

Plan for Nature



The plan sets out to protect and restore priority species and habitats, restore natural processes and deliver nature based solutions to improve biodiversity and mitigate climate change. It includes an assessment of the baseline state of nature across the Staffordshire Moorlands, and identifies key areas to target for the creation / restoration / connection of habitats.

The Council will work with the Trust, local groups and landowners among other stakeholders to achieve these objectives.

What is biodiversity / nature recovery?

Biodiversity is the variety and variability of plants, animals and microorganisms found in a specified area. A high level of biodiversity is important - without this, we cannot have the healthy ecosystems that we rely on to provide us with the air we breathe and the food we eat.

Nature recovery is how we restore habitats and protect wildlife to enhance biodiversity and improve the natural environment.

Why is the plan needed?

The 'Lawton Review' (research commissioned by the Government) highlighted the poor state of England's ecological network, including concerns over the ability of current habitats, to cope with climate change and other pressures.

This led to many authorities and organisations declaring a 'nature emergency'.

The climate crisis and nature emergencies are closely related - we cannot solve one crisis without tackling the other, as nature recovery is essential for tackling the climate crisis (including carbon removal and flood mitigation), whilst the climate crisis accelerates the decline of nature (through reduced ability of habitats to cope and adapt to a changing climate).

Vision

By 2050 in the Staffordshire Moorlands, nature will have recovered to sustainable levels, with formerly declining habitats and species restored, both town and countryside resilient to climate change, and everyone able to access and engage with nature on their doorsteps.

There will be more sites designated for wildlife, with sites larger, more connected and in better condition. The most important habitats and wildlife will consist of a robust network where wildlife can migrate, live and breed.

Landowners will be aware of and have access to a range of funding/advice to manage their land to benefit wildlife and tackle climate change.

Iconic species that indicate the health of our environment are plentiful.

The Churnet Valley is a thriving example of healthy nature and tourism through improvements in sustainable farming, forestry and rivers.

Everyone will have access to enough natural green space near to their home, publicly-owned green spaces and buildings will be more wildlife friendly and many new developments will meet Building with Nature standards.

Nature based solutions will be tackling the effects of climate change.

By 2030, 30% of all land in the Staffordshire Moorlands will be protected and managed for nature.



The key principles to improve the nature network are 'bigger, better, more, and joined up' in relation to habitats.

How will we achieve this...?



**Bigger,
Better, More
and Joined
Up!**