LOCAL NATURE RECOVERY STRATEGY

(Order of text demonstrates frequency of keyword/place: top and right of lists are the most frequently mentioned examples.)

People's Priorities Q3

Places

BANES
- Mendip Hills AONB
- Keynsham to Saltford area
- Bristol to Bath Cycle Path
- South Stoke Plateau
- Charlcombe Valley
- Warleigh Weir

South Glos
- Hanham - The Batch
- Siston Common + Brook
- Frampton Cotterell
- Lower Woods + Kingswood
- Three Brooks Nature Reserve

Bristol
- Northern Slopes
- Brislington Meadows
- Snuff Mills - Oldbury Court
- Bristol to Bath Cycle Path
- Yew Tree Farm
- Stoke Park

Rivers
- River Avon
- River Chew
- River Frome (+Walkway)
- Siston Brook
- Cam Valley + Brook
- Severn Estuary

People

- Gardening - to be encouraged
- Nature + health and wellbeing
- Education - lifelong + in school
  - Increase biodiversity of grounds
- Nature connection = protection
- Communities leading + embedding
- Funding for communities/small orgs
  - Garden improvement grants
  - Community initiatives
- Farmers and Landowners
- Transport - cycle, bus, regional
- Engage ecologists in decisions
- Forest Schools
- Address waste burning + flytipping

Legal

- Stricter planning laws
- Protection for existing spaces
- No development on Green Belt land
- Brownfield and ex-commercial development sites
- Fines for farmers causing environmental damage
- Fines for water companies - CSOs
- Increased use of local landscape designations
- Framework for valuing nature/ecoservices
- Embed Nature + wellbeing gains into projects

Habitats

- Rivers, ponds + waterways
- Wildflower meadows
- Roadside verges
- Hedgerows
- Parklands
- Local Nature Reserves
- Gardens + allotments
- Grassland meadows
- Commons
- Coastlines
- Orchards (community)
- Lakes
- Wetlands
- Trees (incl. ancient)

Issues

- Cutting grass too regularly
- Water/Air/Light pollution
- Developing on Green Belt land
- Lack of connectivity
- Farming and sewage run-off
- Proximity of housing to green space
- Inequality of access to nature
- Access to Safe Green Spaces
- Incorrect species for interventions
- Poor quality agricultural land
- Vandalism of nature
- Food security + allotments
- Balancing dog walking + damage
- Too much pesticide use
- Habitat destruction
- Invasive species
- Ash dieback/replacing trees
- Greenwashing
- Felt to be 'top-down'
- GDP vs Nature
- Loss of city centre green space

Techniques

Urban
- Singapore - case study
- Urban fringes to rewild
- City centre nature reserves
- Urban wilding
- Green roofing - bus stops
- Street trees/streetscapes
- Litter picking
- SUDs

Connectivity
- Green corridors
- Hedgerows - maintain + create
- Expand and connect woodland
- Pollinator pathways
- Hedgehog highways
- Stepping stone habitats

Land
- Improving existing habitat
- Natural regeneration
- Tree planting
- Grassland management
- Sustainable/regenerative farming
- Leaving areas to grow/unmown
- Wildlife tunnels under roads
- Maintenance after intervention
- Litter picking

Water
- Water quality monitoring
- River widening
- River renaturalisation
- Protecting drainage
- Protecting floodplains

LOCAL NATURE RECOVERY STRATEGY: APPENDIX

This appendix represents all the places and techniques that were mentioned less frequently or only once in the responses.

Places

- Abbott's Wood, Keynsham
- Oldbury Power Station
- Floating Harbour, Bristol
- Longmoor Brook
- Blaise Castle
- Horfield Common Hedges
- Brandon Hill Park
- Somerset Levels
- Combe Dingle
- Bye Mead
- Ashton Court
- Cock Road Ridge
- Riverside Park, St. Pauls
- Wickwar
- Hallen
- Badock's Wood
- Springfield Park
- Hanham River + Woodlands
- Sea Mills Meadows
- Bull's Hill - Marshfield
- Patchway Ponds
- Golden Valley
- Hartcliffe - Pigeonhouse Strm
- Somerset Coal Canal
- Frenchay Football Club
- Ring Road - Hicks Gate/Filton
- Victoria Park
- Stockwood Open Space
- Chief Trading Post - sold '19
- Knowle Hill - Chew Magna
- Sodbury Road
- 3 Brooks Nature Reserve
- Limestone Landscape Link
- Frenchay -Malmains Rd - lost

Techniques

- Increase biodiversity - not just green space
- Permeable paving
- Grasscrete
- Silaging-free areas
- Banning flail hedge trimming
- Compulsory purchase orders
- Reverse auctions for solar panels
- Weir removals
- Mix of hands off + on
- Charcoal ploughed into fields: nutrients + carbon storing
- Mosaic habitats
- Flood defences
- ELMS
- Remove plastics and microplastics
- Urban pocket parks
- Creation of healthy soil
- Regenerate wasteland
- Daylighting culverted rivers

“*What wildlife (animals, plants and fungi) do you wish to see, or already enjoy seeing in the region?*”

LNRS Q4 Feedback

Summary: Responses varied greatly and were often detailed. Many expressed great joy at experiencing existing nature including birds, hedgehogs and woodland, but also frustration at a perceived lack of suitable and successful conservation efforts, as well towards practices that are unsympathetic to biodiversity. Many participants noted significant declines in species they remember to be once abundant and the concern for insects and pollinators was clear. Many expressed support for reintroducing native species such as pine martens, beavers and red squirrels, but noted that a habitat-based approach should be taken across the board, rather than a species-centred. Aquatic habitats, hedgerows and meadows were mentioned frequently as habitats that needed improvement.

Word cloud of key species and habitats mentioned

Birds, pollinators, insects, wildflowers and hedgehogs were mentioned most frequently, followed by bats, fungi, trees, otters and beavers. Note that many participants didn’t differentiate between which species they saw regularly and which they wanted to see more.

Key Quotes

- “Reintroduction of pine martens. These will control the population of grey squirrels which cause damage to trees and songbirds...”
- “I think insects are the basic building block for all other wildlife. With out them nothing else can survive. So create and nurture areas for them.”
- “I would love to see more wildflowers and local native species of plants around the city and especially in green spaces, along with more pollinators such as bees.”
- “We need an integrated ecosystem where all species are in balance. Often by creating the environment to support the smaller species the higher order species will also be supported.”
- “Increased diversity important - woodland and grassland management for better, more resilient habitats. Urban greenspace with meaningful, connected, functional contribution to ecosystem services.”
- “Our area 20 or so years ago had an abundance of wildlife. This has steadily declined and across the full range. Deer, buzzards, red kites, barn owls could always be seen. Not so often and some not all now. Housing development and road building have destroyed their habitats. Plants and fungi have suffered the same fate as a consequence of intensive farming and the excessive use of pesticides plus the invasion of foreign species inc garden flowers....”
- “More amphibians. These are in great decline, so more ponds where they are not accessible to dogs and people using them for their entertainment.”

LOCAL NATURE RECOVERY STRATEGY

People's Priorities Q9

Actions

- When and how
- Localised opportunities
- Links to local charities and conservation groups
- A directory of types?

- Quick wins
- Small effort - big payoff
- Private Garden funds
- Less cutting of grass
- Pesticide advice

- Support to establish groups
- Facilitate networking
- Case studies & examples
- Parish council help & support
- Accessible engagement of

- Group blueprints
- Templates for lobbying
- Regular LNRS updates
- Upcoming projects
- Current projects

Volunteering

Homes & Gardens

Communities

Guides

People

- Schools involvement
- Linking charities and local community groups
- Engaging children
- Supporting farmers
- Challenging and engaging businesses of all levels
- Nature + all its benefits
- Engaging experts

Legal

- Making development proposals openly available
- Writing in the need to engage local communities
- Linking LNRS to wider strategies
- Linking to flood and river basin management plans
- Writing climate change into education

Data

- A feeling that there is insufficient data
- Where is the data coming from to be able to prioritise?
- Engage ecologists
- Raw species data made open
- How will changes be measured?

Issues

- Lack of digital access - paper
- Long term maintenance needed
- Gravity of the work - seriousness
- Lack of education
- Lack of accountability for big(ger) businesses
- Lack of support for small businesses
- Lack of connection - the hearts and minds side
- Lack of legal protection for nature

Marketing

Advertising

- Influencers
- 'faces of' campaigns
- Local billboards with info
- PAPER - not everyone has digital access (leaflets, newsletters, posters/flyers)
- Use libraries to advertise

Maps

- Species health
- where pesticides are used
- water quality
- overall biodiversity
- proposed developments
- current developments
- trees/tree cover

Talks/Meetings

- Regular, publicised meetings
- Talks on how to help nature
- Transfer of knowledge from older to younger people
- Case studies and best practice
- Nature connection

Progress

- Benefits derived from outcomes
- Targets and costs
- A direct named contact
- Regularly reviewed & shared
- Long term maintenance plan
- Sharing measuring process

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