

Ecology News and Update

Spring 2021

Welcome to Telford & Wrekin Council's Spring Ecological Update.
With news and information about our Local Nature Reserves, Green
Spaces and wildlife across the Borough.

Content

- Telford's Local Nature Reserve Success Story.
- Importance of Local Nature Reserves.
- Declared LNRs and Progressing LNRs.
- Feature Local Nature Reserve - The Cockshutt.
- Telford Ecology News.
- Report It, With the Everyday Telford App.
- Keep an eye out!



Telford's Local Nature Reserve Success Story

Over the last 10 years Telford & Wrekin Council have delivered an ambitious program of Local Nature Reserve declarations across the Borough building upon the original 6 LNRs listed in the Telford & Wrekin Local Plan (2011-2031). Since 2011 this has resulted in:

- 158ha of new LNR over 7 sites.
- A further 144.2ha over 4 sites approved by Cabinet which are progressing towards declaration.
- The last site in the project, The Cockshutt, was approved by Cabinet in March 2021.
- This means there will be 17 LNRs across the Borough and they will be completed 10 years ahead of plan!

Now, as part of the Local Plan Review process, we are developing a new LNR programme which will declare further LNRs across land in Council Ownership. Following internal consultation in April 2021 we'll be in touch with relevant stakeholders to help shape the future of LNR delivery in the Borough.



Did you know the largest LNR in Telford is Telford Town Park with over 90 hectares and the smallest is Lodge Field in Ironbridge?



The Importance Of Local Nature Reserves.

A Local Nature Reserve is protected from development and must be

- Over 2ha in size.
- Owned and managed by the Local Authority and Endorsed by Natural England.
- Managed for biodiversity and natural features with opportunities for access, recreation and education.

Declaring an LNR is a complex and legal process, which takes time and the involvement of a number of partner organisations. In the past it has taken over two years to complete a declaration, particularly where there are land transfers to negotiate, but we're always looking to find ways to reduce the time taken to declare. Here's how it works.

	MONTHS													
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Site Identified and Evaluated														
Internal Officer Consultation														
Informal consultation with Natural England														
Geotechnical Investigations														
Production of draft management plan														
Cabinet Process														
Legal searches and checks														
Implementing geo-tech recommendations														
Land transfer, lease or agreement negotiations														
Finalisation of management plan														
Formal consultation with Natural England														
Legal seal and advertisement of declaration														

Outdoor recreation value: ORVal is an online tool that spatially models the number of visits made to sites and calculates the welfare value of these visits.

- Telford's 17 Local Nature Reserves receive approximately 3.5 million visits a year.
- Those visits to Telford's 17 Local Nature Reserves can be valued at approximately £12.5 million/yr
- Of the 3.5 million visits per year to our Local Nature Reserves approximately 2.5 million visits are made via active travel, and
- Of the 3.5 million visits per year 1.1 million visits are made by individuals who have never visited the LNRs before.



Declared Local Nature Reserves.

SITE	SIZE (HA)	DATE DECLARED
Dothill	41.3	09/02/2016
Limekiln Wood	24	18/04/1997
Lodge Field	3	18/08/2008
Madebrook Pools and Stirchley Dingle	5.4	04/12/2014
Madeley Pit Mounds	42.68	09/02/2016
Telford Town Park	92.32	27/02/1992
The Beeches	3.88	13/09/2017
The Ercall and Lawrence's Hill	66.7	22/09/1999
The Granville	61.5	16/02/2016
Apley Woods	22.9	05/03/2020
Lilleshall Hill	4.6	05/03/2020
Ketley Paddock Mound	4.9	05/03/2020
Dawley Hamlets	38	17/03/2021
TOTAL	411.18 HA	



Progressing Local Nature Reserves.

SITE	SIZE (HA)	CABINET APPROVAL	PROGRESS
Randley Valley (In Progress)	44.5	15/02/2018	Awaiting confirmation of Land registry title from Homes England, then Legal Seal.
Rough Park (In Progress)	42.3	15/02/2018	Awaiting confirmation of Land registry title from Homes England, then Legal Seal.
Lightmoor (In Progress)	24.4	15/11/2018	Final stages of agreeing the management plan to work with the Lightmoor New Community, then Legal Seal.
The Cockshutt (In Progress)	33	18/03/2021	Finalising the Management Plan, Completing the report on Title, then send to Natural England for completion.
TOTAL		144.2 HA	



Feature Local Nature Reserve - The Cockshutt

The Cockshutt, also known locally as 'The Cockshutt Piece' or 'The Nabb' forms a large and impressive greenspace that rises above Oakengates, Wroccardine Wood and St Georges.

The area supports a mosaic of heathland, scrub, grassland and woodland. Early morning walks between late April and early June will find the woodland and gorse alive with bird song.

Whilst evening strolls will reward visitors with views of bats foraging along the woodland rides and glades. In summer the meadows and heathland are home to a number of locally important butterflies including both Dingy Skipper and the Green Hairstreak.

The site was previously at the forefront of the industrial revolution in Telford and relics of the site's past life can still be found along the woodland walks.

The site has a number of footpath routes suitable for a variety of ages and abilities and part of the Telford 50 mile trail runs through the site. The site is cared for by The Friends of the Cockshutt, part of the Telford Green Space Partnership.

The ORVal modelling specifically for The Cockshutt indicates that the site:

- Receives approximately 252,500 visits a year.
- Generating a welfare value of approximately £865,000 a year.

The Cockshutt is located within the St Georges Ward and the woodland here contributes to 15% of the Ward's total canopy cover and its estimated that the woodlands alone sequester 265 tonnes of CO₂e per year.

Contact us for the following Local Nature Reserves:

Nicola Stone	Ketley Paddock Mound, Madeley Pitmounds, Madebrook Pools & Stirchley Dingle, Limekiln Woods, The Ercall and Lawrence's Hill, Granville, Dawley Hamlets, Rough Park	nicola.stone@telford.gov.uk
Fran Lancaster	Telford Town Park, Apley Woods, Lilleshall Hill, Dothill, Lodge Field, The Beeches, Lightmoor, The Cockshutt, Randlay Valley	fran.lancaster@telford.gov.uk

We can also be contacted at biodiversity@telford.gov.uk



Telford Ecology News

Our team are also hard at work:

- Leading on LNR designation work which feeds into the Local Plan and provides specialist input on ecology impacts.
- Delivering the Borough's **Strategic Newt Licencing Scheme** which was introduced in 2020 in partnership with Natural England to provide Great Crested Newt Mitigation strategically across the Borough via conservation payments made by developers.
- Providing Ecological Data Services including data searches on behalf of SEDN (Shropshire Ecological Data Network), Shropshire's Local Biological Record Centre.
- Working alongside SEDN to support volunteer species recording across Shropshire.
- Carrying out a full range of habitat and species survey work which include UK Habitat surveys as well as species surveys such as bats, dormice, reptiles, amphibians and breeding birds.
- Promoting the Council's work on ecology and green spaces at My Wild Telford. Using social media to bring news of local events, places and projects which enhance and support or flora and fauna.
- Supporting the Council to fulfil its biodiversity duty through the planning system.
- Working with volunteers – obtaining funding to train volunteers on biological recording and habitat mapping in readiness for the development of the Telford & Wrekin Local Nature Recovery Strategy.
- Securing funding for partnership work across the Borough including £98K for a “conservation dredge” at Newport Canal Site of Special Scientific Interest and delivering grassland enhancements as part of the wider £184k Green Recovery Project, led by national charity Buglife.
- Supporting the training and development of our aspiring Ecologists by working with Harper Adams placement students and offering placement via the Government Kickstart scheme.



Report It, With Everyday Telford

We work hard to keep our LNRs and other sites in tip top condition but if you notice something which is not quite how it should be then please let us know. You can use the 'Everyday Telford' app to report:

- Fly tipping
- Damage or vandalism
- Fallen or dangerous trees

Alongside all of our other projects the Council's Ecologists, Locality Officers and Ideverde staff have worked tirelessly to appropriately manage and maintain all our sites during the pandemic, many of these places have been receiving far more visits than usual during the periods of lockdown as local people use and come to love their local green spaces.

Keep an Eye Out

Spring is here and My Wild Telford is ready to celebrate.

During May and June we will be running a 5 week celebration of local sites, wildlife and conservation activities as wildlife wakes up and comes into bloom.



Telford & Wrekin
COUNCIL