

Shropshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy

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Introduction

- The Environment Act 2021
- How is nature fairing?
- Government targets
- Local Nature Recovery Strategies
- Getting involved
- Councils' duties

Environment Act – new duties / new opportunities?

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



State of Nature 2023

- Abundance of terrestrial and freshwater species
- Distribution of species
- Extinction risk



Species abundance

- The abundance of 682 terrestrial and freshwater species has on average fallen by 32% across England since 1970.
- Within this general trend, 316 species have declined in abundance (46%) and 161 species have increased (24%).



Distribution of invertebrates

- The English distributions of 4,815 invertebrate species on average decreased by 18% since 1970.



Distribution of plants

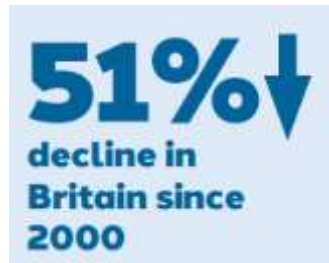
- Since 1970, the distributions of 64% of flowering plant species and 68% of bryophytes (mosses and liverworts) have decreased across England.



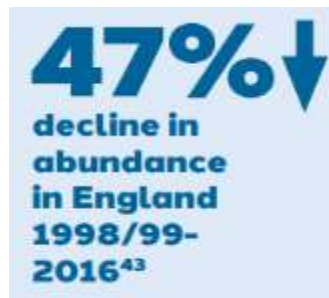
Threatened

- Of 8,840 species in England that have been assessed using IUCN Regional Red List criteria, 13% have been classified as threatened with extinction from Great Britain.

- Water vole



- Hazel dormouse



Environmental Improvement Plan



Goal 1
**Thriving plants
and wildlife**



HM Government

**Environmental
Improvement
Plan 2023**

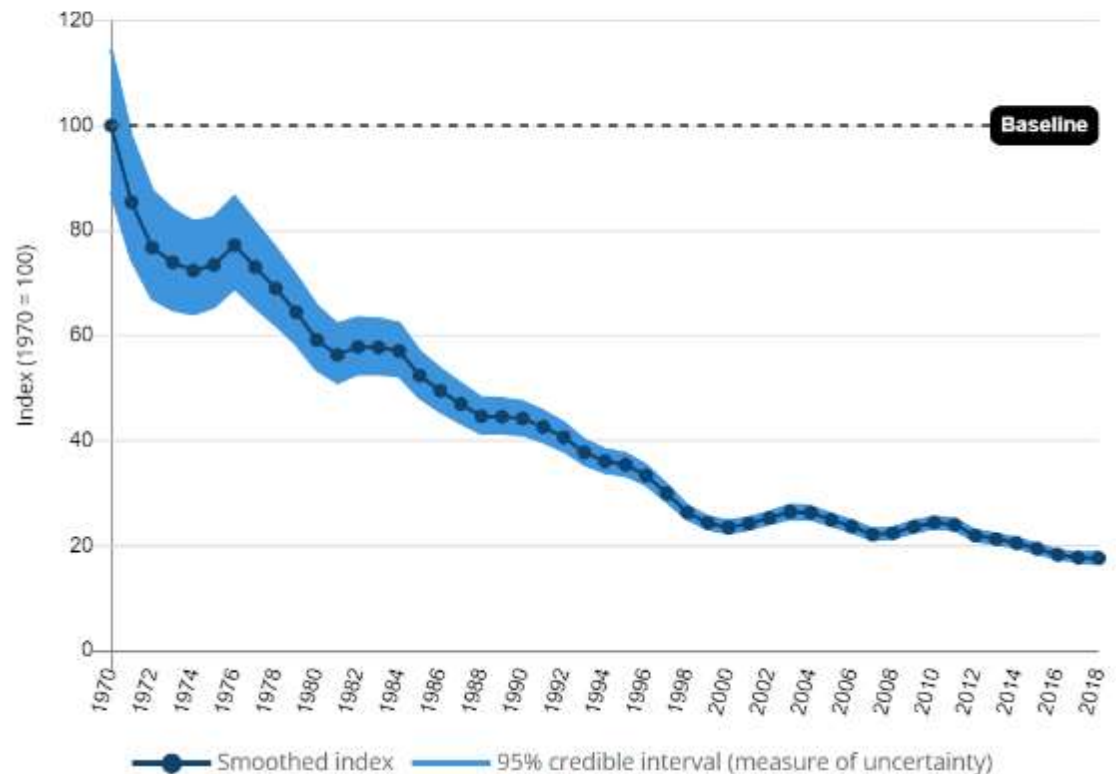
First revision of the
25 Year Environment Plan



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

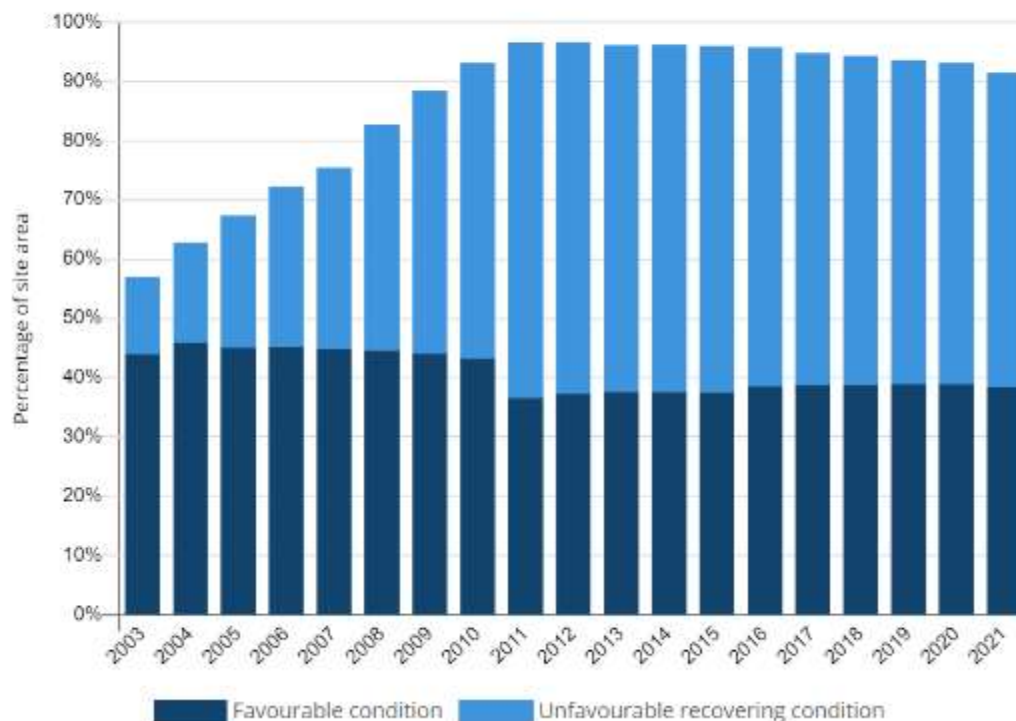
D6ai (interim): Relative abundance of priority species in England, 1970 to 2018



Target for SSSIs

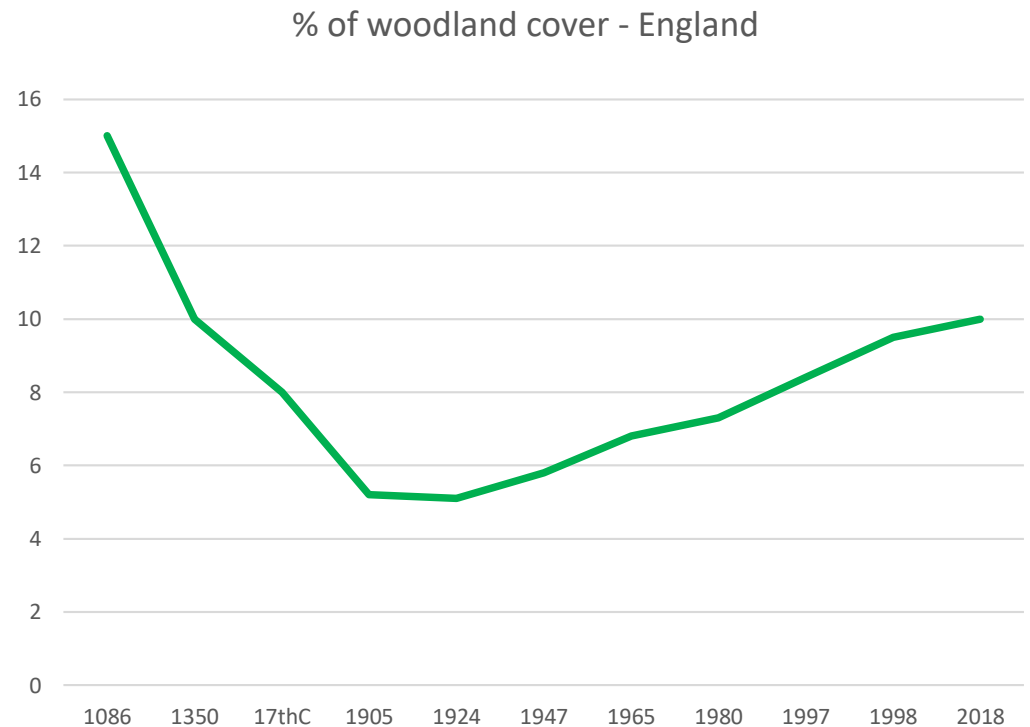
- All SSSI to have an up-to date condition assessment; and for 50% of SSSIs to have actions on track to achieve favourable condition by 31 January 2028

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

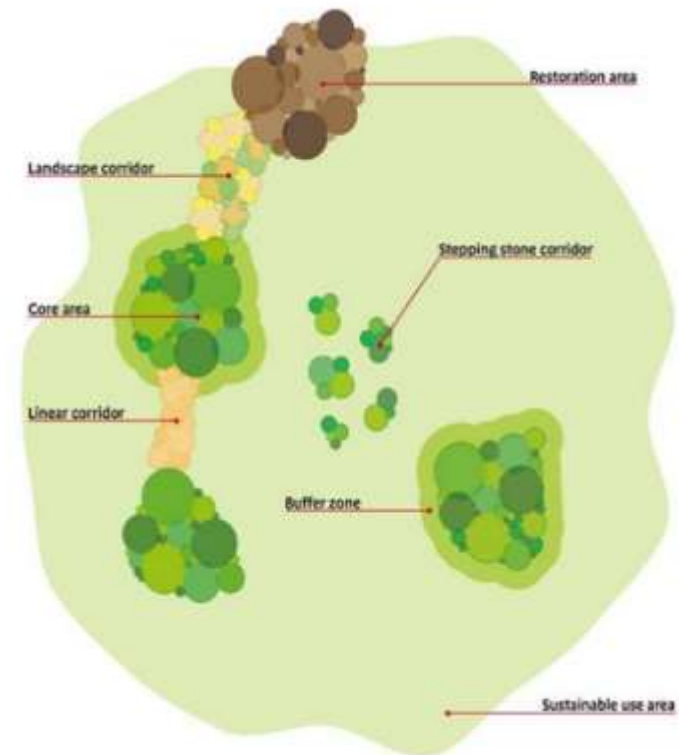
- Restore or create 140,000 hectares of wildlife-rich habitats outside protected sites by 2028, compared to 2022 levels, equivalent to 1.1%* of England.



*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.





Shropshire
Council



Getting involved

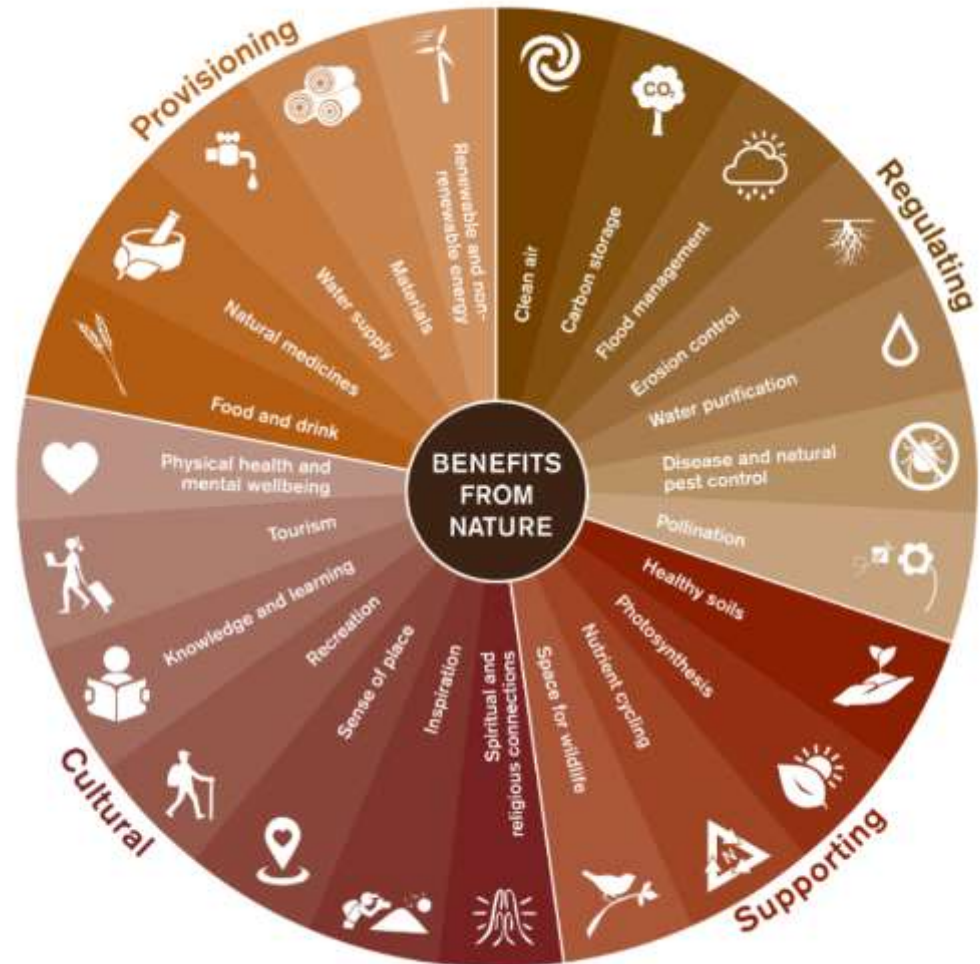
Identifying priorities and actions

- What are the end results we want to achieve for nature?
- Which species and habitats are our priority?
- What actions are needed to deliver the priorities?



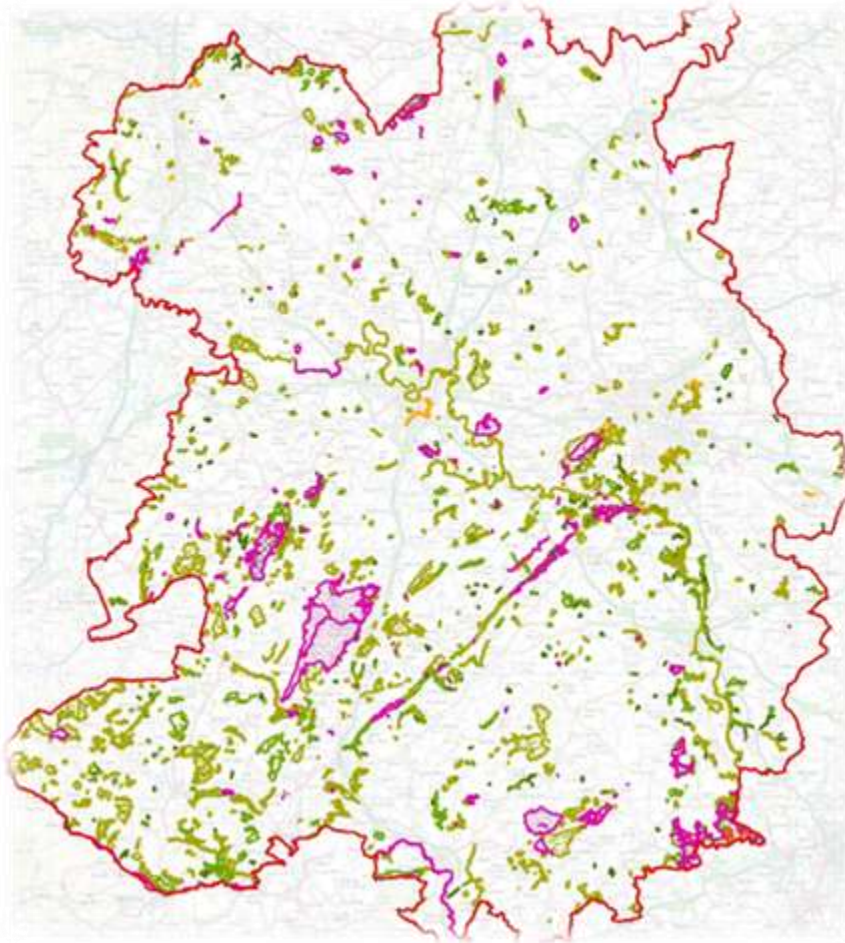
Other benefits of nature

- What other benefits derived from nature are most important for Shropshire?



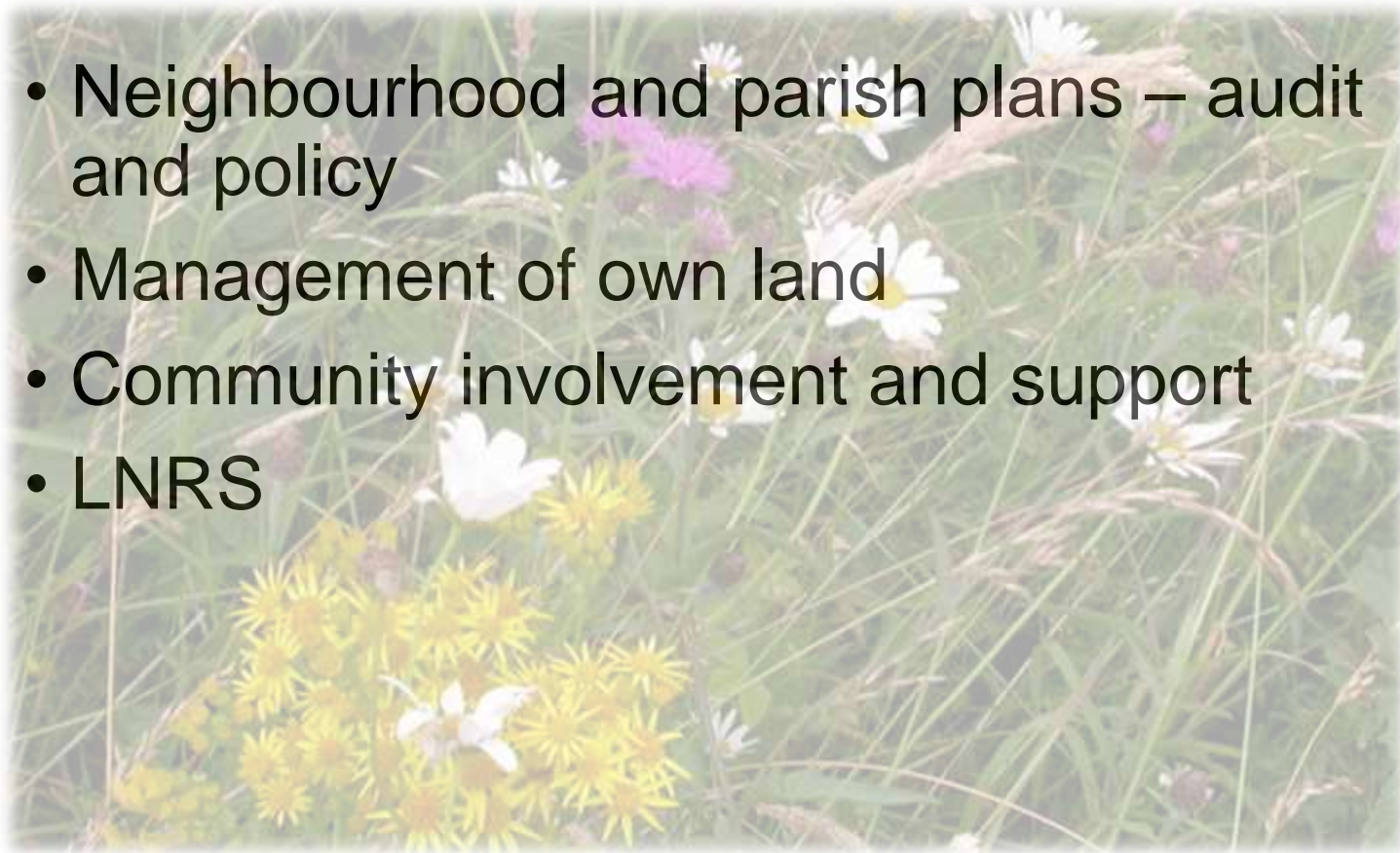


Where are actions best undertaken?



Biodiversity 'duty' - Town and Parish Councils

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





Land and nature recovery

- Do you have land you own and / or manage?
- Survey and understand
- Plan to promote biodiversity
- Act
- Monitor



Summary

- LNRS to be produced, promoting joined up action in prioritised locations.
- LAs to consider what actions they can take to enhance biodiversity through their functions.
- Opportunity to link in with Shropshire-wide aims for the recovery of nature.
- lnrs@shropshire.gov.uk
- <https://next.shropshire.gov.uk/environment/ecology-and-biodiversity/shropshire-and-telford-wrekin-local-nature-recovery-strategy/>