Local Nature Recovery Toolkit Appendix V: Evidence used in the development of the Toolkit and how it was interpreted

Strategies and Plans

<u>The West of England Nature Recovery Network and Prospectus</u>

The West of England Nature Recovery Network (NRN) is a vision for a joined-up network of marine, freshwater and terrestrial habitats where nature and people can thrive. It functions as a tool that can be used to prioritise habitat enhancement, creation, restoration and protection in areas that provide the best opportunities to deliver nature's recovery, based on the connectivity of existing habitat and where opportunities exist to improve ecological connectivity.

The West of England NRN was mapped based on previous local mapping of habitats and ecosystem services; least-cost analysis, which determines ecological networks based on a proxy dispersal distance for species associated with a habitat; and local knowledge of best quality habitats and opportunities for connection. Three habitats were mapped: woodland, grassland and a water network. A detailed overview of the methodology used to map the West of England NRN can be found in the document 'Towards a Nature Recovery Network for the West of England'.

The NRN has been used as a key tool to focus efforts to restore nature up to this point, and this Local Nature Recovery Strategy builds on the NRN to set out clearer and more detailed local priorities for nature recovery.

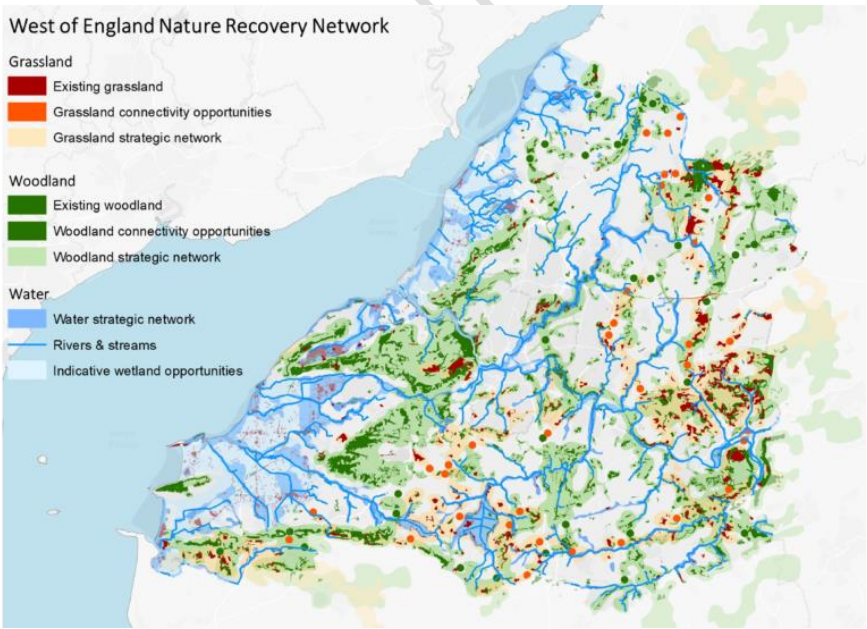

Figure 1 - Map of the West of England Nature Recovery Network, showing the networks for grassland, woodland and wetland. Taken from https://wenp.org.uk/nature-recovery-network/

Building on the NRN, WENP also produced a 'West of England Nature Recovery Prospectus', which brings together programmes and projects that would make a strategic contribution to the NRN.

We have also used the Prospectus to inform where strategic locations for nature recovery might be.

The Forest of Avon Plan: A Tree and Woodland Strategy for the West of England

The Forest of Avon Plan is the tree and woodland strategy for the Mayoral Combined Authority and North Somerset, which was drawn up by the Forest of Avon Trust and the West of England Nature Partnership. The Plan sets out a collective vision for trees and woodland in the Mayoral Combined Authority and North Somerset, a series of aspirational goals and an Action Plan for making our ambitions a reality. It is being used to inform Trees for Climate Funding for the Forest of Avon, as well as the collective approach to increasing tree and woodland cover.

As well as an evidence base and an overview of the key challenges and issues facing trees and woodland locally, the Plan identifies:

- Strategic Woodland Areas in which tree planting and woodland creation would strengthen the woodland network in the Forest of Avon;
- A set of principles has been developed to guide tree planting, woodland creation and the management of new and existing woodland across the Forest of Avon;
- priorities for trees and woodland for each of the Green Infrastructure Areas, broken down by Landscape Character Area.

All of these are of relevance to the Nature Recovery Toolkit, and have been used to inform the identification of opportunities, priorities for nature recovery and priority areas.

Bristol Avon Catchment Plan

The Bristol Avon Catchment Plan sets out the Bristol Avon Catchment Partnership's the BACP ambitions for improving water quality and aquatic habitats by restoring more naturally functioning waterways, as well as reconnecting people with the water environment and nature.

It sets out four aims for the BACP, with accompanying objectives and priority actions under each objective. These aims, objectives and actions have been used to help understand the priorities for restoring the water environment in the Bristol Avon Catchment, which covers the vast majority of the area covered by the Toolkit.

Bristol Avon Fish Recovery Strategy

This Bristol Avon Fish Recovery Strategy was produced by the Bristol Avon Catchment Partnership in 2023 to guide collective action to deliver a vision and objectives for fish populations in the Bristol Avon catchment. It is intended for use by and with policy makers and practitioners working in all sectors, particularly those with a role in creating sustainable places, strategic and policy planners, developers, managers of land and natural capital, communities and businesses.

The Strategy sets out the key opportunities that could restore healthy fish populations, guiding principles for actions that deliver fish recovery, and a five-year Action Plan. Principles are organised into removing fish barriers, habitat creation and restoration, and improving water quality.

As recovering fish populations is an important part of nature recovery, and the actions needed to do so will deliver a wide range of benefits to other wildlife and to society, we have used this Strategy to inform opportunities and priorities for river and riparian habitats, as well as measures that will help to improve water quality.

West of England Joint Green Infrastructure Strategy

The West of England Joint Green Infrastructure Strategy (JGIS) was published in 2020 to help secure investment in GI planning and provision, similar to that of other infrastructure. It sets out eight outcomes to frame delivery of GI, including Improved and better-connected ecological networks.

Most relevant to the LNRS are the 22 'GI Areas' that were defined in the JGIS, which were designed to facilitate policy-making and delivery at the strategic scale by identified landscape areas at a tier down from National Character Areas. The accompanying GI Area Profiles provide a narrative summary of the relevant Landscape Character Assessments for each GI Area, including a list key of issues, opportunities, and projects.

Much of this is relevant to nature recovery, and these GI Area Profiles have been used when describing the state of nature, issues and challenges, and opportunities and constraints by area.

Local Green Infrastructure Strategies, and Parks and Open Spaces Strategies

B&NES, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire all have local green infrastructure strategies, which include greater detail on the natural environment in their locality and potential opportunities for improving it.

- North Somerset's GI Strategy was adopted in 2021, and includes green infrastructure corridors that are informed by the West of England NRN mapping and other local data, as well as a framework for GI improvements for both people and wildlife.
- South Gloucestershire's GI Strategy was published in 2023, and also includes green infrastructure corridors partly informed by West of England NRN mapping, as well as an Action Plan for the Council.
- B&NES' GI Strategy was published over a decade ago, in 2013, but some of the detail remains relevant and its vision has been used to inform the development of Strategic GI Projects within B&NES that remain active.

At the time of writing, Bristol is in the process of updating its Parks and Open Spaces Strategy.

All of these strategies have been used to inform opportunities and constraints for nature recovery in the Nature Recovery Toolkit, with reference made to them as appropriate. The GI Corridors mapped by South Gloucestershire and North Somerset have also been used to inform the mapping of 'areas that could become of particular importance' in the LNRS.

Mendip Hills AONB Nature Recovery Plan

The Mendip Hills AONB Nature Recovery Plan has been developed in collaboration with the AONB Partnership and a range of stakeholders, landowners, and local experts. It sets out a plan for restoring nature across the AONB, with protected landscapes now having a greater focus on nature recovery following the Glover Review.

The plan includes a statement of priorities for nature recovery in the AONB, prescriptions for each landscape character area in the AONB, habitat management advice for a range of priority habitats, and actions plans for agreed 'champion species'.

As this Plan sets out in detail an approach to nature recovery in the AONB, we have ensured that the opportunities and priorities identified in the Nature Recovery Toolkit are consistent with this Plan, while considering its place in the wider landscape. We have made references to further detail in the Mendip Hills Plan where appropriate.

Cotswolds National Landscape Nature Recovery Plan

The Cotswolds Nature Recovery Plan provides a broad prescription for restoring nature in the Cotswolds National Landscape.

The Plan sets out desired outcomes for nature in the Cotswolds, and a comprehensive set of recommended measures for broad priority habitats (woodland and trees, grassland and scrub, rivers and wetland, and cropland). It also makes clear the priority habitats and species within the Cotswolds.

As for the Mendip Hills Plan, we have ensured that the opportunities and priorities identified in the Nature Recovery Toolkit are consistent with this Plan, adding further detail where needed and considering its place in the wider landscape. We have made references to further detail in the Cotswolds Plan where appropriate.

Local Plans

Each Local Authority in the area covered by the Toolkit is developing an updated Local Plan, which sets out planning policies in the relevant area. Each Local Plan includes proposed sites for development, including residential sites, employment sites, and sites for renewable energy.

We have used the proposed sites in each Local Authority's Local Plan to inform where new developments are likely to be located and, therefore, where land is less likely to be available for nature recovery.

We have also worked with the Planning services in each Local Authority to determine how other aspects of the Local Plan, such as policies related to the natural environment, may influence the LNRS.

Programme and project plans

There are a number of programmes and projects that are taking place across the area covered by the Toolkit, and which, in many cases, have done a lot of work to identify and take action on opportunities for nature recovery already. These include:

- **The North Somerset Levels and Moors Restoration Project**, which is a partnership project led by Avon Wildlife Trust to protect and improve the North Somerset Levels and Moors

landscape, including the Gordano Valley. The main focus is on restoring ditches, known locally as 'rhynes', due to their value to wildlife. The project has included liaising and working with local landowners and farmers.

- Bathscape, which was launched in 2018 with the aim of improving the management and use of the natural landscape surrounding the World Heritage city of Bath for people and nature. So far, working in partnership with eleven organisations, the Scheme has resulted in the sowing of eight new areas of flower-rich meadows, provided advice to better manage 47 hectares of woodland and over 40 grassland sites, and more.

- Common Connections, which is restoring and joining up local green spaces, rivers and ponds across 87 sites covering 375 hectares to the East of Bristol, including Siston Common. The project is delivering habitat improvements such as reintroduction of grazing to improve wood pasture, wildflower meadow creation, and orchard creation.

- River Frome Reconnected, a partnership project between South Gloucestershire Council, Bristol City Council, Wessex Water, the Environment Agency and the Bristol Avon Catchment Partnership (BACP) that aims to improve the health and resilience of the River Frome and its catchment and to make sure the river can be accessed and enjoyed by all. The project has included identifying opportunities for natural flood management and enhancing the River Frome for wildlife.

- Limestone Landscape Link, which is a partnership vision to create a nature-rich landscape linking the limestone hills of the Mendip Hills AONB with the Cotswolds National Landscape surrounding Bath. The work so far has included identifying the best opportunities for improving ecological connectivity between the two areas, as well as initial landholder engagement along the Cam Valley.

- Waterspace, which is a partnership project led by B&NES Council and including Environment Agency, the Canal & River Trust, Wessex Water, South Gloucestershire Council and Bristol City Council that is taking a holistic and integrated approach to improving the River Avon corridor, from Dundas Aqueduct through to Bristol. This includes proposals to improve biodiversity and access to nature along the River Avon between Bristol and Bath (WaterSpace Connected).

- Bristol and Somerset Downs, which is a collaboration between the National Trust, Avon Wildlife Trust, Natural England, North Somerset Council, Forest of Avon Trust, and the Forestry Commission, among others, working on improving the management and connectivity of woodlands along the wooded ridges and plateaus between West Bristol and the Gordano Valley.

There are also historical projects that have been consulted where they have produced relevant work to the LNRS, such as South Gloucestershire's 'A Forgotten Landscape' that focused on restoring the heritage of the Lower Severn Vale Levels and finished in 2018.

Mapping and data

Ecology: Existing biodiversity

Data	Description	How it was used	Source(s)	Last updated
Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs)	Mapping of sites designated nationally for their importance to biology and/or geology	Mapped as areas that are of particular importance for biodiversity	Natural England Also held within WENP, WECA & UAs	2022
Special Areas of Conservation (SACs)	Mapping of sites designated as SACs for their European interest for fauna and flora. Note that all SACs are designated as SSSIs.	Mapped as areas that are of particular importance for biodiversity	Natural England	2022
Special Protection Areas (SPAs)	Mapping of sites designated as SPAs for their European interest for birds. Note that all SPAs are designated as SSSIs.	Mapped as areas that are of particular importance for biodiversity	Natural England	2022
National Nature Reserves (NNRs)	Locations of National Nature Reserves	Mapped as areas that are of particular importance for biodiversity	Natural England	2022
SNCIs (Local Wildlife Sites)	Location and description of locally-designated sites of value to nature at a regional/local level	Mapped as areas that are of particular importance for biodiversity	BRERC	2022
Ancient woodland	Location of ancient woodland (defined as woodland that has existed since at least 1600)	Defined as irreplaceable habitat and mapped as areas that are of particular importance for biodiversity	Natural England	2022
Local Nature Reserves	Location of Local Nature Reserves (which differ from SNCIs	Mapped as areas that are of particular importance for biodiversity	Natural England	2022
Status of protected and designated sites (SSSIs)	The status of each SSSI (unfavourable, favourable etc.) and an explanation of why this status has been assigned	Action needed to achieve favourable condition used to help inform priorities at a regional and local scale	Natural England (website)	Varies – largely 2010 or earlier

Data	Description	How it was used	Source(s)	Last updated
Priority habitat mapping	Mapping of 'priority habitats' as defined by Natural England	Used to identify additional important habitat that was not already mapped through the West of England NRN or SNCIs	BRERC, or Natural England	Varies
Main rivers	Rivers in England are designated as 'main rivers', which are managed by the Environment Agency	Used to identify the largest rivers, and map buffers alongside them that 'could become of importance' to biodiversity	Environment Agency	2019
OS Open Rivers	Map of England's river networks, including 'other watercourses' not designated as main rivers	Used to identify other watercourses that are of importance to nature, and map buffers alongside them that 'could become of importance' to biodiversity	OS	2023
Mapping of potential priority habitat	Used records of indicator species to identify locations that has potential to be considered priority habitat but is not currently mapped as such.	Used to identify locations where there may be good quality habitat, such as species-rich/unimproved grassland, that is not currently recorded elsewhere	BRERC	2021
Traditional Orchards	Mapping of traditional orchards	Used to identify additional important habitat that was not already mapped through the West of England NRN or SNCIs	Natural England	
Wood pasture and parkland	Mapping of open wooded habitats (wood pasture and parkland)	Used to identify additional important habitat that was not already mapped through the West of England NRN or SNCIs	DEFRA LNRS Viewer	2010
Open mosaic habitat	Mapping verified sites of open mosaic habitat	Used to identify additional potentially important habitat that was not already mapped through the West of England NRN or SNCIs	DEFRA LNRS Viewer	2010
National Forest Inventory	Mapping of trees and woodland across Britain by the Forestry Commission	Used as the most up-to-date and accurate map of where existing woodland is located and what's its typology is (e.g. broadleaved, conifer, mixed, coppice etc.)	Forestry Commission	2023

Data	Description	How it was used	Source(s)	Last updated
Woodland that is sustainably managed in England	Mapping of woodland that is 'sustainably managed' as defined by Forestry Commission	Used to identify where good quality woodland is more likely to occur and where woodlands would benefit from management	Forestry Commission	2023
Ancient Tree Inventory	Mapping of ancient and veteran trees	Identify particular concentrations of ancient/veteran trees in need of protection	Woodland Trust	2023
Severn Estuary High tide roost sites	Location and nature of wintering waterfowl high tide roosts along the Severn Estuary, as mapped by Natural England in 2015.	Used to identify additional important habitat that was not already mapped through the West of England NRN or SNCIs	Natural England	2015
Local records of species	All records of species recorded locally and held by BRERC, including the location in which the species was recorded and the date	Used to identify current and former distribution of key species, in turn helping to identify existing areas that are of most value to wildlife and potential areas for nature recovery.	BRERC	2022
Environmental Stewardship schemes	Mapping of existing (higher level) environmental stewardship schemes	Used to inform where additional existing areas of value to nature are located	Natural England (website)	2022
Countryside Stewardship schemes	Mapping of existing countryside stewardship schemes	Used to identify where additional action is being taken to enhance the natural environment	Natural England (website)	2022
Trees for climate planting	Woodland and other wooded habitats (e.g. orchards) that have recently been planted through the Trees for Climate Scheme	Used to identify newly created woodland and other wooded habitats that are likely to be of importance to biodiversity in the future and may not be otherwise mapped	Forest of Avon Trust	2023
NIAs	Locally-determined areas to 'create joined up and resilient ecological networks at a landscape scale'	Used to help inform where there may be opportunities for landscape-scale nature recovery	West of England Nature Partnership and Gloucestershire LNP	2022

Data	Description	How it was used	Source(s)	Last updated
GCN Risk Zones	Where the distribution of great crested newts (GCN) has been categorised into district zones (red, amber and green) relating to GCN occurrence and the level of impact development is likely to have on this species.	Used to identify key areas for GCN and where new/restored ponds would be of most use to this species	Natural England	2022
Greater and lesser horseshoe bat sustenance and consultation zones	Consultation zones used in planning based on the distance from known roosts of greater and lesser horseshoe bats	Used to help identify key bat populations and foraging zones that would benefit from habitat improvement/creation	Unitary Authorities	2022
North Somerset greater horseshoe bat mapping	GPS tracking of greater horseshoe bats from the Brockley Hall Roost	To identify where measures could benefit the population of greater horseshoe bats in North Somerset	North Somerset Council	2023
Vegetation object structure	Mapping of vegetation height above a threshold of 2.5 metres using LIDAR data	Used to provide additional detail on vegetation structure, including where tall and thick hedgerows are likely to be located	Environment Agency	2022
Functionally linked land	Sites of importance to populations of birds found on the Severn Estuary SPA, which have either been proven to be linked to the SPA, or for which there is some evidence of connectivity or importance to individual species of interest	Used to map land that is deemed to be of importance to bird populations using the Severn Estuary and that has not been mapped under any other designation	Natural England	2021

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Ecology: Opportunities and risks

Data	Description	How it was used	Source(s)	Date last updated
West of England Nature Recovery Network (NRN)	Mapping of the ecological connectivity of grassland and woodland habitats, and strategic nature recovery networks for grassland and woodland	Key piece of mapping that has been used to help identify priority areas for expanding and connecting existing habitats	WENP (website)	2019
National Habitat Networks	A spatial dataset that describes the geographic extent and location of Habitat Networks for 18 priority habitats based primarily, but not exclusively, on the priority habitat inventory with additional data added in relation to habitat restoration-creation, restorable habitat, plus fragmentation action, and network enhancement and expansion zones.	Used to complement NRN mapping in identification of potential for expanding and connecting existing habitats, as well as helping to inform opportunities for cross-boundary connectivity	Natural England	2021
B-Lines	A mapped series of 'insect pathways' running through the landscape, along which Buglife are focusing on restoring and creating a series of wildflower-rich habitat stepping stones	Used to complement NRN and National Habitat Networks in identifying key cross-boundary corridors	Buglife	2022
Woodland sensitivity mapping	Mapping of low, medium and high sensitivity locations for woodland creation by the Forestry Commission	Used to identify locations where woodland creation may be less appropriate or needs special consideration	Forestry Commission	2021
B&NES Woodland Opportunity mapping	Mapping of landscape sensitivity of woodland creation opportunities in B&NES depending on the size of new woodland	Used to identify where woodland creation of differing sizes would be more or less suitable from a landscape perspective	B&NES Council	2021

Data	Description	How it was used	Source(s)	Date last updated
Cotswolds nature recovery mapping	Mapping of habitat networks and opportunity areas for grassland, woodland and mosaic habitats within the Cotswolds	Used to help inform development of priorities and areas that could become of particular importance within the Cotswolds	Cotswolds National Landscape	2021
Bristol Ecological Network mapping	Mapping by Bristol City Council of their land that is already managed for nature, that is in a location where it forms part of a wildlife corridor, and that could be an opportunity for newly managing land for nature	Used to inform mapping of focus areas for nature recovery in Bristol	Bristol City Council	2023
Saltmarsh Potential	Currently defended floodplain areas in England which could be suitable for managed realignment and / or Regulated Tidal Exchange (RTE) to create mudflats and saltmarshes.	Used to identify areas that are potential priorities for restoration of saltmarsh or mudflat habitat	MMO	2020
EWCO Biodiversity – Priority Habitat Network	Maps ecological networks around broadleaved woodland where creation/expansion of woodland or other mosaic habitat would be particularly effective.	Used to help inform priority areas for woodland expansion/creation	Forestry Commission	2023
EWCO Flood risk management	Maps where woodland creation can help reduce flood risk by slowing flood flows and increasing the retention and infiltration of water on the land	Used to help inform areas that could become of particular importance for nature-based solutions	Forestry Commission	2023

Data	Description	How it was used	Source(s)	Date last updated
WWNP Floodplain Reconnection Potential	The EA's best estimate of locations where it may be possible to establish reconnection between a watercourse and its natural floodplain, especially during high flows.	To help prioritise opportunities for reconnecting rivers to the floodplain	Environment Agency	2023
National Biodiversity Climate Change Vulnerability	Natural England assessment of the relative vulnerability of priority habitats to climate change based on principles of adaptation for biodiversity.	Used to identify which habitats are most vulnerable to the effects of climate change and, therefore, where efforts to improve habitat resilience to climate change could be focused	Natural England	2013

Land Use

Data	Description	How it was used	Source(s)	Last updated
Crop map of England	Mapping of 32 million hexagonal cells classifying England into over 15 main crop types, grassland, and non-agricultural land covers, such as Woodland, Water Bodies, Fallow Land and other non-agricultural land covers.	Knowledge of land use for agriculture was used to inform the mapping of 'areas that could become of particular importance' and the development of relevant priorities for nature recovery and nature-based solutions	RPA	2021
Agricultural Land Classification (ALC)	Classification of agricultural land in five categories according to versatility and suitability for growing crops	Used to help inform which areas would be most suitable as priorities for nature recovery with the least impact on food production	Natural England	2022
Likelihood of Best and Most Versatile Land (BMV)	Map predicting the likelihood of best and most versatile (BMV) agricultural land (Agricultural Land Classification Grades 1, 2 and 3a) using soil associations	Used to complement ALC, especially in areas mapped as 'Grade 3'	Natural England	2017

Data	Description	How it was used	Source(s)	Last updated
Soil type	Map of 27 soil types across the UK	Used to inform potential habitat types in different areas and, alongside ALC data, areas would be most suitable as priorities for nature recovery with the least impact on food production	LandIS soilscapes	2023
Planned developments, including for renewable energy	Location of currently planned developments (residential, employment, infrastructure, renewables etc.)	Used to ascertain where future development would mean land would not be available for prioritisation for nature recovery, and how this might impact e.g. ecological networks	Unitary Authorities (various)	2023
Shoreline Management Plans	Identifies which Shoreline Management Plan (SMP) is applicable to a particular stretch of coastline ('hold the line', 'managed realignment', 'no active intervention' etc.)	Used to identify areas in which restoration of inter-tidal habitat including saltmarsh would be feasible given planned policy for flood protection	Environment Agency	2022
Scheduled Monuments and Battlefields	Locations of Scheduled Monuments (e.g. stone circles), which are given protection against unauthorised change, and registered battlefields, which are given weight in the planning system	Used to inform where certain actions may not be appropriate due to potential impacts on heritage, and where mapping areas as potentially being of importance to biodiversity would not be appropriate	Historic England	2023
Land ownership mapping	Mapping of known land ownership, including for environmental NGOs, Forestry England, National Trust, Wessex Water, and the Duchy of Cornwall	Used to identify sites that are or could be managed for nature due to known interests of the landowners	Various	Various
Major road and rail networks	Mapping of major road (i.e. motorways) and rail networks	Used to identify where transport infrastructure may be a barrier to ecological connectivity	Major road network	

Data	Description	How it was used	Source(s)	Last updated
Green belt	Designated areas of Green Belt where development is restricted to avoid urban sprawl	Used to inform areas where nature recovery could be of particular importance for providing access to nature for local communities	Unitary Authorities	2023
Built Up Areas	Mapping of areas defined as 'built up' by the ONS by 25m grid squares	Used to help target measures that are specifically related to built-up areas, and to inform mapping of 'areas that could become of importance'	ONS	2022
Local Plan proposed development locations	Sites where new development is proposed in forthcoming Local Plans	Used to identify areas that are likely to be built up in the future, and where opportunities for nature recovery may be limited.	Unitary Authorities	2023

Water

Data	Description	How it was used	Source(s)	Last updated
Water Body Classifications and RNAGs	Classification of water bodies (ecological and chemical) under the Water Framework Directive and 'reasons for not achieving good' (RNAGs)	Used to identify priority interventions for improving the quality of waterbodies.	EA	2021
River barriers	Mapping of barriers to fish passage (weirs, dams, impoundments, culverts etc.)	Used to help identify priorities for opening up rivers and streams to fish passage and potential barriers to river restoration	WENP (Water NRN)	2022
Flood zones	Mapping of Flood Zones 2 (more than 0.1% chance of flooding in a given year) and 3 (more than 1% chance of flooding in a given year)	Used to help identify areas that could be suitable for creation of wetland habitats	Environment Agency	

Data	Description	How it was used	Source(s)	Last updated
Risk of flooding from rivers and sea	Mapping of the chance of flooding from rivers and/or the sea for England using local expertise, taking into account flood defences and their condition.	Used to help identify areas that could be especially suitable for creation of wetland habitats	Environment Agency	
Spatial prioritisation of catchments suitable for using Natural Flood Management	EA prioritisation of catchments that are most suitable for natural flood management (NFM) interventions to reduce the risk of flooding	Used to help inform areas that could become of particular importance for nature-based solutions	Environment Agency	
Drinking Water Safeguard Zones (Groundwater and Surface Water)	Safeguard Zones are established around public water supplies where additional pollution control measures are needed. They identify the catchment area where land use practices are most likely to be causing, or have caused, water quality in a Drinking Water Protected Area to deteriorate	Shows where drinking water is at biggest risk from contamination and, therefore, where habitat creation and/or changes in farming practice has the potential to reduce these risks	Environment Agency	

Ecosystem Services and Natural Capital

Data	Description	How it was used	Source(s)	Last updated
West of England Ecosystem Service maps	Maps showing opportunities for delivery of ecosystem services, including opportunities for natural flood management and improving water quality	Used to inform where there may be opportunities for nature recovery to deliver other environmental services	WENP	2016
Wessex Water modelling of soil erosion risk in the Cam and Wellow catchments	Mapping of fields at greatest risk of soil erosion in the Cam and Wellow catchments	Used to identify where nature-based solutions or changes in farming practices would provide the greatest benefits to reducing soil erosion in these catchments	Wessex Water	2023

Data	Description	How it was used	Source(s)	Last updated
Wessex Water modelling of NFM opportunities in the Cam and Wellow catchments	Mapping of the water retention opportunities from natural flood management across the Cam and Wellow catchments	Used to identify where nature-based solutions would provide the greatest benefits to reducing flooding in these catchments	Wessex Water	2023

Health and access to green space

Data	Description	How it was used	Source(s)	Last updated
Index of Multiple Deprivation	A measure of the relative deprivation of small areas across the UK, measured by deciles	To inform where nature recovery, nature-based solutions and provision of accessible, nature-rich space would be most effective in helping to improve health and wellbeing outcomes	MCHLG	2019
West of England Access to green space	Mapping of accessibility of green space, based on walking infrastructure (rather than distance as the crow flies)	Used to identify areas where provision of accessible, nature-rich space would be most helpful in improving access to green space	WENP	2018
ANGST	Mapping of accessibility of green space, based on as-the-crow-flies distances	Used to identify areas where provision of accessible, nature-rich space would be most helpful in improving access to green space	Natural England	2021
Green spaces and parks	Locations of publicly accessible green space and parks	Used to identify areas that could become of particular importance for bringing nature closer to where people live and can access	OS Open Greenspace	2023
Land with open access	Land that is open for access to the public	Used to identify areas that could become of particular importance for people's access to nature	Natural England	

Data	Description	How it was used	Source(s)	Last updated
Public Rights of Way	Mapping of public rights of way	Used to identify areas that are more or less accessible to the public, and, therefore, where people may be able to benefit from increased access to nature-rich landscapes.	UAs	Variable

Other

Data	Description	How it was used	Source(s)	Last updated
OS Terrain 5 Contour	5 metre intervals contours of height in the landscape	Used to ascertain the topography of the landscape, which is important in determining where there may be greater opportunities for nature recovery and nature-based solutions	OS	2019
Bristol Airport Safeguarding zone	A 13 kilometre radius circle around Bristol Airport that indicates the area within which developments likely to attract birds requires consultation	To inform where habitat creation, particularly wetlands, may increase the risk of bird strikes and, therefore, requires consultation with Bristol Airport	Bristol Airport	2023