

# Jargon Buster



HELPING MANAGE A SPECIES RICH  
CHALK GRASSLAND MEADOW

## Nature Recovery

A broad term that means helping nature bounce back. Traditionally, conservation focused on protecting existing nature reserves. Nature recovery goes further — it's about restoring, expanding, and improving habitats so wildlife can thrive across whole landscapes, not just in special sites.

## Biodiversity

A word popularised after the 1990s Rio Earth Summit. It simply means the variety of life — from plants and animals to fungi and tiny microorganisms. More biodiversity usually means a healthier ecosystem, though some special habitats naturally support only a few species.

## Rewilding

A popular but sometimes confusing term. In essence, rewilding means stepping back and allowing natural processes shape the land — letting nature lead rather than people. On big landscapes this can work well e.g. **Knepp - Rewilding Pioneers**; on smaller sites, it often means embracing natural features, encouraging wild edges, or reducing unnecessary tidying.

## Ecosystem Services / Ecological Services

The benefits people receive from healthy nature: clean air, fresh water, flood protection, food, timber, pollination, and the enjoyment of green spaces. These benefits can be thought of as our 'natural capital' — the assets nature provides that support our lives.

## Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG)

A planning requirement that ensures any biodiversity lost through development is outweighed by gains elsewhere. Developers must create or fund habitat improvements so that, overall, nature ends up better off. Landowners can sell 'BNG units' generated from restoring or creating habitats.

## Coppicing

A traditional method of managing woodland. Trees are cut at the base, stimulating many new stems to grow back. These straight poles were once widely used for crafts such as fencing and basketry. Coppicing also creates sunny woodland glades that support a rich range of wildlife.

## Pollarding

Similar to coppicing, but the tree is cut higher up the trunk. This protects new growth from grazing animals. Pollarded trees can live for centuries and often become valuable habitats for rare insects, fungi, and birds.

## Work Party

A volunteer session where people come together to do practical conservation work — from planting trees to clearing paths. Usually involves fresh air, teamwork, and a well-earned tea break with homemade cake.

## Hedge Laying

An age-old craft of partially cutting and bending young tree stems to create a living, woven hedge. It produces strong, livestock-proof boundaries and fantastic habitats for birds, insects, and small mammals.

## Scrub Bashing

A cheerful term for cutting back overgrown brambles, young trees, or thorny bushes that are taking over a site. This helps maintain a balance of habitats and keeps paths accessible.

## Cut & Remove

A management approach where vegetation — usually grass or scrub — is cut and the cuttings removed from the site. Taking the material away reduces soil nutrients, which encourages wildflowers and other delicate species that thrive in less fertile soils.

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## Local Nature Reserve (LNR)

A site designated by a local authority for its wildlife or educational value. LNRs are places for both nature and people, giving communities accessible green spaces to explore, learn, and enjoy.

## Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)

One of the UK's most important types of protected site. SSSIs are designated for their exceptional wildlife, geology, or natural features, and are legally safeguarded for future generations.

## Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS)

A local plan that identifies where nature is now, where it could be improved, and what actions would make the biggest difference. LNRSs help communities, councils, and landowners work together to create bigger, better-connected habitats.

## Lawton Report 'Making space for nature'

A landmark 2010 review by Professor Sir John Lawton. It concluded that England's wildlife sites are 'too small and too far apart,' and called for a more joined-up, landscape-scale approach. It introduced the idea of making nature areas bigger, better, and more connected.

## Landscape Conservation

Looking after nature at a large scale — across whole valleys, catchments, or regions — rather than individual sites. This approach recognises that wildlife needs connected habitats to move, feed, breed, and adapt.

## Farm Cluster

A group of neighbouring farmers working together to improve nature and water quality across their land. By coordinating efforts, they can create wildlife corridors, restore rivers, and share knowledge and resources e.g. [Central Chilterns Farmer Cluster](#) | [Chilterns National Landscape](#).

## Nature Resilience

The ability of nature to cope with pressures like pollution, development, or extreme weather. More diverse, connected habitats are more resilient and bounce back faster after shocks.

## Climate Adaptation

Actions that help nature and people adjust to a changing climate — for example, creating shade, restoring wetlands to reduce flooding, or planting drought-tolerant species.

## Nature Connectedness

A way of describing how emotionally and physically connected people feel to the natural world. Activities like gardening, walking, listening to birdsong, or volunteering outdoors all help strengthen this connection — which is good for wellbeing and good for nature.

## Community WildBelt

A project delivered by the Chiltern Society between 2023 and 2025 aimed at facilitating communities to deliver nature recovery projects in their local area. The project took place in Chiltern parishes around Wendover, Tring and Aylesbury and was funded by The National Lottery Heritage Fund, Wendover Community Board and Rothschild Foundation.

## Citizen Science

Citizen Science is about members of local communities getting involved in research that matters to them, like monitoring local wildlife or tracking water quality in our chalk streams. With more people working alongside professional scientists, more data can be collected over larger areas which is so valuable to understanding the challenges facing the natural world and helps make real change and inform decisions. You often don't need any special training — just curiosity and a willingness to contribute.



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