



COTSWOLD
District Council

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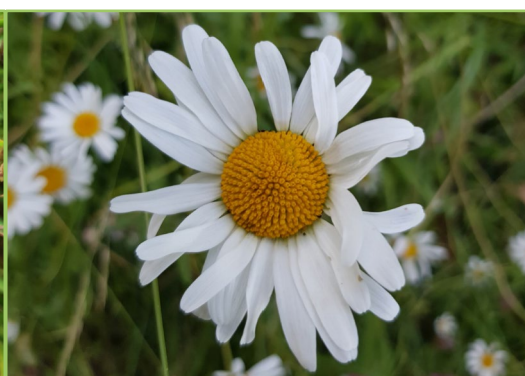
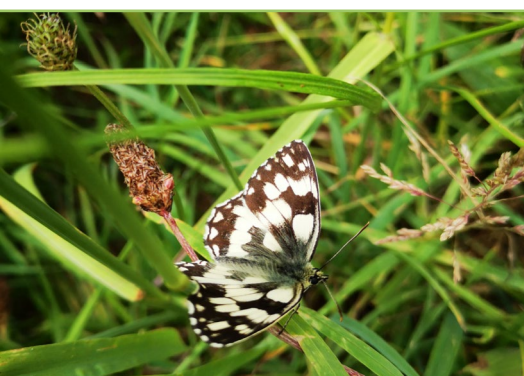
Ecological Emergency Action Plan

Leading the way towards nature recovery

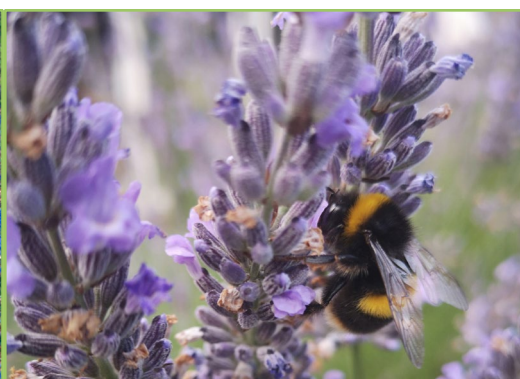
On 15th July 2020, Cotswold District Council declared an 'Ecological Emergency' and approved an Ecological Emergency Action Plan.

Action Plan

- a) Put ecological issues at the heart of the Council's actions for climate emergency and ensure that opportunities to gain mutual benefits for both climate and the ecological emergencies are maximised.
- b) Ensure that ecological emergency and nature recovery considerations are embedded in all work areas and decision-making processes.
- c) Take a leadership role on the ecological emergency and nature recovery in the Cotswolds by engaging, influencing, and inspiring partners across the District, County, and region to drive meaningful progress in nature recovery.
- d) Review the adopted Local Plan to ensure that the ecological emergency and nature recovery (including green infrastructure, ecosystem services and natural capital) are strategic priorities for planning and new development, through site allocations, policies and an up-dated Cotswold Design Code.



- e) Continue to support the development and implementation of the Gloucestershire Nature Recovery Network and the Gloucestershire Ecosystem Services and Natural Capital Mapping, including through the Local Plan, biodiversity net gain and developer contributions.
- f) Play a pro-active role in developing the Local Nature Recovery Strategy for the County.
- g) Promote tree/woodland planting and re-wilding in the right places and with the right species to maximise wildlife value, carbon sequestration and other benefits, in the with the Gloucestershire Tree Strategy.
- h) Work with farmers and other rural land managers to support the move towards lower carbon emission farming and other actions to mitigate and adapt to climate change while at the same time increasing natural capital and providing additional ecosystem service benefits.
- i) Ensure that Council-owned land and buildings are managed in a biodiversity-friendly manner and that opportunities are taken to create new wildlife habitat.
- j) Progress the Cotswold Water Park Nature Recovery Plan to maximise biodiversity and other opportunities in the area.
- k) Support and collaborate with our partnership organisations, including the partner organisations within the Gloucestershire Local Nature Partnership, such as the Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust, the Cotswolds National Landscape, the Woodland Trust, the Cotswold Lakes Trust, the National Trust, Natural England, the Environment Agency and the Gloucestershire Centre for Environmental Records.
- l) Provide advice for local communities on how to incorporate biodiversity, green infrastructure and natural capital (ecosystems services) into their neighbourhood plans and other initiatives.
- m) Progress the ongoing green infrastructure (GI) agenda by completing the draft District GI strategy, ensuring high-quality, well-managed GI in new developments, contributing to the Local Plan review and neighbourhood plans, and providing input into the county GI strategy.



- n) Promote the creation of new natural green spaces and green links across the District.
- o) Liaise with other partners to establish an ambitious biodiversity net gain system for Gloucestershire.
- p) Review how our natural environment can increasingly become a new part of the tourism offer of the Cotswolds.
- q) Consider the implications for the Council of the Environment Act 2021.

