

# Avon Wildlife Trust's Nature Recovery Appeal



Avon



**Nature Recovery Networks**

*Securing a wilder future for everyone*

# What is a Nature Recovery Network?

*Wildlife and natural systems joined up and working, everywhere*

A Nature Recovery Network allows plants and animals to move from place to place, feed and thrive. It enables the natural world to adapt to change. It can only do this effectively if, like our roads, it's treated as a network, branching out across our landscapes.

## Why?

In an ever-changing world with the human population growing, natural ecosystems are being fragmented. Woods, meadows, ponds and other places which are home to wild plants and animals, are getting smaller, fewer, more polluted and more cut-off from each other.

Our lifestyles overlook the value of natural systems and how dependant we are on them. We need healthy soil to grow food in, clean air to breathe, clean water to drink and green space for exercise and relaxation. Yet our agriculture and planning systems have often depleted these resources. Wildlife can be brought back when the will and the space is there. Previous generations lived with clouds of butterflies and moths, and hedges shaking with dense flocks of birds. We need to decide what kind of future we want - wilder, or not?

## What does 'in decline' really mean?

**Imagine you're** on a park bench, watching ten birds feast on a dangling bird feeder. But when you come back the next day, only one remains. That is the proportion of tree sparrows we've lost since the 1960s.

Hedgehog numbers have fallen from an estimated population of 36 million to fewer than a million.

Half the population of small copper butterfly has been lost since the 1970s, due to climate change and loss of its preferred plants in our countryside and gardens. You can still find some of these beautiful butterflies on our Dolebury Warren nature reserve.

Water voles are the fastest declining mammals in the UK. It's estimated there are less than **1%** of the water voles that thrived 100 years ago.



*Our wild plants and animals need your help, you can make a difference by donating today to give Avon a wilder future.*



## Woodlands

Coppicing woodlands helps maintain a good balance in tree height, type and age. This supports a variety of wildlife including dormice which prefer hazel coppiced woodland, where they can build their nests and feed on the hazel nuts.

Protecting riverbanks to help improve water quality

## Green cities

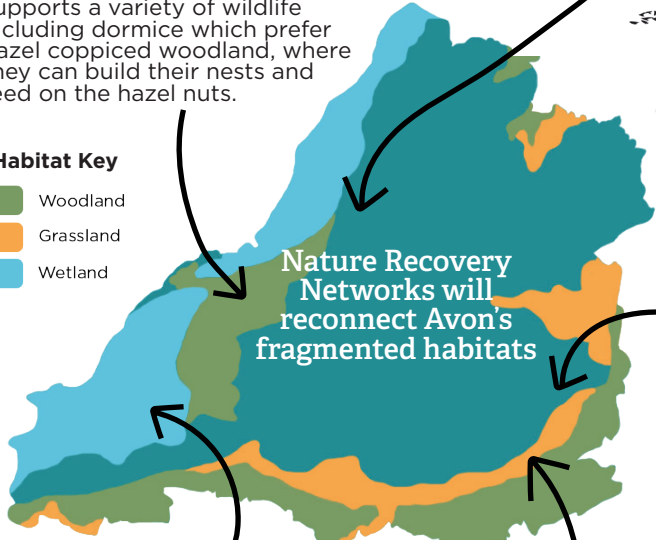


Urban environments play an important role in reconnecting fragmented green spaces.

### Habitat Key

- Woodland
- Grassland
- Wetland

Nature Recovery Networks will reconnect Avon's fragmented habitats



## Gardens

Connecting urban gardens by creating gaps in fences and leaving messy areas helps hedgehogs to nest and travel across the city.

## Wetlands

Careful creation and management of ditch networks support a variety of species. Open water is good for damselflies and dragonflies. The ditches serve as a natural barrier so that birds can nest in the reeds without threat from foxes or livestock. Wildflowers and aquatic plants such as the greater water parsnip thrive along the edges of ditches.



## Parks



Grazing wildflower meadows to allow natural management



Supporting farmers to create green corridors and protect river banks



## Grassland

### Wildflower meadows



## Farmland



Fencing helps control when and where grazing takes place to allow a variety of wildflowers to bloom and flourish.





**You can connect habitats**  
across Bristol, Bath & North East  
Somerset, North Somerset and  
South Gloucestershire



### First ever hedgehog spotted at Feed Bristol



### Lapwings returning to the Gordano Valley



### Greater horseshoe bats thriving across the North Somerset Levels



Greater horseshoe bats are incredibly faithful to their roosting sites. Our oldest recorded bat was 30-year-old Boris, found at Browne's Folly. But in the last century, bats have suffered a **90% decline**.



These bats need a variety of roosts throughout the year, and if habitats near the roost are unsuitable, they are forced to move or feed further away - making it less likely that they will survive the winter.

However, **the North Somerset Levels provide essential features bats need to travel between roosting sites and feeding grounds, and populations are thriving here.** This area is home to an estimated 15-20% of the UK's greater horseshoe bats!



At Charfield Meadow and Lower Woods nature reserves in South Gloucestershire, elm trees provide a sheltered canopy for white-letter hairstreak butterflies to feed and lay their eggs. Some depend on the same small group of trees from year to year, and others travel to start new colonies. When the landscape is fragmented, due to large areas of arable and farmed grassland, they are unable to fly to new sites. **Sheltered hedgerows, mixed scrub and woodland edges are vital to reconnect the landscape to support beautiful butterflies such as the white-letter hairstreak.**

### White-letter hairstreak at Charfield Meadow & Lower Woods



# Your donation connects wildlife across our region



£20

**Your £20** could help provide a dormouse box to encourage them into our woodlands



£50

**Your £50** could help control when and where conservation grazing takes place, helping wildflowers flourish



£35

**Your £35** could help plant an orchard tree providing a larder for birds to help them survive the winter months when food is scarce



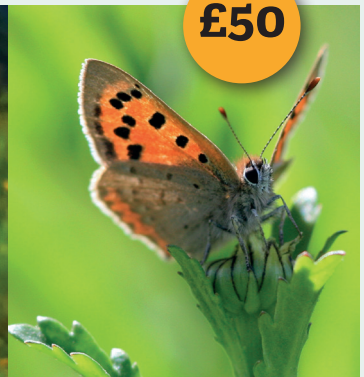
£75

**Your £75** could help put a barn owl box in our woodlands to give them a place to rest and raise their chicks



**Your £50** could help manage scrub and revitalise wildflower meadows to protect rare and endangered species of plants, bees and other pollinators

£50



**Your £100** could help create five metres of protective pathways between green spaces, giving life to bees, butterflies and pollinators and giving creatures like dormice ways to safely cross the landscape.

## *Green corridors*

**£100**



**Your donation large or small, will make a difference to local wildlife**

**£500**

## *Wetlands*

**Your £500** could help create and maintain 100 m<sup>2</sup> of wetland ditches, keeping water open which is great for damselflies, dragonflies, newts and frogs, as well as the birds that feed on them.



## **You decide your future**

We believe in a future where nature is a normal part of life and where wildlife is thriving across the landscape. Where our urban spaces are green havens and our seas are bursting with life. Where seeing a hedgehog is an everyday experience.

**Do you?**

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## Avon

### Give Avon a Wilder Future

*A future filled with thriving wildlife is within our grasp, but we must act now to secure that future.*

**With the support of people like you, this place where wildlife thrives becomes your garden, your street, your fields, your parks, your life.**

### Please donate to help your local wildlife today

*All donations large and small make a difference. Your donation will go to wherever the need is greatest, and enable us to continue protecting and caring for local wildlife across our region.*

#### Post

Please complete and return the donation form attached to your letter, using the freepost envelope provided

#### Online

Visit: [avonwildlifetrust.org.uk/naturerecovery](http://avonwildlifetrust.org.uk/naturerecovery)

#### Telephone

Call 0117 9177 270 to make a donation now

### Thank you from all of us at Avon Wildlife Trust

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