

Draft Nature and Climate Emergency Strategy

Theme: Nature Recovery and Biodiversity

The UK is one of the most nature-depleted countries in the world, ranked among the [bottom 10% globally](#) and the worst-performing nation in the G7 for biodiversity loss. According to the [2023 State of Nature report](#), the abundance of UK species has fallen by 19% since 1970, and 16% of species are now at risk of extinction.

The [Environment Act 2021](#) provides a legal framework to help halt the decline of species and restore our natural environment. It requires Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRSs) which help underpin the delivery of government's national commitments for nature's recovery, including their legally binding targets. The District Council has recently endorsed the [Gloucestershire Local Nature Recovery Strategy](#).

Progress locally relating to this theme has included [widescale tree-planting](#) initiatives, plans for [salt-marsh restoration](#) and many [smaller scale projects](#). Earlier this year, the District Council reported on its progress in relation to the [Biodiversity Duty](#).

Action within this theme will commonly help build stronger communities, improve physical and mental health and support a fairer society.

| Aim/Action | Priority |
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| Aim NB01: FoDDC fulfils its statutory obligations, ensuring significant benefits for nature. | |
| NB01-01: FoDDC delivers against its Biodiversity Duty Action Plan . | 1 |
| NB01-02: FoDDC ensures the Local Plan 2025-2045 embeds nature recovery and includes consideration for Green Infrastructure (GI), relevant policies/Supplementary Planning Documents (e.g. bird and bat boxes) and sustainable construction standards such as 'Building with Nature'. | 1 |
| NB01-03: FoDDC assesses planning applications and management of land holdings to ensure support for core Biodiversity Areas and Biodiversity Opportunity Areas as well as creating opportunities for wildlife corridors. | 1 |
| NB01-04: FoDDC supports ensuring Biosecurity measures in all activity, promoting the 'Check, Clean, Dry' practice to protect our water courses from invasive species. | 1 |
| NB01-05: FoDDC encourages developers to provide information on how householders can reduce their environmental impacts and support nature recovery. | 4 |
| Aim NB02: Effective District and County-wide collaboration in support of nature. | |
| NB02-01: FoDDC contributes to and supports partnership working within the 'Gloucestershire Local Nature Recovery Strategy' . | 1 |

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| NB02-02: FoDDC contributes to and supports partnership working within the 'Forest To Sea' and 'Wilder Leadon' programmes, as part of a Severn Vale Catchment approach. | 1 |
| NB02-03: FoDDC contributes to and support partnership working within Forestry England's 'Our Shared Forest' programme. | 1 |
| NB02-04: FoDDC continues to support the Biosphere status application and if successful, its implementation. | 1 |
| NB02-05: FoDDC explores adoption of the 'Rights of Nature' framework and how it could be embedded into Council activity and wider District action. | 2 |
| NB02-06: FoDDC supports work to ensure a district-wide methodology for Biodiversity and Nature Recovery reporting is adopted and communicated effectively, to include progress towards targets. | 4 |
| Aim NB03: Communities are supported in acting in support of nature. | |
| NB03-01: FoDDC continues to work with Natural England and landowners to raise awareness of the threat to key bat roosts and biodiversity sites. | 1 |
| NB03-02: FoDDC encourages volunteering in nature recovery to build a stronger understanding and connection with nature, including through Citizen Science and initiatives such as Community Tree Nurseries. | 2 |
| NB03-03: FoDDC supports social prescribing that connects nature and climate action to physical and mental health recovery. | 3 |
| NB03-04: FoDDC supports implementation of the Town Council 'Climate Adaptation Plans' and 'Town Centre Regeneration Plans', to include delivery of Nature based Solutions (NbS). | 4 |
| NB03-05: FoDDC supports the development of Biodiversity and Nature projects with underrepresented groups. | 4 |
| NB03-06: FoDDC supports the development of intergenerational education and creative workshops that engage the wider public and children in understanding biodiversity, climate change and social justice. | 4 |
| NB03-07: FoDDC supports co-creation of Public Nature Charters to develop community-led commitments which value and protect local green spaces. | 4 |
| NB03-08: FoDDC supports the development of inclusive nature-based wellbeing sessions for underrepresented groups who are often excluded from rural spaces. | 4 |