

The Environment Act & Nature Recovery

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Environment Act – new duties / new opportunities?

- Local Nature Recovery Strategies
- 10% biodiversity net gain
- Duty for LAs to conserve and enhance biodiversity



Environmental Improvement Plan



Goal 1
**Thriving plants
and wildlife**



HM Government

**Environmental
Improvement
Plan 2023**

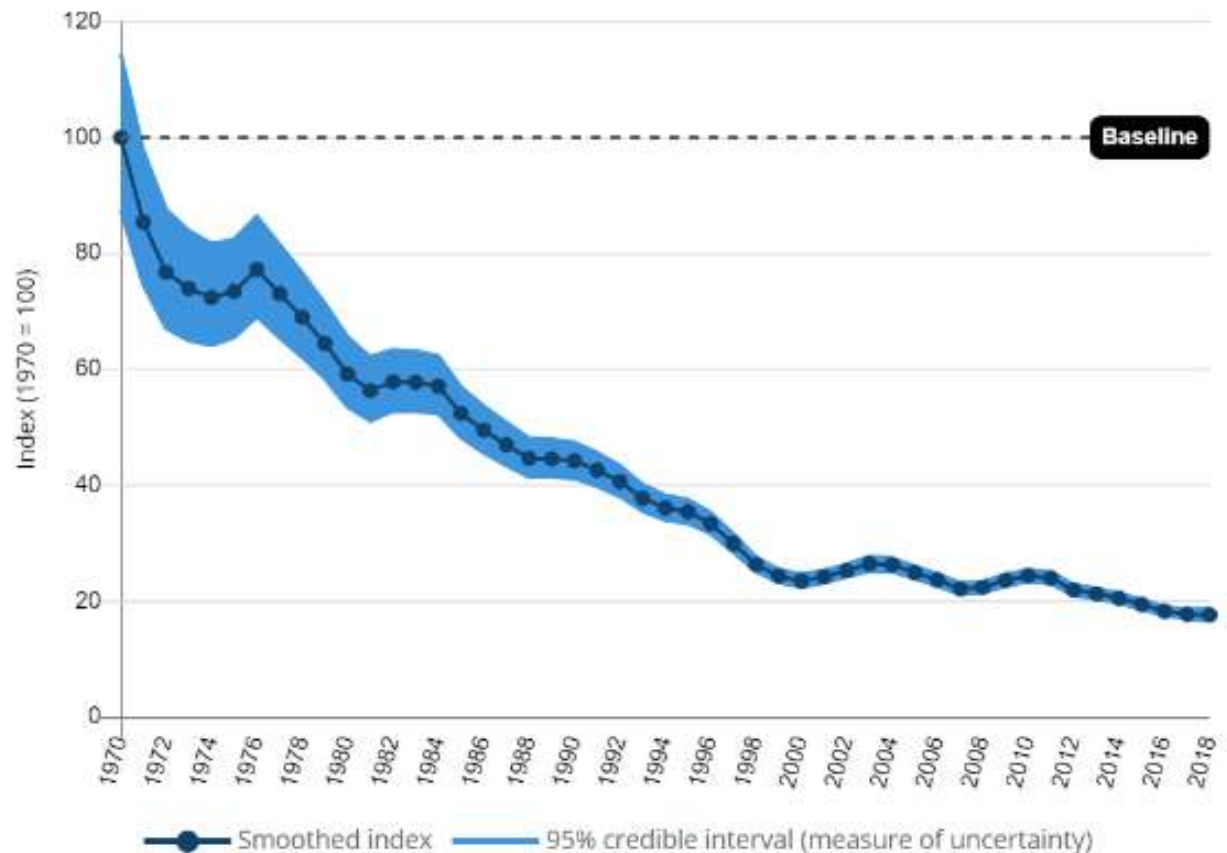
First revision of the
25 Year Environment Plan



Target for species abundance

- Halt the decline in species abundance by 2030, and then increase abundance by at least 10% to exceed 2022 levels by 2042

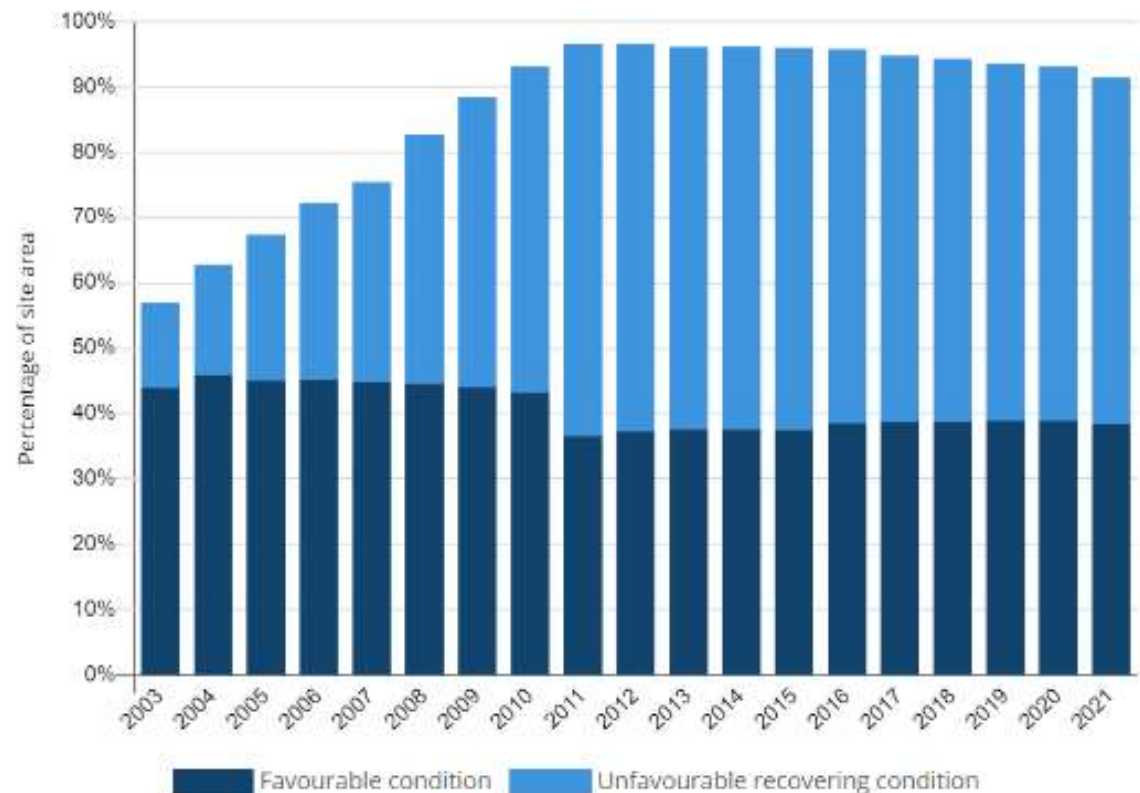
D6ai (interim): Relative abundance of priority species in England, 1970 to 2018



Target for SSSIs

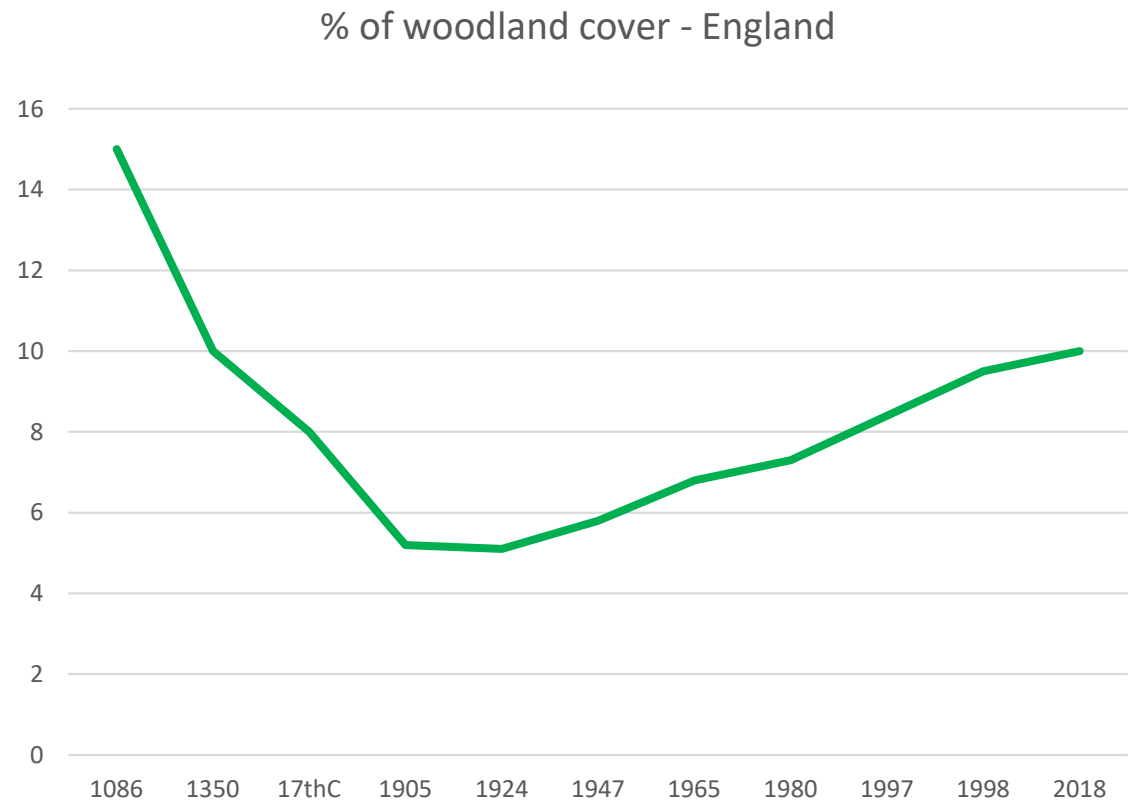
- All SSSI to have an up-to date condition assessment; and for 50% of SSSIs to have actions on track to achieve favourable condition by 31 January 2028

D2b (interim): Condition of Sites of Special Scientific Interest in England, 2003 to 2021



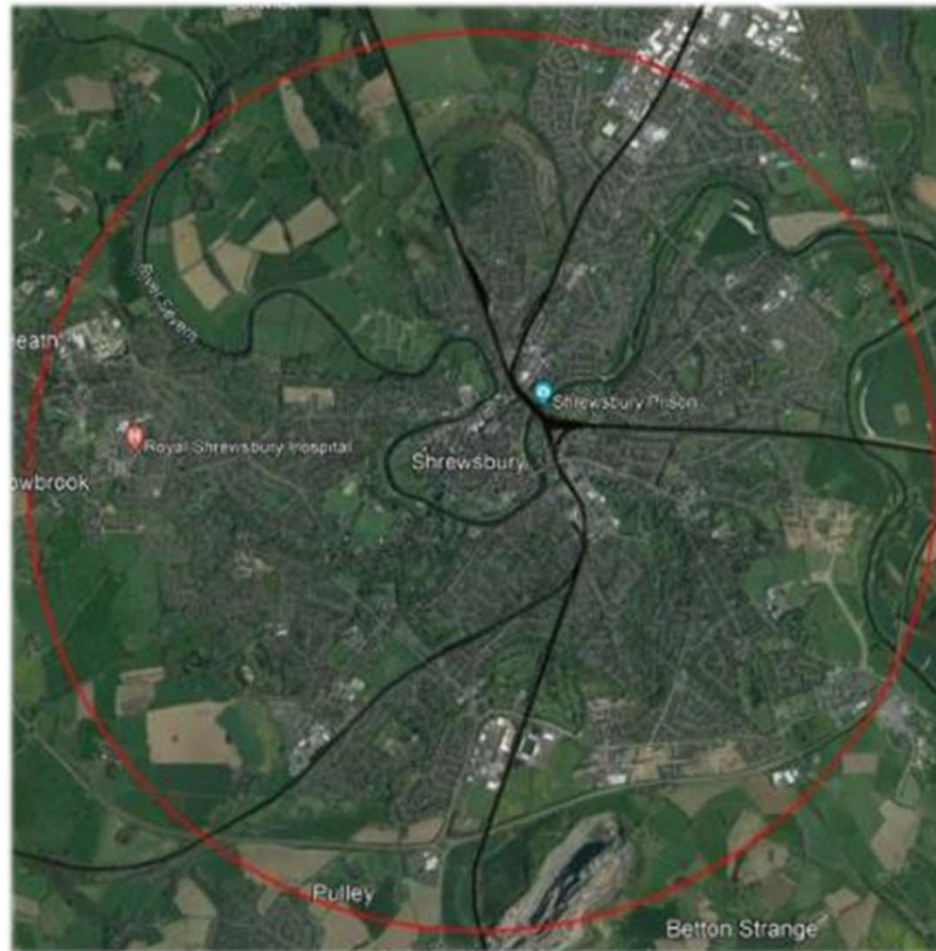
Target for tree canopy and woodland cover

- Increase tree canopy and woodland cover from 14.5% to 16.5% of total land area in England by 2050, interim target to increase this by 0.26% (equivalent to 34,000 hectares) by 31 January 2028



Target for wildlife-rich habitat

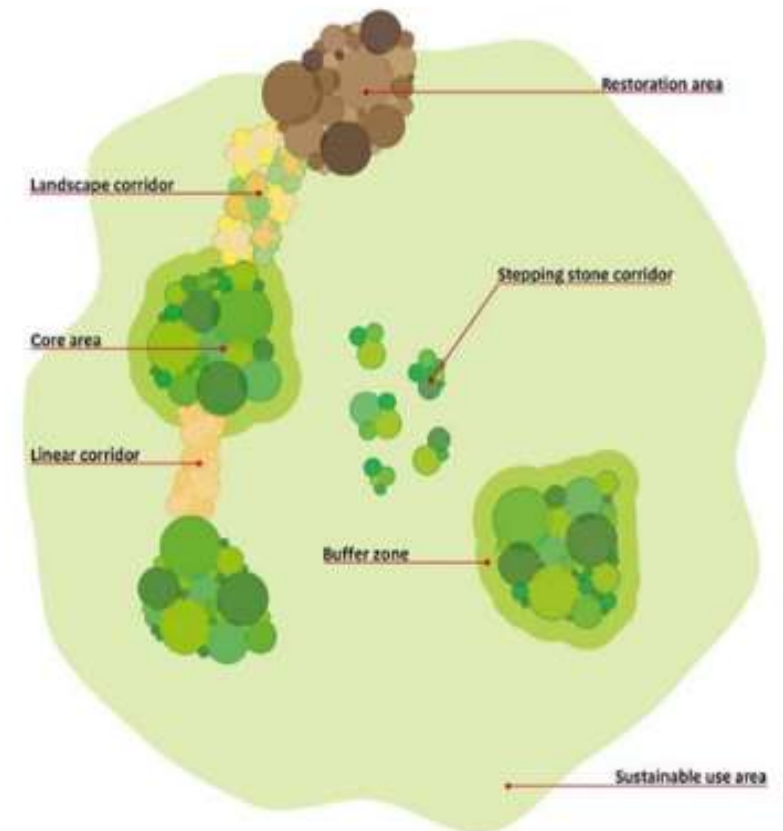
- Restore or create 140,000 hectares of wildlife-rich habitats outside protected sites by 2028, compared to 2022 levels, equivalent to 1.1%* of England.



*1.1 % of Shropshire is 3,516ha

Local Nature Recovery Strategies

- Establish priorities and map proposals for specific actions to drive nature's recovery focussed on long-term habitat creation and improvement;
- Provide wider environmental benefits such as carbon sequestration, flood risk management, water quality improvements, recreation etc.; and
- Foster partnership working to achieve agreed outcomes/priorities.

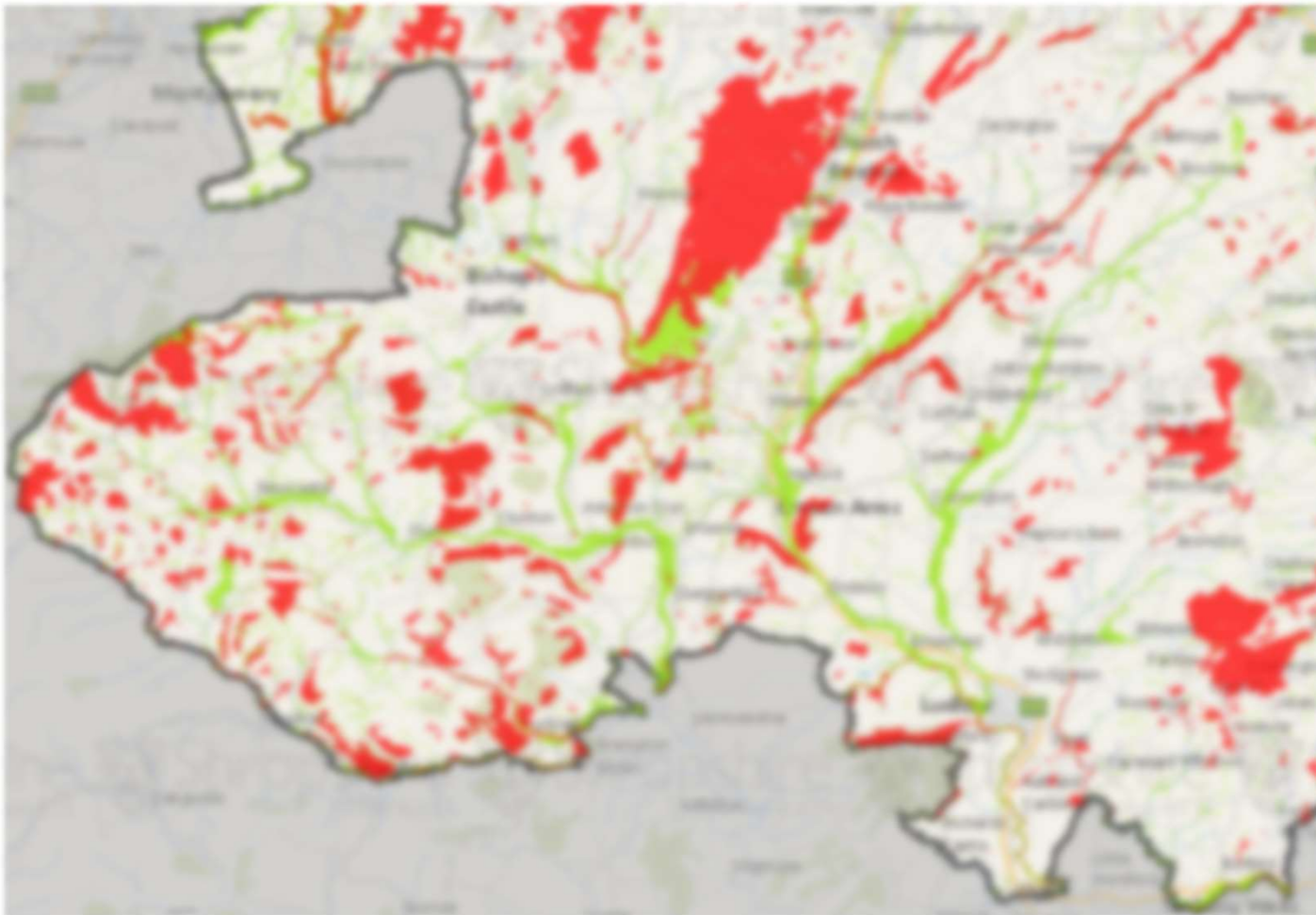


Process

- Step 1 - Compilation of baseline spatial data of important sites
- Step 2 Ecological description of area including opportunities to create/improve habitat.
- Step 3 Identification of priorities for the area and desired outcomes
- Step 4 – Identification of measures for creating/improving habitat to achieve the priority outcomes, alongside wider environmental benefits wherever possible
- Step 5 – Mapping locations for delivery of measures identified at step 4 onto ‘baseline’ map.



Habitat Creation and Enhancement



Getting involved

- Agreeing priorities in terms of habitats and species, for recovering or enhancing biodiversity - what are the most important issues?
- Identifying if priorities can also contribute to wider environmental benefits.
- Identifying potential actions to deliver agreed priorities.
- Prioritising where actions could best be delivered, to meet the priorities.

Delivery of LNRS

- Guidance states:
 - ‘will inform the local planning process’
 - ‘support for delivery may come from funding for specific activities mapped by the strategy’
 - ‘delivery will be a shared effort with public, private and voluntary sector’
- Targeting for ELMS and England Woodland Creation Offer
- Inform best locations for off-site Biodiversity Net Gain

Biodiversity Net Gain



- Minimum 10% gain required calculated using The Biodiversity Metric (DEFRA supplied tool)
- Tool measures change in habitats, hedgerows and watercourses from baseline (pre-development) against post-development.

Opportunity?

As a **landowner**:

- Land available to 'improve' for biodiversity?
- Sell credits to developers direct or via a broker

As a **habitat management provider**:

- Deliver required habitat management on third party land (for a fee)



If a landowner

- Identify baseline of site – UKHab survey and condition assessment
- Identify interventions available to enhance existing or create new habitats and hedgerows or enhance watercourses
- Cost interventions including 30 years of habitat management and legal fees
- Sell credits to broker or publicise credits available and sell direct to developer



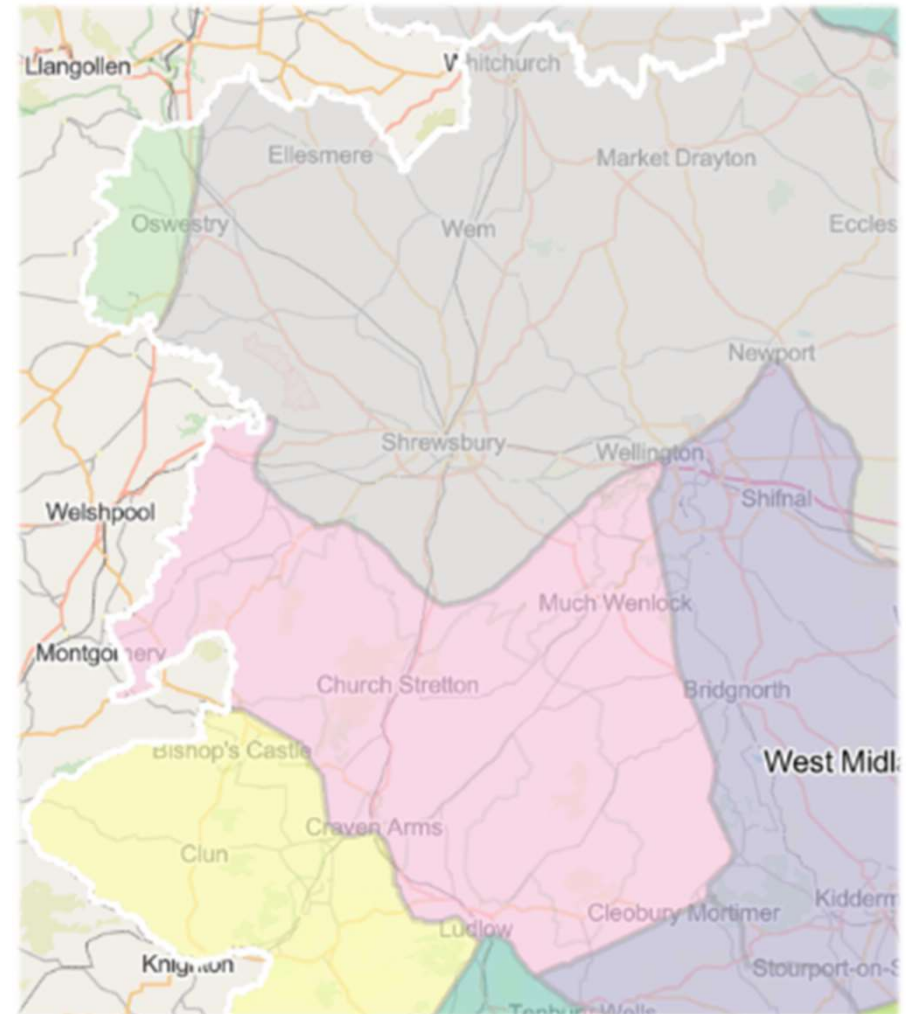
Location, location, location

STRATEGIC SIGNIFICANCE SCORE

- Where is ecologically best to provide new habitat?
- To be informed by emerging LNRS

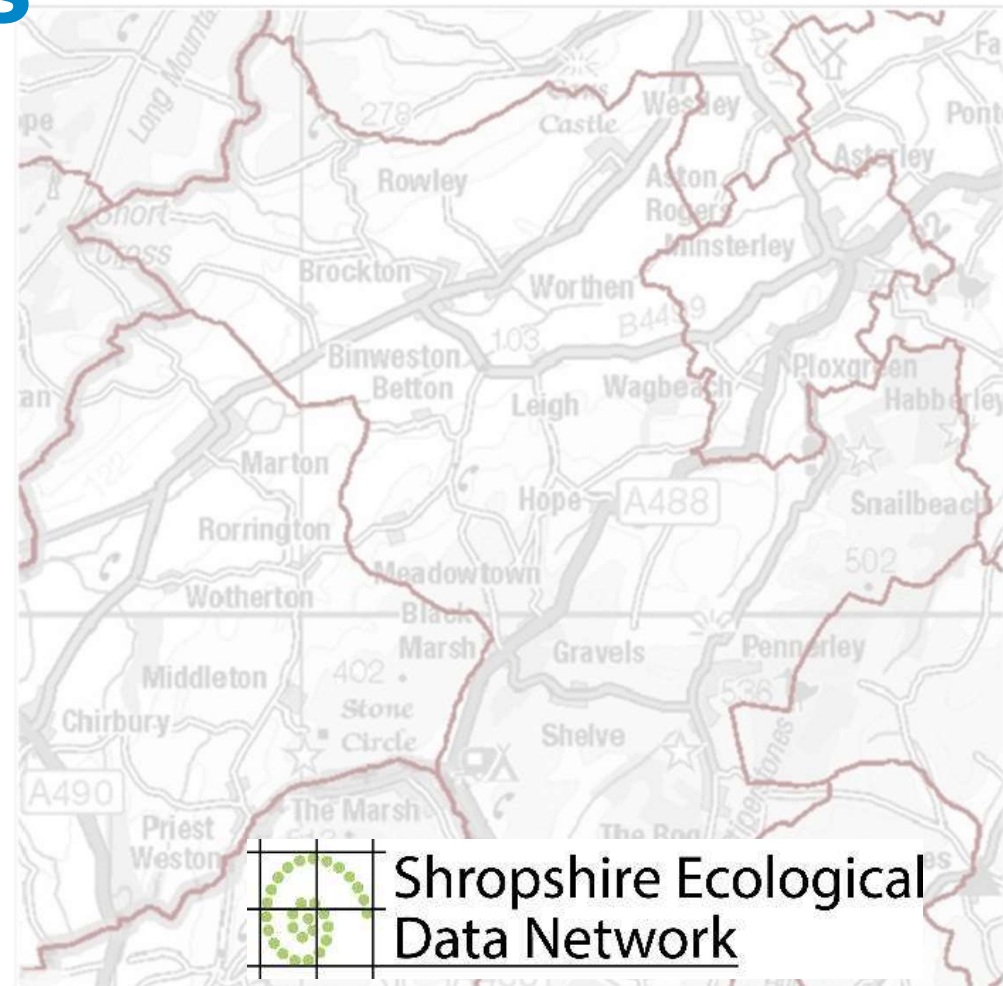
SPATIAL RISK MULTIPLIER

- Same National Character Area or LPA



Biodiversity 'duty' - Town and Parish Councils

- Neighbourhood and parish plans – audit and policy
- Management of own land
- Community involvement and support
- LNRS



Summary

- LNRS to be produced, promoting joined up action in prioritised locations with potential to utilise longer-term 'green finance' to deliver multiple benefits.
- BNG provides potential to deliver new and improved habitats, though in Shropshire, the amount may not be significant
- LAs to consider what actions they can take to enhance biodiversity through their functions.

