

# Nature Recovery Dorset Fact File

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# Nature Recovery Dorset fact file

People in Dorset are working on a plan to help nature – called a local nature recovery strategy. This fact file gives you a quick look at the main points in the plan.

## What is nature recovery and why is it needed?

Dorset is home to lots of plants and animals. But over the years, changes in the way people live have reduced the space for wildlife and made the natural environment less healthy. For example:

- building homes and roads
- using big machines and chemicals when making food
- pollution from cars, factories, waste and energy
- climate change making it too hot and dry, or too wet and cold

So now the number of animals and plants is getting smaller, there are fewer places for wildlife to live, and many nature areas are split up. This has made it hard for wildlife to move between areas.

This is bad for people too, because nature gives us what we need to survive.

Nature recovery is about fixing this and making more, better, bigger and joined up spaces for nature across our countryside, coast and towns.

Example of nature recovery in action:

### Tree planting at Loders

Over 200 children from schools around Bridport joined the Dorset National Landscape team at a beautiful spot near Loders to give nature a helping hand.

Working together, the children planted over 150 native trees, which will grow into a wonderful nature-rich wooded pasture area.





## What is important for nature recovery in Dorset?

People in Dorset have shared 12 priorities they think are most important to work on to help nature.



### **Grassland**

Make our grassy areas better with more wildflowers



### **Woodland**

Make our woods better and bigger with lots more trees



### **Heathland**

Take care of our heathlands and make them bigger



### **Rivers, lakes and wetland**

Make our rivers healthy and have more wetland areas



### **Coastal**

Take care of our beaches, cliffs and rocks along the coast



### **Urban**

Create more wildlife-friendly spaces in our parks, gardens, by roads & buildings



### **Farming**

Take care of nature as we take the things we need from it, like food and wood



### **Natural processes**

In some places, leave nature to take care of itself. For example, let wildflowers grow



### **Nature-based solutions**

Use nature to help people. For example, plant trees to clean our air



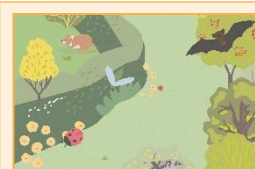
### **Nature connection**

Give people more ways to help nature



### **Species diversity**

Help more plants, animals and other wildlife live happily in Dorset



### **Priority species**

Give an extra helping hand to wildlife that are most in need





## How can I get involved in nature recovery?

Everyone in Dorset can help nature by doing different things at home, at schools, in community spaces, in businesses or on farms. Here are a few ideas to get you started:

- plant wildflowers and trees
- use less chemicals in gardening
- join a nature activity club
- make a bug house
- learn to spot different plants and animals in the garden or outdoors
- look at how your actions join up with others on Dorset's nature recovery maps

You can help shape the new plan for nature in Dorset by doing [this youth survey](#).

## What will Dorset be like if we achieve this?

This cool illustration shows what we think Dorset could look like if we take action to make nature bigger, better and more joined up.

Download the [Nature Recovery Dorset landscape illustration](#)

## Where can I find out more?

Watch videos of local people talking about nature recovery in [this playlist](#).



Explore the [Dorset local nature recovery strategy](#) webpages.





## Useful terms

### Habitat

A **habitat** is a place where animals and plants live. It's like their home, where they find food, water, and shelter.

### Species

A **species** is a group of animals or plants that are very similar to each other and can have babies together. For example, all dogs are one species, and all cats are another species.

### Coastal

**Coastal** habitats are places where the land meets the sea. These areas are full of life and can include beaches, rocky shores, and wetlands.

### Habitat connectivity

**Habitat connectivity** means different animal homes are linked together, allowing animals to move safely from one place to another. It's like having paths between parks so animals can find food and friends easily.

### Farmland

**Farmland** is land where people grow crops, like vegetables and fruits, and raise animals like cows and chickens. It's like a big garden or farm where food is produced.

### Grassland

**Grassland** habitats are open areas covered with grass and wildflowers, they are home to lots of wildlife like rabbits, birds, and insects.

### Heathland

**Heathland** habitats are open wild areas covered with plants like heather and gorse. These places are home to wildlife like birds, lizards, frogs and insects.

### Natural processes

**Natural processes** are things like water flowing in rivers or grazing by wild animals. Sometimes, people change these processes, like making rivers straight. It's important to fix these processes so nature can stay healthy and take care of itself.



## Nature-based solutions

**Nature-based solutions** are ways we use nature to help solve problems and make the environment better, like planting more trees to help clean our air and water.

## Rivers and lakes

**Rivers and lakes** habitat are places where water flows or collects, they are home to lots of plants and animals like fish and birds.

## Species abundance

**Species abundance** is how many individuals of a species there are in an area. For example, imagine counting all the daisies in one section of a park. The more daisies you find, the higher the species abundance. Together, more abundance and richness contribute to more species diversity.

## Species richness

**Species richness** is how many different species there are in an area, for example the other grasses, flowers and wildlife alongside the daisies. Together, more abundance and richness contribute to more species diversity.

## Urban areas

A **habitat** is a place where animals and plants live. It's like their home, where they find food, water, and shelter.

## Wetland habitats

**Wetland habitats** are areas where the land is very wet, like marshes and bogs, they are home to lots of wildlife like toads, dragonflies and wading birds.

## Woodland habitats

**Woodland habitats** are areas filled with trees and plants, they are home to lots of plants and animals like bats, owls and deer.

Check out the [Dorset Local Nature Recovery Strategy](#) for more definitions.