

WENP Strategy

2021 - 2030



Foreword

Nature is collapsing at an unprecedented rate. Globally, we have lost 60% of wild vertebrates and up to 76% of insects since 1970. In the West of England, numbers of once-common songbirds such as swifts and starlings have fallen by more than 96%.

A healthy natural environment underpins our society, economy and wellbeing. It is essential to tackling the climate and ecological emergencies, supporting public health, social cohesion and economic resilience. Yet, climate change is placing increasing pressure on nature at the very moment we need it most.

We know what is needed: protect existing wildlife hotspots, create bigger and better habitats at scale, and manage land and water more sympathetically for wildlife. Doing so will help tackle climate change, improve wellbeing and support a more productive, inclusive economy. Achieving this requires organisations across the region to work towards a shared vision, broadening collaboration to include new sectors, voices and communities whose actions shape the region's future.

The West of England Nature Partnership (WENP) brings together local and regional government, environmental charities, water companies, regulators, health leaders and others. Working as a partnership has already enabled us to produce the country's first Local Nature Recovery Strategy; lead a pioneering Green Social Prescribing pilot and – most importantly – make significant progress towards nature's recovery across the region.

Now we must scale up this collective action to deliver the Local Nature Recovery Strategy and achieve wider regional goals for nature, people and place—such as doubling tree and woodland cover by 2050, empowering more communities to act for nature, and expanding nature-based solutions to tackle challenges like climate adaptation and health inequalities.

This is a mid-point refresh of WENP's 2021–2030 Strategy. It sharpens our approach in response to a changing context and sets out how we will work together in the next phase to deliver the scale and ambition required for nature's recovery in the West of England.



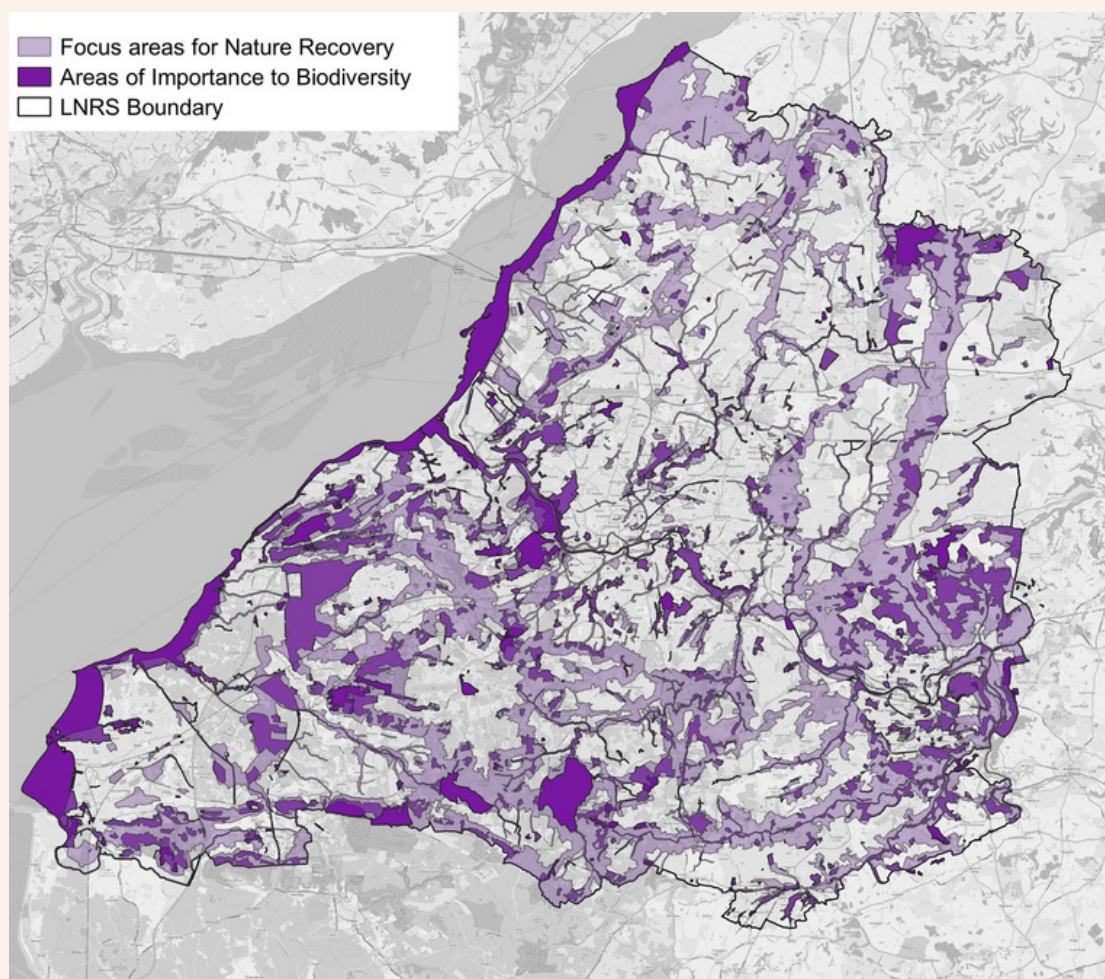
Our Vision and Mission

Vision

A thriving and well-connected natural environment in the West of England that underpins a healthy, resilient society and economy.

Mission

To deliver more for nature's recovery in the West of England by working in partnership on the natural environment – for the benefit of nature, people and place.



Habitat map from the West of England Combined Authority Local Nature Recovery Strategy

Our Way of Working

WENP will coordinate regional action for nature's recovery through strong and inclusive collaboration, working closely with the West of England Combined Authority as the Responsible Authority for Local Nature Recovery Strategy delivery. We will catalyse collective action and enable coherent, evidence-based delivery across the region, with each partner contributing their unique skills and expertise to the shared mission. We will broaden our partnership so that more sectors contribute to—and benefit from—nature's recovery.

Our Priorities

Impact Priority

To identify, develop and deliver a pipeline of large, high-impact projects aligned to the West of England Local Nature Recovery Strategy and wider regional goals for nature, people and place.

This is the core purpose of WENP: identifying, developing and supporting delivery of strategic nature projects across the West of England. These projects demonstrate what is possible at regional scale and attract the funding and investment needed to accelerate nature recovery.

Enabling Priorities

1

Nature Finance: To secure and align diverse sources of funding and investment to enable partners and stakeholders across the region to work at greater scale and pace.

2

Policy and Influence: To embed nature recovery into regional strategies, policies and systems – ensuring that the Local Nature Recovery Strategy is integrated into spatial planning, development and investment frameworks.

3

Communications and Advocacy: To champion nature's recovery through communications, advocacy and engagement—building public, political and cross-sector support, and bringing in new voices and sectors to embed nature as a shared regional priority.

4

Data and Evidence: To strengthen the regional evidence base for nature recovery, ensuring that policy, investment and delivery decisions are informed by robust data, analysis and shared intelligence.



How will we measure progress?

In WENP's original 2021–2030 Strategy, we committed to six targets for nature's recovery to 2030 and 2050. We remain committed to those ambitions, but the targets themselves are being reviewed through the region's State of Nature Monitoring Programme to ensure they reflect new context—such as the Local Nature Recovery Strategy —and align with the national Environment Act targets, which were not in place when the strategy was first published.

The review will ensure that the updated targets are measurable, ambitious and achievable. WENP will work with the West of England Combined Authority, as the regional lead for State of Nature monitoring, to publish an updated set of robust 2030 and 2050 targets in 2026.

Alongside these, WENP will monitor progress against the priorities set out in this Strategy. A high-level outcomes framework will be developed to guide this work, supported by an annual progress report summarising achievements, challenges and next steps.



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