



Nature Recovery Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin

Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin Local Nature Recovery Strategy.
Consultation draft, July 2025

Appendix 2: Current and ongoing action for nature recovery

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Taking coordinated and strategic action for biodiversity in Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin is not a new concept, and while the Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) methodology is new and to some extent standardises the approach nationally, it builds on a large number of projects and initiatives that have gone before. This appendix summaries a selection of current and ongoing actions and mechanisms for nature. Please note this does not constitute an exhaustive list.

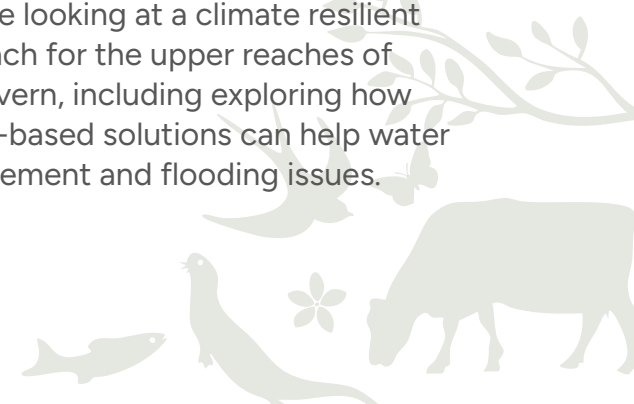
- **The Shropshire Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP)** took a habitat- and species-based approach to coordinated conservation action in the county and was part of a national approach to halting the decline of biodiversity. The BAP work took a partnership approach and identified actions relevant to habitat and species conservation which were then attributed to partner organisations. When funding for BAP work ceased, the plans were no longer updated and monitored; however, many of the inter-organisational relationships built as part of the BAP partnership remain.
- **Green Infrastructure Strategies** are produced by local authorities as supporting evidence during the local plan process. These strategies identify existing green infrastructure assets including parks, green spaces, play facilities and sports fields. The strategies also assess whether

current provision meets local needs and what additional facilities might be required as towns and villages continue to grow. Shropshire Council and Telford & Wrekin Council have separate green infrastructure strategies, which are published on their respective websites.

- **The National Food Strategy: The Plan (2021)** analysed the British food industry from farm to fork. Henry Dimbleby sets out how overhauling our approach to food, nutrition, inequality in food availability and quality, and establishing an approach to balancing food production with the natural environment are both necessary and possible.
- **Agri-environment scheme options** have historically included measures for land to be managed for wildlife, habitat conservation or connectivity (including hedgerows, field margins and conservation

headlands) alongside food production. The government's Environmental Land Management Scheme (ELM) continues to provide a range of measures intended to ensure that food production goes hand in hand with protecting the natural environment and water resources. Sustainable Farming Initiative (SFI), Countryside Stewardship Higher Tier (CSHT) agreements and Landscape Recovery grants form part of this new approach.

- **The Severn Valley Water Management Scheme** is a River Severn Partnership scheme looking at a climate resilient approach for the upper reaches of the Severn, including exploring how nature-based solutions can help water management and flooding issues.



- **The Shropshire Hills National Landscape Management Plan** sets out the proposed management approach for the Shropshire Hills National Landscape. Each National Landscape has an adopted management plan, running on five-year cycles, which addresses a range of issues relevant to the designation including (but not limited to) land management, tourism, renewable energy, farm diversification, thriving communities and built development. The current adopted management plan runs from 2019–2024 and the new management plan is currently out for consultation.
- **Farming in Protected Landscapes (FiPL)** is a funding programme designed to support farmers and land managers working within England's protected landscapes National Landscapes (formerly Areas of Outstanding National Beauty). FiPL is part of Defra's Agricultural Transition Plan, which is moving away from direct payments to farmers and towards rewarding environmentally beneficial practices. It is not an agri-environment scheme, but rather a competitive grant programme that funds one-off projects.
- **Farmer groups** are an important means by which landowners and land managers, usually in specific geographic areas, can share knowledge and best practice.

They are farmer led but often supported by a facilitating organisation. Groups come together to support each other in understanding and addressing the challenges of farming in a particular set of circumstances. There are several farmer groups across Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin.

- **Community groups** are active all over the county. As part of these groups, local people work together to help restore nature in their area. Activities include wildlife monitoring, practical action, running events and talks, and delivering specific local projects.
- **Catchment-based partnerships** are a mechanism established by the UK Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (Defra) to achieve the requirements of the Water Framework Directive (WFD). There are five catchment partnerships in Shropshire: Shropshire Middle Severn, Severn Uplands, Worcestershire Middle Severn, Teme, Weaver and Gowy. Objectives focus on working together to achieve vibrant, healthy and resilient river systems.
- The **Sandscapes**, **Stepping Stones** and **Back to Purple** projects represent partnership efforts across Shropshire and the West Midlands to restore, create and reconnect areas of heathland

and grassland habitat within the wider landscape. Sandscapes is a partnership project, led by National Trust, that focuses on restoring and reconnecting areas of sandy habitat, including heathland, across the West Midlands. Stepping Stones, also led by the National Trust, focuses on connective corridors of habitat linking heathlands and grasslands. Back to Purple was a partnership project, focused around the Stiperstones National Nature Reserve, that worked to restore sites on the edge of existing heathlands to extend the high-quality heathland found in south Shropshire. The aims of all three projects, and other projects of this type, closely align with LNRS aspirations and the "more, bigger, better, better connected" approach (known as the 'Lawton principals').

- **Peatland partnerships** are formed around significant areas of peat to facilitate Defra's aspiration that these peatlands be returned to favourable management as a way of addressing biodiversity and climate change concerns. Local stakeholders and landowners work together to re-wet peat and manage land effectively. The Marches Peat Partnership focuses action around the largest peatland sites in the county.



- **Biodiversity hotspot mapping** is a method of recognising where biodiversity and/or species recording is focused. Maps for a range of species groups can be found on the [Shropshire Council website](#).
- **Buglife's B-lines** is a national project that maps out a series of 'insect pathways' running through our countryside and towns. Led by Buglife in partnership with a range of other stakeholders, nature recovery projects are restoring and creating wildflower-rich stepping stones along these 'pathways', creating new habitats to link existing wildlife areas together and creating a network through which invertebrates and other wildlife can move.

