



Island Nature

www.islandnature.org

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ISLE OF WIGHT



Local Nature Recovery Strategy

10 STEPS TO NATURE RECOVERY

We want to create a thriving Island environment where the life chances of our communities of wildlife and people alike are enriched by the variety, abundance, and quality of the ecosystems we share. The Local Nature Recovery Strategy sets out priorities and actions designed to achieve Island-wide gains for wildlife.

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1. Act Local: Start with what you know, in your own patch. Do what you can when you can, small beginnings are fine, persistence is all.

2. Expand: Grow your projects by expanding them at the margins or start a new patch nearby. Build up a natural mosaic in your area, an assemblage of useful hotspots that wildlife can move between.

3. Extend: Edges matter. Allow boundaries, field corners, hedges, headlands, riversides, verges and woodland margins to widen into gradual change instead of hard lines and full stops. Habitats need room to develop a full sequence of transition.

4. Safeguard: Conserve and connect existing features that are already good for wildlife: veteran trees, ponds, streams, hedges, thickets, lawn and meadow, dark nocturnal spaces. These are the foundations of recovery.

5. Enrich: Keep adding layers of variety, detail and complexity into your recovery projects, make flat ground lumpy, create height and depth, add wet and dry. More niches, more species!



6. Retain: Waste nothing! Always keep some deadwood, winter stems, leaf litter, rubble and compost; give them space, they provide essential habitats as they decay. There's no need to over-tidy.

7. Renew: Bare ground is essential for many plants and insects. Create and renew patches of scraped earth and let them revegetate naturally for a succession of wildlife habitats.

8. Select: Add native shrubs, trees, grasses, flowers and ferns to your planting. They boost food for local wildlife with pollen, nectar, foliage, seeds, fruits and roots. Always check that you're not introducing invasive species.

9. Share: Talk about your project, spread the word, record and collect your observations, help others to do the same. Build local partnerships, collaborations and alliances, turn your social networks into wildlife networks!

10. Take Care: Change maintenance into stewardship. Let habitats develop and flourish to their full potential, protect them from pollution, contamination, damage and disturbance.

