

## Shropshire & Telford & Wrekin draft Local Nature Recovery Strategy

This is a **brief summary** using wording and quotations taken from the original documents which are available online at [Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin Local Nature Recovery Strategy | Shropshire Council](#) It is a 160 page draft Strategy and was published for public consultation in August 2025.

The Strategy is Shropshire's response to the Environment Act 2021 which requires all counties to produce a Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS). It was drawn up by a Steering Group of representatives from Shropshire Council, Telford & Wrekin Council, Natural England, Country Land And Business Association, Environment Agency, Forestry Commission, National Farmers Union, Shropshire Hills National Landscape and Shropshire Wildlife Trust.

The LNRS consists of a **Strategy document** and an **Interactive Map**

The Strategy is a response to the recognition that the county's natural environment is under pressure suffering from the fragmentation and depletion of wildlife habitats and a decline in the number and abundance of wildlife species.

As required by DEFRA's guidance, Shropshire's LNRS proposes

**16 Priorities** for recovering or enhancing biodiversity

**51 Actions** relating to these priorities

These Priorities and Actions are shown on the pages that are attached.

The LNRS interactive map shows both the

**Existing Nature Network** – these are areas of particular importance for biodiversity, and the

**Opportunity Network** – which are areas that could become of particular importance

A helpful short video shows how to make comments in respect to the Opportunity Network relating to specific areas.

The **consultation period** which opened on 6 August **closes on 15 October 2025**. The Strategy will then be finalised in 2026 in the light of comments received. There is a consultation pro-forma. It runs to 35 questions and is said to take 10-15 minutes to complete. It can be filled in on line by individuals or organisations, including Parish Councils.

On 3 October a conference about the LNRS aimed at Town and Parish Councils and organised by SALC and the Middle Marches Community Land Trust is to be held in Ellesmere.

### The future of the Strategy

The LNRS isn't, by itself, a mechanism for changing land management – but is designed with delivery in mind, so that it can be a useful tool for those wanting to undertake nature recovery activities and for securing funding to do so. Landowners are not obligated to carry out the actions shown on the Opportunity Network map. However, the map highlights where action could make a difference, and it is expected that government will support, through funding and advice, actions that are undertaken.

Farmers are of course central to any effort to restore local biodiversity. It is therefore essential that there is sustained funding for them to support the implementation of the identified actions. Important resources include agri-environment schemes, biodiversity net gain, lottery funding, green finance and developer contributions.

Parish councils have a legal duty under the Environment Act to further the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity and to have regard to the Local Nature Recovery Strategy.

## Summary of LNRS priorities and actions, by theme

Theme	Priority	Code	Action
Farmed land	Enhance nature alongside food production	A1.1	Establish farmer groups
		A1.2	Enhance soil health and nature on arable land
		A1.3	Enhance soil health and nature on pastures
		A1.4	Create, restore and manage nature-rich farmland mosaics
Hedgerows	Restore, enhance, expand and appropriately manage the hedgerow network	A2.1	Restore and manage the existing hedgerow network
		A2.2	Create more connectivity in the landscape by establishing new hedgerows
Water and wetlands	Re-naturalise rivers and stabilise flows	A3.1	Improve water quality
		A3.2	Reduce both flood risk and low flows
		A3.3	Remove physical barriers
		A3.4	Restore streams and rivers to a more natural state
		A3.5	Create, enhance and appropriately manage riparian buffers
	Restore peatland and wetland mosaics	A4.1	Restore existing areas of high-quality peat, fen and bog habitat
		A4.2	Restore, connect and expand areas of wetland mosaic habitat
		A4.3	Restore ability of catchment headwaters to 'act as a sponge'
		A4.4	Target regularly flooded land for wetland creation and grazing marsh
	Create, restore and manage ponds, glacial pools and meres	A5.1	Enhance existing ponds, pools and meres
A5.2		Create new ponds	
Enhance canals for wildlife and people	A6.1	Enhance canals for wildlife and people	
Trees, woodlands and woody habitats	Safeguard and enhance veteran trees	A7.1	Identify, appropriately manage and safeguard the future of veteran trees
		A7.2	Secure continuity of veteran trees in the landscape
	Restore and expand nature-rich woodlands	A8.1	Restore and expand nature rich ancient semi-natural woodland and long-established broadleaf woodland and long-established broadleaf woodland
		A8.2	Improve condition of deciduous, mixed and wet woodlands
		A8.3	Restore plantation on ancient woodland sites
		A8.4	Create new woodlands
	Restore and expand nature-rich woody habitats	A9.1	Restore and expand wood pasture
		A9.2	Restore parkland
		A9.3	Plant and manage mosaics of scrub
		A9.4	Establish new, and safeguard traditional, orchards
		A9.5	Plant more trees in the farmed landscape
Grasslands	Restore, connect and expand species-rich grasslands across the county	A10.1	Set up infrastructure to support grassland restoration and creation
		A10.2	Safeguard and enhance traditional hay meadows and other existing species-rich grasslands

		A10.3	Create and restore species-rich grassland
		A10.4	Restore grassland on roadside verges and alongside paths and tracks
Open habitats	Restore, connect and expand heathland sites	A11.1	Establish effective management regimes for heathland sites
		A11.2	Restore heathland where geology allows to increase habitat connectivity
	Increase the area of ffridd habitat	A12.1	Enhance areas of ffridd habitat
		A12.2	Create new areas of ffridd habitat to benefit a wide range of species
	Enhance the wildlife value of open mosaic habitats	A13.1	Create, enhance and appropriately manage close mosaics of open habitats on former coal mining and post-industrial sites
		A13.2	Enhance open mosaic habitats on brownfield sites
A13.3		Retain the wildlife value of scree	
Built environment and amenity spaces	Bring nature into towns, villages and amenity spaces	A14.1	Integrate nature recovery within new developments
		A14.2	Create wildlife-friendly gardens at homes and businesses
		A14.3	Enhance wildlife value of multifunctional green space
		A14.4	Effective water management in the built environment
		A14.5	Reduce the adverse impact of light pollution on wildlife
		A14.6	Increase canopy cover in the built environment
Invasive non-native species	Reduce invasive non-native species across all catchment	A15.1	Prevent the spread of invasive non-native species
		A15.2	Implement a targeted programme to reduce invasive non-native species
Public access, health and wellbeing	Enable more access to and connection with nature for health and wellbeing	A16.1	Enable access to nature-rich sites
		A16.2	Create a more comprehensive network to enable active travel
		A16.3	Enhance people's connection with nature

### Suggested Response from Clunbury Parish Council

I suggest that the PC should respond to the draft Strategy as follows:

1. Express its support in principle for the Priorities and Actions of the LNRS that are appropriate to the Parish of Clunbury.
2. State its support in particular for the 20 Actions as highlighted on the attached table which may be regarded as significant local priorities of special relevance to Clunbury Parish.
3. Ask the Climate and Environment Group (CEG) to consider what it can do to promote any of these 20 Actions.
4. Ask the CEG to come to the next Parish Council meeting with a proposal to invest the £1,034.10 earned from work on Whinberry Hill in a way that takes forward one or more of the Actions identified in the LNRS.
5. Ask the CEG to use its knowledge of the Parish to comment as appropriate on the content of the interactive map.
6. Ask the CEG to complete the consultation questionnaire.