

Stafford Borough Council's
Biodiversity Strategy
2026 to 2030



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Foreword

Nature in the UK and across the World is in crisis. The number of wild creatures and plants of almost every sort is in decline – some to the point where species are becoming extinct. The causes are many but include climate change, engineering and development of all sorts, population increase, exploitation of natural resources, ‘factory’ farming and waste

As a council, we have recognised this emergency and are working with partners to try and stem the decline. This plan sets out a picture of where we have been making progress and what actions we can take to ensure we continue to do so.

Resources are limited, so what has been achieved reflects credit on those involved. We have been pleased to work with The Staffordshire Wildlife Trust. The Stafford Brooks Project has been an excellent example of this joint working.

We are especially grateful to the volunteer groups that have become established in various parts of the Borough which are working to make a real difference for wildlife in their local areas.

The Staffordshire Nature Recovery Strategy will identify those species and habitats which are most in need of support. We look forward to working with other councils and agencies to help make the vision a reality.

This updated strategy, reflecting recent national policy developments, includes information on new initiatives and ideas such as Biodiversity Net Gain, the Local Nature Recovery Strategy and a new Pollinator Strategy.

There is also information on new core areas including Health and Wellbeing, a factor now recognised as having significant connections with access to nature. The One-Team approach of the Council is reflected in a shared responsibility with Operations in maintaining our greenspaces and engaging with communities.

Nature recovery can play a key role in slowing the pace and combatting the effects of climate change.

**Councillor Anthony Pearce,
Cabinet Member for Climate Action
and Nature Recovery**



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "A. Pearce," written on a white background.

The Situation

The UK's State of Nature Report 2023 states that, despite some progress, the UK's nature and wider environment continues to decline and degrade.

England is now widely considered to be one of the most nature-depleted countries in the world.

Only through coordinated policy and action will we halt these losses. It is now more important than ever that we work to reverse this decline on a landscape scale.

The Environment Act 2021 (Section 102) includes a new requirement to enhance biodiversity by strengthening Section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (2006). This requires local authorities to have regard to conserving and enhancing biodiversity (the Biodiversity Duty). This means that, as a public authority, the Council must:

1. Consider what we can do to conserve and enhance biodiversity.

2. Agree policies and specific objectives based on those considerations.

3. Act to deliver the policies and achieve the objectives.

The Council must complete a report of what actions are being taken for biodiversity by January 2026. We must agree our policies and objectives as soon as possible after this and report on our actions every 5 years.

Our report must include:

- A summary of the action we've taken to comply with the biodiversity duty
- How we plan to comply with the biodiversity duty in the next reporting period
- Any other information we consider appropriate.

This updated strategy will aid the Council in fulfilling its Biodiversity Duty and providing further information on guidance, policies and actions.



Biodiversity

Biodiversity is a word that means 'the variety of living things'.

It indicates not just the vast array of life but also its inter-connectedness. It includes all species of animals, plants, fungi and bacteria and the natural systems that support them.

It is therefore not just about rare or threatened species, but also local wildlife familiar to us all. Protecting biodiversity is important because:

- There is a moral argument for preserving that which exists for its own right.
- It provides us with what is known as Natural Capital - for example, food, fresh air, clean water, and insects that pollinate our crops,
- It helps address the impacts of Climate Change,
- It is known that a green and healthy environment is good for our wellbeing, both physically and mentally.
- It is a legal duty

Our Strategy

The Council, in conjunction with its partners, will work towards maintaining and restoring habitats across the borough to create a place for nature's recovery.

This will comply with the new Biodiversity Duty that all public authorities must have regard to. Our strategy is also reflected in Stafford Borough's Nature Recovery Declaration (2022). The full text can be found in the appendix.





Trent and Mersey Canal, Stone

Our Aim

Stafford Borough will have a rich natural environment which is resilient to the effects of climate change, is well managed and enhanced with more people enjoying the area as a place to live in, work in and visit.

Our high-quality nature recovery network and accessible green spaces, waterways and landscapes will enhance our local distinctiveness and heritage, making the Borough an exceptional place for wildlife and communities - now and in the future.

Our Objectives

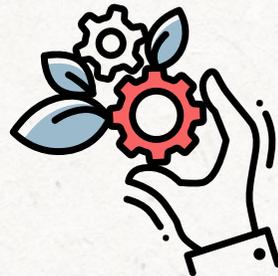
Our objectives relate to four key areas:



1.

Land Management

To halt the loss of biodiversity and to work with partners to reverse previous losses through targeted action for species and habitat enhancement and creation.



2.

Integration and Co-ordination

To encourage the consideration of biodiversity both in policy and practice across the Council's services.



3.

Awareness

To increase understanding and access to biodiversity and to engage more people in its conservation and enhancement.



4.

Legislation

To comply with the Environment Act 2021, and the strengthened Biodiversity Duty.

Employment, a safe and attractive environment, good quality housing, community safety and an active population all play a huge part in achieving a prosperous and thriving local economy, as well as being vital to good health and wellbeing and protecting our natural environment.



Deer on Cannock Chase. Photograph by Anthony Dunn

Biodiversity in Stafford Borough

Stafford Borough is a mainly rural area with a wide range of habitats that include many sites of local, national and some of international importance.

There are three rivers, the Penk, Sow and Trent that eventually meet to the west of Stafford.

In the northwest are the woodlands of Hanchurch and Bishop's Wood.

To the southeast is the heathland of Cannock Chase, designated a National Landscape.

As part of the Meres and Mosses landscape, there are a variety of wetlands in the west of the Borough such as Cop Mere, Loynton Moss and Aqualate Mere.

To the east of Stafford is Chartley Moss, Britain's largest example of a Floating Bog. On the southern border of the Borough is Motte Meadows, one of the best-preserved floodplain meadows in the country.

In total there are 15 Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs), two of which are National Nature Reserves.

The "Natura 2000 network" consists of sites that are of exceptional importance for the protection of rare, endangered or vulnerable natural habitats and species within Europe. These sites comprise of Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs). Government guidance also extends the protection to "Ramsar sites" of international importance for wetland habitats.

Cannock Chase, Pasturefields Saltmarsh, Motte Meadows and Chartley Moss are all designated as SACs. Additionally, Chartley Moss along with Cop Mere and Aqualate Mere are designated as Ramsar Sites.

There are also many Local Wildlife Sites (LWS) that are of county significance for their habitats and wildlife. Key species in the Borough include: otter, barn owl, great crested newt, small pearl-bordered fritillary, farmland birds, reptiles and bats.



Climate Change and Green Recovery Strategy

Climate change refers to a change in the climate which is caused by human activity. Caused by the release of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere, the impacts of climate change are now experienced around the globe.

From rising sea levels to an increase in the occurrence of extreme weather events, the disruption caused by climate change is far-reaching and devastating. Preventing the impacts of climate change from worsening requires the collective efforts of all. It is for this reason that in 2019, Stafford Borough Council declared a climate emergency and pledged to become a carbon neutral authority by 2035.

It is not just humans who suffer because of climate change, global wildlife populations are also negatively affected. The International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) states that climate change poses a serious threat to species conservation and identifies climate change as the biggest potential threat to natural World Heritage sites. Therefore, to give global biodiversity the best chance of future survival, climate change must be addressed.

Climate change affects biodiversity in many ways. For example, extreme weather events, the frequency and intensity of which are increasing due to climate change, can destroy habitats,

displacing species. Increasing temperatures can alter the environmental conditions of an ecosystem, resulting in species which previously thrived in an area becoming locally extinct. The impacts of climate change on biodiversity are so severe that climate change is now considered one of the main causes of biodiversity loss worldwide.

However, one of the solutions to the climate crisis is biodiversity itself. Known as nature-based solutions, working to restore and create new habitats has a wide range of benefits, including mitigating and adapting to climate change. Take tree planting, for example. Trees absorb carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. Therefore, in areas where tree cover is greater, there is likely to be less carbon in the air. Not only this, but trees provide important habitats for a wide range of species. By planting more trees, not only do we help to increase biodiversity levels, but we also help to reduce the level of carbon. Nature based solutions can range from small-scale measures, such as planting a tree,

to large-scale measures such as the restoration of flood plain meadows within a river corridor. Using them wherever possible is one of the most effective ways in which we can prevent the worst impacts of climate change from being experienced.

Climate Change is happening, and Stafford Borough is impacted by it. Therefore, the time to increase the number of nature-based solutions being delivered is now. Stafford Borough Council is committed to increasing green recovery efforts made within the area and are actively identifying opportunities to deliver nature-based solutions for climate change. This recently saw the designation of a site in Stafford as a Local Nature Reserve. As part of this designation, we have committed to habitat enhancement works on site. These works will have both climate and biodiversity benefits. For example, as part of the habitat enhancement works, trees will be planted, and former floodplain meadows will be restored. This will lead to an increase in the amount of carbon absorbed from the

atmosphere and will increase the floodwater storage capacity on site, reducing the impacts of flooding in the local area. At the same time, enhanced habitats will mean that biodiversity levels in the area will increase.

It is through projects such as the above that we can contribute to climate change efforts made in the area. To ensure that the nature-based solutions are as beneficial to both the climate and biodiversity as possible, we will:

- 1. Develop Blue and Green Infrastructure Networks and Public Realm**
- 2. Link Habitat Corridors**
- 3. Improve Habitat Management to Increase Carbon Sequestration**
- 4. Enhance Urban Greening and Biodiversity Enhancement**
- 5. Facilitate Stakeholder Collaboration and Capacity Building**
- 6. Integrate Nature-Based Solutions into Climate Adaptation Planning**

By implementing these detailed actions, we aim to create a robust framework for delivering nature-based solutions that effectively address

the dual challenges of climate change and biodiversity loss while fostering sustainable and resilient communities in Stafford Borough.



Scarlet elfcup at Loynton Moss wetland SSSI, Near Woodseaves



Great Burnet can be found at Goodall Meadow LNR, Stafford

UK Legislation

25 Year Environment Plan and Environmental Improvement Plan

In 2018, the Government's 25 Year Environment Plan (25YEP) set out goals for improving the environment. Its overarching ambition is to,

“leave our environment in a better state than we found it and to pass on to the next generation a natural environment protected and enhanced for the future”.

The Environmental Improvement Plan is the Government's first revision of the 25YEP. It builds on the framework and vision of the 25YEP, setting out a plan for delivery. At the heart of the plan is halting the decline in biodiversity. The plan also makes clear that it is not possible to mitigate and adapt to a changing climate without nature-based solutions. It's ten goals are:

- 1: Thriving plants and wildlife
- 2: Clean air
- 3: Clean and plentiful water
- 4: Managing exposure to chemicals and pesticides
- 5: Maximise our resources, minimise our waste
- 6: Using resources from nature sustainably
- 7: Mitigating and adapting to climate change

8: Reduced risk of harm from environmental hazards

9: Enhancing biosecurity

10: Enhanced beauty, heritage, and engagement with the natural environment.

The Environment Act

The Environment Act (2021) introduced a mandatory requirement for new development to deliver a net gain for biodiversity as part of the planning system. Developers in England are required to deliver 10% BNG, so that there is a positive benefit for nature. It came into force from February 2024 for developments in the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, (unless exempt), and for small sites from April 2024. Further information can be found at -

[Biodiversity net gain - GOV.UK](#)

The Act also introduced a statutory requirement for a Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) to be produced by Staffordshire County Council. LNRS will support the Borough's Nature Recovery Network as a spatial plan to protect and restore wildlife. It is expected that BNG will contribute to this ambition through off-site agreements.

The Environment Act 2021 (Section 102) also includes a new requirement to enhance biodiversity by strengthening Section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (2006). This requires local authorities to have regard to conserving and enhancing biodiversity (the Biodiversity Duty).

Additional UK law and guidance documents

- The Habitats Directive (EC Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Flora and Fauna).
- Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006
- Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981)
- The Protection of Badgers Act (1992)
- Countryside and Rights of Way Act (2000)
- National Planning Policy Framework (2019)
- UK Biodiversity Action Plan
- Making Space for Nature (2010)
- UK National Ecosystem Assessment (NEA)
- Green Infrastructure Framework (2023)
- National Planning Policy Framework (2024)
- Planning and Infrastructure Act (2025)

Planning

Planning can contribute in many ways to the conservation of biodiversity. Development Management must consider protected species, habitats, designated sites and Biodiversity Net Gain. Strategic Placemaking, or Forward Planning, pays regard to the future spatial provision of green infrastructure, land use and future development.

Development Management

The Planning Authority has a duty to consider the conservation of biodiversity when determining a planning application; this includes having regard to the safeguard of species protected under law.

Natural England now provides standing advice, which gives guidance on when to survey for protected species. Further guidance is also provided in British Standards 42020: “Biodiversity - Code of practice for planning and development”. This gives recommendations for a consistent approach to ecological information in the planning application process.

In accordance with the local authority’s duty under Section 40 of the NERC Act, proposals are encouraged that will enhance, restore or add to features or habitats used by protected species. Government guidance within the National Planning Policy Framework, Section 15, also makes clear that developments should build in features beneficial for wildlife as part of the overall design. These enhancements should

be proportionate to the scale of the development proposed and could range from the installation of nest boxes or bat bricks in a small-scale development through to the creation of areas of habitat for larger applications.

Biodiversity Net Gain

The Council has provided guidance for developers on Biodiversity Net Gain -

www.staffordbc.gov.uk/biodiversity-net-gain

The guidance includes an agreed scale of monitoring fees that will help ensure that the 30-year agreements stay on track. The Council will report every five years to Government with a summary of each new biodiversity gain plan arising from new development.

Using an up-to-date metric, and following the mitigation hierarchy, habitats will be assigned a measurable value, ensuring that post development a 10% gain in habitat value is achieved, either on-site, off-site or in combination. As part of the Biodiversity Net Gain plan, newly created or

enhanced habitats will need to be maintained for a minimum of 30 years.

Development projects that create, enhance or recover habitat in locations which are mapped in a Local Nature Recovery Strategy will get a higher biodiversity value in the biodiversity metric than they would in other locations. This will incentivise projects to make changes that meet local priorities for nature recovery.



Local Nature Recovery Strategy

All public authorities have a duty to conserve and enhance biodiversity and must “have regard” to relevant Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRS) in the process.

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Nature recovery strategies are a system of spatial strategies for nature and environmental improvement required by law under the Environment Act. Each strategy must:

- Agree priorities for nature’s recovery
- Map the most valuable existing areas for nature
- Map specific proposals for creating or improving habitat for nature and wider environmental goals

Establishing a Local Nature Recovery Network:

- Enhances, restores and expands existing wildlife sites
- Complements and connects sites through wildlife corridors and stepping-stones, buffering zones of sustainably managed land
- Provides ecosystem benefits such as carbon capture, climate resilience, flood management, improved air and water quality, pollination, sustainable resources

- Enables access to and enjoyment of nature - benefitting health and wellbeing

In Staffordshire, the County Council is the Responsible Authority with the duty of preparing the strategy, along with the role of Stafford Borough as a Supporting Authority.

The Council’s role as a Supporting Authority is:

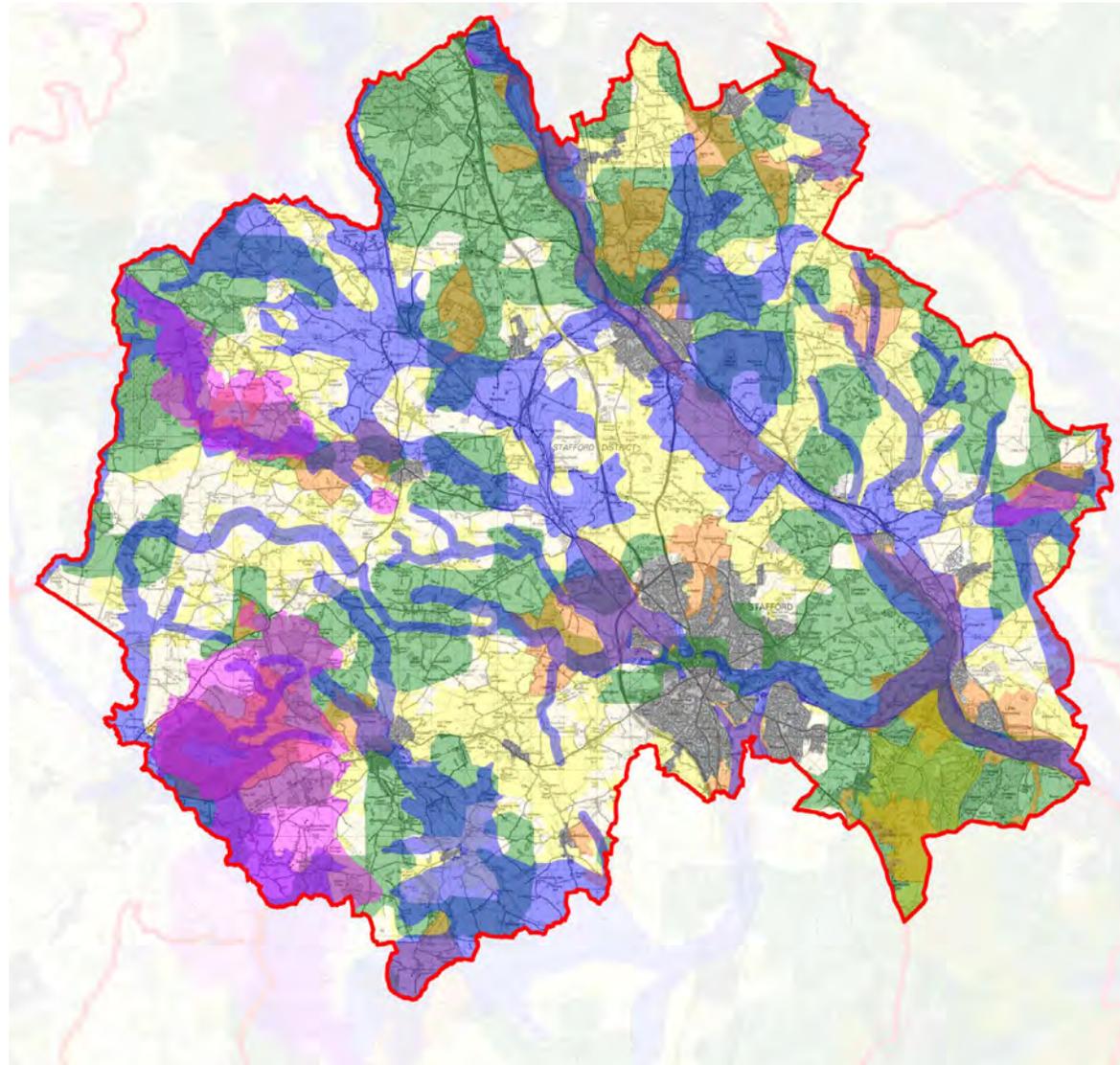
- To make sure LNRS dovetail with the planning system
- LNRS will identify areas for nature recovery for Local Plans; Local Plans will help LNRS understand which areas of land are earmarked for other uses
- So that the LNRS reflects local requirements on delivery of BNG
- To provide a different point of view and constructive challenge

In Stafford Borough, mapping habitats and designated sites has been supported by work carried out by the Wildlife Trust. This mapping exercise has created a Nature Recovery Network for the Borough. The map also indicates opportunity areas where targeted works would help create larger, connected areas of suitable habitat.



Heron, Essex Bridge, Great Haywood

Stafford Borough Nature Recovery Network



Legend

 Stafford Borough Boundary

Opportunity Area

 Meres and Mosses

 Wetland

 Heathland

 Grassland

 Woodland

 Urban Fabric

Pasture and Arable Land Opportunity Area

 Pastures

 Arable

Strategic Placemaking

Strategic Planning and Placemaking is responsible for Planning Policy in the Borough and the preparation of the new Local Plan.

The new Plan sets out the development strategy to 2031 as well as the policies that will be used to assess planning applications. The Plan will help deliver national planning policy, set out in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), which states that local authorities should aim to:

- maintain, enhance, restore or achieve a gain in biodiversity
- base decisions on up-to-date information
- adopt a strategic approach to conservation and enhancement of biodiversity incorporate biodiversity within the design of new developments and
- support development schemes that contribute to local biodiversity.

Local Plans should also set out policies that will aim to prevent harm to biodiversity, through consideration of alternative development sites and requiring adequate mitigation or compensation.

The adoption of such a proactive approach to the conservation of biodiversity interests through the new Local Plan is consistent with the biodiversity duty placed upon local authorities. The most effective implementation of these policy areas is likely to be achieved through

collaboration or partnership working with other agencies and organizations, such as Natural England and the Staffordshire Wildlife Trust.

The Plan for Stafford Borough includes a specific Policy N4, The Natural Environment and Green Infrastructure (GI), as well as a definition of Green Infrastructure:

“A network of multi-functional green space, urban and rural, which is capable of delivering a wide range of environmental and quality of life benefits to local communities.”

These networks will be enhanced and created to protect the setting of the landscape, heritage and natural assets, reverse habitat fragmentation, provide recreational opportunities for new and existing communities and protect strategic green spaces within settlements.

GI will also enable sustainable commuting to take place by providing attractive cycling and walking links. The network can also aid in alleviating the effects of climate change through sustainable drainage systems and support biodiversity by allowing species movements within green links.

Stafford Borough Council have a Green Infrastructure Strategy that sets out the

framework for developing the Borough’s green infrastructure now and in the future. More information can be found at -

www.staffordbc.gov.uk/green-infrastructure



Reconnecting with Nature

Research has shown that the conditions of modern life have disconnected us from Nature, which can be seen as something separate and perhaps not necessarily valid or important. If we are to properly address both the Climate Change crisis and the Biodiversity Crisis, then there will need to be a change in how we value and interact with Nature.

“There is now a solid body of evidence from dozens of studies that have shown having a strong sense of connection to nature helps people feel good and function well. The effect is powerful; a population survey found the strength of a person’s sense of connection to nature was four times more important than socio-economic status in explaining their sense that life is worthwhile.”

[The Nature Connection Handbook - nature-connection-handbook.pdf](#)

Whilst access to Nature is important, it has been found that a deeper sense of interaction has the most impact, so for example, dog-walking may be the focus of the activity and Nature is just seen as the backdrop. What is required are any behaviours that make us stop and take in the natural world, i.e. watching birds in the garden, noticing the bees and butterflies, or taking a minute to photograph a wildflower. These actions place us in Nature rather than just observing, and it is this deeper sense of connection that provides measurable wellbeing.

The Council’s Local Nature Reserves feature information signage that helps visitor identify key species or habitats. The role of the LNRs is to be

not just good places for wildlife but also for people to benefit from. It is hoped that they function as local oases of nature connection.



Local Nature Reserves in Stafford Borough

Stafford Borough Council manages eight Local Nature Reserves (LNRs) and assist with Stone Town Council's 'Crown Meadow' making nine in total across the Borough.

LNRs are designated by local authorities under the Natural Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949. They are places that support a rich variety of wildlife and are important to local people, by enabling contact with the natural world.

The reserves include examples of marsh, heath, reedbed, woodland and meadow. Many different plants, insects and animals live in these different habitats. Each site has its own five-year Management Plan, which can be viewed on our website. We are always looking at ways to improve our management and undertake an annual programme of maintenance work.

More information on our LNRs can be found on the Council website

www.staffordbc.gov.uk/biodiversity-and-nature-conservation

The LNRs are:



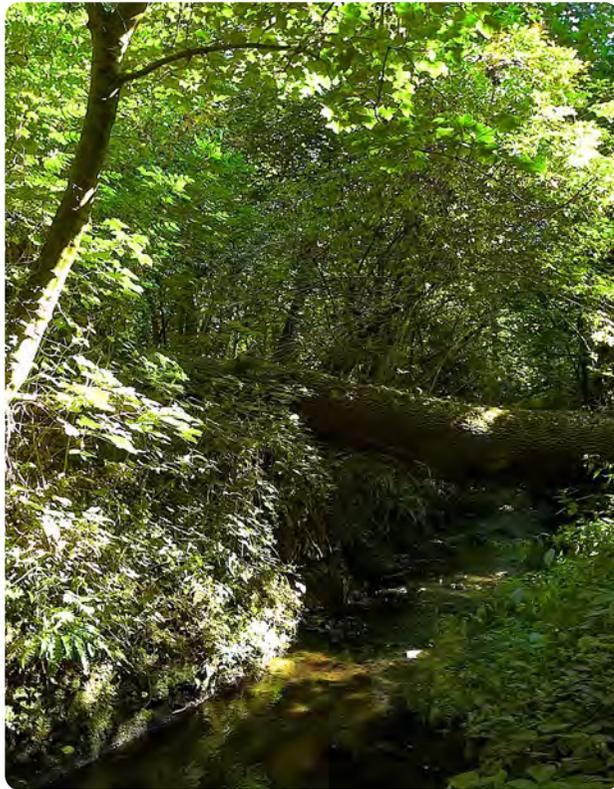
Astonfields Balancing Lakes

Astonfields has a great diversity of habitats to discover including reedbed, open water, hedgerows and woodland. It is a good site for birdwatching with a good variety of birds including Water Rail, Reed Warbler, Teal and Kingfisher. It is the only LNR in the country to feature an area of saltmarsh, rare in an inland county like Staffordshire.



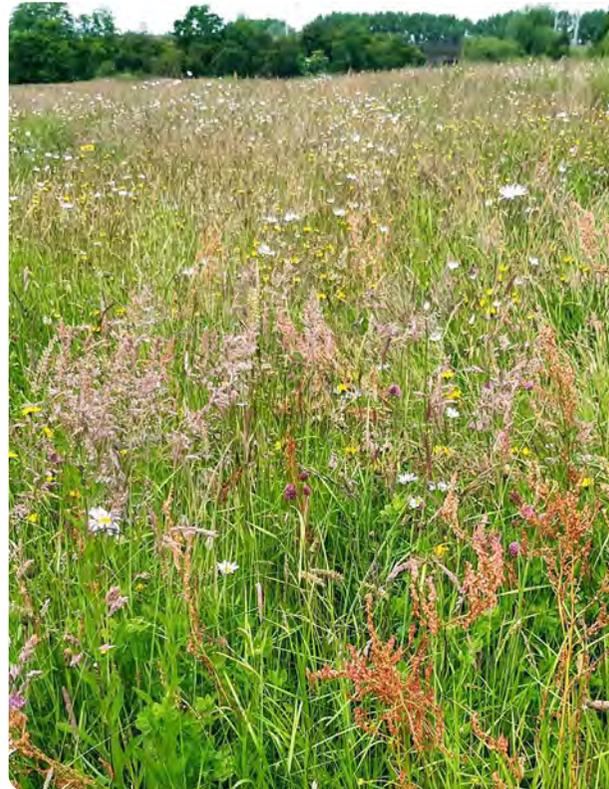
Kingsmead Marsh

Near the centre of town this marsh is home to many species of wetland plants such as reed grasses, sedges, Purple Loosestrife and Gipsywort. Management includes control of willow growth to maintain the open marsh. A short boardwalk allows public access to a section of the reserve.



Kingston Pool Covert (South)

This wet woodland site has many species of woodland bird including Tree Creeper, Great Spotted Woodpecker and Green Woodpecker. Seven species of fern are found on site as well as many woodland plants. The site has required extensive tree works for safety reasons.



Goodall Meadow

Formerly agricultural fields with little biodiversity interest, the site is currently being restored to species-rich floodplain meadow. The tree-lined edges along the river will be planted with new hedgerows. Ponds and scrapes have been added - along with re-profiling of sections of the riverbank.



Southern Meadow

The sister site to Goodall Meadow, situated further east along the Trent corridor. Meadow restoration is being undertaken to return the site to species-rich floodplain meadow. An area of wet woodland runs along the southern boundary.

Crown Meadow

Managed by Stone Town Council, this site has wetland scrapes, pathways and footbridge. The management aims are to enhance the scrapes and create a flower rich hay meadow.



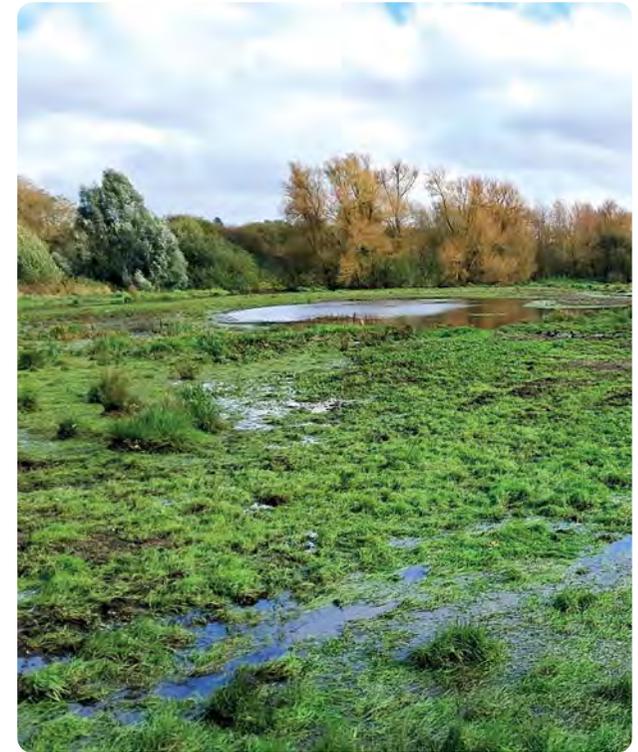
Ferndown

A popular site, this reserve offers created flower rich meadows, scrub and small areas of woodland. Recent works include a new playground and wetland marsh area. Four species of orchid have been recorded growing on site.



Barlaston and Rough Close Common

Barlaston and Rough Close Common is 21ha of heathland and is the largest of the Borough's LNRs. External funding allowed the lower common to be fenced to carry out conservation grazing and had a positive effect of restoring habitats. We are planning on the reinstatement of grazing. The site features many typical plants such as heather, bilberry and cowberry.



Riverside LNR

Riverside is the most recent of the Council's LNRs, declared in 2021 and one of the largest. It features 17ha of floodplain grazing marsh, with areas of meadow and wet woodland. Site management will aim to restore these habitats over the next ten years and has been funded by the Stafford Brooks project, a partnership with the Wildlife Trust, the Environment Agency, National Highways and the Council.



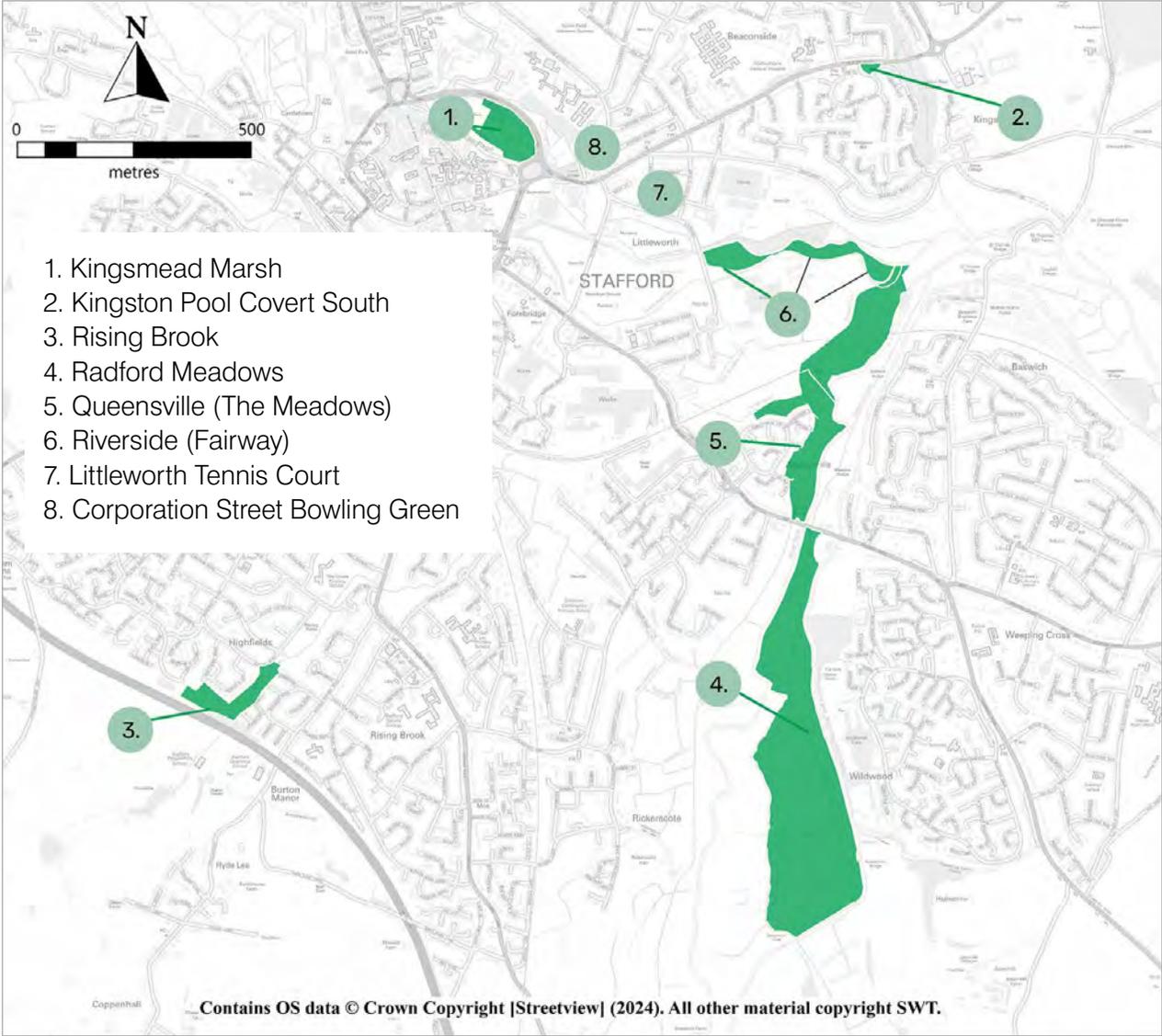
Stafford Brooks

Stafford Brooks

The Stafford Brooks project is a partnership between the Council, Staffordshire Wildlife Trust, the Environment Agency and National Highways, who provided the designated funding for the scheme.

The project has delivered environmental enhancements to nature reserves and greenspace locations across Stafford, improving connectivity between habitats to create a nature recovery network for the town. It will allow local communities better opportunities to engage with nature. The following map shows the location of the works.

Local Nature Reserves in Stafford benefited from enhancements to their habitats. The greatest amount of work took place on the largest and newest of the sites, Riverside LNR, with extensive areas of new scrapes and pools, plus re-seeding of meadow areas. Kingsmead Marsh has four new dragonfly ponds. As an extension to the original funding, Kingston Pool Covert has been re-wetted, with new riffles in the channel of the Kingston Brook and new channels and pools.





Local Wildlife Sites

In Stafford Borough Local Wildlife Sites consist of two tiers of sites designated for their wildlife value. These are known as Sites of Biological Importance - sites considered to be of County value, and Biodiversity Alert Sites, considered to have local value.

These sites have a wide variety of good quality habitats and species. They provide the backbone to Stafford Borough's rich natural environment. The Government report, "Making space for Nature" (2010) highlighted the importance of Local Wildlife Sites for providing refuges for wildlife and acting as, "stepping-stones and corridors to link and protect nationally and internationally designated sites."

LWS's provide services not just for nature but also for social, economic and health benefits such as green infrastructure, tourism, recreation, water and air quality and climate change adaptation. Sites are assessed against set criteria by a panel belonging to Staffordshire Wildlife Sites Partnership, comprised of members of relevant organisations and hosted by Staffordshire Wildlife Trust.

From 2012, a new programme of re-surveying the Borough's SBI's has been undertaken by Staffordshire Wildlife Trust and funded by the Council.

This is enabling us to get crucial up-to-date information on the condition of these sites and discern what long-term management is required to maintain and enhance them.

Additionally, 23 new sites have been added to the inventory, many of which are Ancient Woodlands that have never been surveyed before.



Case Study

Moss Farm

As part of Staffordshire Wildlife Trust re-surveying programme, they visited Moss Farm located west of Eccleshall. This was previously recorded as a historical SBI but had very little surviving information about what was actually there.

The site was discovered to be approximately 5 ha of rare Lowland Raised Bog habitat that contains a variety of special bog and heathland plants. Species discovered include cross-leaved heath and adder's-tongue, which are both uncommon in Staffordshire, and cranberry and round-leaved sundew, which are both rare in the county.

In addition to this, Moss Farm has been mentioned in the national report, The Status of England's Local Wildlife Sites 2014 and Secret Spaces pamphlet, both of which are written by The Wildlife Trusts. The site is mentioned in the reports as it is a positive case study, due to appropriate conservation management being secured on the site by Staffordshire Wildlife Trust through agricultural stewardship.



Sherbrook Valley, Cannock Chase

Cannock Chase

Cannock Chase National Landscape

Cannock Chase was designated as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) in 1958 because of its beautiful landscape, its wildlife and its history. In November 2023 the AONB became officially renamed Cannock Chase National Landscape.

Cannock Chase is the largest surviving area of lowland heathland in the Midlands. Lowland heath is an internationally scarce and threatened wildlife habitat. The National Landscape also has extensive areas of forest and woodland along with areas of designed parkland, sand and gravel quarrying and mixed agriculture. A large northern section of the area lies within the Stafford Borough boundary.

Stafford Borough Council along with Natural England and four other local authorities (Cannock Chase Council, Lichfield District Council, South Staffordshire Council and Staffordshire County Council) fund and support the work of the Cannock Chase National Landscape Unit and implementation of the Cannock Chase Management Plan through the Joint Committee and Officer Working Group. Additional work on specific projects is carried out by a range of partners.

Special Area of Conservation (SAC) Partnership

Occupying part of Cannock Chase National Landscape, the Cannock Chase SAC is one of the best examples in the UK for European dry heathland and is the most extensive in the Midlands region.

An Appropriate Assessment has been carried out with regard to the Plan for Stafford Borough. The evidence from this assessment shows that any development within 15km of the Cannock Chase SAC may have a significant impact on the site.

The Council is part of a SAC Partnership, which works together to prevent damage to the SAC.

The Council must ensure that decisions made on planning applications will not have a negative impact on Cannock Chase SAC, in line with Policy N6 of the Plan for Stafford Borough. If there are any potential negative impacts, the Council must either refuse development, or ensure there are appropriate mitigation measures in place.



Pony trekking on Cannock Chase

Parks and Open Spaces

Stafford Borough Council manages just over 316 hectares of open space land.

These sites range from the formal parks of Victoria Park, (Stafford) and Stonefield Park, (Stone), to large areas of public open space such as the Meadows, Castlefields and Creswell Manor Farm, to grass verges, rough grass land, trees and flower beds.

Our site's contributions to biodiversity include varied trees, areas of long grass, wildflowers and flowering shrubs and habitat for animals such as badger, water vole, otter, birds, bats and bees.

Flowers and Shrubs

Every year the Council plants summer and winter bedding plants. These plants provide food for insects and in turn birds and bats, as well as keeping our parks and town centres brightly decorated. Along with the seasonal bedding plants our parks contain a range of plants and shrubs that provide food in terms of nectar and berries throughout the year.

Rivers and Ponds

Across the Borough, the Council manages numerous ponds, ditches and sections of the River Sow. These water bodies provide habitat for fish, insects, birds, amphibians along with nesting sites for wildfowl and the graceful Mute swan.

The River Sow, which runs through the heart of Stafford, is managed by the Council along the section that runs from Sainsbury's and up to and including Victoria Park. The river contains water lilies, Purple Loosestrife, Yellow Iris, along with some regionally rare aquatic plant species. The river links directly with Staffordshire Wildlife Trust's Doxey and Tillington Marshes Reserve and acts as a significant wildlife corridor.

Some people prefer to see rivers with no aquatic channel vegetation. To undertake a programme of removal however would reduce the biodiversity of the river by removing natural spawning and shelter sites, reducing the insect, bird and fish populations.

◀ *Purple loosestrife in the River Sow, Victoria Park, Stafford*



Trees

Across its sites, the Council manages thousands of trees covering newly planted trees and whips to veteran trees including Oak, Ash, Beech, Sweet Chestnut and Horse Chestnut. Our policy is to only fell a tree when it is absolutely necessary in terms of safety or when the tree is proven to be causing damage and there is no other management option. Where trees are felled the Council replaces these trees in suitable locations across the Borough. By adopting this approach, we ensure that trees are planted in the most appropriate location, spreading the tree cover across the Borough.

The species chosen for replanting varies depending upon the site and where possible native trees are planted. In more formal areas exotic ornamental trees are mixed in to provide variation and landmarks. Victoria Park contains no less than 41 different species of tree.

Many of the UK's traditional trees are at risk from the changing climate and warmer wetter winters. As a result, Horse Chestnut, Elm and London Plane are coming under greater attack from disease. Unlike some authorities we continue to plant these trees where possible to ensure that they do not disappear from our local landscape. We keep a constant watch on our tree stock to ensure that diseased trees are removed as soon as possible to prevent further spread.

At present we do not plant any sycamore across any of our sites. On new developments we work with developers to produce a varied planted scheme and ensure that the right tree is planted in the right location.

Stafford Borough Council protects trees with amenity value by designating Tree Preservation Orders. A Tree Preservation Order or TPO is an Order made by the Council that gives legal protection to trees or woodlands which make a significant impact on local surroundings. A TPO makes the felling, lopping, willful damage or destruction to trees without the written permission of this authority a criminal offence.

Hedgerows

The Hedgerow Regulations 1997 require notification for the removal of most rural hedgerows. It is a criminal offence to deliberately remove a hedgerow without permission. A hedgerow is important if it satisfies a number of criteria set out in the Regulations.

Further information can be found at:

www.staffordbc.gov.uk/hedgerows

Access to Open Space

The majority of our open spaces are freely accessible to the public to roam wherever they like. In addition to this many of the Council's play areas are also provided on these large natural open spaces providing a link between formal play and free nature play.

For more information on the Council's Parks and Open Spaces visit

www.staffordbc.gov.uk/open-space-sport-and-recreation





Victoria Park, Stafford

Green Flag

The Green Flag Award scheme 'recognises and rewards well managed parks and green spaces, setting the benchmark standard for the management of recreational outdoor spaces across the United Kingdom and around the world'.

The scheme's stated purpose and aims are:

- To ensure that everybody has access to quality green and other open spaces, irrespective of where they live.
- To ensure that these spaces are appropriately managed and meet the needs of the communities that they serve.
- To establish standards of good management.
- To promote and share good practice amongst the green space sector.
- To recognise and reward the hard work of managers, staff and volunteers.

In 2006 Stafford's Victoria Park attained the borough's first Green Flag. Then, in 2014 Tixall Road Crematorium followed suit since when, Stonefield Park in Stone, Eccleshall Road Cemetery in Stafford, Stone Cemetery and Wildwood Park have also been successful in achieving the award.

Each of the borough's Green Flag winning sites offer a unique set of assets and attributes that provide significant benefit to the local community and those who visit from further afield.

Sites are judged on a range of criteria including how healthy, safe and secure they are, how well maintained they are, the environmental management in place and the biodiversity, landscape and heritage management of each site.



Stafford Crematorium, Tixall Road, Stafford

Pollinator Strategy



The Council will work to support land management, developers and communities to provide better habitat for pollinators across our towns and developments in the wider countryside.

This work will include where possible, management of parks and amenity grassland, new housing developments, schools, cemeteries, road verges and roundabouts.

In creating a pollinator friendly strategy for Stafford Borough, it is our aim to improve conditions for pollinators in accordance with the aims set out in Defra's National Pollinator Strategy (2014 - 2024),

- More, bigger, better, joined-up, diverse and high-quality flower-rich habitats (including nesting places and shelter) supporting our pollinators across the country.
- Healthy bees and other pollinators which are more resilient to climate change and severe weather events.
- Enhanced awareness across a wide range of businesses, other organisations and the public of the essential needs of pollinators.
- Evidence of actions taken to support pollinators.

A pollinator friendly borough would seek to create a better environment for all pollinating insects including bumblebees, solitary bees,

hoverflies, wasps, flies, beetles, butterflies, moths and honeybees.

There are five principle actions recommended to achieve this aim and they are:

- 1. Manage our land to have more native flowers, shrubs and trees that provide nectar and pollen**
- 2. Cut grass less often and ideally remove cuttings to allow plants to flower**
- 3. Avoid disturbing or destroying nesting/hibernating insects by having grass margins, bare soil, dead wood**
- 4. Support communities in enhancing their local open space for nature**
- 5. Reduce and phase out pesticide use**

Bee Friendly Stafford

One initiative that will greatly help pollinating insects in Stafford was the successful application to become a recognised 'Bee Friendly Town'. This accolade is awarded by the Bee Friendly Trust, in recognition of meeting their criteria for bee-friendly actions and activities, including planting up patches of land, support from local schools and community events. Additionally, the Council has undertaken or supported many other actions to enhance open spaces for biodiversity - that will benefit pollinators.

- Continuing to manage and improve 14 hectares of flower-rich meadows on our own Stone Meadows and Ferndown Local Nature Reserves.
- Conservation grazing on Barlaston Common LNR and the resultant increase in heather and other plants.
- Streetscene, local Bumblebee Conservation Trust along with "Wild about Stafford" volunteers have created a "bee - friendly" area of open space at Astonfields Road.
- Supporting Rising Brook with their new wildflower areas
- A new meadow area at Eccleshall Road cemetery

Open Spaces and Biodiversity

Additionally, the Council has undertaken or supported many other actions to enhance open spaces for biodiversity that will benefit pollinators, often with the help of local residents and groups.

West Way triangle (near A449) tree planting and no mow areas. (Rising Brook Ground Force)

West Way (old play area site) wildflower areas. (Scout Group)

Doxey Meadows - wildflower planting, tree planting, pathways, benches. Community space. (Doxey Group)

Martin Drive - tree planting, wildflower areas. (Castle Fields Residents Association)

Rosehill, Castlefield's open space - no mow areas. (Castle Fields Residents Association)

Sandon Road - wildflower areas, raised beds, bulb planting.

Falmouth Avenue open space - wildflower planting, tree planting, nature area. (Baswich Residents)

Dawlish Avenue - tree planting/orchard. (Baswich Residents)

Aston Lodge Estate - no mow areas. (Aston Lodge Residents Association)

Sandyford Street - no mow areas, wildflower areas.

Castle Acre - wildflowers. (Residents' Group)

Rising Brook and library field - no mow areas.

Tixall Road Crematorium - wildflower area.

Old Tillington Hall frontage - wild no mow areas.

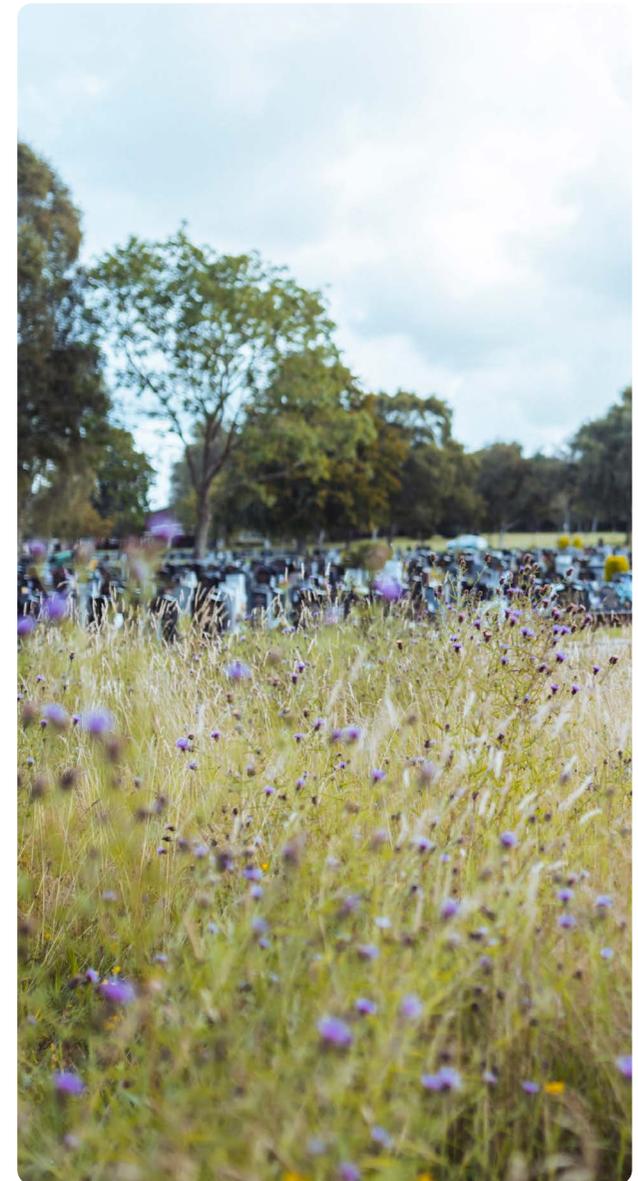
Friars Terrace - no mow area.

Wildwood Drive - tree planting and no mow areas. (Residents' Group)

Hillcroft Park - various no mow areas. (G-Miss Group)



Wildflower area at Holmcroft Park



Wildflower area at Tixall Road Cemetery



Health and Wellbeing

There is a growing body of evidence to suggest that green spaces can improve health and wellbeing (NHS, 2021).

Ensuring that green spaces are not only protected in terms of biodiversity but are also pleasant can ensure that people are living healthy and well. Access to green spaces in which people can live healthier lives with a greater sense of wellbeing is a factor in reducing health inequalities.

The 5 ways of wellbeing are important in utilising green space to improve health and wellbeing. These relate to three key objectives within the strategy of land management. Integration and co-ordination and Awareness.

The 5 ways of wellbeing are:

1. Connect

.....

2. Keep learning

.....

3. Take notice

.....

4. Be active

.....

5. Give

.....

Connect refers to connecting with people around you, with family and friends and neighbours in your local community. Connecting with people in green spaces can reduce loneliness

and provide a freely available space in which connections with others can be built. Further to this, connecting with nature can support improved physical and mental wellbeing. To achieve this, Stafford Borough Council will engage with local schools, voluntary sector and other charitable organisations who work with people who are lonely or live in deprived areas, to spread awareness around what spaces are available.

Keep Learning refers to trying something new and setting a personal challenge, which can generate fun and increase confidence in life opportunities. By ensuring that our partners and stakeholders have a good understanding of our aims, objectives and challenges in this area can ensure they have the knowledge to best support us in achieving our objectives. Stafford Borough Council can achieve this by making relevant information about our habitats accessible and engaging to our partners, stakeholders, and communities.

Take notice refers to being curious and noticing the natural environment. For our residents and visitors to the Borough, having positive experiences and taking time to reflect in nature can increase enjoyment of biodiversity. We will signpost locations of interest and engage with

schools and partners. We will also encourage the enjoyment of biodiversity through increasing access to our parks and open spaces.

Be Active means going outside and moving in a way that suits your level of mobility and fitness. Increased physical activity can reduce our risks of major illnesses, such as heart disease and type 2 diabetes and can increase our life expectancy. We will support land management by giving clear guidance about appropriate use of spaces that support biodiversity. We will also identify areas that can be used for physical activity and areas that need greater protection.

Finally, **Give** refers to doing something for someone else such as supporting a charity or volunteering. By taking part in the local community and engagement meaningfully with biodiversity people can create a sense of ownership and commitment to the local community that is rewarding and creates connections with people and places. We will achieve this by supporting new or existing 'Friends of' parks and places groups as well as relevant charitable organisations to identify and engage with Stafford's biodiversity as a local asset.

Community Involvement

There are many ways in which people have a part to play in helping preserve biodiversity.

There are volunteering opportunities on many of the nature reserves in the Borough, including those owned by Staffordshire Wildlife Trust. There are many wildlife organisations to join like the RSPB, Plantlife or the Wildlife Trust. The Eco-schools programme is a vibrant network of schools that undertake a range of green initiatives. Many businesses now have environmental management systems in place or provide volunteers for conservation. Even in our own gardens we can all make a difference by adding wildlife friendly features.



Wild about Stafford

Staffordshire Wildlife Trust's "Wild about Stafford" project is working in Stafford Borough to help 'reconnect' volunteers with their local wild spaces. The benefits of 'connecting' with nature, is well documented, with benefits including mental wellbeing, physical health and ownership.

The events are held on the Borough's Local Nature Reserves where a variety of conservation work is undertaken. Work includes meadow restoration, woodland management and scrub control. The sessions cater for people of all abilities with all tools, equipment and expert tuition provided. And yes, there is always time for a break with tea and biscuits on hand!

This work is set to continue with events across the Borough's Local Nature Reserves and has proved to be a successful example of partnership working between the Wildlife Trust and the Council.

◀ *Wild about Stafford volunteers at Barlaston and Rough Close Common.*

Education

School grounds are ideal places to get children involved, in a hands-on way, with the natural environment.

They offer a safe, practical and exciting opportunity for outdoor learning that can complement classroom-based activities.

Biodiversity has direct links to the science curriculum, providing knowledge, skills and understanding across the key stages in the following areas: Life processes; Humans and other animals; Green plants; Variation and classification, inheritance and evolution; Living things in their environment.



Residents

Gardens and allotments

In urban areas especially, gardens and allotments have an important role in supplying habitat for biodiversity. Increasingly people are realising that gardening can be a way of both enjoying and helping nature. There are a number of features that can be incorporated into a garden to help make it greener and more attractive to wildlife.

- Ponds
- Log pile
- Rockery
- Compost heap
- Water butt
- Bird feeders
- Nest boxes / bat boxes

There are also several things to avoid using including pesticides and herbicides. There are now good alternatives to peat - whose continued harvesting is damaging the environment.

Wildlife friendly planting

Any nectar rich flowers and berry producing shrubs will attract wildlife into the garden. A good variety of plants that will flower across the whole season will help bees, butterflies and other insects. This is particularly important because many bee species are now in decline. Some of the best plants include traditional herbs such as Rosemary, Lavender, Thyme, and Marjoram. Perhaps the most popular plant for butterflies is the Buddleia. By planting flowers like Fennel many aphid-eating insects will be encouraged, for example hoverflies. Hebes and Cotoneasters will both attract bees and butterflies.

If you have a paved area in your garden then removing a couple of slabs and planting low growing plants in the gaps would add interest. Herbs such as thyme and chamomile are suitable but any size of plants in the gaps will attract wildlife successfully. A trellis will add vertical space and many climbers are good for wildlife, especially Honeysuckle which will attract nighttime visitors like moths.

Lawns can have low growing perennials added to them, for example Speedwells, Daisy, Self-Heal, Bird's-foot Trefoil. If you feel more adventurous and have the space, then allowing

a meadow area to develop would really help wildlife. There are now many suppliers who specialise in providing native seeds and plants.

Containers or hanging baskets are also ways of adding plants where space is limited. Even if you have no garden a window box can still add interest.





Measuring Biodiversity Progress

It is important to have additional mechanisms in place to measure, monitor and review biodiversity conservation to ensure we fulfil our duties, and to ensure that these efforts are coordinated across the Council.

Our plan for future activities on pages 40 - 41 sets out the methods by which we intend to carry out our consideration of biodiversity objectives.

The Action Plan has five sections or topic areas:

- 1. Integration and coordination with partners**
- 2. Policies and processes**
- 3. People and communities**
- 4. Managing council land and assets**
- 5. Biodiversity Net Gain**

These are broken down into a series of actions and details, followed by which service area is indicated as responsible for them.



Wildflower area at the Trentham Estate

Future Activities

Topic Area	Type of Action	Detail	Corporate	Operations	Planning Policy/DM	PR and Marketing/Education	Estates/Property Services	Housing	
Integration and co-ordination with partners	Action in National Landscapes	Helping to develop and implement management plans for National Landscapes		✓	✓				
		Making improvements to nature in these areas		✓	✓		✓		
Policies and processes	Consider biodiversity in development plan making and decisions	Aid landscape recovery			✓				
		Consider how existing planning advice and strategies can protect and enhance biodiversity			✓				
	Consider relevant strategies:	Staffs and S-o-T Local Nature Recovery Strategy	✓	✓	✓				
	Consideration process	Check existing data about wildlife and habitats in the area		✓	✓				
	Decision making	Consider using the Natural Capital approach for decisions	✓	✓	✓				
		Use Green Infrastructure Framework			✓				
	Review internal policies and processes	Light - make sure the design of artificial lighting minimises effects on nature	Transport - support sustainable travel to reduce carbon emissions and improve air quality	✓				✓	✓
			Waste - review waste management and recycling processes to reduce water pollution and air pollution from waste transport and landfill	✓					
Water - improve water efficiency to reduce the effect water abstraction can have on sensitive habitats and species			✓		✓			✓	
People and communities	Educate, advise and raise awareness	Educate staff on your biodiversity actions and why they're important				✓			
		Feature biodiversity in public or internal communications				✓			
		Include biodiversity considerations in advice for internal and external clients and service users		✓		✓			
		Include the public in projects to improve biodiversity		✓		✓			
		Put information boards in green spaces or offer guided walks		✓		✓			
		Raise public awareness of how their gardens can support biodiversity, or example by avoiding artificial grass				✓			
		Use libraries and museums to raise awareness of biodiversity				✓			

Topic Area	Type of Action	Detail	Corporate	Operations	Planning Policy/DM	PR and Marketing/Education	Estates/Property Services	Housing	
Managing council land and assets	Enhance protected sites	Local Nature Reserves		✓					
		Local Wildlife Sites		✓					
		Sites of Special Scientific Interest		✓					
	Manage land to improve biodiversity		Allotments		✓				
			Amenity spaces and communal gardens		✓				✓
			Canals and rivers		✓				
			Cemeteries		✓				
			Consider how to manage 'nature corridors' that connect existing habitats		✓			✓	✓
			Consider promoting and encouraging nature-based solutions, restoration of natural processes and landscape recovery on large areas of land.		✓	✓			
			Creating dedicated spaces for wildlife		✓				✓
			Field margins and hedgerows		✓			✓	
			Implementing measures to prevent the spread of invasive species and plant disease		✓			✓	✓
			Leaving dead wood safely in place in woodlands to provide additional habitat		✓				
			Maintaining planted trees to give them the best chance of survival		✓			✓	✓
			Parks and sports fields		✓				
			Reducing the use of herbicides, pesticides, peat and water		✓			✓	✓
			Rights of way and access routes		✓				
			Using native and sustainably sourced trees and shrubs when planting		✓			✓	✓
			Water-dependent habitats		✓				
	Woodlands and nature reserves		✓						
	Improve how you manage buildings		Impact of maintenance work to wildlife		✓			✓	✓
			Managing vegetation around buildings and car parks		✓			✓	✓
			Reduce the use of energy and water to reduce pollution and pressure it puts on wildlife		✓			✓	✓
			Use of chemicals on the premises		✓			✓	✓
	Make space for wildlife		Add green walls or roofs to existing or new buildings		✓	✓		✓	✓
			Build and install nest boxes for birds, bats and other animals		✓	✓		✓	✓
			Farmland - be aware of soil health, water use and waste management and encourage farmers to apply for agri-environment schemes and use pesticides appropriately.					✓	
Plant wildflowers for pollinators				✓			✓	✓	
Biodiversity net gain	Prepare for biodiversity net gain	Internal processes			✓				
		External guidance/documentation			✓				
	Report on biodiversity net gain	Collate required quantitative and qualitative data			✓				

Appendix 1

Stafford Borough Nature Declaration

The Council recognises that: Nature is in long term decline. With 41 per cent of wild species in decline nationally, and 15 per cent facing extinction. The requirement to take action to reverse this is urgent.

We recognise that:

- a. Nature provides us with vital support systems ['ecosystem services'], and severe declines in biodiversity are undermining nature's productivity and adaptability, posing excessive uncertainty for our economies and wellbeing.
- b. A thriving natural environment underpins a healthy, happy, prosperous society.
- c. The impacts of climate change are contributing to nature's decline, while restoring and protection of natural habitat provides a wide variety of cost-effective benefits to mitigate and adapt to the impacts of climate change.
- d. Many of our areas of work across the Borough have an impact on nature, and we have responsibilities to make decisions to protect and enhance it.

This Council further acknowledges that:

To address the nature crisis and aim to achieve the multiple environmental benefits that nature can bring to people, the 'Bigger, Better, More and Joined-up' principles of the 2010 Lawton Report - 'Making Space for Nature' - should be followed to help rebuild nature:

- a. There must be more space given to wildlife.
- b. Existing wildlife spaces must be expanded.
- c. The quality of existing wildlife spaces should be improved by better habitat management.
- d. The connectivity between wildlife spaces must be enhanced.

In order to support the recovery of nature across Stafford Borough, and in recognition of new obligations under the Environment Act 2021, this council commits to:

1. Improve and protect the Borough's habitats resilience to climate change, providing natural solutions to reduce carbon and manage flood risk, and sustaining vital ecosystems.
2. Prioritise the restoration of natural habitats in accordance with Stafford Borough's Nature Recovery Network Map.
3. Formulate a tree planting policy which is underpinned by Nature Recovery Network mapping across the local authority area, pursuing a "right tree, right place" approach. Recognise that tree planting can be deleterious to habitat restoration and should only be planned on land with low ecological value/restoration potential.
4. To continue to manage council-owned land for the benefit of wildlife.

5. Embed nature's recovery into all strategic plans and policy areas, not just those directly related to the environment. Ensure the Local Nature Recovery Strategy is well understood across the authority and complements other relevant plans and strategies.
6. Working with partners, demonstrate leadership by supporting and engaging with businesses, communities and the wider public to take action to put nature into recovery.
7. The Council designates the Councils Economic Development and Planning Cabinet Member as portfolio lead for Nature Recovery and also a lead officer to coordinate the council operations in relation to the ecological emergency.
8. Integrate the targets, objectives and outcomes of this motion with those outlined in the existing Climate Change and Green Recovery Strategy to ensure measures to tackle climate issues do not contravene the principles of enhancing biodiversity. The value of well managed heathland, wetland and other habitats of principal importance in sequestering carbon is of equal importance and must be acknowledged.
9. Where appropriate, and in accordance with the council's Climate Change and Green Recovery Strategy, the council will invest in nature-based solutions to climate change in order to tackle the nature crisis and climate emergency together.

10. Support the development of a Staffordshire wide Local Nature Recovery Strategy, and through the recently commissioned Nature Recovery Network Mapping, develop a local evidence-based action plan including short and long-term targets for putting nature into recovery by 2040, in accordance with the council's climate change obligations. Areas of focus will include:
 - Land management
 - Biodiversity
 - Roads and highways
 - Planning and development
 - Air quality
 - Transforming urban spaces
 - Health and wellbeing
 - People and communities
 - Education and awareness
11. That the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee monitor the Local Nature Recovery work and the council's action to support biodiversity and nature recovery on an annual basis.
12. Work closely with Stafford Borough's partners via the Staffordshire Sustainability Board and other organisations to promote Local Nature Recovery.



Cycling on the trails at Cannock Chase

Annex 1

Further Information and Guidance

Staffordshire Wildlife Trust	www.staffs-wildlife.org.uk	The Trust manages, conserves and enhances some of the best wildlife sites in the County -including 6 reserves in the Borough. They also provide training and educational resources plus a “Wild about Stafford” officer.
The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds	www.rspb.org.uk	The RSPB protects, restores and manages habitats for birds and other wildlife. They manage 200 nature reserves and look for practical solutions for problems facing the environment.
The British Trust for Ornithology	www.bto.org	The BTO is a research institute measuring changes in bird populations to inform the public and policy makers.
British Dragonfly Society	www.british-dragonflies.org.uk	The aim of the society is to conserve dragonflies and their wetland habitats
Butterfly Conservation	www.butterfly-conservation.org	Information about British butterflies and moths, their habitats and conservation work.
Buglife	www.buglife.org.uk	Buglife is devoted to the conservation of all invertebrates, aiming to halt the extinction of species and to achieve sustainable populations.
Botanical Society of the British Isles	www.bsbi.org.uk	The BSBI records plant distribution and produces national Atlases and county Floras. It supports all botanists and provides training and education.
The Wild Flower Society	www.thewildflowersociety.com/index.htm	Created specifically for amateur botanists and wild flower lovers in the UK who enjoy learning more about field botany. A series of outdoor walks are organised each year.
Plantlife	www.plantlife.org.uk	Plantlife carries out practical conservation work, manages nature reserves, and works to connect people with wild plants and promotes their conservation for the benefit of all.

The Mammal Society	www.mammal.org.uk	The only organisation dedicated to the study and conservation of all mammals of the British Isles and provide a hub of information and expertise
Bat Conservation Trust	www.bats.org.uk	Participates in the biodiversity action planning process, Identifies conservation actions for bats and bat habitats in England; Advises and educate members of the public about bats and provides support to local bat groups.
Froglife	www.froglife.org	Froglife is a national wildlife charity committed to the conservation of amphibians and reptiles - frogs, toads, newts, snakes and lizards - and saving the habitats they depend on.
Amphibian and Reptile Conservation	www.arc-trust.org	Current activities include managing eighty nature reserves, working with schools, researching and monitoring species' populations in the wild, and working with other wildlife organisations, and the public, to influence wildlife legislation relating to amphibians and reptiles.
Wild about Gardens	www.wildaboutgardens.org	Information about wildlife gardening and how gardening for wildlife can make a difference to the UK's wild creatures.
Natural England	www.gov.uk/government/organisations/natural-england	The government's advisor providing advice on safeguarding the natural environment, managing reserves and green farming schemes
Environment Agency	www.environment-agency.gov.uk	Principle aims are to protect and improve the environment and to promote sustainable development.
The Woodland Trust	www.woodlandtrust.org.uk	The Woodland Trust is the UK's largest woodland conservation charity.



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