



MAYORAL COMBINED AUTHORITY AND NORTH SOMERSET NATURE RECOVERY STRATEGY

Public consultation response report

Introduction

The Local Nature Recovery Strategy

The Local Nature Recovery Strategy sets priorities for local nature recovery, suggests ways to achieve those priorities, and highlights 'focus areas' where efforts will have the most significant impact. It acts as the Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) for the West of England Mayoral Combined Authority and North Somerset.

The Mayoral Combined Authority worked with various organisations and partners to determine what should be included in the draft version of the Strategy for public consultation. Input was gathered from people who know and understand the area, including landowners and managers. This approach was essential to ensuring the proposed measures are ambitious and practical.

You can view the version of the Strategy that was consulted on on the consultation website ([link](#)).

In addition to its role in urban planning and directing public funding for nature recovery, the Strategy will also help implement 'nature-based solutions' for issues such as flood management, carbon storage and water quality improvements.

For more information on the role of LNRSs, please refer to the [Government's policy paper on Local Nature Recovery Strategies](#).

Why were we consulting?

The public consultation was held to provide residents and stakeholders across the West of England Mayoral Combined Authority and North Somerset the opportunity to provide their thoughts on the draft Local Nature Recovery Strategy. This will help ensure that the Strategy best reflects local opportunities, concerns and priorities.

The consultation also fulfils the statutory duty for a responsible authority to consult on its local nature recovery strategy.¹

Structure of the Consultation

The consultation comprised three principal ways of providing feedback:

- Via an online survey, which asked consultees for their feedback on the priorities, mapping, and structure of the Strategy;
- Via an 'interactive map', on which consultees could comment on a specific location and on the priorities and measures for each 'sub-area'; and
- Via email, for more detailed responses.

7,712 different people visited the consultation website, and we received 496 responses from 329 people.

The majority (370, or 64%) of the consultation responses were 'place-based' comments on the interactive map. 73 people responded to the survey, and a smaller number of comments were received on various 'sub-areas'.

¹ (The Environment (Local Nature Recovery Strategies) (Procedure) Regulations 2023).

This document

This document contains all of the comments received through the public consultation.

The comments are presented as they were received, so may contain spelling and grammatical errors. A short glossary of acronyms used is available at the end of the document. We have removed any personal information, such as phone numbers and email addresses, that were included in some comments.

Note that we used the term 'Local Nature Recovery Toolkit' during the consultation, which should be taken to mean the Local Nature Recovery Strategy

Place-based comments

Consultees were able to leave 'place-based comments' on the interactive map, which showed focus areas for nature recovery, areas of existing importance to biodiversity and allowed users to see planned priorities and measures for a given location by clicking on the map.

All of these place-based comments are available to view on the interactive map ([link](#)).

Survey Responses

Are there any priorities that you think are missing for the region or you think should not be included, and why?

1. No
2. Missing: a specific commitment to protect the hedges and retain the nature restorative sustainable farming at Yew Tree Farm. This should be included in line with keeping 30% of Bristol for nature and it is Bristol's last working farm
3. It maybe in other Unitaries but not in North Somerset. There needs to be discussion between local groups and landowners who know their local patches. This is however, as usual, a top down process and regurgitating what we already know. What is required is a truly local perspective. It appears to be about the Region and is not what I understood would be a Local Nature Recovery Strategy based within each unitary authority area. I understood from the numerous webinars I attended on the subject that this would be a more iterative process with engagement with local communities and groups. I have worked as an elected representative at regional and unitary authority level. I have also been a member representative on a Wildlife Trust. I turned to community engaged instead in frustration and achieved results on my local patch. In 25 years I have yet to come across anything more effective than the process set up by North Somerset Council as part of Think Globally Act Locally and the local Biodiversity Action Planning process. That local involvement spawned three charities and numerous other groups. Their legacy still remains today and recently I attended a conference organised in North Somerset organised under the Eco Church banner where I met up with many of those people who are actively still fighting their corner for wildlife. These groups need a voice and need to be heard. Recovery needs action and action requires engagement. An online interactive map is not the most effective way of engaging people. We need to learn from the process that succeeded 30 years ago. I suspect that no one will take me seriously and respond to this comment but then I always do like a surprise!.

4. Stop building houses on green belt/ fields as you will build on land that should be used for farming and to soak away the water (reduce flooding)
5. Caring for our shorelines and beaches, reducing sewage overflows, increasing community beach clean ups to remove plastic and litter.
6. Freshwater habitats including ponds are not given sufficient prominence. There is a massive shortage of ponds in the area and they seem an after thought in this list: "There is more and better wetland habitat, including wet woodland, reedbeds, wet meadows, rhynes, scrapes and ponds, particularly in low-lying areas near to the coast" . Ponds are needed particularly in limestone areas and upland areas.
7. Linking up areas of good habitat on a landscape scale. The better connected priority areas are the better they serve biodiversity.
8. Stop cutting down trees and removing natural habitats for months of roadworks all for a tiny bit of bus lane.
9. All initiatives such as this are covered in warm words and appealing pictures, but while priorities for biodiversity and the natural world never, Never, NEVER win out in conflict with 'jobs' 'housing' 'economic activity' (a euphemism for someone, somewhere, making money) this will forever be a lip-service exercise. I beg you to PLEASE prove me wrong on this.
10. The nature-based solutions for towns and houses comes quite far down the priorities list. With housing sites growing and popping up, this may need to be more focussed in the designs. I'm thinking of the countryside being ripped apart between Wickwar and Yate over the last few years, in the development of housing. Biodiversity and the need for land to have nature 'take the lead' is really important. but not so much if it will only be dug up and turned into houses in 10 years time. We either stop building, or we change the way we architect new estates and houses/buildings, with green roof and other strategies in mind.
11. Clean up and deal with litter. Litter can be so damaging to wildlife and to the water infrastructure.
12. Nature matters wherever it is and we should not be seeking to just protect sites of particular interest and rarer species. The decline in biodiversity can only be reversed if we look after nature wherever it is and this means all green spaces and countryside that we have. So we need to protect all areas where nature is currently found and remove the root causes of the decline through appropriate land management and good nature-friendly practice. Hedges and field margins are a good place to start, managing the hedgerows properly to enhance growth and thickness, rather than cutting them down to the same dimensions each year. We should have a strategy for development that does not use any more greenfield sites for housing and infrastructure like roads - we have done enough of this already and it has damaged nature. We also need to protect our soil and encourage all farmers to phase out the use of herbicides and pesticides. There are effective alternatives that can be used and do not affect yields.
13. I think there needs to be more focus in the water pollution in the river Avon and to planting trees to stop soil erosion and help prevent flooding.
14. Protection of existing wildlife-rich countryside from development. This should go hand in hand with any efforts to restore nature.

15. I'm completing it on a laptop. The map is really difficult to use. There is no built in key to understand what it is showing. It's way too big on a laptop - has it been tested for use on all devices.
16. All green belt should be for wildlife and farming and not for any development. All badger culls should be stopped with immediate effect All trail hunts should be banned.
17. There is nothing about wet woodland although woodland along river banks is covered well. There is very little PAWS in the West of England but this has been made a priority. There is nothing about maximising the use of existing woodlands and woodland creation for their eco system services. It would also be good to see the addition of a target around buffering and linking existing woodlands and hedgerows. Hedgerows are a key habitat and it would be good to see more made to their enhanced management and the creation of shelter belts for biodiversity. It is good to see at paragraph 10 the priorities attached to ancient and veteran trees. It would be good to see reference to halo thinning and root protection zones for these trees included in the practices used for their effective management. It would be good to reference the UK Forestry Standard here which includes a range of measures which will promote resilience. Forest management should not be seen as an either or for nature. Productive forestry has a strong place for biodiversity.
18. I think that survey and monitoring of the habitats and species and the (hopefully) beneficial impacts of the measures should be a listed priority. Although they may be implied as essential to gauge success the great lack of these in the last 30 years or more have meant the scale of the losses has been missed and with the lack of consequent action makes recovery so much harder.
19. Really confused. Nature recovery spots you have chosen for St. Pauls.
20. Novers Hill
21. Part of our slopes has been removed from the West of England Nature Recovery Map! Novers Hill has always been part of the map's "core grassland network" and as an SNCI of predominantly lowland meadow, it seems odd that it's suddenly been removed...a bit like how all those SNCIs were mysteriously deleted back in 2014... All of the slopes is a Site of Nature Conservation interest (SNCI) and should be a 'focus for nature recovery' and an 'area already of importance to biodiversity' AND ALWAYS WERE AND THAT I AM CONCERNED ABOUT THE DECISION TO REMOVE THEM FROM THE MAP
22. Novers Hill/Northern slopes
23. You are missing the Western Slopes on Novers Hill - it is an SNCI and must be represented.
24. Novers hill, Bristol, has been removed from the West of England Nature Recovery Map. This is a core and precision 'green lung' of south Bristol of which the preservation is environmentally key to the community and surrounding area. This needs to be rectified immediately.
25. The northern slopes as a while should be kept as a safe corridor and haven for wildlife

26. Gardens, particularly front gardens, form a significant part of the green areas in my region. Even if they are private areas, they overflow visually into public areas and make me feel more connected to nature and feel as if I am in a more enriched natural area. This particularly includes trees in front gardens, but also shrubs flowers bushes etc. I think the encouragement of planting trees (if suitable) and native plants in front gardens particularly (but also back gardens) would be a great addition to the local natural area. I myself live in a property with a front garden, and would love to add native plants to attract pollinators for example. However, I don't know what to plant as there isn't reputable local guidance available, making it a difficult feat of self research to find out, which I could get wrong.
27. Keeping green spaces free from bikes, litter and graffiti
28. We don't need another so called "Leader" telling us how to live. WECA is not required.
29. My main priority would be that any housing developments of any size should use brownfield sites despite the extra costs of doing so.
30. Meadows are fast disappearing and need protecting.
31. current agricultural land being used for "no dig" allotments. this is not a good model to encourage wildlife and biodiversity. the cardboard and "compost" are all poor quality.
32. You should not simply concentrate on the prioritise you have selected at this point in time. To do so will lead to partial success. We 'all' want this to succeed.
33. I think it needs to be connected with other issues, e.g. prioritising public transport, walking and cycling over cars. These things help nature as well as improve quality of life, so it's a virtuous circle.
34. Keeping Brislington Meadows
35. Are there any priorities that you think are missing for the region or you think should not be included, and why? 1) The impact of the EA's plans, set out in the Shoreline Management Plans, appear to have been missed in the development of the map. For example, the area between Weston-super-mare and Clevedon is earmarked for realignment (and in the short term 2020-2025, meaning they are currently working on the plans for where the setback defences will go). This realignment is likely to be the largest habitat creation opportunity in our area. If this was recognized and the whole area was made a priority, it would support land use changes BEHIND the new defences, enabling climate-vulnerable land to be moved away from intensive agricultural use and used to create freshwater habitats, offering climate adaptation benefits and acting as high tide roosts and stepping stones between the estuary and habitats further inland. 2) Riparian buffer stripes should extend higher into the upper catchments. This would help to encourage the implementation of natural flood management options, the creation of riparian woodlands etc. This would bring multiple benefits to the river ecosystem, reducing flooding, drought and wildfire risks. This measure also supports recolonisation by beavers: BEAVERS AND BUFFERS The majority of human-beaver conflicts arise within 20m of the water's edge. In Bavaria, over 90% of beaver conflicts occur within 10m of the water, while 95% occur within 20m. Although conflicts further away than this are possible they are rare, and usually associated with an attractive food source. Closer to home, a study of beaver

impact on woodland in Scotland over a 4 year period found that the majority of beaver foraging occurred within 10m of fresh water (Iason et al, 2014). By stepping back from the water's edge and planting up these areas with native riparian trees or shrubs, or more cheaply, allowing natural regeneration to occur we can reinstate missing riparian habitats. This reduces the requirement for more distancing foraging for beavers and limits the impact of burrowing and canal construction.

<https://beavertrust.org/our-work/river-buffers/> 3) On the North Somerset and South Glos Levels and Moors some areas are included while others are not- we suspect that is due to the peat being made a priority. However, the reality of managing these areas is that you have to work on the entire hydrological block- it is very difficult to raise the water levels on one bit of land without impacting the neighbours. We suggest that:

- The areas are re-mapped to follow the hydrological blocks (the Internal Drainage Board staff are experts on this and will be able to provide that information).
- Or you put in a caveat stating that any projects on the NSLM can work at the scale of hydrological blocks and ALL landowners will receive the benefits of being within a priority area- ie can be in a project that's funded by LNRS funds and will receive the 15% uplift on the BNG units. Without following one of these options you risk making a 2 tier system on the moors which will make those large-scale projects even more difficult than they are. An example of where I think this is likely already an issue is the Gordano valley- the peat is mapped the clay (buried peat) moors are not, but dealing with this landscape as a whole is absolutely essential.

36. WATER: Management of the sewage plant, particularly in light of the huge house building planned to take place in Peasedown St John. There seems to be no infrastructure improvement planned to mitigate for the huge population increase. No new/enlarged sewage works planned. No new reservoir plans. All efforts to help the already struggling ecosystem will be wasted if the source of the problem is not addressed.
37. Stop building on the nature corridor between Hanham woods and Bradley Stoke area should be a priority for nature.
38. the rugby training ground on the London Road near Alice Park - I couldn't feel more strongly that this should NOT be converted to a commercial site (Lidl supermarket is currently under discussion)
39. I couldn't comment for the whole of the west of England but feel they suitably recognise some priority areas in south Bath and the Somer Valley area. I think there is a lot of missed opportunity around Peasedown - spaces both to the Carlingcott side and the Shoscombe side that have been left off but where a great deal of nature has been recorded and a lot more could be done to improve habitat.
40. Make Lambridge Rugby training ground a local green space
41. Provision should be made to protect public green spaces from development, since, otherwise they are lost for ever and for future generations. In Bath, especially, the potential for wealth creation from acquiring such areas for commercial development is a huge danger to the Environment, and the ordinary citizen needs to be represented in terms of their possible loss of amenity and sabotaged quality of life.
42. Accepting that there is a maximum number of people who can live comfortably without impacting on our natural wildlife. Too many unpopular development applications have been approved which were unsympathetic to the local area and wildlife

43. We welcome the priority mapped as riparian zones and the measures to address diffuse and point source pollution. We are unclear as to why the riparian zones are discontinuous and do not cover all watercourses and even main rivers – areas where many of the measures will be equally valuable. For example, the riparian habitat improvements will be particularly important in all headwater streams (not just main channels) and will be equally applicable to reducing pollutants entering the main Bristol Avon channel downstream of Bath. We believe the relevant riparian priority measures should be included within all areas where water is present, tailored either to an urban or rural setting.
44. The River Avon is absolutely key for the area and not having the whole length in WECA made for nature is a lost opportunity. This would be a key corridor to build on through the region.
45. I am completing this as the secretary for the Friends of Siston Commons. We have over 2,000 followers on our Facebook page and we have a small core of volunteers who work every Tuesday morning to maintain the commons according to advice from the FWAG Report and the Biodiversity Assets and Commons Manager for SGC. We also seek specific advice from many local experts/groups. We are passionate that the ancient commons and their surrounding landscapes are protected so that nature can thrive. I think that the aims of this scheme are excellent. However, I believe that more understanding is needed of the existing ecology in the landscape; particularly the fact that in some areas, humans and wildlife have co existed over many centuries and there is a balance at present to a considerable degree and the different mammal/bird/insect species are free to roam and forage. Some species are declining rapidly due to human intervention; particularly some Owl species. This may be due to changes in farming practice or to off lead dogs finding chicks.
46. The risk of flooding is a major issue for the Southwest and especially Bath. Trees and grasslands play a crucial role in mitigating the impact of flooding. We must learn from other countries where urban development and hard landscaping have contributed to environmental disasters. Planning applications that would eradicate or reduce grasslands and trees near waterways should be restricted from consideration. It is unacceptable to talk about creating new green areas while we are not doing everything we can to preserve the existing ones, especially considering the current environmental climate and forecasts. 2. Health should be a top priority in spatial planning due to the negative impacts and costs of pollution, noise, and the decline of natural environments. 3. Nature Recovery funding should prioritise urban areas.
47. to ensure the areas are accessible for all including Disabled people, and Deaf and Visual Impaired signs Accessible Parking and wheelchair accessible
48. Yes. Lambridge rugby training ground should be a protected green space. It is a wildlife haven and forms part of Baths natural beauty and ecosystem.
49. This is a response on behalf of Yorkshire Wildlife Trust. Many of the priorities listed are also relevant in Yorkshire, and possibly nationally, but the document does give a local feel by reference to certain habitats and locations.
50. To many houses being built where all the wildlife live
51. The priorities seem very broad / non-specific with the exception perhaps of bats. Why are there not greater reference to sentinel bird species such as Skylarks?

52. Yes - see below

Are there any priorities that you think are missing locally or you think should not be included, and why?

1. No
2. Missing: commitment to protect Brislington Brook from its headwaters to the Avon. The upper reaches were cloudy during Boklok development.
3. I do not think this has been fully explored in North Somerset. I am concerned that North Somerset does not appear to be a funder implied by the lack of its logo. This may reflect the fact that NSC still does not fund the Bristol Regional Environment Records Centre. Data from local sources is essential to measure biodiversity change. It is also a very effective way of engaging people and communities. For example, I'm aware that a number of local communities are monitoring their local Swift populations. I doubt if this data is reaching in NSC. We have been monitoring Serotine bats locally as part of a national recording scheme but we like this species hotspot to be recognised locally. This is also true of a number of other rare species we have found on land owned by our group. There is no mechanism for this information to be captured to inform management of Local Wildlife Sites. As I understand it there was a regional group that met under the auspices of Natural England to monitor these. Are owners of these sites being invited to comment on LNRS? They should be targeted.
4. See above re building
5. Maintaining and increasing the conservation efforts along the strawberry line cycle path, the adjacent fields to be protected from development and walking paths to be clearly marked.
6. A bigger emphasis on freshwater habitats needed.
7. A bigger focus on management of existing green spaces to manage for the benefit of biodiversity. How can these spaces be linked up to allow for movement between them. Focus on green infrastructure. The mention of allotments/community orchards feel a bit hypocritical given the recent changes to prices and also the admin involved in a community orchard, these should be encouraged
8. Stop cutting down trees. North Somerset council has taken away wildlife's natural habitat all for a tiny bus lane.
9. There is an area in Redland not included as a priority area that I think should be. It is the area encompassed by Redland Green, the grounds of Redland School, and four contiguous (or near-contiguous) allotment sites: Metford Rd Allotments, Redland Green Allotments, Kersteman Rd Allotments & Cranbrook Rd Allotments. Birchall Rd Allotments is also very close by. This area is significant in its location, coming close on one side to the Downs and the grounds of Spire Hospital, and on the other to the railway line and the avenue of limes along Redland Grove. This (with small breaks that prioritisation could further reduce) is a significant wildlife corridor. This area carries with it a significant strength in an enlightened and committed local population who on a voluntary basis ALREADY do much to promote the goals of nature recovery, notably the tenants of these allotment sites and the Redland Green

Community Group. Hedges have been planted and laid, trees planted, dozens of bird and bat boxes erected and monitored, and more - all by volunteers. And as a consequence wildlife unusual for a City survives - 2 species of woodpecker, tawny owl, nuthatch, firecrest, long-tailed tit. Sparrowhawks nest in one of the allotments. But more needs to - and could be - done.

10. My previous answer really implies to this one also.
11. I think we do need to be ready to work more with the EA to use enforcement measures when there are clear breaches of acceptable practice. We have had a lot of damaging "maintenance" of the riverbank including completely stripping it of all vegetation and trees (when we know there is a healthy bat population in the area of at least 4 species). Some landowners also routinely use herbicides and fertilisers (including animal manure) right up to the riverbank edge and this needs challenging too.
12. I think there needs to be more focus in the water pollution in the river Avon and to planting trees to stop soil erosion and help prevent flooding. The river Avon floods several times a year and so much soil is lost from this. There is also a huge problem with sewage and cow slurry being pumped into rivers.
13. We need a joined up approach which protects our existing countryside alongside enhancements and improvements. BANES are currently proposing development of a number of greenbelt sites which will be disastrous for the existing wildlife including endangered skylarks. In a climate of ecological emergency we need better protection of greenfield sites from new development.
14. There doesn't seem to be much for Portishead. What about the salt marshes, the nature reserve, the rhyne, increasing biodiversity in all the play parks, Weston big wood, the Severn estuary areas. Eastwood etc. There are many open spaces that need to be on the list. Please see our published neighborhood plan.
15. Banning fox hunting, stop badgers being persecuted and slaughtered within our region. Stop building so many house on green fields .
16. Although working in Bristol I live just outside the region in Somerset. The environment affects a wider area than 'Avon' and therefore I think the views of non-locals should also be considered and would welcome questions offering that.
17. Greening engagement opportunities Green walk way Beautiful area s of outtsnding quality year round, shock ,awe, inspiration on peoples doorsteps Community waste lands bringing them back into use.
18. Why has it been removed from the map, are you hand in hand with marvellous Marvin?
19. Part of our slopes has been removed from the West of England Nature Recovery Map! Novers Hill has always been part of the map's "core grassland network" and as an SNCI of predominantly lowland meadow, it seems odd that it's suddenly been removed...a bit like how all those SNCIs were mysteriously deleted back in 2014... All of the slopes is a Site of Nature Conservation interest (SNCI) and should be a 'focus for nature recovery' and an 'area already of importance to biodiversity' AND ALWAYS WERE AND THAT I AM CONCERNED ABOUT THE DECISION TO REMOVE THEM FROM THE MAP

20. Novers hill/Northern slopes

21. You are missing the Western Slopes on Novers Hill - it is an SNCI and must be represented.

22. Yes - Dodington Parish Council would like to see the following areas added as local priorities:- 1) Lilliput Park, Chipping Sodbury - it has a detailed ecological management plan and is being actively worked on by Dodington Parish Council. It is both a valuable recreational area and a key local habitat in terms of its woodland and its streams, which carry the water from two aqueducts that cross the railway and drain it down towards the River Frome. Dodington Parish Council would like to see 2) Robin Way Stream, Chipping Sodbury designated under 'Areas already of importance for biodiversity' it has an environment management plan set up by South Gloucestershire Council 10 - 15 years ago, though it probably needs revisiting. This is one of the streams feeding into Lilliput Park and is a part of the Frome catchment, with valuable vegetation alongside. Dodington Parish Council would like to see 3) Ashtrack - adjacent to Shireway, Yate designated under 'Areas already of importance for biodiversity' - it is a linear woodland on the line of an old railway track, and a good example of natural succession, also providing a habitat for reptiles. It has an environmental management plan set up by the South Gloucestershire Council - though it probably needs revisiting. Dodington Parish Council would like to see 4) Eastern Field - adjacent to Wapley Bushes off Besom Lane designated under 'Areas already of importance for biodiversity' - it is very wet farmland, highly compacted during works on the adjacent railway bridge about 7 years ago. It adjoins Wapley Common and the Orchard for the Future, a significant community resource. The boundary ditches are wet for most of the year and harbour a range of water-favouring plants and insects. The Eastern Field has potential to be planted as an area of Wet Woodland, a habitat that is rare nationally and very rare within South Gloucestershire.

23. The whole of the northern slopes

24. Gardens, particularly front gardens, form a significant part of the green areas in my region. Even if they are private areas, they overflow visually into public areas and make me feel more connected to nature and feel as if I am in a more enriched natural area. This particularly includes trees in front gardens, but also shrubs, flowers, bushes etc. I think the encouragement of planting trees (if suitable) and native plants in front gardens particularly (but also back gardens) would be a great addition to the local natural area. I myself live in a property with a front garden, and would love to add native plants to attract pollinators for example. However, I don't know what to plant as there isn't reputable local guidance available, making it a difficult feat of self-research to find out, which I could get wrong.

25. Keeping green spaces free from bikes, litter and tags - everywhere looks better without litter and graffiti and green spaces are safer without bikes.

26. Only priorities are the bullying ones from WECA and B& NES. We know how to live our lives, we don't need to be told! Nature is important but it's our business, not yours!

27. Yes the priority in my area is to minimise any further development as we are already overwhelmed, and have no decent infrastructure.

28. Meadows

29. See previous comment. This should never be a set list, it should be open to addition and modification. Nature is interactive, not exclusive.
30. Building over Brislington Meadows is a scandal
31. We are commenting as a county-wide NGO, but have noticed several areas where we think some existing sites are being left out and at risk of suffering further from isolation: 1) We found a few isolated pockets of priority area, we don't think the LNRS should include areas that aren't joined up to the wider landscape. 2) At Tickenham, it looks like Cadbury Camp has been missed off both existing and future priorities. 3) This area to the south of Paulton hosts numerous existing sites and represents a significant opportunity to strengthen the links between the Mendips and Cotswold, yet it has been left out, seemingly in favour of the Cam Valley. We feel including this area would be valuable, especially as it helps connect some of the area's more deprived communities to nature. 4) When compared to other parts of the area covered, south Glos looks rather empty, with a lot of narrow fingers connecting up very small and fragmented sites, many of which aren't connected at all. This may be the best that's possible taking into account agricultural grades etc but we thought it worth mentioning and deserving of a second look. 5) The grasslands surrounding King's Wood and Goblin Combe Woodlands (part of the 'limestone plateau and NSLM) are in our view a significant omission from the LNRS. It is crucial that these grasslands are prioritised as valuable supporting habitats for the North Somerset and Mendip bat SAC. These areas are known to host a struggling adder population (referenced as a key species for the area) which could be helped by improving grassland and scrub habitat in the area, as well as by improving connectivity within woodland blocks. There is also valuable species-rich grassland and limestone heath in the area which could benefit from less intensive grazing and de-coniferisation of woodland. 6) There are areas on the map, such as on the Cotswold plateau, which we don't think look right. For example, some 'areas already of importance to biodiversity' in the Cotswold remain disconnected, including stretches of river, road verges and fields. We know that isolated pockets of good habitat will struggle to remain that way so would welcome these being better connected.
32. Planting of corridors on the edges of fields over the whole of the south west to create insect corridors from one area to the next. Fields are still ploughed too close to the edge. Meadows are cut with no thought for the timing of the cut to maximise wildlife survival. Non-indigenous grasses are planted for no-graze herds that then create a monoculture throughout the Cam valley. Judicious planting can mitigate against this and help support the ecosystem from the invertebrates upwards.
33. I live in the Cam Valley near Dunkerton. Less than 100 years ago, this was a very intense industrial area with multiple coal mines and a railway. Nature has made a very remarkable recovery and it is almost impossible to see any of this history in the current, beautiful landscape. The only sign of our industrial history is in the old pit batches, ie the large spoil heaps of which there are several in the valley. I think that they are mostly protected areas now which is a good thing because they provide a very different ecosystem to the rest of the valley so I would like to see the pit batches added to your list of priority areas for nature and biodiversity
34. Yes - links across farmed landscape are missing. Please also see map comments/opportunity suggestions. East Harptree parish is currently shown in the WoE toolkit with priorities heavily weighted towards locally designated and legally protected areas, leaving a large gap across the central area with no opportunities

shown for nature recovery. East Harptree Environment Group has been compiling a Phase 1 Habitat survey and nature recovery constraints and opportunities mapping of the parish over the past 5 years. This has identified the same central area that is retained as 'white land' on the WoE toolbox as the area of highest priority for nature recovery effort to link priority habitats/species on the north Mendip slopes (National Landscape and associated area) with the R. Chew catchment and Limestone link with the south Cotswolds slope to the north. Improving habitat connectivity across this area of intensively farmed landscape is also a high priority for delivering appropriate champion species and habitat objectives from the Mendip Hills National Landscape NRS. Although local take-up of farm payments for environmental benefits is currently low, it is predicted to rise considerably in the near future. Failure to identify local opportunities now in the overarching WoE Strategy will delay mobilisation of opportunities to tackle nature loss for potentially another generation. Please look again at the nature and distribution of mapped opportunity areas across East Harptree parish.

35. Keep Larkhall shops and community thriving - a Lidl will destroy our hard won community and kindly sense of local belonging. Post covid Larkhall has been the most wonderful example of a small village with strong social links and small local independent businesses - I cannot imagine a Larkhall with empty shop fronts as people drive around to Lidl for their shopping - this would be a very sad indictment on our council and planning department
36. As above - around Peasedown - there seems to be very little focus on nature recovery directly around Peasedown whereas the village has quite a lot of green space that with better management could be good habitat.
37. Make Lambridge Rugby training ground a local green space
38. There is no need for commercial development in this area, since brown field sites should always be developed in preference to environmentally vulnerable and significant one
39. Would like to see an extensive reliable public transport system which would minimise the need for many families to have two cars. Our roads are already overcrowded. This has an impact on nature
40. No additional comment.
41. The area where the old Bath Rugby training ground used to be is ideal for a local nature reserve. The old golf course is ideal to expand on its biodiversity and link to Victoria Park, as an extension and also alternative area for local community events or groups. I am also wary of the Sulis meadows south of Bath not being included, as this area has lots of biodiversity as well.
42. Please look carefully at Siston Parish in South Gloucestershire. We have ancient Commons which are recognised as SSSI and which currently exist in harmony with the farmland, woods, hedges surrounding them. Webbs Heath, for example, has a field to the west which has not been treated with chemicals for the past 60 years at least and it used to be grazed but more recently has been used to produce hay. Goose Green is a linear common along the lane from Webbs Heath and it too relies on the pastures between it and Warmley and the fields on the north side of the road behind the cottages. Siston Hill/Siston Common east again is not in isolation but it has the same fields as Goose Green and the Warmley Forest Park to the east. Below

Siston Hill is Siston Common (west) with some small pastures behind the cottages along the road towards the Horseshoe pub. A few Roe Deer graze these pastures. It is also possible that Dormice are to be found amongst the trees near the Gin house on the Dramway. It is absolutely essential for the future health of these ancient commons, that the fields between them are considered an essential part of them because of the many species which need and use both. Siston common(north) has benefited from the Enover/ Common Connections/WECA wildflower meadow established in October 2022 and the ponds for amphibians and the community orchard. This part of Siston Common is under the most stress from being surrounded by housing and industry but is still connected to Siston Common (west) via an underpass. It is similarly essential to keep the old Shortwood golf course as a nature reserve for the badgers and all the other creatures which live there as well as for the humans who have a physical and mental need to use the space and enjoy the views from there and into the area from Pomphreys. These landscapes have evolved over thousands of years. Roman remains and earlier civilisations have been found nearby at Lyde Green. A Roman road runs through the golf course and there are three Lodges nearby; one almost on the road itself. Kings once lived at Pucklechurch and hunted from there and the decisive Battle of Deorham which the Saxons won, was fought in AD 577 on nearby Hinton Hill (a Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age hillfort). This area has always been rural and the species found here indicate that. It must be kept that way. It is possible badgers for example have occupied the same setts for centuries. This is an ideal area to 'tweak' and build on the existing flora and fauna to increase the biodiversity here.

43. Not enough is being done to prevent and reduce flooding risks. 2. Not enough is being done to improve air quality, reduce noise and create new green spaces in city centres and urban areas. 3. The pledge to plant 2000+ trees isn't specific enough. 4. The commitment to provide new habitats for the wildlife in our region and enhance the quality and connectivity of the existing natural spaces on land and water seems to be too concentrated on the areas that already meet the environmental targets and offer a suitable habitat to wildlife.
44. As above
45. I think that local to Long Ashton, all the green belt area including Yanley Landfill, Woodsprings golf course and arable fields associated with The Landfill site should all have strong measures for wildlife and nature recovery imposed on them. This would help with connecting the coast line of North Somerset with the Mendips.
46. It is evident that the process of developing the priorities has been detailed and the evidence base is substantial and therefore the priorities appear to be appropriate.
47. Some of the priority species eg butterflies require specific habitats eg calcareous grassland so if the local area doesn't contain this habitat, there are no butterfly species that are identified as a priority species within this particular area. Whereas, in fact, there may be other butterfly species that could be identified as a priority species within the habitats contained in this local area.
48. Less houses to be built
49. Greater reference to target bird species
50. Having talked about the importance of open spaces in urban areas the need to ensure significant green spaces for significant developments is not mentioned. When

areas of Central Bristol, such as the St Philips area, are being wholesale developed for thousands of new residents what we need is a green space that delivers on the full range of opportunities to provide effectively an oasis in a heat island, open play space, space to engage with nature and space for wildlife to thrive. Small pocket parks and little bits of greenery will not be enough. We need a decent big park in the central of Bristol. Our last opportunity to ever have one as once the last areas of Bristol ripe for new development are developed that will be it. No more space can be magicked up. All the words you can write about creating new allotments and this and that will not be possible without unused land and where will that be found? There will be no more space for nature once all available land is built upon.

Thinking about how the priorities are achieved, both regionally and locally, are there any measures that you think could help that are not currently included?

1. working closer with agriculture to offer an advice service to help them through the changes and paperwork associated with nature recovery and farming. Creating farm clusters and showing good practice. Using urban areas to engage people with nature recovery. Although urban parks will not have the largest nature recovery benefit, they do help and are a key for engagement with people. Ensure that these maps link with the local plans developing in the areas.
2. I'm looking at what BART does.
3. People and nature are not separate. Messaging needs to move towards integration/coexistence to support understanding of this. Risk is that otherwise, people go for a walk in their local park, or plant bulbs on a bank somewhere, whilst continuing the rest of the destructive choices. Existing visuals are lovely and abundant and green, but again suggest separate spaces. Most of us live in urban spaces that are increasingly paved and/or relatively sterile in planting. It would be lovely to see some images of residential roads with lots of street trees, or residential roads with rich gardens. Whilst there is a balance to be struck between this and the big headline grabbing ambitions of the work, it is an opportunity to reinforce messages of everyday human participation in and exchange with the natural world.
4. See above
5. No
6. A community program to connect people with the natural world on their doorstep, instilling love and responsibility for the nature in their area. The measure would be that people become active citizens in protecting and valuing nature.
7. Pond creation workshops, guidance, plus pond creation kits with liner and oxygenating plants. We have tree planting schemes but not pond creation scheme when they are just as important for carbon capture and biodiversity.
8. Code 9 land type infrastructure - include some delivery measures relevant to walking and cycling infrastructure. Code 13 - mention discouraging water companies discharging pollution into rivers, this should be a real priority for our waterway health. Code 25 connecting people to nature - increase education around cat predation on biodiversity, especially for new developments near existing habitat.
9. Stop allowing North Somerset council to cut down tree and remove natural habitats.

10. Most of the potential measure to deliver priorities are aimed at farmers and landowners and relatively few at communities. It would help engagement to identify more measures that can be delivered by communities. Some examples: Code 13 - River health Reduce use of pet parasiticides which contain neonicotinoids as these are polluting our rivers (Preston-Allen, R.G.G., Albin, D., Barron, L., Collins, T., Dumbrell, A., Duncalf-Youngson, H., Jackson, M., Johnson, A., Perkins, R., Prentis, A., Spurgeon, D., Stasik, N., Wells, C. and Woodward, G. (2023). Are urban areas hotspots for pollution from pet parasiticides? Grantham Institute Briefing note #15. Doi: <https://doi.org/10.25561/102699>) Reduce littering which is washed into our gullies and from there enters our waterways. Littering also blocks gullies causing increased road-run off and local flooding. Code 28 Local food growing Encourage communities to buy food from local organic suppliers such as community farms. Encouraging communities to take up volunteering opportunities with local nature based charities is also a potential measure to help reverse biodiversity loss.
11. I suggest 2 things: 1) Find A SYMBOLIC issue among the many priorities, for which funding is found and executive power is given to SHOW that nature sometimes wins out over commerce in decision-making. Only when you show that this is not more flummery and greenwash, will those who are already committed to these goals be reassured, and will those who are un-committed start to wake up and see that this is important. And 2) Find the money and create SIGNIFICANT new Allotment areas, with substantial wildlife areas set aside within it. Doing this will achieve many goals at once beyond nature recovery: it will bring those new allotment tenants close to nature and will educate them and their children while they get healthy mood-enhancing exercise and improve their personal and the nation's food security.
12. More publicity given to existing groups who are already doing so much to clear up litter - Thornbury litter busters are a good example. This group has been going a while and they do a great job collecting litter every month around Thornbury. Also plastic free Thornbury has also restarted - educating the public and businesses on ways to reduce single use plastic.
13. Hedgerow management improvement. At the moment most hedgerows around the area are in a very poor state and just "cut to size" every year with a flail.
14. Community education and involvement.
15. Get all the areas for Portishead on the map.
16. The whole process should be led by those that care about wildlife and the environment and how important these spaces are. Invite people like Chris Packham to look at any plans you have.
17. The forestry commission has knowledge of the number of woodlands with management plans. A figure could be sought for the west of England and used to define a target for increasing the number of woodlands in management. The Forest of Avon should ensure that all woodland creation projects have a management plan and so these should be monitored. Setting a target for canopy cover in new developments would be a useful tool in delivering the LNRS and ensuring that connections for wildlife exist when new communities are created.
18. State of nature reporting. Sign-posting to other organisations whose involvement is not always obvious. For example the museums, arts, media, health and education who promote the environment and are publically accessible and attract a wide range of

sectors, diversity and inclusion reflecting the population within the region and beyond.

19. Improved community engagement with a sustainable plan Pots of money to streets to incorporate the priorities.
20. Start thinking about flooding, the more green land and fields are concreted over the worse it will get or is this your way of claiming global warming?
21. Part of our slopes has been removed from the West of England Nature Recovery Map! Novers Hill has always been part of the map's "core grassland network" and as an SNCI of predominantly lowland meadow, it seems odd that it's suddenly been removed...a bit like how all those SNCIs were mysteriously deleted back in 2014... All of the slopes is a Site of Nature Conservation interest (SNCI) and should be a 'focus for nature recovery' and an 'area already of importance to biodiversity' AND ALWAYS WERE AND THAT I AM CONCERNED ABOUT THE DECISION TO REMOVE THEM FROM THE MAP
22. Novers hill/Northern slopes
23. No comment
24. Yes! A native plant toolkit for good plants to add to your local or private space (e.g. garden) to improve local wildlife for your self and others. Currently the toolkit only focuses on vulnerable species. And is limited.
25. Enforcement and CCTV
26. Yes! Listen to the people! Stop bullying!
27. Stronger controls needed on where developments can be built, i.e. not destroying local environment and local communities.
28. Local resident, community groups, parish councils are the key to success. External 'direction' will lead to resistant, that may be unfounded.
29. Stop the destruction of the green spaces by building on them. Refuse planning applications
30. We've reviewed technical doc here- Local Nature Recovery Toolkit_Priorities and Potential Measures.pdf (naturerecoverywest.co.uk) and have the following points: • One missing point: implement monitoring of our important sites, so we understand how they are faring over time. • Could also add veteranisation to the toolkit for improving tree habitat for animals/fungi etc • 25. Raise awareness about the impact of worming treatments – so dogs aren't allowed in the water after they've been flead/wormed - also for any river/wetland areas • Also, dogs should be kept under close control in priority nature areas, not just urban and coastal areas. • 15. Why are muntjac only singled out? • 16. NBS solutions to reduce flooding: This could be expanded to include dense plantations on steep slopes where there are known flooding issues e.g. Rowberrow, Goblin Combe. (The lack of groundcover and understorey increases run-off) • 32. Water voles: protect and safeguard existing populations, such as at Portbury, where they are endangered by sea level rise and lack of suitable habitat to which to migrate.
31. As above - no ploughing to the edge of the field. Planting of all edges to create insect corridors. Indigenous grasses and wildflower meadows used to feed the dairy herds

aswell as fast-grow asian varieties. NEW SEWAGE PLANT. River plants reintroduced to help clean the river and provide habitat for aquatic life.

32. I think that this priority list is excellent and very comprehensive (with the possible addition of the unique, coal batch ecosystem)
33. Cleaning up of Siston and Warmley Brooks and stopping the sewage overflow entering these brooks.
34. Cooperative effort at local scale by statutory/non-stat authorities & agencies with the farming community. Targeted engagement with farmers and land managers is essential to encourage trust and take up of opportunities. The Toolkit not surprisingly reads as a 'to do' list which, although laudable and technically able, will fail to hit the spot with key players on the ground unless communicated and encouraged by trusted and experienced advisers.
35. Mandatory purchase of land from landowners. Quite a lot of the land around south Bath is owned by overseas businesses and rented back to farmers who therefore have short-term goals and aren't invested in the quality of land management or impacts to soil quality over time. Investors are hedging their bets that they'll be able to sell this green belt land for development in the future. Recent parcel of 32 acres in Carlingcott was sold to a Japanese investor. There is no interest in working with local organisations to improve the biodiversity of the land - they want it as run down as possible so its more likely to be considered for future commercial development.
36. Make Lambridge Rugby training ground a local green space
37. We note and support the inclusion within the Priorities for nature recovery associated with water or rivers of measures to reduce the frequency of intermittent point source pollution from sewerage discharges (which we assume refers to storm overflows) and to reduce quantity of pollutants entering the freshwater environment from wastewater treatment works. We also support inclusions of priorities on reduction in water supply demand; the increased use of nature-based solutions (including SDS in urban areas) and improvements for control of diffuse rural and urban pollution. We believe that it would be beneficial for the measure associated with rivers and streams which refers to "Reduce urban run-off by upgrading existing drainage infrastructure, installing sustainable urban drainage (SuDs) features, and ensuring new developments have suitable water management and drainage infrastructure", to be extended to include disconnection of runoff from roofs and surfaces to reduce rainwater entering the sewer network. Suitable measures can include use of water butts or creation of rain gardens or soakaways (see <https://www.wessexwater.co.uk/your-wastewater/how-to-help-manage-rainwater-runoff> for further details). We consider that wording of the measure around "Reduce the frequency of continuous and intermittent point source pollution from sewage discharges" is slightly incorrect – our continuous discharges generally refer to operation of our sewage treatment works, which return fully treated final effluent (to standards required by our Environmental Permits) to the environment 24 hours a day, 365 days per year. By their very nature, these continuous treated discharges will not change in frequency and are separate from intermittent storm overflows. The target should more correctly read "Reduce the frequency of intermittent point source pollution from storm overflows". Improvements to continuous discharges are then better addressed by the following measure around reduction in quantity of pollutants. We would highlight that delivery of these measures to improve storm overflows and reduce pollution from wastewater treatment works is included

within our Drainage and Wastewater Management Plans and investment put forward in our Business Plan. These include projects to reduce frequency of operation of our storm overflows to meet the national Storm Overflow Discharge Reduction Plan (such as in the Trym catchment in Bristol); start installing a network of Continuous Water Quality Monitors; improvement of our Water Recycling Centres (Sewage Treatment Works) to reduce nutrients and expansion of assets to meet development growth. In addition, our Business Plan contains proposals for the Chew Valley Partnership to deliver water and environmental resilience outcomes for the River Chew Catchment. The Partnership project is likely to deliver measures associated with the Upper Chew, Mid-Chew and Lower Chew Valley priority/focus areas, including habitats interacting with the water environment. It would therefore be beneficial if the riparian zone priorities were also included within these areas.

38. Fund more local community groups that have links to nature in the area.
39. Farmland could be bought up eg by SGC/WECA to ensure the continuing successful existence of the commons and all creatures associated with them. The Friends of Siston Commons will continue to implement the Management Schemes for each Common in partnership with SGC, Common Connections and advice and support eg from wildlife trusts and organisations who are always very helpful.
40. No I've already mentioned traffic problems and wildlife.
41. Subsidised local transport would help to get people out of their cars. The infrastructure and reliability of local transport also need to improve. Tram networks in city centres would make a big difference. 2. Local businesses should be encouraged to support the creation of new green spaces by funding the planting of trees or green areas. Thank you plaques could honour donors. 3. Follow the 3-30-300 rules for greener and healthier cities as a minimum requirement.
42. Protection of the Greenbelt and environs against development. Greater efforts to use Brown field sites rather than greenbelt for development
43. All farmland even if totally given to food production could benefit wildlife expansion by having wide hedgerow margins and by not flailing hedges and trees 100% annually. Hedgerows could be flailed, if absolutely necessarily, on a 2 or 3 year rotation. Meaning that a half or a third of hedgerow lengths are only cut once per year leaving a half or two thirds of the hedge intact with food resources and life cycles intact over winter.
44. Maybe each local area could have individual priority species identified as pertinent to that local area
45. I'd like to see evaluation of how farmers are achieving wildlife gains and productive farmland? I'd like to see some evaluation of the "quality of hedgerow" in terms of species richness / inclusion of rarer or important species - tall and bushy seems a "blunt instrument"
46. Bristol gets far too little mention in this document. Whilst the opportunities for nature recovery are different and pose different challenges to those in rural and semi rural areas, they are still very important and Bristol and the surrounding urban fringe has a significant population who have a big impact in all that they do on the potential for nature recovery, indeed natural diversity. Whether it be not stopping up swift nesting sites when houses are improved, extended – even just making sure that existing

nesting sites still have sufficient space around them for swifts to drop out of their nests is not something most people know about and even fewer would consider it.

(Is it clear which are the most important actions to take for nature recovery in your area, and across the Combined Authority?) If not, how could we make this clearer?

1. a summary document of the actions, including a map highlighting opportunities for actions in different locations.
2. Not sure: haven't looked at this survey before.
3. I have a fairly good sense of what is going on in this respect anyway, so it's hard to tell how much of that is informing my experience of the toolkit.
4. See above. Direct communication with landowners. Nationally there was for example a large response to a consultation on the hedgerow regulations. This resulted in legislative change surprisingly wishing to maintain protection. Landowners are interested in such matters. You will not have commitment to your priorities unless you find out what is considered important by local communities.
5. Include in your weekly newsletter
6. I've read the list of priorities, but unclear about the timeframe needed to complete them or how much progress is expected to be made in a year/5years etc. Whilst some actions are very specific it's not clear which are the most likely to be achieved and which are far longer term 'ambitions' Grading the priorities using RAG rating or numbered in order of most important to start this year/next year.
7. Map isn't clear, NS council should be stopped.
8. I am committed to these goals, have a scientific background, and do NOT have ADHD. Nevertheless, among other priorities to fulfil, it is very hard to make sense of yet another monster set of documents without it being obvious where is the executive summary and where is the map and are the hyperlinks to and from the various parts of it. Add this to the long history of all talk and no action on all matters environmental and my resolve to obtain a full understanding of these documents shrivels....is it worth the effort? I am old enough to remember the loss of HALF the wayside trees in England to Dutch Elm disease, and now, through THE VERY SAME LAX BIOSECURITY we have needlessly imported the fungus that is killing our Ash trees....all to help a nurseryman in East Anglia make some money. I don't get the impression you appreciate the scale of the problem. And until you do, in respect of your documents, LESS would be MORE.
9. I found the interactive map a little hard to use. That could just be me and technology. however, I do see the measures being listed for the Cotswolds and agree to the priorities. I just feel that human impact and 'habits' need almost as much input as protecting and managing green belts. I see artificial lawn going up everywhere. or properties with just a patch of lawn that is then kept mowed. no opportunities for an insect eco-system, local pollinations etc. We need to change the habits of people that want 'neat' outdoor spaces, or 'low maintenance'. We need to challenge artificial lawns and even try to stop them being produced/manufactured in the first place. Allotment sites could perhaps do with 'expert days' with local experts teaching other budding food growers good ways of dealing with pest control that doesn't adversely affect the local eco-systems. i don't know if i am answer this question, or simply rambling.
10. as above. the map is not clear and not self explanatory.
11. Wildlife and preservation of the nature and environment needs to be the top priority.

12. Honestly unless im confused . This is not clear what you are asking unless its me. Especially giving us a map to show area and not being clear as to what is proposed in those spots least of all the benefits. Might have to say second worst consultaion this year compared to the allotment consultation
13. Be more transparent with local people and I mean Bristol as a whole not just a small locality
14. N/A
15. Because the language used is difficult to follow for a lay person
16. I'm not sure of the distinction between region and locality. The actions aren't prioritised or split into sections
17. Natura ia fine. It doesn't need recovering. It's been around for billions of years and your arrogance leads you to think YOU are it's saviour????
18. There doesn't seem to be any careful, powerful plans that will protect the environment from building developers. They always decide to object, take councils to court and usually win, costing councils money they can't afford.
19. see previous comments
20. I'm confident using the web and know a bit about local environmental issues, but I'm having a really hard time finding out what the priorities are on your website!
21. Genuinely, this comes from a place where I want these consultations to be better. I *think* you're asking members of the public to look through three documents - one 34 pages, one 28 pages, one 5 pages. Those three documents are on a separate page to this one, hidden away on the bottom of the page 'about the tool kit' in drop downs. Each one is very text heavy. You're using language like 'narratives for the sub-areas used to group priorities'. Noone speaks like this. Noone knows what you mean. Did you speak to anyone about this language? Do you have a user testing group / an internal email group you can test this stuff with? It may make sense to you but it's completely nonsensical. You've got the map, which looks pretty - but you've got Brislington Meadows as an area with a 'Focus for nature recovery**' shading (**copyright mayoral combined authority lol). How is it a focus for nature recovery if it's going to be built on? What feedback do you want on this map - you've got areas which should be a priority and areas which shouldn't - without explaining what on earth a 'focus area' means. You've obviously spent loads of time on this. But PLEASE, think of your audience FIRST, not what you want to find out.
22. At a high level the most important actions are included in the technical notes-comments on this above. But we aren't sure that they are correctly linked to all the relevant habitats. For example, we found that NSLM doesn't have floodplain reconnection attached to it, but that measure is listed in the technical document. We appreciate that going through each sub-area is a huge task and requires significant field-level knowledge. We therefore suggest that this is looked at collectively by a group of eNGO partners- if we divided the map up according to the areas where we each have focused projects in we could significantly improve the ground truthing of this mapping. Sub Areas:
 - One thing that could be clearer is that the sub-areas exist and you have to zoom in to see them and they are shown by black lines.
 - It would be good to have the ability to see multiple layers at the same time too.
 - The Sub Areas could be grouped so that when you click on one all of those within the same category show up- ie woodland priority or grassland etc. This might help make the sheer number of subareas feel more manageable and give the map a bit more cohesion.
23. The wish list is very comprehensive - this is a good thing, but it does mean the absolute 'priorities' are slightly lost in the huge number of problems that need addressing. Perhaps a bullet point list of 3 things for example:
 1. New sewage plant
 2. Clean the river
 3. Help regenerative native flora and fauna through planting. The

other issue is there is no explanation of how the farmers and landowners will be won over to a more eco-friendly approach to the land.

24. My biggest concern is how you will engage with farmers as they are the major influence on the biodiversity of area.
25. see previous responses
26. Make Lambridge Rugby training ground a local green space
27. Simplify this form, for starters and list the most relevant sections at the top.
28. The map presents broad areas as the Focus Areas for nature recovery. These broad Focus Areas then have individual priorities and measures identified, but these latter measures do not appear to be geospatially located. For example, within the Limestone Plateaux and Brook Valleys, there is a priority for better and better-connected woodlands, wood pasture and parkland, but the actual areas where such a priority applies to is not shown. Previous examples of habitat mapping have tried to identify where such measures would be beneficially applied (for example, at field level) to meet the Lawton principles and give an indication of priority over other measures. This is important to give land owners and managers guidance on which measure is most appropriate to adopt in any given area to maximise the biodiversity benefit – for example, within the Bathscape Enclosed Limestone Valleys, whether to prioritise more and better connected woodland or more and better connected calcareous grassland. Such detail will also be essential to guide developers when setting out priorities for Biodiversity Net Gain or mitigation to give surety over proposed approaches and correct application of the Biodiversity Metric. The narratives provided for ‘focus areas for nature recovery’, ‘sub-areas used to organise priorities and measures’ and ‘areas that are already of importance to nature’ are not readily cross-referenceable with the legend on the map and the polygons presented. For example, do ‘sub-areas used to organise priorities and measures’ in the narrative correlate to ‘areas used to group priorities’ on the legend? It would be helpful if the wording between the legend and the narratives is standardised so that it is explicit which narrative supports which layer. It would also be helpful if symbology on the map and the legend was clearer – for example, ensuring that the black ‘areas used to group priorities’ means the black outline. It is not clear what the grey layer on the legend (‘show areas already of importance and focus areas for nature recovery’) is, or what it refers to: there is no corresponding narrative. In addition, when this grey box is clicked, the symbology on the map does not match (i.e. it is not grey). We also believe that it would be helpful if when you clicked on a polygon its full extent was highlighted, flashed etc (in addition to the pop up text box).
29. You could perhaps provide more detail on a more local scale eg by using the Parcels of land outlined in the Strategic Green Belt Assessment. I am particularly interested in Parcels 44 and 46 but also Parcels 41,42,43,45 because they cover the Parish of Siston and the surrounding area which helps to support life on the ancient Commons.
30. We must look after all our local nature animals we'll being.
31. The targets aren't specific enough and don't tackle some of the key issues as stated above.
32. Who has been consulted have older people's organisations , disabled people been involved as well as young people
33. There is much to commend in the approach taken. The language is reasonably accessible for the non-specialist and the format and presentation is clear. The interactive map and focus areas is very bold and specific and something we want to advocate for Yorkshire. The State of Nature and opportunities document itself provided little specifics for restoration opportunities, although we note that these opportunities are included in the map.

34. The toolkit is an impressive piece of software that's well designed to steer someone through what can be done within a local area but it requires some basic knowledge about what to look for and why. At a local level, maybe its more suited to an organisation such as the Long Ashton Nature, Environment and Community Trust or a well-informed individual rather than the general public. However, I can't see how it could be made more clear since it's a fairly complex subject area and I think the basic layout is very comprehensive and gives a good result once you get used to finding your way round the site.
35. Ranking or priorities among the actions are not clear
36. The whole way in which these documents have been provided and presented is difficult. One document with a proper contents page, numbered sections etc would have made it easier to read and to follow. It was too time consuming to try to work out what was what and which bit were you talking about in this survey with no numbered pages or sections or paragraphs mentioned in the questions that one could then cross to in one document. In the end I gave up mostly trying to find which section was what.

**(Are the narratives for the 'sub-areas used to group priorities' helpful in explaining what is needed for nature recovery locally, and why it is important?)
If not, is there anything else that would help you to understand what is needed for nature recovery locally and why it is important?**

1. it is useful to give examples and an overview but the areas are too large and diverse.
2. Again see previous comments. Perhaps a focus on habitats as well e.g. road verges, roadside verges, parks and other public open spaces, church yards and burial grounds.
3. This is the wrong question. I DON'T NEED to be helped to an understanding of this....and if I did, I would scarcely have fought my way through to this stage in the survey, would I?
4. i think some people need things explained in simpler terms. cause and effect. its not enough to explain nature recovery. we need to show people what happens if we dont do something. what will happen if people dont change their habits. and where the recovery fits in the stages between 'now' and 'break point' for the recovery to be effective on the timeline.
5. They are helpful but it I found it difficult to match area names with their actual location on a map. For example where is the actual location of 'Bathscape Eroded Plateaux and Valleys'? Also the areas listed in Appendix II need an index to make it easier to search for individual areas.
6. How can nature recover whilst you destroy its home to put house up ?
7. N/A
8. Specific trees and plants and quantities or ratios to be planted.
9. Natura ia fine. It doesn't need recovering. It's been around for billions of years and your arrogance leads you to think YOU are it's saviour????
10. It comes across as if WECA wants to direct, rather than work with and support.

11. I don't know what the narratives are or where to read them.
12. This is general feedback about the website and tone of the text introducing the LNRS. From our point of view, the LNRS is a key document for nature's recovery. The stakeholders for this are wide-ranging, from other eNGOs, to landowners, farmers, developers, small builders, infrastructure providers, planners, architects etc. We do not feel that the presentation of the LNRS website, or the tone and focus of the writing reflects this wide range of stakeholders who need to use the resource:
 - The site design is more along the lines of what we would use for school engagement.
 - The text refers to LNRS as aiming to empower local communities to take action for nature. While it may be a useful and valuable resource for communities, we feel this is a policy document which should play a key role in delivering the 2021 Environment Bill commitments. With these points in mind we feel the design and tone need to reflect the importance of the information being given and the legal requirements it is supposed to be informing ie BNG officially, but also guiding investments from other nature markets less officially.
13. The massive housing increase planned in the Peasedown and Radstock area is not addressed in this survey. It will bring a large percentage increase in population and a permanent loss of fields that is not mentioned in the plans.
14. See comments above
15. As the interactive map does not contain functionality to switch individual layers on and off, it is difficult to clearly distinguish the sub-areas used to group priorities. The information is of use to begin to provide some geographic explanation of locally applicable recovery priorities, but our preference would be for these areas to be mapped at a local level. We would also request that the geospatial element of the Toolkit is available to download (preferably in well used data formats, such as ESRI Shapefiles) so that users can integrate the features into existing GIS systems. This will facilitate the efficient use of the information with wider datasets to gain the most effective benefits for biodiversity.
16. Less traffic and containing our wildlife.
17. As above.
18. Suggesting coppicing can provide wood for fuel is not a good use of wood. In urban areas, particularly, even where people have the highest specification "cleanest" wood burning stoves there are moves to prevent wood being burnt due to air pollution.

(For built-up areas, we have used four different categories to group measures. We have used these categories so that different users will be able to easily find the most relevant measures to them. Do you agree that these are the correct categories?) If not, what changes would you suggest?

1. it would be useful to show these on a map.
2. Couldn't find this easily/clearly - could you link to it right here in the survey?
3. There is growing interest in saving Swifts and House Martins which use the built environment. See also previous comments.
4. it isn't clear what these categories are

5. Again, the wrong question. The categorisation is FAR less important than the tools you will employ to motivate those who 'don't get it' to change their focus. While W of E residents continue to cover their front gardens in Astroturf, or pebbles and Yuccas, and to send their cats out at night to murder the local natives, and to think they have saved the environment by buying a hybrid SUV, the detail of your categorisation choices is an irrelevance. So work instead on finding the incentives to change these behaviours and the mistaken and short-sighted beliefs that lie behind them.
6. Clarity of helping wildlife in areas already built . Hedgehog gaps in fences, swift boxes bat boxes etc.
7. Email me the corresponding info to enable and empower me to answer the question please
8. N/A
9. Cannot find these
10. Natura ia fine. It doesn't need recovering. It's been around for billions of years and your arrogance leads you to think YOU are it's saviour????
11. I'm not sure as I haven't seen any references to the priority areas you are suggesting.
12. see above comments. Engaging with people is key. Facilitating, rather than instructing is key.
13. SPEAK NORMALLY
14. This is very unclear- we couldn't find the 4 categories you are asking about. We found the sub areas and the info in them in the same way as all the others, but that is not broken down into categories that we can see. • The built up areas are Bristol and surrounding areas, peri urban Bristol and market towns, city of Bath, and Other Built up areas. We're not sure there needs to be 4 different areas as a lot of the information is the same - with the notable exception of bats around Bath. • Suggestion to link to AWT's Team Wilder website to provide more specific guidance on community level action. • I would recommend clearer guidance on the implications on BNG in the focus areas and more appropriate language for the primary audience (businesses, local authorities) with a clear steer that communities can also support through local action aligned to the opportunities shown.
15. I couldn't find this information in the documents
16. Look to build outside the city we are being strangled by excessive buildings etc.
17. Although many of the plans are directed towards reducing emissions, there is a lack of proper investment in the infrastructure. Without significant changes in the way businesses and property development are carried out in the future, focusing solely on reducing emissions may not be aggressive enough in tackling the problem.
18. Agree that the categories' are helpful and relatable to most users of the Toolkit.
19. Less housing to build as other housing aren't selling
20. Too difficult to follow as it wasn't clear where to find these

Given the criteria for selecting priority species, are there any species that you think are missing from the priority list, both regionally and locally?

1. No
2. no
3. Owls on Kings Weston moor?
4. Don't know, not well informed enough to comment
5. See previous comments but please also consider habitat priorities. This is about nature recovery not solely species recovery. The interaction between them is essential.
6. Bufo Bufo It is near threatened nationally. There is a regionally important population at Charlcombe Lane, Bath. and smaller populations elsewhere in the region. Froglife has data on substantial declines elsewhere in the area. Nationally Bufo bufo is declining (eg Petrovan and Schmidt, 2016)
7. No
8. I don't agree with your approach here. Nature does not operate on the basis of one species living independently of all the others. So whether the species are rare/red listed or not, they all co-exist in a complex ecological web of interconnections and interrelated interests. All insect species should form part of the framework for example, because without an abundance of insects our bats, swifts, marsh marigolds etc would not have a sufficient food supply and in the case of plants agents of pollination. We need to see nature as a whole system that needs looking after wherever it is.
9. I would personally love to see better protection for skylarks.
10. what list?
11. Badgers hedgehogs foxes swifts bees butterfly etc
12. Happy with the list
13. See above
14. As I said, transparency
15. N/A
16. Hedgehogs and song birds, otters
17. You are missing the Western Slopes on Novers Hill - it is an SSSI and must be represented.
18. Dodington Parish Council agree with the Priority Species suggested - they are generally in line with other established policies.
19. No
20. no
21. Natura ia fine. It doesn't need recovering. It's been around for billions of years and your arrogance leads you to think YOU are it's saviour????

22. Not missing but insects and wild flowers
23. All species need to live in balance. Some currently seen as 'pests' are food sources for others. Habitats need to be created/protected to move towards a degree of balance.
24. I don't like to be negative on surveys but I honestly don't know what these criteria are. I feel like this survey is maybe aimed at experts rather than local residents? If it's not I think you need to do more to explain the jargon - what are the priorities? What are narratives? Where can people read them? Otherwise the only people who get to input will be people who already understand and have a vested interest.
25. We found it very hard to find this information in order to assess it against each area. It would be easier to tell if they are right if it was presented in a table of subareas and species.
26. Voles, snakes, owls and hares.
27. Owls Hares
28. Red squirrels
29. No.....but.....although the target species are listed, the mapping of opportunity areas in this area is not coordinated with identified opportunity areas. For example, five years of annual bat survey has shown that East Harptree supports notable numbers of at least eleven UK bat species (including lesser and great horseshoe bats). Their distribution in the wider countryside is, however, limited by lack of habitat connectivity out of core areas (Harptree Combe, Water Street, Harptree Court) into the wider landscape and to the north, and is particularly limited across land under arable management. Habitat corridor creation and restoration, eg along stream corridors, hedge/tree lines, woodland edges and (for certain species) dairy pasture, would significantly enhance habitat potential .
30. the long list of species in the old rugby ground area is very comprehensive and the trees also
31. Species of so called common or garden birds which are under represented in the Bath area - e.g. the sparrow, which has small area of suitable habitat in Kensington meadows - and also the starling, which is rarely seen at all. Loss of green areas will certainly contribute adversely to the continuing and worrying decline of these species
32. No additional comment.
33. Little Owls, Barn Owls, Tawney Owls, Kestrels. Slow worm, Great Crested Newts
Rare wildflowers and rare insects HUMANS! The Friends of Siston Commons lead a weekly walk which is attended by people through GP referrals for Green Social Prescribing. We also maintain the commons so that visitors and local residents can enjoy the natural life of each area.
34. No look after the ones we have.
35. Birds (woodpeckers, herons, kingfishers, sparrowhawks, peregrine falcons), Foxes, Badgers, Deer, Otters, Bats, Butterflies, Hedgehogs, Dormice, Frogs & Toads
36. I can't find a priority species list. Priority species for me in the Long Ashton area would be yellowhammer, hazel dormouse and brown hairstreak butterfly would mean

that hedgerow connectivity and less brutal hedgerow management were combining to enable species migration along them. During winter periods the presence of finches, buntings and winter thrushes around field edges and farmland would mean that serious attention is being given by farming to leaving aside areas for bird food plants to propagate boosting species numbers.

37. Notably no mention of bryophytes. Would it also be worthwhile to include a section of species which could become priority species in the region in the future due to changes in range brought about by climate change? It is very helpful that priority species most relevant to a given area can be found using the Interactive Map.
38. The presence of yellowhammers is indicative of sound ecological arable practices - and Long Ashton has the University of Bristol owned Fenswood Farm which is managed as an arable farm within the heart of the village yet there are no yellowhammers here.
39. I'd like to see priorities for species among the farmland birds e.g. skylarks
40. I could not find your criteria for selecting priority species. You have listed "factors" but no "criteria". However you do mention species that are "red list" but you have not included all the red list species that we have in Bristol and which not only need protection but need habitat and other management to protect and help improve their success. These include: Birds: greenfinch, fieldfare, house martin, mistle thrush, starling, skylarks all found within Bristol. Mammals: Badgers Despite the animals and their setts being protected in law, badgers have been killed in large numbers outside of our urban areas because they can catch bovine TB from farm animals. Urban badgers therefore need to be prioritised for protection of this important species, because their protection in rural farming areas is not happening. Bristol is home to badgers and their protection needs to be prioritised. Other red list mammal species missing from the priority list are some of the bat species. For example, in Badock's Wood, Southmead, North Bristol we have recorded Serotine and Nathusius' Pipistrelle, which are vulnerable as well as 5 other bat species. Urban green spaces and wildlife corridors are often overlooked or down played. That Badock's Wood, a small (10ha) urban site, surrounded by housing, can be so important for species both in terms of red list and diversity of species is not properly recorded or valued by this project. It has been well documented for years, indeed decades, that without urban parks and gardens many of our bird and wildflower species in particular would have been lost due to the use of agrichemicals, pesticides, herbicides etc. Skylark numbers plummeted, but you can hear and see skylarks which nest in a species rich meadow site just a couple of miles from Bristol City Centre. Skylarks are red list birds and should be on the priority list. Because of your focus on non urban areas of the 4 local authorities; species such as English bluebell is ignored presumably because it is not a red list species. However, in cities or areas with a lot of houses with gardens – so even countryside adjacent to village homes – the English bluebell is being out competed by the non native Spanish bluebell or hybridising. For urban woodlands, such as Badock's Wood, this is a big issue. Of course we must protect rare and currently endangered species, but we should not lose sight of the fact that today's common (or thought to be common and therefore perhaps not properly monitored) is tomorrow's endangered species. Especially when it is endemic and / or not widely found outside of the Region / UK. It is only less than a generation ago that starlings and house sparrows were so common no one gave them a second thought and yet now they are both on the IUCN red list. There is a real need to protect the common

that is vulnerable either to competition or hybridisation, or increasingly vulnerable due to climate change. No one expected to lose ash trees in such huge numbers and indeed we may be in a situation where we lose this one common English tree which used to self seed itself happily in woodlands, gardens etc.

Are there any species on the priority list that you do not agree with? If so, why?

1. No
2. no
3. Don't know, not well informed enough to comment
4. I think it needs to be more expansive to engage people. High profile species are important. What maybe more common now is at least more accessible to experience. Near extinction of something once common can occur quite rapidly. Use species like the small tortoiseshell easily recognisable. Holly blue rather than small blue that can be seen in the garden. So I suggest for species you have sub headings "rare" confined to specific habitats and "frequent" found generally in gardens, parks and wider countryside otherwise this an exercise that becomes remote even for the ardent enthusiast. We have had success with engaging local people with Greater and Lesser Horseshoe bats but that is only because we are in a hot spot for them. A nature recovery programme must not be exclusive it has to be at levels so that all can participate and enjoy. Inclusive and not exclusive, othetwise we have failed them and nature. People engaged in the process from all walks of life is essential not just the species counters. I have to say that I was not impressed with the species list. I have spent 20 years hoping to see or know of a definite confirmation of a Bechstiens bat in my local bat spot. That species is definitely not one to use to engage more people.
5. No
6. No but the list is too narrow and limited. Brown hares for example are not particularly rare, but their numbers are declining and they are often shot by landowners.
7. None
8. No
9. Seeabove
10. N/A
11. No
12. no
13. Natura ia fine. It doesn't need recovering. It's been around for billions of years and your arrogance leads you to think YOU are it's saviour????
14. A conversation might be good around this- we understand you had quite strict rules.
15. no
16. n/a

17. I feel that there needs to be given explicit consideration to the management of species that cause harm when out of balance - locally there are a lot of deer and you can see the negative impact of this in woodlands. Combined with poor woodland management meaning species like laurel are preventing light to saplings, those saplings that do make it are eaten by deer - resulting in ageing woodland with little natural regeneration taking place. Squirrels are creating a similar situation. Deer are also ring barking trees (especially visible in the Mells valley) causing tree death. Some deer are manageable but with no predators the numbers need to be managed. Grey squirrels should be culled or prevented from breeding - there are good national projects that have in-depth research on this - <https://squirrelaccord.uk/squirrels/grey/>
18. No additional comment.
19. No
20. Sorry done in haste on dodgy phone. Please designate Baths Lambridge rugby Training Ground as a protected space.
21. There are deers, different birds , badgers and bats

For the final version of the Toolkit, we plan to include links to any relevant local guidance or strategies (e.g. Local Nature Action Plans). Please let us know if there are any local strategies or plans you think should be included in the final version.

1. It urgently needs to be made clear that this is a statutory consultation not a survey! This page needs to use the word "consult" to evidence you are meeting the legal requirement! You need to tell consultees how long the consultation is running for clearly! The main LNRS page needs to include a link to the consultation page! You cannot just link to random local nature action plans at a later date, that is unfair as it wouldnt be consulted on - this needs to be a whole and complete LNRS, not a toolkit you were already preparing anyway!
2. advice for homeowners e.g. wildlife trust has a host of online info for how to manage your garden. Advice for larger landowners e.g. FWAG for agricultural subsidies. Local charities e.g. bart, local wildlife trust web pages/ social media Keynsham wildlife trust, Local plans
3. Northern slopes initiative
4. These should revisit the local baps and haps. NSC had an excellent Action for Nature publication. The species and habitats should be subsumed into the LNRS. Why reinvent the wheel? I note that in the forgoing there appears to be a focus on species. Habitats are also extremely important as a focus for action particularly to understand the flora and fauna communities that depend upon them.
5. See above
6. Stop North Somerset council from destroying more natural land and habitats for birds and wildlife for tiny bus lanes. Wrecking our countryside!
7. Very important that the final version of the toolkit embraces the granularity that will be provided by Local Nature Recovery Plans produced at parish and town council level

8. Just remember, it's action that matters....not a bigger pile of plans and strategies.
9. Be guided by the wildlife trusts and bodies like the RSPB and the BCT,
<https://www.bats.org.uk/> <https://www.rspb.org.uk/> <https://www.wildlifetrusts.org/>
10. Total no build on greenbelt this should be a red line for the whole authorities
11. Park strategy Individual neighbourhood plans Avon wildlife and their community green projects Allotments Grassroot community garden projectd
12. N/A
13. Novers hill/Northern Slopes
14. Dodington Parish Council and many neighbouring Town and Parish Councils already have Local Nature Action Plans - a full list of these is available from South Gloucestershire Council.
15. Central DDP
16. Natura ia fine. It doesn't need recovering. It's been around for billions of years and your arrogance leads you to think YOU are it's saviour????
17. The area around Thornbury and District has been vastly overdeveloped, taking out much of our greenfield and resultant mature trees and hedgerows. Little thought has been given to infrastructure, resulting in lack of medical, education and transport provision. The main A38 suffers excessive traffic, leading to unhealthy pollution.
18. Good to see LCNAPs referenced. We here in Siston Parish have started the process of delivering ours.
19. Long Ashton LANCE Trust, Transition Long Ashton.
20. NSLM vision. Suggestion to link to AWT's Team Wilder website to provide more specific guidance on community level action. We would recommend clearer guidance on the implications on BNG in the focus areas and more appropriate language for the primary audience (businesses, local authorities) with a clear steer that communities can also support through local action aligned to the opportunities shown.
21. A link to Avon Valley Wildlife Trust perhaps? the Woodland Trust?
22. Mendip Hills National Landscape NRS (& Cotswolds) Local authority NRSs Avon Wildlife Trust 10-year plan North Somerset and Mendip, and Cotswold BatSAC guidance Parish NAPs - link to pages of accredited NAPs, once confirmed.
23. I haven't got the time to complete another survey however it is vital we prioritise open spaces over shops. The diverse nature in many of our green spaces are being rapidly eroded. In Bath alone we have many empty shops, buidings so to continue to build more makes no sense.
24. Banes green infrastructure strategy
25. Surveys on local bird populations
26. No additional comment.
27. Maybe local campaigns wanting to improve biodiversity. (South of Bath, Lambridge etc)

28. From Siston Parish Council: LCNAP, Siston; recently completed but under constant review and Neighbourhood Plan for Siston; under development. Online: FWAG Report for Siston Commons. <https://www.fwagsw.org.uk> Advice from eg: Forest of Avon Trust, Avon Wildlife Trust, ARAG, BART, South Glos Owl and Bird of Prey Conservation, Bat Conservation Trust, Open Spaces Society, Beeline, Plant Life, Woodland Trust, Bat Conservation
29. Nature reserves.
30. 3-30-300
31. My main queries concern how the recommendations will be realised practically - there is a significant amount work required for all the habitat transformation suggested, but I don't see where the resources will come from? Who will be carrying out the work and where will the funds come from? And, prior to that, how will you get landowner buy-in to make changes? Without the man-power, funds or willing landowners, very little change will happen regardless of how thorough the recommendations are. It would be a waste if the toolkit simply becomes a document that local planning authorities use to accept/reject planning permission but no one proactively follows.
32. There is a local nature action plan for Long Ashton.
33. Long Ashton Parish Council's Biodiversity Action Plan and the implementation policies associated with the Long Ashton Nature, Community & Environment Trust (the LANCE Trust) focused on swifts, brimstone butterflies, hedgehogs and the Blue Heart project designed to raise awareness within the built up urban areas of how local green spaces and gardens can be used to enhance biodiversity within our parish
34. Trying to read and respond to this survey without any cross referencing between your questions and the various documents by name or number has been very difficult. One searchable pdf of the whole lot would have been really helpful so that we could have looked to see if some things were covered or not. Badock's Wood, in North Bristol, is an ancient woodland that was one of only 70 woodlands UK wide that received the accolade of a Queen's Green Canopy Ancient Woodland in 2022. It was designated as a Local Nature Reserve in 2008 following local residents working with public authorities to reclaim the site from being unloved, flytipped and a site that was considered by some a "no go" area due to the anti-social behaviour taking place. However the only mention to the value and importance of groups like ours, Friends of Badock's Wood, that I could see was that you say, seemingly as an after-thought at the very end of the document. "There are also a large number of active community groups, charities and 'friends of' groups helping to look after parks, green spaces and rivers in the area, which can provide resource and local expertise to create and manage spaces for nature, as well as enabling people to engage with their local environment" This is the last paragraph of a 64 page document, at the bottom of page 64. In Bristol, Friends of groups have provided the continuity of care for parks, green spaces including the 13+ local nature reserves many of which have only been created thanks to these groups. The ongoing funding cuts to local authorities over the past 10+ years has left councils like Bristol with barely a penny to pay for much more than basic parks and green spaces management. The local community groups, such as Parks groups, have been the custodians of their local open spaces, have fundraised for improved infrastructure – e.g. disabled access gates, infrastructure,

play space / equipment, species enhancement, paying for, for example, professionally prepared management plans and finding and leading large numbers of volunteers to keep these spaces cared for in every sense. Citizen Science, student projects and collaborative working are also very important and certainly happen in Bristol. The “blue” areas of Bristol need greater prominence and protection. The tributaries to the River Avon do not get a mention and yet rivers such as the River Trym is fed by springs from Filton and a tributary from Horfield fed by a number of springs. The River Trym is not a clean river due in no small part to the run off from streets in North Bristol. The Trym has very variable water levels also affected by the run off where almost whole streets have been allowed to tarmac over their front gardens leading to flash rises in the river level. Sustainable urban drainage is not required for front gardens being turned into car parking under certain square meterage yet a whole street has the cumulative impact that is not being managed for by local authority / government guidance. The impacts on the health of the river are being monitored by local groups such as the Trout in the Trym network, working in collaboration with each other and with organisations such as Bristol Avon Rivers Trust. This group work, also includes working with the local authority, and moves to remove some of the obstructions to the natural river / tributary of the Trym are taking place funded by grant monies. There needs to be more recognition of what community / parks / interest groups can achieve but that requires not only funding but local authority officer time. In urban areas in particular the push from some members of the public for neat and tidy “weed free” grassy areas, along with the wide range of uses to meet public needs, for our open spaces makes for a very tricky management task. In order to achieve Nature Recovery – or even, frankly, maintenance levels of nature in the city and also the whole region covered by this Toolkit – those advocating it – from politicians and officers to members of the public, the scientific community etc must win a very diverse set of hearts and minds. Many people would say they support greater areas of habitat for wildlife, yet my own neighbours want their grass verges mowed and wildlife to be managed somewhere else because they don’t like dandelions. We have seen from other environmental interventions that the public is often bombarded by mis and disinformation. In Bristol the “word on the street” is that the reduction in mowing in parks and green spaces is just to save the Council money. There is no comprehension of the cost of managing land for nature conservation.

Comments on sub-areas

Bathscape Enclosed Limestone Valleys

1. Please designate Lambridge Rugby training ground a local Green Space in the B&NES Local Plan.
2. There is a vast variety of potential wildlife in this key riverside area. We must prioritise these ecosystems over profits by developers and the council budgets.
3. The lower Bristol Avon and its tributaries are not of good ecological status. More resilience to environmental threats are needed and these must go beyond token gesture projects like creating a flood meadow on first order streams. In channel habitat improvements are desperately needed along the entire course and must address the issue of total discharge in summer months.

Bristol and surrounding areas

1. please can we have action and protection for the whole of this part of the River Avon valley from the keynsham watermeadows through Conham, St Annes, Ttroopers Hill Woods, Blackswarth Woods and the Netham waters Please can we stat to protect the Feeder canal . The developments are really damaging the wildlife. We had sandmartins nesting, the holes have been filled in and the noise and destruction in the area is vile. How is the wild going to be encouraged once the concrete student environment is finishes ?????
2. I believe these are important priorities and that nature and climate should be key areas of focus. I would like to see more acknowledgement of the inter-connectedness of nature/environment with human health and wellbeing. There are many positive connections but also some instances where the needs of people vs nature are competing and how these will be balanced. For example, a wildflower field is much more biodiverse than a plain grass/paved areas but wildflower fields are much less useable for walking, play, exercise.
3. Yes please. can we protect the Feeder and its surrounds. Okay its edges are brownsite but so much wildlife has been destroyed in the last 6 months. Whena re the construction companies going to be brought to answer and educated about how to not kill wild creatures and habitats. The sandmartins habitat has been destroyed,,and the developers and Council dont care. Please ensure there are wild bramble areas, soft edges to the Avon and Feeder retained ..we do not want concrete..it causes major flooding. Also please buy back Blackswarth wood for the city from the private owner who should never have been allowed to buy it last year
4. I am pleased to see this survey but it is very difficult to respond to. For example the question "Reintroduce coppicing as a form of woodland management that benefits wildlife while potentially providing woodland products such as fuel "; coppiced hazel woods are great and it can lead to a very different type of habitat but you suggest burning the wood (a carbon emitter) whilst removing the carbon sink. There are dozens of questions each one needs a considered response and much as I would like to read each question my other climate change activities preclude this. A response box to each question may have been easier to complete.

Cam Enclosed Valley

1. I am interested in the Cam Brook particularly between Camerton and Dunkerton. We have a problem with invasive species such as Himalayan Balsam. We also have issues with run off of pollution from the fields into the river and a sewage works which at times discharges into the brook. These factors contribute significantly to the lack of biodiversity in the river. I understand that our area this area is significant in terms of the diversity of bat species and we are very keen to encourage that to continue. We also have Bath Asparagus which I was pleased to see on your priority species list.

City of Bath

1. Please make it an urgent priority to designate Lambridge Rugby training ground a local Green Space in the B&NES Local Plan. It is under threat from a commercial development for a new supermarket. There is an excellent supermarket a matter of hundreds of yards along the same road so there is no need for another. It will further increase congestion because of its closeness to the roundabout. By affecting the initial visual impression on entering Bath it will threaten the World Heritage status of the city. Any one of those points would justify refusing development on that site.

Much more than that, the destruction of a vital and diverse natural resource to create a place where we can further indulge our urge to consume can only be rationalised as part of a slow and enjoyable suicide of the human species.

2. All new developments should be required to include swift boxes and this be enforced with heavy penalties for not complying.

Cotswolds Scarp

1. There is a regionally important toad migration at Charlcombe. The Common Toad (*Bufo Bufo*) should be included as a priority species. Toads are declining nationally but the Charlcombe population is currently stable due to low levels of habitat loss to date and the work of the Charlcombe Toad Rescue and the temporary road closure on Charlcombe Lane during the main migration season. However the population is vulnerable because it is dependent on one breeding lake which is on private land and has no statutory protection, it is also vulnerable to future habitat fragmentation and loss due to new developments.

Land Yeo and River Kenn floodplain

1. This area is rich in wildlife with evidence of rare species being collected via bat surveys and iNaturalist. The area by Jackmans bridge at the bottom of the agricultural fields often floods, this would present an opportunity to introduce wetlands with the existing nature conservation area to be expanded. It also benefits from attractive views, it could serve as a similar outdoor space similar to the Portishead nature reserve. The parish council have tried to protect this area but have been unsuccessful due to planning laws

Lower Chew Valley

1. I fully support all the priorities listed, but feel that we need to be more proactive about reducing the deer and grey squirrel problem, both of which cause huge damage to trees and saplings. The "close" season for shooting roe deer needs to be removed and safe deer shooting needs to be encouraged, and perhaps financed by a commercial venison market. After all venison is probably the most sustainable meat and very low in fat. On a separate note farmers should be encouraged not to grow maize anywhere near water courses. Maize is harvested very late in the year in a manner that results in a run off of topsoil and silt deposition in rivers, deteriorating our aquatic environment even further.

North Somerset Levels and Moors, and Bleadon Moor

1. National Highways' environmental sustainability strategy. National Highways' environmental sustainability strategy represents our plan to meet our environmental ambitions over the short term and medium term leading to 2050. We believe our environmental sustainability strategy will present lots of opportunities align priorities between NH and the WENP LNRS. NH is now treating the soft estate including its road verges as an asset class. This brings the soft estate to the same level of assurance as other physical infrastructures such as signage and bridges and will allow for better habitat management planning to support NH's environmental goals. As part of the 3 million trees initiative. NH is offering to supply UK grown native trees between October 2024 until 2029 to organisations able to meet specific criteria.

2. National Highways major projects during the third road investment strategy will present potential opportunities for enhancement of habitats on the road infrastructure. National Highways will work to identify opportunities within operations and major project's activities.

North West Bristol Woodlands

1. There are 2 meadows as part of the Blaise Estate known as the Royals which particularly rich in summer flora. It is really important appropriate maintenance regimes are maintained and public information and education approaches are invested in to support ongoing improvements for the meadows.

Peri-urban Bristol and Market Towns

1. Shortwood Golf Course and surrounding area has a number of mature oak trees and mammals , This area would make an ideal Nature Reserve to connect from Siston Court area and Siston Common and Webbs Heath

Ridges and Parkland Vale (South Gloucestershire)

1. National Highways (NH) manage the motorways and trunk roads throughout the WENP LNRS area including the M5, M4, M32, M48, and A36 (MP 11/8). The strategic road network (SRN) offers a mixture of core habitats and landscape corridors along which ecological communities can move (Cork et al., 2024). National Highways is looking to engage with the West of England Nature Partnership LNRS and other landowners to improve habitat connectivity with the SRN across the South West region. We are ready to take part in the LNRS but as a statutory undertaker, we have a strike a balance between maximising the natural capital of our estate and the road safety of the strategic road network.

River Chew Floodplain

1. I think that it is very important that we have an American Mink eradication program on the river Chew. Mink have had a devastating effect on the water vole population, and as far as I am aware there are no longer any water voles on the river Chew. Mink also kill fish and poultry for "fun", and have a very detrimental effect on both fish stocks and other animals near water courses. I was involved in a mink trapping program with BART but this lost its funding as it was felt that people did not like the idea of "furry animals being killed". When you take into account the damage they do to the environment this attitude makes no sense.

River Frome Floodplain Corridor

1. This is all laudable and a good list of recommendations. Practice in the area is usually the inverse of these priorities, so there will be a lot of work to do, to change practice so that nature is protected and allowed to thrive. Hedge management in the area is very poor and the state of the hedges is dire. Riparian management is often poor and has involved the complete stripping of the riverbank in some sections. Use of fertilisers, herbicides and pesticides is also widespread, even near the river. Manure is also often left near to the river for weeks. Allowing the river to naturalise, to encourage wood debris to be left in the channel, leaving wider margins around trees, hedgerows and riverbanks - measures like these would make a huge difference to the health of nature in our area.

River Yeo Rolling Valley Farmland

1. Laudable aims but we need to learn how to make farmland productive and wildlife friendly; and farmers need to be guided and supported to achieve common objectives. In terms of birds, to be useful, we need to be more specific about which species we are trying to encourage - which are the sentinel bird species? Skylark, curlew?

Upper Cam and Wellow

1. This area is about to be developed as an enterprise zone. Greenbelt destruction will not help nature recovery in any way.

Upper Chew and Yeo Valleys

1. How are you planning to work with farmers and landowners to achieve these goals? Many actions are covered by SFI but this is at individual farmer level. Are you planning to create a group action which farmers could opt in to? It will be a challenge to achieve these nature recovery goals without cooperation but will be a challenge to achieve cooperation without some clear leadership.

Wooded Ridges and Plateau (North Somerset)

1. Abbots Leigh wildlife meadow being decimated by Venture Capitalist backed Roots Allotments. This is an historical meadow linked to Abbots Pool and part of the history of Bristol. The meadow has skylarks, deer flora and fauna and is at this moment having tons of cardboard and manure dumped on it. Fencing and Cctv cameras in place. How are the residents of Bristol and local villages ever going to access this place now?
2. Roots Allotments intentions to create a commercial allotment park of over 700 allotments in Abbots Leigh is threatening this precious ancient grazing meadow. Roots Allotments (Allota Futureland Ltd) are continuing with using heavy machinery, engineering works, removal of hedgerows with complete disregard for wildlife or local residents. They have already caused a lot of damage and we call on North Somerset Council to intervene and prevent further irreversible harm to this precious greenbelt.
3. Please look at the wildflower meadow next to Leigh Woods that Roots Allotments are currently destroying. They are smothering existing wildflowers, disrupting nesting skylarks and destroying the biodiverse buffer next to an SSSI. They have no permission for engineering works yet are using diggers to scrape the earth and compacting the field with tractors delivering low grade compost containing plastics which will pollute the existing soil. This is a destruction of an important ecological site.
4. How can Roots Allotments develop a 700 allotment site so close to Leigh wood's without council intervention regarding traffic volumes and the impact on the environment and wildlife?
5. The actions of Roots Allotments directly adjacent to this SSSI - laying down layers of cardboard and tonnes of imported compost, as well as operating without any form of environmental impact assessment - will forever change and destroy the 'species rich grasslands and meadows' mentioned above. They should not be permitted to continue without a full impact assessment completed.
6. It is exceptionally concerning that an important meadow is being decimated next to Leigh Woods. I have witnessed so much wildlife there, including skylarks and this is being decimated for business. This needs to be stopped asap before the damage is irreversible

7. I am extremely concerned with the activity taking place in Leigh Woods with reference to the destruction of meadow habitat for allotments. It saddens me everyday to see the breeding ground for Skylarks being taken over with cardboard and compost. I am sure the future human activity and presence in the area will also impact the surrounding nature through the associated disturbance as the allotments are in use. Roots Allotments other sites have Teepees, and Shipping containers for tools, and Roots allotments boast on their website and marketing of al fresco suppers and dinners, it sounds more like a festival site than allotments, not to forget the increased traffic and where will all the car park?. This will have a detrimental effect on the area and the special nature habitat that it is known for. I understand that Roots imported hardcore in the new entrance for vehicles and covered this with ramps. It feels as though we are unable to protect this land from unsuitable use and development.
8. I'm so concerned at what has been allowed to happen in Abbots Leigh on N. Somerset council land by Roots Allotments on the edge of an area of SSSI land. This development goes against all that you're trying to achieve, they've removed a hedgerow, their poorly erected fence has killed a doe, skylarks have been seen circling above their site showing interest in nesting, but this won't now be possible. They've put down stone chipping and covered this with plastic matting. This important area will turn from a meadow supporting wildflowers to an allotment and will most probably be lost forever as green belt as it certainly wouldn't be a wild meadow once covered with reclaimed council waste compost. Its this nibbling away at green spaces and its impact on nature that we have to resist at all costs. Please help.
9. need more buffer around SSSI and Woodland as corridors, natural hedging over wire fencing
10. There are huge advantages to having retained well managed wooded ridges and other areas, wildlife, flora, fauns mental health of those using this. I live in one in the north cotswolds with the Cotswold escarpment and areas near by. These are part of the CNL and are in many ways similar to the area I grew up near in Leigh Woods. I am absolutely aghast that the area adjacent to the FE area is currently being allowed to be decimated by an industrial scale development. This was a beautiful wildflower meadow, sensitively grazed and managed. With over 90% of wildflower meadows having been lost already. Why is this one allowed to be destroyed by non organic plastic infused compost is absolutely beyond me. The measures for this should be that this field forming part of the upper areas of the Avon Gorge and next to a SSI should be forced to be maintained as an environmentally sensitive area and taking heed of the red listed Skylarks, protected badges, linnets, deer and many many others. The wildlife and flora/fauna have no voices, but the plethora of people that wish to speak of their behalf should be heard against the loud noise of venture capitalists and a family trust whose sole objective it seems is to make money at all costs. Please ensure this meadow at Abbots Leigh/Leigh Woods stays as a meadow - please
11. Extremely worried about Roots development of Abbots Leigh meadow! Will greatly disturb skylarks, bats, butterflies and does not promote habitat, flora or fauna.

Glossary

- AWT - Avon Wildlife Trust
- B&NES / BANES – Bath and North East Somerset (Council)
- BART - Bristol Avon Rivers Trust
- BCC – Bristol City Council
- BCT - Bat Conservation Trust
- BNG - Biodiversity Net Gain
- Bufo bufo - Common Toad
- CNL - Cotswolds National Landscape
- EA – Environment Agency
- FWAG - Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group
- IUCN - International Union for Conservation of Nature
- LCNAP - Local Climate and Nature Action Plan
- LNRS – Local Nature Recovery Strategy
- LNRT – Local Nature Recovery Toolkit
- NGO / eNGO – Non-Government Organisation / Environmental Non-Government Organisation
- NH – National Highways
- NSLM – North Somerset Levels and Moors
- NSC – North Somerset Council
- PAWS – Planted Ancient Woodland Site
- RSPB – Royal Society of the Protection of Birds
- SAC – Special Area of Conservation
- SFI - Sustainable Farming Incentive
- SGC – South Gloucestershire Council
- SNCI – Site of Nature Conservation Interest
- SSSI - Sites of Special Scientific Interest
- SuDS – Sustainable Urban Drainage System
- SUV – Sport Utility Vehicle
- The LANCE Trust - Long Ashton Nature, Community & Environment Trust
- WECA – West of England Combined Authority
- WENP – West England Nature Partnership
- WoE- West of England