



Although Herefordshire is a rural county, our towns and villages and the links and corridors between them form a refuge for some of the species and habitats that are under pressure in the county. Areas of green space such as parks, highway and railway verges, churchyards, allotments, village halls and greens, industrial estates, retail parks, river and stream corridors, 'derelict' land and gardens can support a wide range of animals and plants. Buildings and developments around these areas form part of this important habitat for biodiversity by offering accessible roosting & nesting sites.

Many green spaces & corridors could support a wider range of species by simple changes in management, easy habitat improvements, better public knowledge and awareness of the potential value of these areas and support and encouragement to allow local people to get involved in managing their local open spaces and corridors.

Threats

- Lack of local awareness that these sites are important for wildlife
- Perception that green spaces and corridors should be "tidy" promoting over-management and planting of inappropriate species
- Lack of available support to help develop appropriate, local management plans and harness and support local practical action
- Barriers to species movement such as roads and fencing
- Climate change and flooding
- Inappropriate management practices
- Bad advice and design – "wrong species in the wrong place"
- Invasive and non-native species

Current Action

- Utilise the planning system to ensure existing green spaces and corridors are protected and enhanced and to ensure appropriately managed new green spaces and corridors are included in future development
- Increased uptake of Sustainable Drainage Schemes for habitat creation
- WildPlay programmes using green spaces for education
- Local communities taking ownership of their local green spaces through Community Asset Transfers, Parish Lengthsman and similar initiatives including:
 - 'Helping Britain Blossom' Project
 - Market town 'In Bloom' groups
 - Queenswood Country Park & Bodenham Lake Community Asset Transfer to the HWT/NL Partnership

	Objective	Action
A	Safeguard existing habitat features to preserve and increase their wildlife value	2,3,4,5
B	Raise awareness of the importance of green spaces and corridors for wildlife	2,4
C	Ensure all development makes a positive contribution to wildlife habitats and habitat connectivity	1,3
D	Encourage good design and "right species, right place" planting	3,4
E	Support local people to take on the ownership and management of their local green spaces and corridors	2,4
F	Increase knowledge of, and training opportunities in, alternative management techniques and best practice	6

	Action	Target
1	Review and update Local Wildlife Sites management plans	2020
2	Increase awareness of local green spaces and corridors for wildlife and that 'tidy' isn't always better	Annual
3	Continue to implement, review and update local and national planning policies and guidance on provision and future management of green spaces and corridors	Annual
4	Encourage the retention, creation and sympathetic management of green corridors through owner/ manager engagement and education	Annual
5	Increase the use of GI as an educational resource	Annual
6	Encourage community action to survey and manage sites to encourage a sense of ownership and benefit biodiversity e.g. through the Neighbourhood Pan Process	2020
7	Ensure support for allotments, community gardening and similar projects is maintained and promoted	2020
8	Ensure funding opportunities are maximised and promoted	Annual
9	Celebrate and promote best practice, training opportunities and new projects	

Lead Partner	HC
Key Partners	HWT, City & Town Councils, NE, WT