

Wiltshire & Swindon Local Nature Recovery Strategy Briefing Note No. 24 - 05

Service : *Climate and Environment*

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Date Prepared: 28/02/2024

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Summary of the project

Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRS) are a mechanism to deliver 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/2021/17/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

We are currently at the longlisting stage of the LNRS, gathering a long list of suggested nature recovery priorities through direct engagement with locally active organisations and individuals.

We are seeking to hear from stakeholders across the public, private and voluntary sectors to encourage their support for delivering the strategy and to hear their views and expertise on what should be included.

We have three interactive, in-person events planned to support this process on Tuesday 5 March (Swindon), Tuesday 12 March (Salisbury) and Tuesday 19 March (Trowbridge). These events will be followed by an online public survey to capture priorities and measures for nature recovery across Wiltshire and Swindon from a much wider audience. We have attached an invitation letter with more details about the events and how to book a space.

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 councils 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's recovery across Wiltshire for the benefit of people, nature and to help mitigate climate change.

Next Steps

The longlisting events and survey will help inform the priorities for the LNRS. This will be followed by a shortlisting event which will feed into the production of the first draft documents. County wide engagement on these drafts will happen over this summer.

The project programme aims to seek supporting authority sign off towards the end of 2024 ahead of formal public consultation in early 2025, with final council approval and adoption in July 2025

Suggested actions for councillors

We would welcome your attendance at our longlisting in-person events, please see the attached invitation letter for information on how to book onto an event. In addition, to ensure we have a wide range of participants at each event, please could you raise awareness of these event with your networks, town and parish councils and to the wider community, particularly nature related local interest groups and residents.

We will shortly be circulating the online survey to ensure we capture priorities and measures for nature recovery across Wiltshire and Swindon from people who are not able to attend our in-person events and would again appreciate your support in ensuring this is circulated far and wide.

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

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