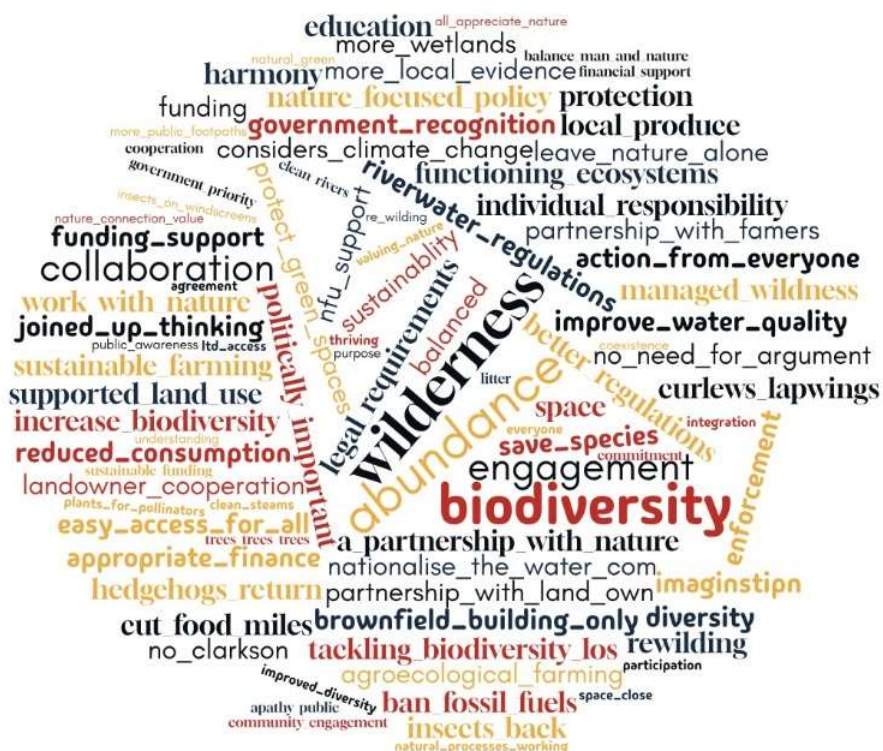


3.1.2 WHAT NEEDS IMPROVING?

Core areas that needed improving included reducing pollution and improving education and planning enforcement.

3.1.3 WHAT IS YOUR VISION FOR THE FUTURE?

Participants aspirations for the future were wide reaching and included more biodiversity, and abundance of wildlife, better engagement and collaboration, whilst taking individual responsibility and government recognition, policy support and more funding.



3.2 FEEDBACK ON OUTCOMES AND MEASURES

The aspects of this section of the workshop were:

- Participants were given the opportunity to review the draft priority outcomes
- Then asked to prioritise the outcomes
- Participants were asked to identify what action was already happening in the county
- What measures (activities) would be required to deliver the desired outcome

3.2.1 OUTCOMES

The draft priority outcomes can be found in Appendix 1.

Participants identified some outcomes that had not been identified within the draft. These were:

- The creation and restoration of orchards
- Identifying and protecting brownfield grassland sites
- Identifying appropriate opportunities to take land out agricultural production, where unproductive and can be appropriately financed e.g. land that regularly floods

There was also important feedback on some of the terminology that was used. For example, FM3 Ensure arable land is permeable to wildlife, the word “permeable” made people think it referred to water. It was suggested that this outcome be amended to state “Ensure arable land is beneficial to wildlife”.

Having separate outcomes for lowland and upland heaths was felt to be unhelpful, and it was suggested to combine these into the same outcome.

The draft outcomes only included those which were habitat based. People also wanted to discuss those cross cutting outcomes to support:

- Education
- Health and wellbeing
- Communication and networking

3.2.2 PRIORITISATION

Participants were asked to place three dots on the draft outcomes for each habitat that they felt were the highest priority. This could have been on 1, 2 or 3 separate draft outcomes. The top two (or three, where the results tied) priorities for each habitat from across the three workshops are shown below.

Habitat	Highest priority	Second highest priority
Urban areas or built environment	U4 Enhance, create, appropriately manage and reconnect corridors of wildlife habitat within urban areas.	U1 Implement water management features to slow the flow of water and to deliver a range of benefits to wildlife and people.
Farmed land	FM2 Maintain soils that are healthy and resilient.	FM1 Ensure that permanent pastures are wildlife rich. FM4 Plant more trees and hedgerows in the farmed landscape.

Open Mosaics	OM2 Maintain, appropriately manage and create areas of scrub, with diverse age structure, as part of habitat mosaics with grassland, woodland and heathland and within areas of agricultural use.	OM1 Maintain, restore and expand ffridd habitat areas which support a range of species. OM3 Manage and maintain close mosaics of open habitats on former coal, mining and post-industrial sites.
Grasslands	G1 Restore, create and expand species rich grasslands.	Identify, protect and enhance brownfield grassland sites.
Heathlands	HL1 Restore, expand and create upland heathland habitats.	HL2 Restore, expand and create lowland heathland habitats.
Trees, hedgerows and connecting features	CN4 Restore roadside verges to diverse (wildflower) grassland corridors for connectivity and habitat creation.	CN1 Restore, enhance, expand and appropriately manage the hedgerow network.
Wetlands	WT4 Manage ponds well, restore historic ponds and create new pond habitat.	WT1 Restore lowland bogs, fens and wetlands and mosaics of wetland habitats resulting in sites which are better managed for nature and able to store more water.
Woodlands	W1 Restore & expand nature rich ancient semi-natural woodland & long-established woodland.	W4 Improve the condition of mixed woodlands.

3.2.3 CURRENT ACTION AND MEASURES

The following table provides a summary of the feedback provided on current action taking place around the county, along with the detailed information on the required action that would be necessary to result in each outcome. Having such a broad range of people, with different interests, experience and knowledge was reflected in the responses provided.

Participants were more familiar with some habitats than others, for example, there was considerable discussion about urban areas/ built environment, with less around heathlands and open mosaics, which were felt to be more specialist areas.

Habitat	Feedback	Examples of ongoing projects and key organisations	Measures/ activities
<i>Wetlands</i>	<p>High priority</p> <p>Crossover theme with other habitats</p> <p>Flood control can also be beneficial for nature – slow the flow</p> <p>Water quality improvements for wild swimming</p> <p>Focus on ponds</p> <p>Invasive species control needs collaborative approach</p> <p>Suggested target- 250% increase in wetlands</p>	<p>Bomere Pool</p> <p>BogLIFE projects</p> <p>Montgomery Canal Restoration</p> <p>National Trust/ Natural England- Stepping Stones</p> <p>Pam's Pools</p> <p>Potters Landfill funding pond creation</p> <p>River Severn Partnership</p> <p>Severn River Trust – weirs/barrier removal</p> <p>Severn Valley Water Management pilot projects</p> <p>Shropshire Wildlife Trust-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Betchcott Hill • Brook Vessons/ Norbury Hill – habitat improvements • Catherton Common • Clee Liberty Common • Marches Mosses BogLIFE project • Rhos Fiddle • Slow the Flow <p>Smart rivers citizen water monitoring</p>	<p>Bund mapping, scrapes and reedbeds to help control run-off and improve water quality</p> <p>Reintroduction of beavers to improve habitats</p> <p>Pond creation schemes, including wildlife ponds in gardens</p> <p>Peat restoration on farmland</p> <p>Better riparian buffers</p> <p>Better SUDs and sewage settlement ponds</p> <p>Co-ordination with flood schemes and water companies to maximise nature recovery</p> <p>Campaign to keep dogs out of water to prevent flea treatment chemicals entering watercourse</p> <p>Working with wild swimmers to improve water quality</p> <p>More Citizen Science schemes</p> <p>Join up all projects, with better communication, networking and reporting for volunteers and the public</p>

Nature Recovery Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin, In-person workshop report

Habitat	Feedback	Examples of ongoing projects and key organisations	Measures/ activities
<i>Urban areas or built environment</i>	<p>Popular outcomes, with lots of ideas</p> <p>Lots already going on where people live, but there is a lot more that can be done</p> <p>Granularity means smaller areas (verges, community areas) don't always show up on maps</p> <p>Education and communication are key</p> <p>Lots of designations in urban areas</p>	<p>BugLIFE projects</p> <p>Cambrian Railway Orchard project</p> <p>De-pave hard surfaces- Oswestry</p> <p>Free Tree schemes</p> <p>Groundwork WM management of Telford</p> <p>Millennium Nature Reserve</p> <p>Hedgehog Highways</p> <p>Incredible Edible</p> <p>Management by allotment societies/ community gardens and orchards, including The Allotment Guy</p> <p>New housing developments e.g. Squinter Pip Way open area</p> <p>No Mow May</p> <p>Perennial planting for Ludlow in Bloom</p> <p>Shrewsbury Town Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Quarry Park • Trees Outside Woodlands and new hedgerows • Tree nursery • Tree Management Plan <p>Telford & Wrekin Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Telford Green Guarantee • Green Network • Telford Town Park <p>Telford Mosque Garden</p> <p>Tibberton dark skies policy in Neighbourhood Plan</p> <p>Tree Warden scheme</p> <p>Working Together- gardening in Ludlow (vulnerable adults)</p>	<p>Adopt the final version of the LNRS as Supplementary Planning Guidance</p> <p>More consistent checking, implementation and enforcement of planning activities</p> <p>Work with developers to build in nature recovery- hedges, swift bricks, solar tiles, green walls etc.</p> <p>Provide developers and community organisations with an 'approved' planting list of native species</p> <p>Develop more green Social Prescribing</p> <p>More funded ecological advice for community groups with green spaces</p> <p>'Adopt a verge' in suburbs</p> <p>Subsidised bird and bat box scheme</p> <p>More de-pave projects e.g. 'Tile Whipping'</p> <p>Tree nursery growing native species as plugs to be planted out by volunteers</p> <p>Biodegradable tree protectors</p> <p>Lux monitoring of street lighting</p> <p>Encourage schools, village halls etc. to have wildlife area on grounds</p> <p>Involve Town and Parish Councils in nature recovery projects</p> <p>More engagement of the community, including young people</p> <p>Education programme for householders on nature benefits from gardens</p> <p>Promotional campaign 'Your Wildlife Needs You'</p>

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Habitat	Feedback	Examples of ongoing projects and key organisations	Measures/ activities
<i>Woodlands</i>	<p>Success is a diverse range of well-managed native mixed woodlands around the county that Shropshire residents know about, can access easily and enjoy the benefits of fauna and flora that thrives within them</p> <p>Consider tree species in light of climate change</p> <p>Manage woodlands profitably to reduce need for imported wood</p> <p>Connections between woodlands are important</p> <p>Ash dieback is a key consideration</p> <p>Orchards management and fruit tree planting to be included</p> <p>Suggested target= Plant minimum of 350,000 trees: one for each resident</p>	<p>Abdon and District Dormouse Project</p> <p>Babbinswood tree planting</p> <p>Community orchard groups</p> <p>Dothill and Shawbirch Local Nature Reserve</p> <p>Friends of the Knapp, Pulverbatch</p> <p>RSPB</p> <p>National Trust- Attingham Park/ Comer Woods/ Dudmaston</p> <p>Natural England- Stiperstones PAWs</p> <p>Severn Gorge Countryside Trust</p> <p>Severn Trent- Mercian Biodiversity Project</p> <p>Shropshire Hills National Landscape- Farming in Protected Landscapes</p> <p>Smallwoods Association</p> <p>Tom Adams, The Apple Man</p> <p>Woodland Trust</p> <p>Shropshire Council- Lyth Hill mixed woodland restoration</p> <p>Grants available for woodland management</p>	<p>Planning protection needs to be applied to protect ancient woodland</p> <p>Plant new woodlands near new developments, engaging local people</p> <p>New woodlands to have management plan</p> <p>More urban tree planting for urban cooling, wellbeing, drainage and wildlife</p> <p>Deadwood left in situ for wildlife</p> <p>Engage farmers/ landowners</p> <p>Incentivise landowners</p> <p>Connect woodland owners with volunteers</p> <p>More trees in parks and green spaces</p> <p>Biochar production and marketing</p> <p>Commercial development of coppicing products</p> <p>More woodland available for forest bathing and other wellbeing programmes</p> <p>Education on sensitive woodland management and veteranisation of young trees</p>

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Habitat	Feedback	Examples of ongoing projects and key organisations	Measures/ activities
<i>Trees, hedgerows & connecting features</i>	<p>Right tree in the right place- not always appropriate to plant new trees</p> <p>Consider tree species in light of climate change</p> <p>Consider other connecting features such as drainage ditches/ engineering works</p> <p>Suggested target= 30% of road verges properly managed for wildlife in 10 years</p>	<p>Small, local groups already working on these outcomes</p> <p>Bee Lines</p> <p>Canal and River Trust</p> <p>CPRE Hedgerow Heroes and Rural Skills courses</p> <p>Forestry Commission Coronation Wood Free Tree Schemes</p> <p>Local volunteer groups, including Parish Paths Partnerships (P3)</p> <p>National Trust/ Natural England- Stepping Stones project</p> <p>No Mow May</p> <p>Pontesbury and Minsterley verge management</p> <p>Restore Shropshire's Verges Project</p> <p>RSPB initiatives</p> <p>Shropshire Wildlife Trust volunteers T&W planting trees in north Shropshire</p> <p>Telford & Wrekin Council/ Oswestry Town Council verge cutting regimes</p> <p>Woodland Trust veteran tree record</p>	<p>Shropshire Council, Parish and Town Council verge and hedge cutting regimes to be updated to help wildlife. Negotiate with Highways Dept.</p> <p>More education and training, with database of activity and funding available</p> <p>Engage with Sustrans on national cycle network</p> <p>Funding for landowners to bring old railway lines into new active travel routes</p> <p>Link to historic landscape management and recording</p> <p>Campaign to reduce hedge cutting frequencies</p> <p>Tree and hedgerow planting, and green corridors on new developments</p> <p>Leave trees to grow in hedgerows to create linear woodlands</p> <p>Tree Protection Orders to be used more and adhered to</p>

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Habitat	Feedback	Examples of ongoing projects and key organisations	Measures/ activities
<i>Heathlands</i>	Felt to be a specialist habitat, with most site managed by expert public bodies	<p>National Trust/ Natural England- Stepping Stones project (Stiperstones and Longmynd) and Norbury Hill</p> <p>National Trust- Dudmaston, Kinver Edge</p> <p>Shropshire Wildlife Trust:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Betchcott Hill- curlews, drainage, restorative grazing • Cramer Gutter and Catherton Common ongoing management, working with Butterfly Trust. <p>Shropshire Council- Ifton Meadows</p> <p>The Hillies, Whitchurch</p>	<p>Reduce grazing around heathlands</p> <p>Water infrastructure to help replace sheep with cattle</p> <p>Manage age structure</p> <p>Bracken control</p>
<i>Open habitats & habitat mosaics</i>	Felt to be a specialist habitat, with most site managed by expert public bodies Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin Councils manage many of these sites	<p>National Trust/ Natural England- Stepping Stones project</p> <p>Gallows Bank, Ludlow</p> <p>Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin Councils site management and volunteering e.g. Llanymynech</p> <p>Limeworks, Snailbeach, The Bog, Ifton Meadows</p> <p>Dawley Hamlets LNR- vulnerable adults, volunteer groups, schools</p> <p>Mousecroft in Shrewsbury</p> <p>Llynclys Quarry work parties</p>	<p>Social prescribing on suitable sites</p> <p>Co-operation between heritage and nature organisations</p> <p>Enhanced funding for public sector organisations managing these sites</p> <p>Visitor management to reduce erosion</p> <p>Habitat creation on industrial parks</p> <p>Improve awareness and understanding of value of these habitats</p> <p>Manage future metal contamination from mines/ spoil heaps</p>

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Habitat	Feedback	Examples of ongoing projects and key organisations	Measures/ activities
<i>Farmed Land</i>	<p>Relies on landowners engaging with nature recovery outcomes</p> <p>Smaller fields/hedgerows</p> <p>Farm clusters</p> <p>Minimal tillage and reduced inputs- soil health is key</p> <p>Acknowledge business needs</p> <p>Measurement?</p> <p>take land out agricultural production, where unproductive and can be appropriately financed e.g. land that regularly floods</p>	<p>Lots of courses for regenerative farming</p> <p>Existing agri-environment schemes</p> <p>CPRE- volunteers and courses</p> <p>Harper Adams University- soil health, sustainable farming, profitability of farming for conservation</p> <p>Permaculture networks</p> <p>Farming Groups</p>	<p>Many farmers are already delivering these outcomes</p> <p>Ensure farmers are compensated for public benefits- increase take up of agri-environment schemes</p> <p>Encourage whole farm plans</p> <p>Inspire people to act with good news case studies and stories, considering win-win scenarios for farming and wildlife</p> <p>Encourage soil testing</p> <p>Ploughing across slopes to reduce run off</p> <p>GPS technology can target inputs</p> <p>More committed to long term management</p> <p>Ban or reduce neonicotinoids</p> <p>Encourage planting of wild bird feed and pollinator mixes</p> <p>Encourage better tree and hedgerow management</p> <p>Encourage public to reduce food waste and buy locally</p> <p>Provide mental health support for farming communities</p> <p>Promote nature friendly, human friendly farming</p>

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Habitat	Feedback	Examples of ongoing projects and key organisations	Measures/ activities
<i>Grasslands</i>	Identify and protect brownfield grassland Manage for existing species, adding beneficial and removing invasive species More texture/colour More diversity Grazing management is key Consider connectivity between high quality meadows- verges	Community Wildlife Groups Dothill Nature Reserve cutting regime Marches Meadows Group National Trust- Wenlock Edge Whitcliff Common, Ludlow- wildflower planting, reduction of invasive species, working with younger volunteers	Opportunity to link groups and learn from elsewhere e.g. connect landowners with wildlife groups to share expertise and build relationships Encourage regular volunteering Create species rich grasslands near education facilities- children and young people will love it Green hay spreading to increase wildflower meadows Arable reversion Change mowing policy for Councils to encourage longer grass Promote mowing later to protect ground nesting birds Better surveying, with central database
<i>Additional outcomes suggested</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creation and restoration of orchards • Identify and protect brownfield grassland • Taking land out of agricultural production, where unproductive and can be appropriately financed e.g. land that regularly floods • Cross-cutting outcomes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Education ○ Health and wellbeing ○ Communication and networking 		

4. CONCLUSIONS

The three in-person events were well attended, with bookings at or near capacity, demonstrating a keen interest in the development of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy and a willingness to help shape this for the future. Participants were knowledgeable about many of the habitats discussed but felt that some areas, such as heathlands and open mosaics, were more specialist, and many of these sites were already managed by expert organisations.

There is a lot of good work already going on, with many landowners, community groups and volunteers helping create and restore habitats for wildlife and people, and some focus on specific species. More co-ordination of this along with the sharing of good practice and more opportunities to network would be beneficial. More co-ordinated data sharing and reporting would also be helpful.

There was general agreement that the draft priority outcomes were appropriate for Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin. Importantly, some gaps were identified and additional priorities proposed by participants:

- The creation and restoration of orchards
- Identifying and protecting brownfield grassland sites
- Identifying appropriate opportunities to take land out agricultural production, where unproductive and can be appropriately financed e.g. land that regularly floods

The prioritisation of draft outcomes by habitat showed the relevant importance of the draft outcomes by habitat, according to the participants.

Common priority activities (measures) that participants felt should be included were:

- Better inclusion and enforcement of nature recovery through the planning system
- Improved verge (and hedge) cutting, and mowing regimes by local councils
- Improved hedgerow management by landowners
- Focus on better connections between high-quality habitats
- Helping the public better understand what they can do to help nature in their communities, including through schools and other community areas
- More collaboration between farmers / landowners and volunteers

There were some common themes that came up at all workshops, which were applicable across all habitats. These included:

- Education of those responsible for or involved with habitat or species management, and the wider public
- Communication and networking between and within groups involved in nature recovery, including a central website and database
- More focus on health and wellbeing initiatives enabled by nature and well managed, publically accessible wildlife sites

These important points will be given consideration as the strategy develops.

5. NEXT STEPS

The next steps are:

- Incorporating the feedback from all the stakeholder engagement events into the draft priorities and measures.
- Working up the strategy into an entire coherent document.
- Developing a feedback mechanism for the LNRS map.
- Preparing the strategy for consultation in the summer.

6. APPENDIX 1 – DRAFT OUTCOMES

WETLANDS

- WT1 Restore lowland bogs, fens and wetlands and mosaics of wetland habitats resulting in sites which are better managed for nature and able to store more water.
- WT2 Restore and rewet lowland peat for nature, water storage and/or carbon storage.
- WT3 Manage species-rich upland wet flushes well so that they support a range of species such as small pearl-bordered fritillary butterfly.
- WT4 Manage ponds well, restore historic ponds and create new pond habitat.
- WT5 Improve water quality in glacial pools and meres.
- WT6 Restore natural ecosystem function in upland headwaters.
- WT7 Protect, appropriately manage and connect stretches of priority river habitat.
- WT8 Restore flood plains so that they are connected, structurally varied and have more natural hydrological functionality.
- WT9 Reduce flood risk across catchments.
- WT10 Control Invasive Non-Native Species across whole catchments
- WT11 Manage canals so that they provide excellent access, good water quality and opportunities for biodiversity.

WOODLANDS

- W1 Restore & expand nature rich ancient semi-natural woodland & long-established woodland.
- W2 Restore plantation on ancient woodland sites (PAWS).
- W3 Create new woodlands.
- W4 Improve condition of mixed woodlands.
- W5 Improve condition of deciduous woodlands.
- W6 Restore and expand wood pasture.
- W7 Restore parkland.

TREES, HEDGEROWS & CONNECTING FEATURES

- CN1 Restore, enhance, expand and appropriately manage the hedgerow network.
- CN2 Restore connected biodiversity features associated with railway verges, footpaths, cycleways etc.

- CN3 Identify, protect, appropriately manage and safeguard the future of veteran trees.
- CN4 Restore roadside verges to diverse (wildflower) grassland corridors for connectivity and habitat creation.

HEATHLANDS

- HL1 Restore, expand and create upland heathland habitats.
- HL2 Restore, expand and create lowland heathland habitats.

GRASSLANDS

- G1 Restore, create and expand species rich grasslands.
- G2 Restore, create and expand calcareous grasslands.
- G3 Restore, create and expand dry acid grasslands.

OPEN HABITATS & HABITAT MOSAICS

- OM1 Maintain, restore and expand ffridd habitat areas which support a range of species.
- OM2 Maintain, appropriately manage and create areas of scrub, with diverse age structure, as part of habitat mosaics with grassland, woodland and heathland and within areas of agricultural use.
- OM3 Manage and maintain close mosaics of open habitats on former coal, mining and post-industrial sites.
- OM4 Previously developed land supports a close mosaic of open habitats.
- OM5 Maintain open habitats on scree.

FARMED LAND

- FM1 Ensure that permanent pastures are wildlife rich.
- FM2 Maintain soils that are healthy and resilient.
- FM3 Ensure arable land is permeable to wildlife.
- FM4 Plant more trees and hedgerows in the farmed landscape.

BUILT ENVIRONMENT

- U1 Implement water management features to slow the flow of water and to deliver a range of benefits to wildlife and people.
- U2 Provide opportunities for wildlife to live, nest, roost and rest in urban areas.
- U3 Provide excellent quality, multifunctional green space in urban environments.
- U4 Enhance, create, appropriately manage and reconnect corridors of wildlife habitat within urban areas.
- U5 Reduce light pollution.