

Charlbury, Finstock & Fawler Nature Recovery Framework (NRF)

Restoring plant and animal biodiversity across the UK is a vital task after many years of decline. The government has a target of making 30 per cent of land across Britain good for wildlife by 2030. The NRF for Charlbury, Fawler and Finstock is about taking practical steps to meet that goal.

Biodiversity loss: Our countryside may look pretty but appearances are deceptive. Recent decades of intensive farming, industrial development, and population growth have resulted in significant losses in the abundance and diversity of animal and plants and the habitats that support them. Britain now ranks as one of the most nature depleted countries in the world.

Climate Change. Rising temperatures are making things even worse. Many studies have demonstrated that climate change and biodiversity loss are intimately linked. Both constitute a huge challenge if we are to maintain a world worth living in.

Doing something about it: These are global and national problems but solving them depends heavily on action at local level – Local Councils, Landowners and Residents.

Our three parishes are fortunate in the number of nature enthusiasts and the range of initiatives already underway. Examples include meadow restoration on the Mill Field; support for swifts, hedgehogs and butterflies; water quality monitoring on the Evenlode; habitat restoration at Wigwell Nature Reserve and at Southill Solar. In addition, local landowners are instigating several major nature restoration projects.

Nature Recovery Framework: The NRF summarises the **information** collected on, for example, habitats and protected areas and sets out some of the steps that we can all take towards nature recovery. The plan for nature recovery will be shaped by extensive **consultation** in the community, including:

- Supporting moves to maintain and increase biodiversity in public green spaces in Charlbury, Finstock and Fawler.
- Identifying areas of privately owned land that have particular or potential value as habitats for wildlife.
- Discussions with landowners on practical ways of expanding or restoring existing habitat for wildlife as well as identifying new areas.
- Focussing on the creation of a ‘blue-green corridor’ of connected habitats along the River Evenlode and between existing islands of habitat.
- Involving the wider community in efforts to restore nature with events and projects that inspire and get people interested, especially young people and children.

We can all contribute to nature recovery from adapting the way we manage our gardens and window boxes to volunteering on wider, more ambitious initiatives.