

## Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) update Briefing Note No. 25 - 03

**Service :** *Natural and Historic Environment*

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**Date Prepared:** 4/03/25

### What is the LNRS?

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/uk/acts/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

Across 2024, we have been working to gather and map nature recovery priorities suggested through direct engagement with locally active organisations and individuals. We have now finished the mapping work, and the written portion of the strategy has been drafted.

The supporting Authorities of Swindon Borough Council, The New Forest National Park Authority and Natural England have provided their feedback and written confirmation that they are happy to proceed to consultation, and Wiltshire Council's Cabinet also confirmed this at its Cabinet meeting on 4 March.

### 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**

Public consultation on the LNRS is now underway. There will be three online surveys, one dealing with the written strategy, one to collect feedback on the habitat mapping, and a collection of surveys for feedback on each species' mapping. Wiltshire Council libraries will also have reference printed copies of the strategy and survey questions. The consultation period will run for six weeks until 16 April 2025.

Residents and business in Wiltshire are being asked to review and comment on the draft LNRS and submit feedback before 16 April 2025, via the Wiltshire Council website [Wiltshire and Swindon Local Nature Recovery Strategy - Wiltshire Council](#)

As the mapping has so far relied largely on an algorithmic approach to create areas of bigger, better and more joined habitats, it is important that as many people as possible engage with this consultation in order that the LNRS truly reflects the needs and ambition of those seeking to undertake nature recovery.

The public consultation will be supported via three online webinars taking place on 11, 19, and 26 March 2025. These will give an overview of the strategy, explain how to provide feedback, and offer an opportunity to ask questions. There will also be a farmer's event and dates of this are to be confirmed.

Sign up for a webinar by emailing [localnaturerecoverystrategy@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:localnaturerecoverystrategy@wiltshire.gov.uk)

## **Suggested actions for councillors**

We would welcome your support in publicising the consultation and its associated webinars. These will be promoted on Wiltshire Council platforms so please share if you can.

If you have any questions, please get in touch [localnaturerecoverystrategy@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:localnaturerecoverystrategy@wiltshire.gov.uk)