



Warwickshire Coventry & Solihull
Local Nature Partnership

WARWICKSHIRE LOCAL NATURE RECOVERY STRATEGY

Glossary

Previous:
Priority Species and
Actions

Next:
Glossary

LNRS Glossary

Terms

Term	Definition
Agroforestry	A land-use system that integrates trees and shrubs into farming systems.
Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland (ASNW)	Ancient semi-natural woodland (ASNW) is where the stands are composed predominantly of trees and shrubs native to the site that do not obviously originate from planting. However, woodlands with small planting of trees native to the site would still be included in this category. The stands may have been managed by coppicing or pollarding in the past or the tree and shrub layer may have grown up by natural regeneration.
Arable reversion	The process of converting land previously used for arable (crop) farming back to semi-natural habitats such as grassland, heathland, or woodland. It is often used to restore biodiversity, improve soil health, and support nature recovery efforts.
Areas of Particular Importance for Biodiversity (APIBs)	Within the Warwickshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS), these are areas <i>already</i> recognised as being of particular importance for biodiversity. They include sites for nature and irreplaceable habitats that are protected through local, national, or international designations—such as Local Wildlife Sites, Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs), and ancient woodlands. These areas form a vital foundation for nature recovery across the county.
Areas that Could become of particular importance for Biodiversity (ACBs)	As part of the LNRS process in Warwickshire, we’ve identified and mapped areas that could become particularly important for biodiversity. These are places where targeted actions for nature recovery are likely to have the greatest impact, helping to restore habitats, support species, and strengthen ecological networks across the county.
Biodiversity	Variety of all living organisms ranging from the genes of an individual to entire ecosystems and biospheres.
Biodiversity net gain	Approach to land development and management that holds developers accountable for contributing to the net gain of biodiversity.
Carbon Market	Market dedicated to the trading of carbon emission allowances to promote fewer carbon dioxide emissions by improving awareness.
Carbon sequestration	Uptake/ storage of carbon e.g. absorption of carbon dioxide in plants through natural processes like photosynthesis.

Warwickshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy

Glossary

Climate Change	A pattern of change in response to natural processes or human activity on global and region climates.
Climate Resilience	The ability of a system—such as a community, ecosystem, or economy—to anticipate, prepare for, respond to, and recover from the impacts of climate change. It involves adapting to climate risks while maintaining essential functions and minimising long-term damage.
Ecological resilience	The capacity of an ecosystem to absorb disturbances- such as extreme weather, pollution, or human activity- while maintaining its essential structure, functions, and processes. A resilient ecosystem can recover from disturbance events and continue to support biodiversity and ecosystem services.
Ecosystem services	Direct and indirect ways that humans benefit from the natural environment.
Green infrastructure	Integration of innovative multi-functioning greenspaces within a community whether that be rural or urban. For example, community gardens.
Habitat Biodiversity Audit (HBA)	Now known as the Natural Capital Assessment Partnership (NCAP). Please see below.
Habitat Fragmentation	The process by which large, continuous habitats are broken into smaller, isolated patches, often due to human activities like agriculture, urban development, or road construction. It reduces biodiversity, disrupts wildlife movement, and weakens ecosystem resilience.
Husbandry	The practice of farming, including cultivation of soil, raising livestock, and other agricultural practices.
Intensive farming	A type of agriculture that involves intensive use of inputs, such as fertilisers, pesticides, and machinery, to maximize output.
Natural Capital	Economic metaphor of likening the value of living and non-living aspects of ecosystems to that of stock.
Natural Capital Assessment Partnership (NCAP)	<p>Established in 1995 and formerly known as the Habitat Biodiversity Audit (HBA), the Natural Capital Assessment Partnership (NCAP) has collected and collated over 25 years of habitat data.</p> <p>With its primary remit being habitat mapping and conservation, NCAP data covers the vast majority of Warwickshire. It offers comprehensive and continuously updated habitat data through 'Phase 1 surveying', which is crucial for tracking habitat changes, identifying connectivity opportunities,</p>

Warwickshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy

Glossary

	and supporting wildlife movement. Additionally, NCAP manages Local Wildlife Sites (LWS).
Natural capital assets	All the environmental factors and natural resources e.g. rain, sun, biodiversity that is needed to provide marketable goods or environmental benefits.
Natural capital depletion	Increase of capital gain and standards of living at the expense of natural capital.
Natural capital investment	The allocation of financial resources into the protection, restoration, or sustainable management of natural assets—such as forests, wetlands, rivers, soils, and biodiversity—with the goal of generating both environmental and economic returns.
Natural capital stocks and flows	Flows of services from stocks of natural capital that overtime provide marketable goods, or positive interactions between an individual and their ecosystem (from water purification to recreational benefits).
Nature Based Solutions	Using nature as a technique to help solve environmental issues
Nature Markets	Private investment into nature by funding ecological services for example restoration projects.
Nature Rich	A setting, whether urban or rural, characterised by a high density and diversity of biological life and natural features.
Net Zero	Equal balance between carbon dioxide emissions and mitigation, so there is no overall net gain or loss.
Non-Government Organisations (NGOs)	Independent entities that operate separately from government control. They are typically non-profit organisations focused on addressing social, environmental, cultural, or humanitarian issues. NGOs can work locally, nationally, or internationally, and they often rely on donations, grants, and volunteers to carry out their missions.
Nutrient cycling	The natural process by which essential nutrients (like nitrogen, phosphorus, and carbon) are transferred between living organisms and the environment, supporting ecosystem health and productivity.
Open Mosaic Habitat	A unique type of habitat predominantly found on brownfield sites, consisting of a complex mix of unvegetated or sparsely vegetated surfaces interspersed with more densely vegetated areas. This creates a dynamic

Warwickshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy

Glossary

	'mosaic' of habitats that can support a diverse range of species. Open Mosaic Habitats (OMH) are recognised for their high ecological value.
Pictorial Meadows	A type of designed flower meadow that focuses on creating a visually striking, colorful display rather than replicating a traditional wildflower meadow. It typically consists of a carefully selected mix of annual and perennial flowering plants chosen for their vibrant colors, long blooming periods, and aesthetic appeal.
Planetary boundaries	A scientific framework outlining nine environmental limits within which humanity can safely operate. Breaching these boundaries (e.g., climate change, biodiversity loss) risks destabilising Earth's systems.
Plantation on Ancient Woodland Sites (PAWS)	Plantations on ancient woodland sites (PAWS, also known as ancient, replanted woodland). These are areas of ancient woodland where the former native tree cover has been felled and replaced by planted trees, predominantly of species not native to the site. These will include conifers such as Norway spruce or Corsican pine, and also non-native broadleaves such as sweet chestnut. These sites often retain some ancient woodland features such as soils, ground flora, fungi, and woodland archaeology – and they can respond well to restoration management.
Range Shifts	The movement of species and habitats in response to climate change, involving shifts to higher latitudes or elevations to maintain suitable climate conditions.
Responsible Authority	The designated public body appointed by the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs to lead the preparation, publication, and maintenance of a Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) within a defined area in England. This authority is typically a local authority, combined authority, or the Mayor of London, depending on the region. The responsible authority is tasked with coordinating stakeholders, gathering evidence, and developing strategic plans to enhance biodiversity and support nature recovery at the local level.
Ridge and Furrow	An ancient ploughing technique for cultivating arable land, depicting the raised earth banks and intervening depressions that result from prolonged ploughing activities.
Scheduled Monument	A nationally important archaeological site or historic building that has been given legal protection by the government. In the UK, this designation is made under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979.

Warwickshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy

Glossary

Silage	A fodder crop (such as grass or clover) preserved in airtight conditions, typically in a silo.
Social Accountability	<p>The mechanisms through which the public and civil society organisations hold authorities and other responsible parties accountable for their actions. This is achieved through participation, engagement, and collective mobilisation.</p> <p>¹Natural England (2025) Social accountability for place-based nature recovery (NECR585) [https://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/4568060193931264]</p>
Spring topping	A land management practice typically used in grassland, heathland, or conservation areas to control the growth of certain plants - especially coarse grasses, bracken, or early-flowering species—without completely removing vegetation. It helps maintain open habitats for ground-nesting birds, pollinators, and a variety of invertebrates by promoting plant diversity.
Stocking density	The number of animals kept per unit area of land, typically expressed as animals per hectare. It influences grazing pressure, pasture health, and animal welfare, and is a key factor in sustainable land management.
Strategic Area	The defined geographic boundary within which a Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) is developed. Each strategic area is assigned a responsible authority and is designed to ensure full national coverage without overlaps or gaps. It serves as the spatial framework for identifying local biodiversity priorities, mapping valuable habitats, and planning targeted actions to support nature recovery.
Supporting Authority	A public body that must be involved in the preparation of a LNRS, though it is not the lead organisation. This includes Local Planning Authorities (LPAs), Environment Agency, Forestry Commission, and Natural England. Supporting authorities are required to collaborate with the responsible authority to help shape the strategy, ensure it aligns with local priorities, and contribute relevant data, expertise, and feedback throughout the process.
Sustainable development goals (SDGs)	A set of 17 global goals adopted by the United Nations to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure peace and prosperity for all by 2030. They cover areas such as health, education, climate action, and economic growth.

Warwickshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy

Glossary

Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS)	A set of water management practices designed to mimic natural drainage processes in urban areas. SuDS help manage surface water runoff, reduce flood risk, improve water quality, and enhance biodiversity by using features like permeable surfaces, swales, green roofs, and wetlands.
Vegetative succession	The process of gradual change in plant and animal communities in an area over time.
Wetland	An area of land where water covers the soil or is present near the surface for part or all of the year.

Acronyms

Acronym	Definition
ACB	Areas that Could become of particular importance for Biodiversity
APIB	Areas of Particular Importance for Biodiversity
ASNW	Ancient semi-natural woodland
EIP	Environmental Improvement Plan
HBA	Habitat Biodiversity Audit
LNR	Local Nature Reserve
LNRS	Local Nature Recovery Strategy
NCAP	Natural Capital Assessment Partnership
NCA's	National Character Areas
NGOs	Non-Government Organisations
NIA	Nature Improvement Area
OMH	Open Mosaic Habitat
PAWS	Plantation on Ancient Woodland Site
RA	Responsible Authority
SAC	Special Area of Conservation
SSSI	Site of Special Scientific Interest
SUDS	Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems