

Contacting parish councils re our Local Nature Recovery Strategy



From Councils <Councils@herefordshire.gov.uk>
Reply-To Nature Recovery <NatureRecovery@herefordshire.gov.uk>
Date 2026-09-02 13:25

OFFICIAL

Sent on behalf of Esther Clarke NatureRecovery@herefordshire.gov.uk

Dear Parish Clerks

Herefordshire Council's Nature Recovery Team is excited to report that the [Local Nature Recovery Strategy \(LNRS\) for the county has been published!](#)

This is a tool that can be used by anyone who has responsibility for or influence over land to help them take steps to benefit wildlife habitats and species.

- [The Local Habitat Map](#) shows the areas where action for nature recovery is a priority and which measures would have the biggest positive impact in those areas.
- [The Statement of Priorities and Measures](#) gives more information about how to implement these measures and also about supporting actions and additional measures that are not shown on the map.

"Our economies, livelihoods and well-being all depend on our most precious asset: Nature." The Economics of Biodiversity: The Dasgupta Review (2021)

Parish councils have a crucial role to play in nature recovery ...

The Environment Act 2021 strengthened the parish council biodiversity duty. Parish councils must:

1. Consider what they can do to conserve and enhance biodiversity
2. Agree policies and specific objectives based on these considerations
3. Act to deliver your policies and achieve these objectives

Many parish councils have already produced biodiversity action plans or similar or incorporated biodiversity into Neighbourhood Plans. Many are also making space for nature enhancing wildlife habitats in their local area and encouraging communities and landowners to do the same.

... and we can support you

Herefordshire Council's Nature Recovery Team would like to work alongside all parish councils to support them to fulfil their biodiversity duty and to use the LNRS and Local Habitat Map to produce biodiversity action plans if they haven't already done this.

We'd like to find out how each parish council is getting on with producing a biodiversity action plan or similar and what help might be needed so that we can start to create a support package specially for parish councils.

Please reply to NatureRecovery@herefordshire.gov.uk with answers to the following questions for each of the parish councils you act as clerk for. (Just delete any answers that don't apply and provide details where asked.)

1. How far along is the parish council with a biodiversity action plan (or similar)?
 - a. Not even thought about it
 - b. Thinking about it
 - c. Started on it
 - d. Getting there
 - e. Finished it
2. What support would the parish welcome from Herefordshire Council's Nature Recovery Team?
 - a. No support needed
 - b. A template or 'how to' guide
 - c. Support with technical information or getting data
 - d. Workshops or webinars with other parish councils
 - e. One-to-one advice
 - f. Review of a draft document
 - g. Other – please state
3. Has the parish council set aside any budget towards meeting the biodiversity duty?
 - a. Yes
 - b. No

If yes, is this for anything specific?
4. Does the parish council own or manage any land?
 - a. Yes

b. No

If yes, give a brief description including size and what the sites are used for

5. What wildlife and nature recovery activities are you aware of in the parish?

- a. A volunteer / community group exists and leads on this
- b. Active habitat or species conservation work: wildflower area, pond, trees etc.
- c. Caring for the environment: litter picking, looking after planters etc.
- d. Advocacy, advice or campaigning work
- e. Liaising with farmers and other landowners
- f. Other – please state

It would be really helpful if you could reply **by the end of September** so we can start to plan events and create resources, but we are happy to receive responses after that date as well.

Kind regards

Esther Clarke

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My normal work days are

Mon & Thurs on planning,

Tues & Weds on Nature Recovery