



# Local Nature Recovery Strategy

for Hampshire  
2025

## Glossary

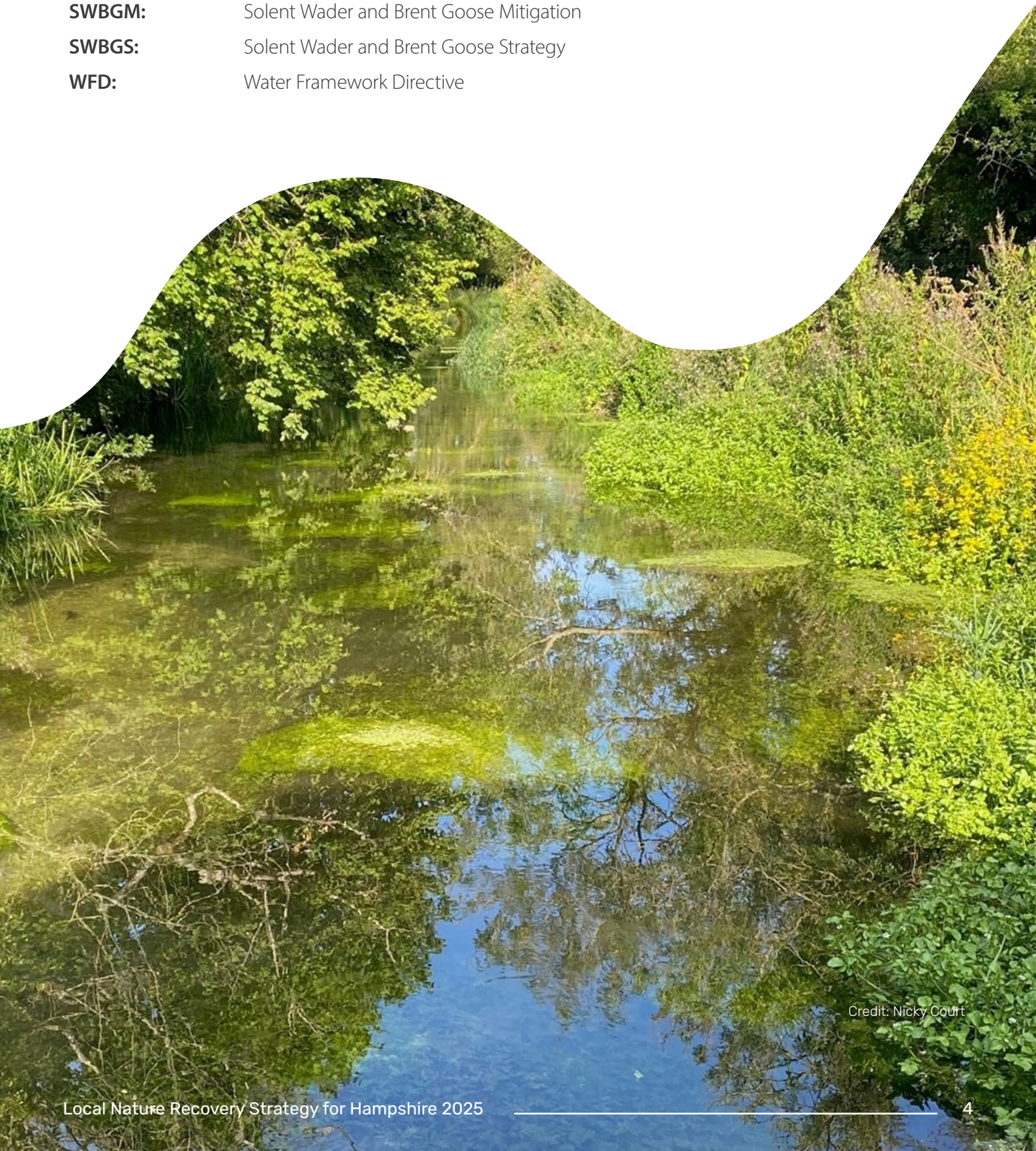


# Acronyms and initialisations

<b>25YEP:</b>	25 Year Environment Plan
<b>30by30:</b>	Protecting 30% of the UK's land by 2030
<b>ACB:</b>	Areas that could become of particular importance for biodiversity
<b>AGS:</b>	Accessible Greenspace Standards
<b>AONB:</b>	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (now referred to as National Landscape)
<b>APIB:</b>	Areas of particular importance for biodiversity
<b>BAP:</b>	Biodiversity Action Plan
<b>BNG:</b>	Biodiversity net gain
<b>BPS:</b>	Basic Payments Scheme
<b>CIL:</b>	Community Infrastructure Levy
<b>CLA:</b>	Countryside, Land and Business Association
<b>CS:</b>	Countryside Stewardship
<b>CSHT:</b>	Countryside Stewardship Higher Tier
<b>Defra:</b>	Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
<b>EIP:</b>	Environmental Improvement Plan
<b>ELM:</b>	Environmental Land Management scheme
<b>EWCO:</b>	England Woodland Creation Offer
<b>FE:</b>	Forestry England
<b>FWAG:</b>	Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group
<b>GCN:</b>	Great Crested Newt
<b>GHG:</b>	Greenhouse Gases
<b>GI:</b>	Green (and blue) Infrastructure
<b>HBIC:</b>	Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre
<b>HLS:</b>	Higher Level Stewardship scheme
<b>HMWP:</b>	Hampshire Minerals and Waste Plan
<b>HOA</b>	Habitat Opportunity Area
<b>HOS:</b>	Hampshire Ornithological Society
<b>IUCN:</b>	International Union for Conservation of Nature
<b>INNS:</b>	Invasive Non-Native Species
<b>LA:</b>	Local authority
<b>LBAP:</b>	Local Biodiversity Action Plan
<b>LCA:</b>	Landscape Character Assessment

<b>LNP:</b>	Local Nature Partnership
<b>LNR:</b>	Local Nature Reserve
<b>LNRS:</b>	Local Nature Recovery Strategy
<b>LPA:</b>	Local Planning Authority
<b>LURA:</b>	Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023
<b>LWS:</b>	Local Wildlife Site
<b>MHCLG:</b>	Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government
<b>MoD:</b>	Ministry of Defence
<b>MMO:</b>	Marine Management Organisation
<b>MPA:</b>	Marine Protected Area
<b>Nbs:</b>	Nature-based Solutions
<b>NCA:</b>	National Character Area
<b>NERC:</b>	Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006
<b>NFM:</b>	Natural Flood Management
<b>NFU:</b>	National Farmers Union
<b>NFNPA:</b>	New Forest National Park Authority
<b>NM:</b>	Nutrient mitigation
<b>NNR:</b>	National Nature Reserve
<b>NPPF:</b>	National Planning Policy Framework
<b>NVC</b>	National Vegetation Classification
<b>NVZ:</b>	Nitrate Vulnerable Zone
<b>NRN:</b>	Nature Recovery Network
<b>NSN:</b>	National Site Network
<b>OS:</b>	Ordnance Survey
<b>PAWs</b>	Planted Ancient Woodland
<b>ReMeMaRe:</b>	Restoring Meadow, Marsh and Reef habitat restoration initiative
<b>RPA:</b>	Rural Payments Agency
<b>RSPB:</b>	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
<b>RVEI:</b>	Road Verge of Ecological Importance
<b>s106:</b>	Section 106 Legal Agreement
<b>S41</b>	Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006
<b>SA:</b>	Supporting Authorities
<b>SAC:</b>	Special Area of Conservation
<b>SANG:</b>	Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace
<b>SDNPA:</b>	South Downs National Park Authority
<b>SEMS:</b>	Solent Marine Sites

<b>SFI:</b>	Sustainable Farming Incentive
<b>SINC:</b>	Site of Importance for Nature Conservation
<b>SOA:</b>	Strategic Opportunity Areas
<b>SPA:</b>	Special Protection Area
<b>SPZ:</b>	Groundwater Source Protection Zone
<b>SSSI:</b>	Site of Special Scientific Interest
<b>SuDS:</b>	Sustainable Drainage Systems
<b>SWBGM:</b>	Solent Wader and Brent Goose Mitigation
<b>SWBGS:</b>	Solent Wader and Brent Goose Strategy
<b>WFD:</b>	Water Framework Directive



Credit: Nicky Court

# Glossary

## 25 Year Environment Plan (25YEP)

The 25 Year Environment Plan, published in 2018, sets out government action to help the natural world regain and retain good health. It aims to deliver cleaner air and water in our cities and rural landscapes, protect threatened species and provide richer wildlife habitats. The Environmental Improvement Plan 2023 is the first revision of the 25YEP.

## Protecting 30% of the UK's land by 2030 (30by30 or 30x30)

In 2020, the government committed to protecting 30% of the UK's land by 2030 (30by30). Subsequently, a global 30by30 target was adopted at the UN Biodiversity Summit COP15 in December 2022, as part of an ambitious Global Biodiversity Framework<sup>1</sup>.

## Accessible Greenspace Standards

The standards state everyone should have access to good quality green and blue spaces close to home for health and wellbeing and contact with nature, with an initial focus on access to green and blue spaces within 15 minutes' walk from home. The standards define good provision based on different size-proximity, capacity and quality criteria.

## Action

In the context of nature recovery, an action sets out the primary activity to achieve the goal of habitat creation.

## Afforestation

Growing or planting of new woodlands or forests.

## Agroforestry

A land management practice that combines trees and shrubs with crops or livestock, promoting biodiversity, improving soil health, and providing additional economic benefits.

## Ancient and veteran trees

Trees of interest biologically, aesthetically or culturally because of their great age, often in the last third and final stage of their life and that are old relative to others of the same species. See also veteran trees.

## Ancient wood pasture

Areas of grazed pasture, heath or open hill with a scattering of open-grown ancient and veteran trees. Once a common feature of the landscape in some areas, they provided shelter, pasture and fodder for livestock, as well as wood products for local people.

## Ancient woodland

Areas which have had woodland cover for centuries and are present on maps dating back to 1600AD.

## Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)

Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) are nationally important landscapes, designated under the 1949 National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act. Their primary purpose is to conserve and enhance natural beauty. Natural England is responsible for their designation and advising government and other organisations on their management. On the 22 November 2023, AONBs were re-branded as National Landscapes. They are still defined as AONBs in legislation and national planning policy.

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1 <https://www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-15/cop-15-dec-04-en.pdf>

## **Areas of particular importance for biodiversity (APIB)**

In terms of the LNRS, areas of importance for biodiversity include:

- Internationally designated sites.
- Nationally designated sites.
- Local Nature Reserves (LNR).
- Local Wildlife Sites (in Hampshire referred to as Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation – SINC).
- Irreplaceable habitats. For Hampshire these are: ancient woodland, ancient and veteran trees, coastal sand dunes, spartina saltmarsh swards, and lowland fens.

## **Areas that could become of particular importance for biodiversity (ACB)**

In terms of the LNRS, these are areas of opportunity that could become areas of particular importance for biodiversity (APIBs) or where the recovery or enhancement of biodiversity could make a particular contribution to other environmental benefits.

## **Assemblage of Species**

An assemblage of species refers to a collection of different species found together in a particular habitat or ecosystem.

## **Basic Payment Scheme**

The Basic Payment Scheme (BPS) payment is a single annual payment to a farmer who meets the scheme's criteria. Payment is based on the number and value of the farmer's payment entitlements. The scheme is now closed.

## **Biochar**

A form of charcoal, sometimes modified, that is intended for organic use, as in soil. It is the lightweight black remnants remaining after the pyrolysis of biomass, consisting of carbon and ashes.

## **Beelines fund**

Working with landowners across the South Downs, the South Downs National Park Trust's Beelines initiative is about planting new wildflower corridors to connect pockets of species-rich chalk grassland for the benefit of pollinator species.

## **Biodiversity**

The variability among living organisms from all sources, including inter-alia, terrestrial, marine, and other aquatic ecosystems and the ecological complexes of which they are part. This includes diversity within species, between species, and of ecosystems.

## **Biodiversity duty**

A legal obligation imposed on public bodies to consider and integrate biodiversity conservation into their activities, policies, and decision-making processes. This duty requires these bodies to actively work towards preserving and enhancing biodiversity, ensuring that their operations and developments contribute positively to the natural environment and support ecological sustainability.

## **Biodiversity net gain (BNG)**

An approach to development, land and marine management that leaves biodiversity in a measurably better state than before the development took place. Most developments, approved through the land use planning system, are required to deliver a minimum 10% BNG.

## **Biosecurity**

Measures and protocols designed to protect ecosystems from the introduction and spread of harmful organisms, including invasive species, pests, and diseases.

## **Bird Aware Solent**

An initiative that raises awareness of protected birds in and around the Solent and seeks to reduce recreational disturbance.

## **Blue infrastructure, habitats and spaces**

Water-related natural and semi-natural features, including rivers, canals, lakes, ponds, wetlands and coastal waters, which support aquatic biodiversity and deliver other environmental, social and economic benefits. These benefits include water filtration, flood regulation, and recreational opportunities. Blue infrastructure is often included within the definition of green infrastructure (GI).

## **Buffer**

Zones of natural or semi-natural habitat that provide additional space and resources for wildlife, often used to protect core habitats from adverse impacts of surrounding land use.

## **Carbon emitter**

Sources, such as fossil fuel combustion or deforestation, that release carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) into the atmosphere, contributing to climate change.

## **Chalk down**

Downland, chalkland, chalk downs or just downs are areas of open chalk hills, such as the North Downs. This term is used to describe the characteristic landscape in southern England where chalk is exposed at the surface.

## **Chalk stream**

A very special type of river, almost unique to England. 85% of the 200 chalk streams in the world are in England. They are fed primarily by spring water from the chalk aquifer, not rain, which means they have clear, cold water and very stable flows. They are rich in minerals, especially calcium, and this base rich environment supports a very distinctive and rich ecology.

## **Coastal margin**

The coastal margin is the land between the King Charles III England Coast Path National Trail and the sea, which provides new rights of access to the public for areas like beaches, dunes, and cliffs, thanks to the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009. This area may extend inland from the path under certain conditions, but access is not granted to all land, as exceptions include buildings, gardens, and areas unsuitable for public access, such as mudflats or saltmarshes. The definition of a coastal margin is partly informed by the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (CROW Act).

## **Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)**

The Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) is a charge which can be levied by local authorities on new development in their area. It is an important tool for local authorities to use to help them deliver the infrastructure needed to support development in their area.

## **Climate change**

Climate change is a large-scale, long-term shift in the planet's weather patterns and average temperatures. Climate change in Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) usage refers to a change in the state of the climate that can be identified (e.g. using statistical tests) by changes in the mean and/or the variability of its properties, and that persists for an extended period, typically decades or longer. It refers to any change in climate over time, whether due to natural variability or as a result of human activity.

## Coastal sand dunes

Coastal sand dunes form where a beach is large enough to allow sand to completely dry out between high tides, and where onshore winds blow the dry sand landwards. The sand is then trapped by dune grasses which grow through the accumulating layers of hard, inorganic sand.

## Coastal squeeze

The loss of coastal habitats, such as salt marshes and mudflats, due to rising sea levels and fixed landward barriers (e.g. sea walls), which prevent natural inland migration to these habitats.

## Countryside

Land not in towns, cities, or industrial areas that is either used for farming or left in its natural condition.

## Countryside Stewardship (CS)

This scheme rewards farmers for looking after and improving the natural environment. This includes increasing biodiversity, improving habitat, expanding woodland areas, improving water quality, improving air quality, and improving natural flood management.

## Countryside Stewardship Higher Tier (CSHT)

Countryside Stewardship Higher Tier is an environmental land management scheme in England that provides payments to farmers and land managers for managing their land to protect, restore, and enhance the natural environment, support biodiversity, and mitigate climate change effects.

## Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra)

The UK government department responsible for environmental protection, food production and standards, agriculture, fisheries, and rural communities.

## Ecological status (of water bodies)

Provides a composite assessment of the quality of surface water ecosystems, reflecting the cumulative effects of various pressures like pollution, habitat degradation, and climate change.

## Ecosystem

A natural unit consisting of all plants, animals and micro-organisms (biotic factors) in an area functioning together with all of the non-living physical (abiotic) factors of the environment.

## Ecosystem services

The benefits provided by ecosystems in the form of goods and services that underpin our society/economy by producing value for people. These goods/services are classified along four functional categories:

- **Cultural services** - the non-material benefits such as recreation and aesthetic and spiritual enrichment.
- **Provisioning services** – products obtained such as fresh water, food, energy, timber and wood fuel.
- **Supporting services** – such as wildlife, nutrient cycle, water cycle and photosynthesis.
- **Regulating services** – protection from hazards such as the regulation of air quality, climate, flooding and erosion, water purification, disease and pest control, and pollination.

## Ecotone

An ecotone is a transition area between two biological communities, where two communities meet and integrate. An ecotone can be very biodiverse.

## **Edge effects (heathland)**

The increasing boundary edges of heathland habitat through progressive habitat fragmentation and the potential detrimental impacts of surrounding land use, e.g. urban development, across that edge.

## **Environmental Land Management (ELM) scheme**

These schemes provide financial incentives, grants, subsidies or payments to landowners and managers who implement nature-friendly practices on their land.

## **England Woodland Creation Offer (EWCO)**

A flagship grant scheme for farmers and land managers to encourage investment in woodland creation. The scheme is administered by the Forestry Commission and funded by the government's Nature for Climate Fund.

## **Environment Agency**

A non-departmental public body sponsored by Defra, with responsibilities relating to the protection and enhancement of the environment in England. Its functions include the regulation of industrial processes, the maintenance of flood defences and water resources, water quality and the improvement of wildlife habitats.

## **Environmental Improvement Plan (EIP)**

The EIP 2023 is the first revision of the 25 Year Environmental Plan (25YEP), 'A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment'. The EIP reinforces the intent of the 25YEP. Where the 25YEP set out the framework and vision, the EIP sets out the plan to deliver.

## **Farm clusters**

Groups of farmers working collaboratively within a specific geographic area to implement nature recovery measures, enhance biodiversity, and manage natural resources sustainably.

## **Farmland birds**

Birds that feed in open farmland during the breeding season, even though they may nest in woodlands and hedges.

## **Fen**

A low and marshy or frequently flooded area of land with a high botanical diversity, with mosses, rushes, sedges, wetland grasses and characteristic flowering plants. Fens can be easily affected by inputs of nutrients or by scrub encroachment.

## **Forestry Commission**

The Forestry Commission is the non-ministerial UK government department responsible for protecting, expanding, and promoting the sustainable management of woodlands.

## **Geology**

The study of the Earth's physical structure and substance, including rocks, minerals, and the processes that shape the planet's surface over time.

## **Grassland**

Vegetation community consisting predominantly of grass species.

## **Green infrastructure**

Networks of natural and semi-natural areas, including parks, gardens, forests, green roofs and street trees, designed and managed to provide a wide range of ecosystem services such as air and water purification, climate regulation and recreation.

## **Green spaces**

Areas primarily composed of vegetation, such as forests, meadows and urban parks, that provide habitat for wildlife, recreational space for people and various ecological benefits.

## **Greenhouse gases (GHG)**

Greenhouse gases, such as carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, and certain synthetic chemicals, trap some of the Earth's outgoing energy, thus retaining heat in the atmosphere.

## **Groundwater source protection zones (SPZ)**

These identify areas of land through which water infiltrates into a groundwater borehole, well or spring that is used for public drinking water supply. These zones show the risk of contamination from potential pollution.

## **Gutters**

Gutters provide shallow channels to hold or transport water through wet habitats and provide feeding areas for waders.

## **Habitat**

The natural home of an animal or plant.

## **Habitat connectivity**

The degree to which different habitats are linked to allow the movement of species and the flow of ecological processes, essential for maintaining biodiversity and ecosystem health.

## **Habitat Opportunity Areas**

These are nature recovery opportunity areas where multiple habitats can be restored or created, are of strategic importance, and shown on the ACB and Measures maps. As with any other sites/areas shown on the Measures map, these areas also offer an uplift in the value of BNG biodiversity units (see Appendix 3). The methodology used to construct the habitat opportunity areas is provided in Appendix 6.

## **Habitat restoration**

Efforts to return degraded or damaged habitats to a healthy, functioning state, often involving activities like reforestation, wetland rehabilitation and invasive species removal.

## **Hampshire Biological Information Centre (HBIC)**

HBIC is a Local Environmental Records Centre (LERC) that covers the Hampshire area. HBIC carries out habitat surveys and brings together copies of data from a number of key species recording groups. Data maintained by HBIC supports the work of HBIC's partner organisations and also informs environmental assessment, land management and research by developers, utilities, landowners, students, local groups, and the public.

## **Herb rich ley**

Sown pastures made up of a mix of grasses, herbs, and legumes. Together they deliver soil fertility, biology and structure, boost livestock health, encourage biodiversity and are productive with low rainfall.

## **Higher Level Stewardship (HLS) scheme**

HLS is part of the Environmental Stewardship scheme. It is the predecessor to Countryside Stewardship, with some agreements still in operation.

## **Intertidal**

The area of the shore between the highest and lowest tides.

## **Invasive Non Native Species (INNS)**

Species that are introduced, intentionally or unintentionally, to regions outside their native range and that cause environmental, economic, or human health impacts.

## **Irreplaceable habitat**

Habitats which would be technically very difficult (or take a very significant time) to restore, recreate or replace once destroyed, taking into account their age, uniqueness, species diversity or rarity. They include ancient woodland, ancient and veteran trees, sand dunes, salt marsh, and lowland fen.

## **Landscape Recovery Scheme**

These schemes will pay for bespoke, longer term, larger scale projects to enhance the natural environment.

## **Lawton principles**

Guidelines for nature conservation articulated by Professor Sir John Lawton in the 2010 report Making Space for Nature. These emphasised the need for more, bigger, better and more connected habitats to create resilient and coherent ecological networks.

## **Layback land**

Non-sensitive land where cattle can be moved to continue grazing in order to take pressure off designated habitat during the spring/summer (i.e. flowering season).

## **LNRS species longlist**

A comprehensive list of species considered for inclusion in the Local Nature Recovery Strategy, encompassing a wider range of species before narrowing down to the priority shortlist.

## **LNRS priority species shortlist**

A condensed list of species that have been identified as top priorities for nature recovery action within the Local Nature Recovery Strategy.

## **Local Nature Partnership (LNP)**

A body, designated by the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, established for the purpose of protecting and improving the natural environment in an area and the benefits derived from it. For the Hampshire LNRS, the relevant LNP is the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Local Nature Partnership.

## **Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS)**

A statutory requirement, introduced by the Environment Act 2021, which is a strategic plan developed at a local level to guide actions for nature recovery, enhance biodiversity, and improve ecosystem services, involving collaboration among various stakeholders.

## **Local Nature Reserve**

Declared by local authorities in consultation with Natural England, under Section 21 of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949, a site with wildlife or geological features that is of special interest locally, which gives people opportunities to study, enjoy and have contact with nature.

## **Local Wildlife Site (LWS)**

Non-statutory sites identified locally for their substantive nature conservation importance, either for wildlife and/or geology, and receive protection through Local Plan policy. In Hampshire these sites are referred to as Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC).

## **Marsh**

An area of low-lying land which is flooded in wet seasons or at high tide, and typically remains waterlogged at all times.

## **Ministry of Defence (MoD)**

The Ministry of Defence (MOD or MoD) is a ministerial department of the government of the UK. It is responsible for implementing the defence policy set by the government and serves as the headquarters of the British Armed Forces.

## **Mudflats**

Intertidal mudflats and sandflats are submerged at high tide and exposed at low tide. They form a major component of estuaries and large shallow inlets and bays in the UK but also occur extensively along the open coast and in lagoonal inlets.

## **National Character Area (NCA)**

Areas defined at the national level, which describe the geographical, ecological and historical variations in landscape character that make one area different from another. Their boundaries follow natural lines in the landscape rather than administrative boundaries, making them a good decision-making framework for the natural environment.

## **National Landscape**

Legally known as Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), National Landscapes are nationally important landscapes, designated under the 1949 National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act. Their primary purpose is to conserve and enhance natural beauty. Natural England is responsible for designating National Landscapes and advising government and other organisations on their management. As of the 22 November 2023, AONBs were re-branded as 'National Landscapes'. In legal terms they are still defined as AONBs under the 1949 National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act.

## **National Nature Reserve (NNR)**

A statutory designation, NNRs contain examples of some of the most important natural and semi-natural terrestrial and coastal ecosystems in Great Britain.

They are managed to conserve their habitats or to provide special opportunities for scientific study of the habitats, communities and species represented within them. This designation is for land areas; the equivalent marine designation is Marine Nature Reserve. All NNRs are pre-existing Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).

## **National Park**

Extensive tract of countryside designated under the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 for reasons of its natural beauty and for the opportunities it affords for open air recreation. The designation supports the conservation and enhancement of its landscapes, wildlife and cultural heritage, and the promotion of understanding and enjoyment of its special qualities.

## **National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)**

Government policy framework that sets out planning policies for England and how they are expected to be applied. The NPPF provides guidance for local planning authorities and decision-takers, both in preparing development plans and in development management.

## **National Site Network (NSN)**

Under the Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019, SACs and SPAs in the UK no longer form part of the EU's Natura 2000 ecological network. The 2019 Regulations have created a national site network on land and at sea, including both the inshore and offshore marine areas in the UK.

## **National Vegetation Classification (NVC)**

NVC classifies British vegetation into a series of plant communities according to phytosociological groups using standard field methods and data analysis/classification techniques. It is one of the key common standards developed for Britain's nature conservation agencies, and provides a comprehensive classification and description of the plant communities of Britain,

each systematically named and arranged, with standardised descriptions for each.

### **Natural capital**

Natural capital refers to those elements of nature, such as the stocks of forests, freshwater, land, and oceans, which either directly provide benefits or underpin human wellbeing. If properly managed, the living aspects of natural capital, can continue to provide these ecosystem services and benefits for people indefinitely. Natural capital underpins all other types of capital (manufactured, human and social) and is the foundation on which our economy, society and prosperity is built.

### **Natural England**

A non-departmental public body sponsored by Defra, responsible for ensuring that England's natural environment, including its land, flora and fauna, freshwater and marine environments, geology and soils, are protected and improved. It also has a responsibility to help people enjoy, understand and access the natural environment.

### **Natural Flood Management (NFM)**

NFM involves working with nature to reduce the risk of flooding for communities. It uses various techniques to restore or mimic the natural functions of rivers, floodplains, and the wider catchment.

### **Nature-based Solutions (NbS)**

Nature-based solutions are actions to protect, sustainably manage, and restore natural or modified ecosystems that address societal challenges effectively and adaptively, simultaneously providing human well-being and biodiversity benefits. They target major challenges like climate change mitigation and adaptation, and flood risk reduction, and are critical to sustainable development. Many nature-based solutions will increase natural capital stocks and associated ecosystem services.

### **Nature-friendly farming**

Agricultural practices that prioritise environmental sustainability and biodiversity enhancement, such as reducing pesticide use, maintaining hedgerows and creating wildlife habitats on farms.

### **Nature recovery**

Efforts aimed at restoring and enhancing natural habitats and ecosystems to increase biodiversity, improve ecosystem services, and strengthen ecological resilience.

### **Nature Recovery Network (NRN)**

An expanding, increasingly connected, network of wildlife-rich habitats supporting species recovery, alongside wider benefits such as carbon capture, water quality improvements, natural flood risk management and recreation. It includes the existing network of protected sites and other wildlife rich habitats as well as landscape or catchment scale recovery areas where there is coordinated action for species and habitats.

### **Niche**

An ecological niche describes the functional role a species plays in its ecosystem, encompassing its interactions with biotic factors (other organisms, like predators or prey) and abiotic factors (non-living elements like temperature, water, and light). It includes everything from the resources an organism uses (food, shelter) to the environmental conditions it can tolerate and how it affects and is affected by other species within its habitat.

### **Nitrate Vulnerable Zone (NPZ)**

NVZs are areas designated as being at risk from agricultural nitrate pollution. The designations are made by the Secretary of State.

## **Notable species**

Species that are threatened or declining.

## **Nutrient mitigation**

Mitigation provided to address the issue of pollution impacts from nutrients that arise from the way that land is used in areas close to water bodies (known as water catchments). Where sites are already in poor condition, extra wastewater from development, for instance, can make matters worse.

## **Open access land**

The Countryside and Rights of Way (CROW) Act 2000 normally gives a public right of access to land mapped as open country (mountain, moor, heath and down) or registered common land. These areas are known as 'open access land'. *[Also see definition of coastal margin]*

## **Planted ancient woodland sites (PAWS)**

Plantations on ancient woodland sites which are ancient woods that have been felled and replanted with non-native species. Typically, these are conifers, but it can also include broadleaved planting such as beech, red oak, and sweet chestnut.

## **Potential measures**

Actions to achieve agreed priorities of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy.

## **Priority habitats and species**

Priority habitats and species are those identified as being of principal Importance for conservation, requiring specific action to prevent their decline. In England, these are listed under Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006 and are essential for decision-makers, developers, and planners to consider, in order to protect biodiversity during development and conservation efforts. Examples in England include

habitats like lowland fens, reedbeds, and woodland, along with species such as water voles.

## **Pyrolysis**

The process of thermal decomposition of materials at elevated temperatures, often in an inert atmosphere without access to oxygen.

## **Ramial chipped wood**

Ramial Chipped Wood (RCW) is fresh un-composted woodchip made from smaller diameter younger tree branches. Nutritionally these are the richest parts of trees, with young tree branches containing as much as 75% of the minerals, amino acids, proteins, phytohormones and enzymes found in the tree.

## **Ramsar site**

An internationally important wetland designated under the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Wildfowl Habitat (Ramsar, Iran) 1971 and, as a matter of government policy, are afforded the same protection as National Site Network (NSN) sites.

## **Restoring Meadow, Marsh and Reef (ReMeMaRe)**

A habitat restoration initiative, which aims to reverse centuries of decline of three of our priority estuarine and coastal habitats: seagrass meadows, saltmarshes, and European native oyster reefs.

## **Riparian and river buffers**

Vegetated areas along riverbanks that protect waterways from pollution, provide habitat for wildlife, function as flood-plain and help manage flood risks.

## **Road Verge of Ecological Importance (RVEI)**

This is an initiative of Hampshire County Council, the local highway authority responsible for roads within its administrative area, except for motorways and trunk roads. Those road verges with important

botanical communities are selected as Road Verges of Ecological Importance and their mowing regimes modified to protect and enhance their botanical value. These verges can also support rare insects, such as the striped lychnis moth dependant on dark mullein.

### **Rural Payments Agency (RPA)**

The Rural Payments Agency (RPA) is an executive agency of Defra. Prior to Brexit, the RPA delivered the European Union (EU) Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) payments to farmers and traders in England, paying out over £2 billion in subsidies each year.

### **Saltmarsh**

An area of coastal grassland that is regularly flooded by seawater and dominated by salt-tolerant grasses and herbs such as sea aster and sea lavender, which trap and bind sediments. Salt marshes provide valuable feeding and breeding areas for both wildfowl and waders.

### **Sandflats**

Intertidal sandflats and mudflats are submerged at high tide and exposed at low tide. They form a major component of estuaries and large shallow inlets and bays in the UK but also occur extensively along the open coast and in lagoonal inlets.

### **Schedule 8**

Schedule 8 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 lists protected plants, fungi, and lichens in England and Wales. It is an offense to intentionally pick, uproot, destroy, possess, transport, or sell these listed species without a valid licence. The statutory nature conservation agencies, along with the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC), review Schedule 8 every five years to recommend changes for protection.

### **Scrapes**

Scrapes provide areas of bare ground, which may be designed to hold water in wet habitats or provide early successional areas in dry habitats.

### **Section 41 (S41)**

Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006 requires the Secretary of State to publish a list of habitats and species of principal importance for the conservation of biodiversity in England. This list, often called the "Section 41 list" or "S41 species and habitats list", guides decision-makers, including public bodies and local authorities, in their duty to conserve biodiversity under Section 40 of the Act when carrying out their functions.

### **Section 106 Legal Agreement (s106)**

Planning obligations under section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended), commonly known as s106 agreements, are a mechanism to make a development proposal acceptable in planning terms, that would not otherwise be acceptable. They are focused on site specific mitigation of the impact of development. Planning obligations can secure delivery of necessary mitigation by the developer, or through payment of developer contributions.

### **Semi-natural habitat**

A habitat that although altered by land management still sustains relatively natural communities of plants and animals.

### **Silvopasture**

Silvopasture systems comprise trees deliberately introduced into a forage production system (or, rarely, forage introduced into a tree production system). They are designed to produce a high-value tree component, while continuing to produce the forage and livestock component indefinitely or for a significant time.

## Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC)

SINCs, known nationally as Local Wildlife Sites, are locally designated areas which are recognised as being of particular importance to wildlife and biodiversity. Although a non-statutory designation, SINCs are afforded a high level of protection within the planning system.

## Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)

A site designated by Natural England under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) (primarily by the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000) as an area of special interest by reason of any of its flora, fauna, geological, or physiographical features.

## Soil erosion

The process by which soil is removed from the land by wind, water or human activity, leading to loss of fertile topsoil and degradation of land productivity.

## Solent

The Solent is the strait that separates the Isle of Wight from the mainland of England. The Solent coastline is around 241 miles long on the mainland between Selsey Bill and Hurst Spit, and includes Chichester, Langstone and Portsmouth Harbours, Southampton Water, and the tidal extent of the main rivers.

## Solent Marine Site (SEMS)

One of a number of European marine sites in the UK which are designated as internationally important sites for their habitats and species. SEMS covers the harbours, estuaries, areas of open coast and inshore waters around the Solent.

## Solent Wader and Brent Goose Strategy (SWBGS)

The Solent Waders and Brent Goose Strategy (SWBGS) There are three sub-species of brent geese. Only the sub-species: dark-bellied brent geese (*Branta bernicla bernicla*) occur regularly in the Solent. For ease, reference to this species uses simply brent geese. aims to protect the network of non-designated terrestrial wader and brent goose<sup>2</sup> sites that support the Solent Special Protection Areas (SPA) from land take and recreational pressure associated with new development.

## Source protection zone (SPZ)

Also referred to as groundwater source protection zone (SPZs), these identify areas of land through which water infiltrates into a groundwater borehole, well or spring that is used for public drinking water supply. These zones show the risk of contamination from potential pollution.

## Spartina saltmarsh swards

Perennial pioneer grasslands of coastal salt muds, formed by *Spartina* or similar grasses.

## Special Area of Conservation (SAC)

Sites identified under the EU Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) supporting habitats or species listed within Annex I and II of that legislation, which form a network of internationally recognised sites across Europe alongside SPA and Ramsar sites. Following the UK withdrawal from the EU, these sites are provided equivalent protection under the UK transposition of this directive - The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended), as amended by the Conservation of Habitats and Species Amendment (EU Exit) Regulations 2019.

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<sup>2</sup> There are three sub-species of brent geese. Only the sub-species: dark-bellied brent geese (*Branta bernicla bernicla*) occur regularly in the Solent. For ease, reference to this species uses simply brent geese

## Special Protection Area (SPA)

Sites identified under the EU Directive on the Conservation of Wild Birds protecting sites supporting the habitats of migratory and other particularly threatened species of bird. They form a network of internationally recognised sites across Europe alongside SAC and Ramsar sites. Following the UK withdrawal from the EU, these sites are provided equivalent protection under the UK transposition of this directive - The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended), as amended by the Conservation of Habitats and Species Amendment (EU Exit) Regulations 2019.

## Species priorities

Specific species identified as high priority for nature recovery efforts due to factors like their ecological importance, conservation status, or role in ecosystem functioning. In the LNRS for Hampshire, the species priorities section highlights priority measures to support species on the LNRS priorities species shortlist.

## Spit

Narrow coastal land formation that is tied to the coast at one end. Spits frequently form where the coast abruptly changes direction and often occur across the mouths of estuaries; they may develop from each headland at harbour mouths.

## Strategic Opportunity Areas for great crested newts (SOA)

In England, these are areas where the addition of new ponds would benefit great crested newt populations.

## Succession (ecological)

The process of change in the species that make up an ecological community over time. For example, lowland grassland succession to woodland.

## Supporting authorities

In the LNRS Regulations, a supporting authority for a

Local Nature Recovery Strategy is one:

- (a) Where the strategy area wholly or partly includes the area to which the authority relates, an authority listed in section 105(2)(a) to (e) of the Environment Act 2021.
- (b) Natural England.

## Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS)

By mimicking natural drainage regimes, SuDS aim to reduce surface water flooding, improve water quality and enhance the amenity and biodiversity value of the environment. SuDS achieve this by lowering flow rates, increasing water storage capacity and reducing the transport of pollution to the water environment.

## Sustainable Farming Incentive (SFI)

SFI rewards farmers for farming practices that help produce food sustainably and protect the environment.

## Urban areas

Regions characterised by high population density and infrastructure development.

## Water Framework Directive (WFD)

A directive for the protection and improvement of the quality of surface freshwater (including lakes, streams and rivers), groundwaters and any dependent ecosystems, estuaries, and coastal waters out to one mile from low water.

## Wetland

Ecosystem where water saturates the soil, either permanently or seasonally, supporting distinctive plants and wildlife adapted to wet conditions.

## Woodland Carbon Code

This code, developed by the UK government, provides a framework for certifying woodland creation projects that sequester carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.

