

BBOWT Pledge for candidates in local elections 2019

The Pledge:

I believe we all need nature and I pledge to support the development of a Local Nature Recovery Map for my local authority and the embedding of it into local plans for this area.

What is a Local Nature Recovery Map?

Government must require Local Authorities to publish these maps, which would identify areas where the greatest benefit for wildlife and people can be achieved. They would focus and co-ordinate effective action, funding and regulation.

The maps would:

- (i) Show a potential joined up system of places important for wild plants and animals that would allow them to move from place to place;
- (ii) identify areas where the greatest benefit for wildlife and people can be achieved;
- (iii) guide decisions on housing and development to ensure it delivers a positive contribution to nature's recovery;
- (iv) inform strategic decisions on the targeting of public funding for farming and land management, to maximise the positive impact on wildlife; and
- (v) guide other forms of regulation and investment to maximise their effective contribution to nature's recovery.

Neighbouring local authorities should work together so that Local Nature Recovery Maps align across boundaries to create a joined up national Nature Recovery Network to bring back wildlife to every neighbourhood across the country. This would enable the effective creation of 500,000 ha of new habitat as proposed in the Government's 25 Year Environment Plan and benefit the health of both people and wildlife.

Developing Local Nature Recovery Maps is key to supporting both the recovery of wildlife and the improvement of public health, by increasing regular access to nature for all. A Local Nature Recovery Map is a critical tool to achieving a **Nature Recovery Network** in the UK.

What is a Nature Recovery Network?

A Nature Recovery Network is a joined-up system of places important for wild plants and animals, on land and at sea. It allows plants, animals, seeds, nutrients and water to move from place to place and enables the natural world to adapt to change. It provides plants and animals with places to live, feed and breed.

Protected wildlife sites alone cannot meet the needs of wildlife or our society. To achieve that, we also need to provide effective protection for the many other places in the landscape that are still rich in wildlife despite the many pressures they face.

Building a Nature Recovery Network requires detailed information: where wildlife is abundant or scarce; where it should be in future; which places are most important; and where there is opportunity for positive change.

We need to improve access to nature for all in society, regardless of background. Our most deprived areas are often also the most nature depleted. Lack of access to nature is a significant factor in health inequality, leading to increased mental and physical health risks.

For more information about creating a Nature Recovery Network, please visit

<https://www.wildlifetrusts.org/nature-recovery-network>