

Nature Recovery in the Shropshire Hills AONB

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Partnership



Topics for today



1) Context around Nature Recovery

What do we mean by nature recovery?

Why is there a need for this approach?

Supporting legislation

2) The Shropshire Hills AONB – what makes this area special?

3) Your part in enabling nature recovery

Making space for nature in our human-shaped landscapes...



[David Attenborough explains a Nature Recovery Network - YouTube](#)

Why do we need help nature recover?

THE UK'S BIODIVERSITY IS DECLINING



15%

of species are threatened with **extinction** from Great Britain



133

of 8431 assessed have already become extinct from Great Britain

SINCE 1970...

More species have seen their **populations decrease** than increase:

41%

have decreased

33%

little change

26%

have increased

We have seen big changes in where the UK's wildlife is found:

27%

found in fewer places

52%

little change

21%

found in more places

THE UK'S WILDLIFE IS AMAZING – BUT IT'S IN CRISIS

30

million birds vanished from our skies in the last 50 years

97%

of our wildflower meadows lost since the 1930s

1/4

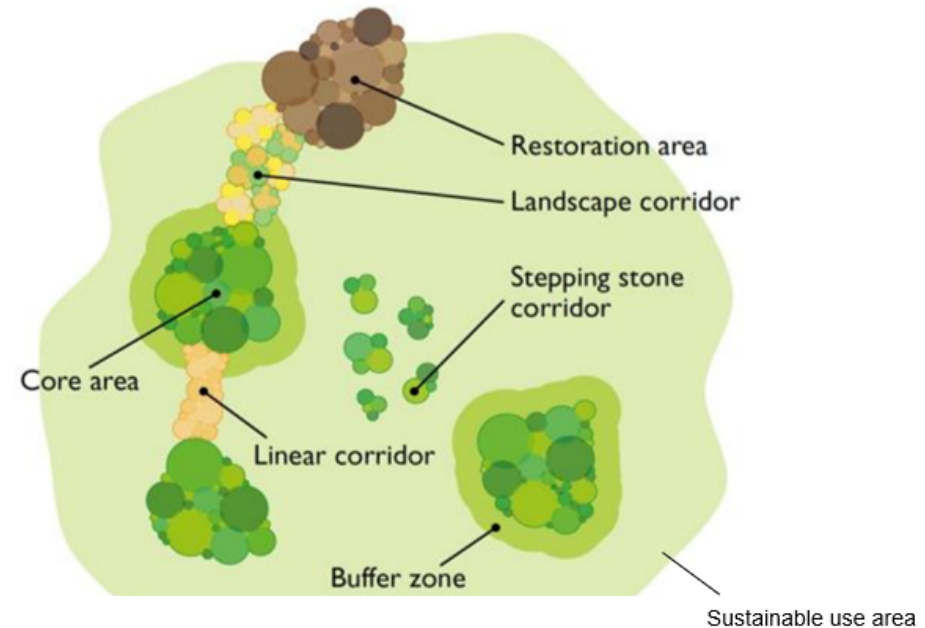
all our mammals at risk of extinction

Connecting nature in the Shropshire Hills

More, bigger, better and joined

- (i) Improve the quality of current sites by better habitat management.*
- (ii) Increase the size of current wildlife sites.*
- (iii) Enhance connections between, or join up, sites, either through physical corridors, or through 'stepping stones'.*
- (iv) Create new sites.*
- (v) Reduce the pressures on wildlife by improving the wider environment, including through buffering wildlife sites.*

Schematic representation of Lawton principles for resilient ecological networks





SOME OVERALL PRINCIPLES (NE)

Core areas should be big, structurally diverse, complex and dynamic

Build ecological networks around existing high quality sites

Take an ecosystem approach and work with natural processes

Involve people

Increase carbon sequestration and reduce carbon footprint of land management

Build resilience – restore natural processes

Encourage diversity of habitats and landscapes

Land is multi-functional and blurred boundaries are good

HOW is nature recovery beginning in the UK?

- **Changing legislation focus - with a theme of nature recovery running throughout...**

The Defra 25 Year Environment Plan (2018)

With supporting **Environmental Improvement Plan (2023)**

– delivery plan to achieve targets

The Environment Act 2021

- Targets for recovery of the natural world (air quality, biodiversity, water, waste)
- Nature Recovery Networks & association targets
- New duties introduced for local authorities, inc. leading the formation of Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRS)



Landscapes Review

We want our national landscapes to work together with big ambitions so they are happier, healthier, greener, more beautiful and open to everyone.

The Glover Review & Colchester Declaration (July 2019)

Glover Review called for England's designated landscapes to 'form the backbone of a national Nature Recovery Network'



What makes the Shropshire Hills AONB special?



Woodlands



Rivers & river valleys



Geology



Hills



Farmed landscape



Heritage



Wildlife



Tranquillity



Opportunities for enjoyment



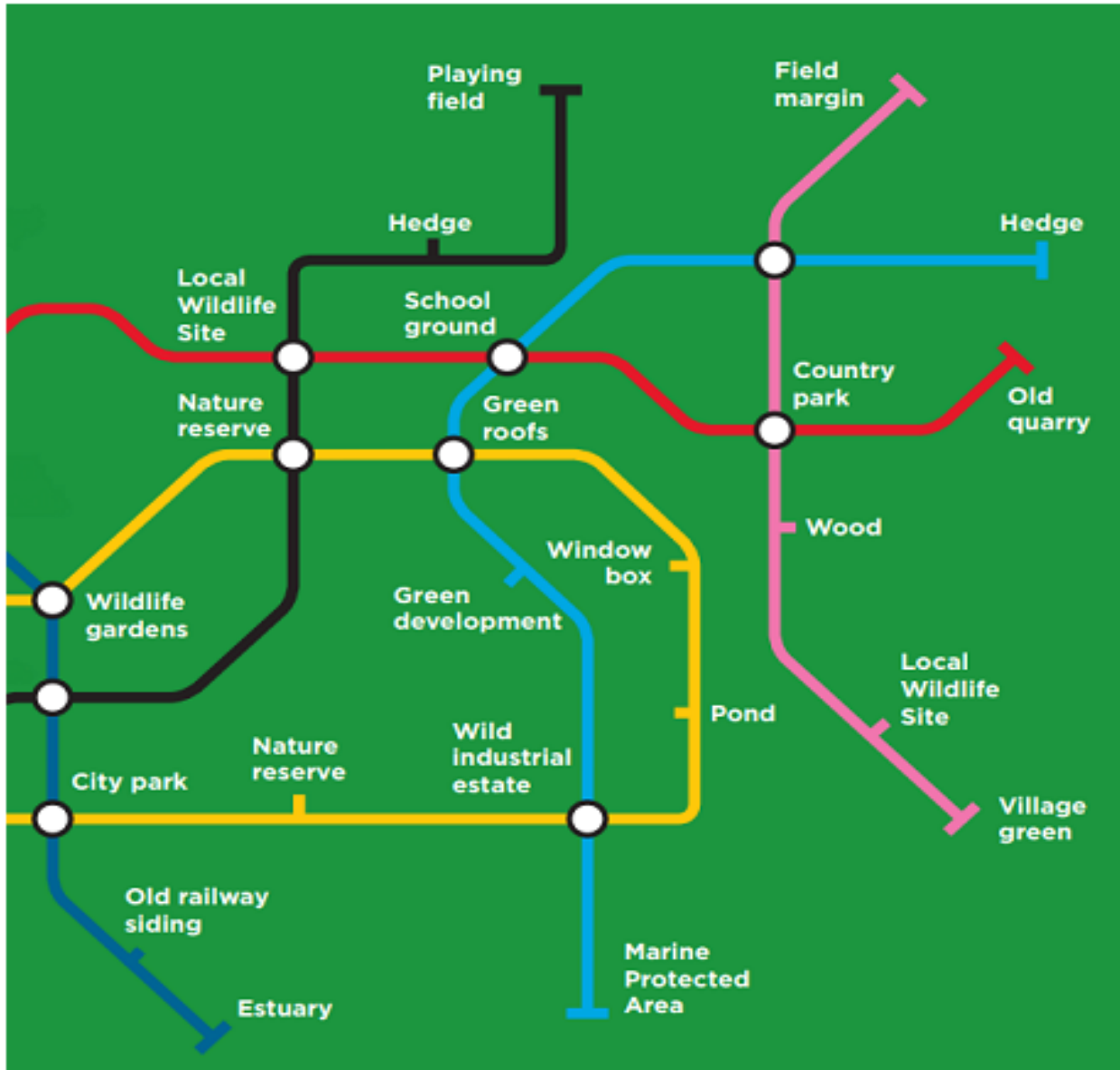
Scenic & environmental quality

Our priorities for nature recovery in the Shropshire Hills are:

- Best possible management of existing **high quality habitats**
- Improving **margins & buffer areas** to heathland and rough grassland hills
- Re-naturalising **catchment headwater** areas
- Regenerating and expanding upland **semi-natural woodlands**
- Woodland creation to improve **habitat networks**
- Habitat improvement of **river & stream** corridors
- Managing & re-creating **wildflower meadows** and **species rich grasslands**
- More sustainable & regenerative management of **farmland**
- Management of **invasive non-native species**
- **Connecting people to nature**



Playing your part in supporting nature recovery



Caring for 'private' nature reserves - Collective action by individuals and communities has a huge impact

Who is in the audience today?

Individuals – inc. with gardens, own parcels of land, small holdings

Parish Council representatives – involved in management of community space?

Volunteers, citizen scientists?

Land manager & farmers?

Other groups/ representatives

What kinds of spaces/ areas of land are you involved with?

Maximising the nature recovery potential of your place...getting to know your area of land

- **What makes your site special?**

Observe...and record...research....plan

Identifying the nature value the site already has

- **What is the context of the site?**

- Habitat types? Priority Habitats present?
- Site history & influence of past management
- Geography and Geology?
- Soil type?
- What is in the locality? Neighbouring priority habitats



Your site context – research & information sources



Defra Magic Map

Inc. Priority habitats, land designations (SSSIs, SACs), species information



Environment Agency

Catchment Data Explorer

Environment Agency Catchment Data Explorer

Information on water courses & water quality, catchment information



Natural England's Ancient Woodland Inventory

Identify areas of ancient woodland & plantation on ancient woodland sites (PAWS)



National Biodiversity Network (NBN)

Inc. NBN Atlas – access to detailed species records



Shropshire Hills AONB Partnership

Management Plan 2019-2024
Grants & funding



Historic England

Historic Environment Record



Natural Environment & Ecology Map

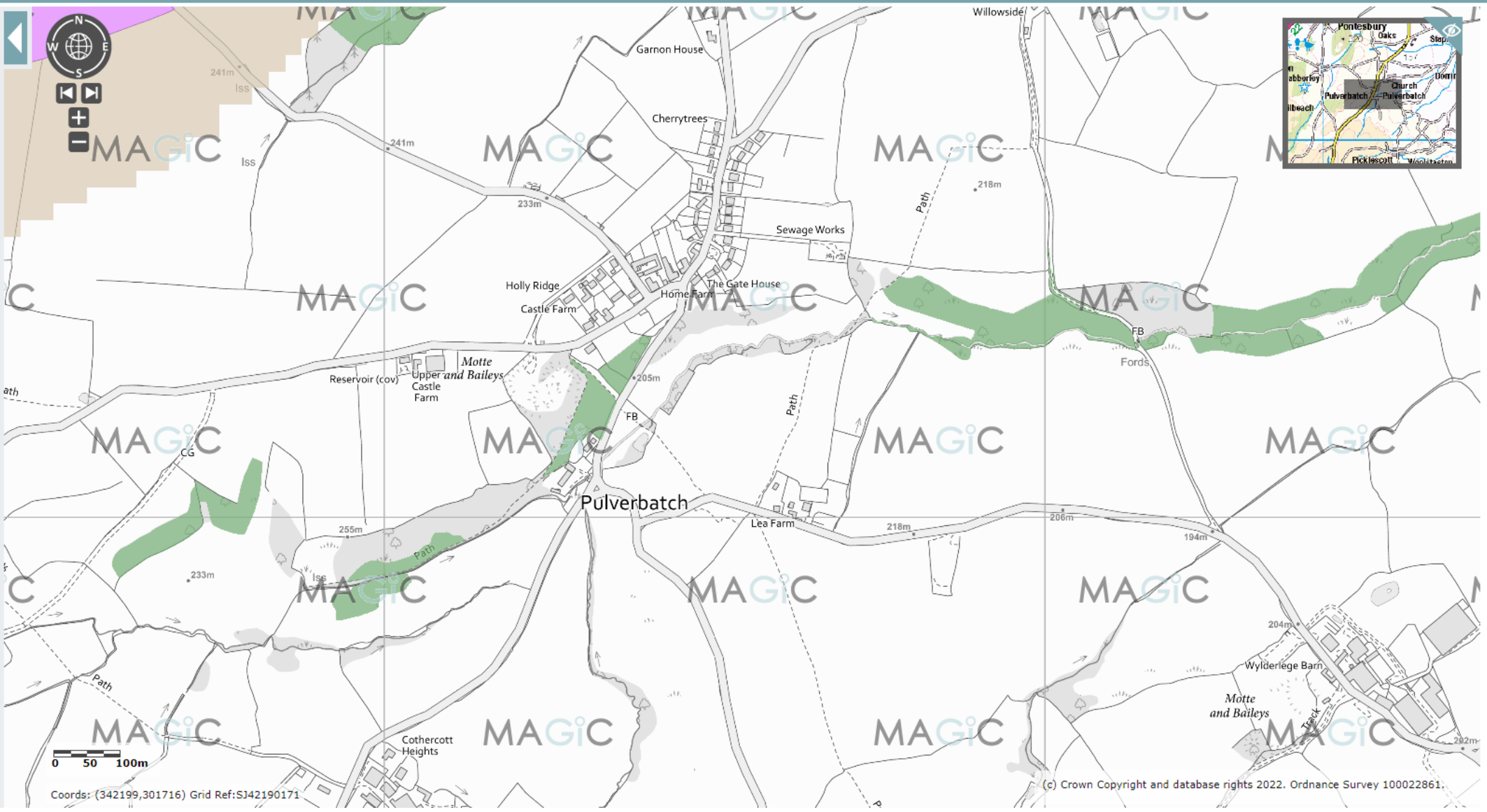
Shropshire Council map – Landscape Description Units & Typologies

HERITAGE GATEWAY

Search for information on England's historic sites – can search by area

Table of Contents

- Heathland**
- Inland Rock**
- Marine**
- Wetland**
 - Priority Habitat Inventory - Blanket Bog (England)
 - Priority Habitat Inventory - Lowland Fens (England)
 - Priority Habitat Inventory - Lowland Raised Bog (England)
 - Priority Habitat Inventory - Reedbeds (England)
 - Priority Habitat Inventory - Upland Flushes, Fens and Swamps (England)
- Woodland**
 - Ancient Woodland (England)
 - Priority Habitat Inventory - Deciduous Woodland (England)
 - Forestry Commission Legal Boundary (England)
 - National Forest Inventory (GB)
 - Priority Habitat Inventory - Traditional Orchards (England)
 - Woodpasture and Parkland BAP Priority Habitat (England)
- Other**
 - Common Pheasant and Red-legged Partridge releases - European sites and 500m buffer zones as at 31 May 2021
 - Natura sites (England)
 - National Habitat Network All Habitats Combined (England)



Coords: (342199,301716) Grid Ref: SJ42190171

Nature recovery – background references

2010 John Lawton Review

[‘Making space for nature’: a review of England's wildlife sites published today - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)
[the-lawton-review-factsheet.pdf \(woodlandtrust.org.uk\)](#)

Landscape Review – Julian Glover

[Landscapes review: National Parks and AONBs - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

Colchester Declaration

[Colchester Declaration :: National Association for Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty \(landscapesforlife.org.uk\)](#)

Save our Wild Isles

[Together we can Save our Wild Isles | Save Our Wild Isles](#)

People’s Plan for Nature

[Home | People's Plan for Nature \(peoplesplanfornature.org\)](#)

Legislation and Policy

[Biodiversity in the UK: bloom or bust? \(parliament.uk\)](#)

[25 Year Environment Plan - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

[The Environment Act 2021 – a turning point for Nature - Natural England \(blog.gov.uk\)](#)

Site research & information sources

Shropshire Hills AONB Partnership

[Shropshire Hills AONB - Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty](#)

Magic Map

[Magic Map Application \(defra.gov.uk\)](#)

[How To Use MAGIC | Find Out More - The Open Spaces Society \(oss.org.uk\)](#)

National Biodiversity Network

[NBN Atlas - UK’s largest collection of biodiversity information](#)

Historic England –HER and Heritage Gateway

[Historic Environment Records \(HERs\) | Historic England HeritageGateway - Home *](#)

Natural England Ancient Woodland Inventory

[Ancient Woodland \(England\) | Ancient Woodland \(England\) | Natural England Open Data Geoportal \(arcgis.com\)](#)

Shropshire Council Natural Environment & Ecology map

[Public Gallery \(arcgis.com\)](#)

Shropshire Landscape Typology

[the-shropshire-landscape-typology.pdf](#)

EA Catchment Data Explorer

[Severn River Basin District | Catchment Data Explorer](#)

Thank you for listening

Any questions?

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