



# SPECIES REINTRODUCTION PROJECT

## PROJECT SCOPE DOCUMENT

### Great Manchester Wetlands

The Great Manchester Wetlands is a 48,000 hectare (480 km<sup>2</sup>) community and natural heritage programme, the aim of which is to deliver an ecological network between the two heavily urbanised areas of Greater Manchester and Merseyside.

The programme has been developed by a Partnership, formed in 2011, of over 20 local authorities, statutory organisations, businesses, academic institutions, environmental charities and community groups, who are working to deliver improvements to nature and wildlife for the benefit of local communities.

The Partnership works across the Great Manchester Wetlands (GM Wetlands) Nature Improvement Area (NIA) (locally determined in 2013 by the Greater Manchester and Cheshire LNPs).

Click [here](#) for a full brief and list of organisations involved.

### Development and Scope of the Species Reintroduction Project

GM Wetlands aims to create a “Living Landscape” and be an exemplar of biodiversity restoration and enhancement. Species reintroduction was included in the 2016 strategic plan for the NIA Partnership.

Due to years of work and investment by partners (e.g. Risley Moss through Warrington Borough Council; Wigan Flashes through Wigan Council’s Greenheart; the wider mosslands by the Wildlife Trusts and many others), key sites have been restored to a sufficiently suitable condition that we may now consider reintroducing previously present species. These are species, such as the large heath butterfly, which became locally extinct due to destruction and damage to their habitats and which are unlikely to re-colonise sites without help.

The Species Reintroduction Project was set up in 2018 following approval by the GM Wetlands Partnership. It is a long-term project (10 years approximately) which is taking a collaborative partnership approach. The focus is on identifying appropriate species for reintroductions, developing funded and resourced delivery projects to achieve this and making any further habitat improvements and/or taking other actions required to support their successful reintroduction. The project is focused on

the GM Wetlands NIA; it started specifically within the Manchester Mosslands SAC area but has rapidly spread across the wider GM Wetlands landscape.

The project is also integrated into the Carbon Landscape Programme – the 5-year £3m HLF-funded delivery project of GM Wetlands, because of mutual aims around restoration and reconnection. The Carbon Landscape and the Species Reintroduction project reciprocally support each other through staff time, restoration work and community engagement activity.

## Principles

The project will make use of best available practices, experience, knowledge and science to give reintroduced species the best chance possible. A core principle of the project is that it will endeavour to adopt the [IUCN Protocol on Species Reintroduction](#).

## Project Partners

While the project is administered and led by GM Wetlands partners, a number of other organisations are involved due to mutual aims and the vital contribution their skills and support can make to delivering the project. Partners are not limited to those listed below; new organisations may become involved as and when appropriate.

Partners are (\*indicates also a partner in GM Wetlands):

Lancashire Wildlife Trust\*  
Natural England\*  
Warrington Borough Council\*  
Cheshire Wildlife Trust\*  
Liverpool John Moores University  
Chester Zoo  
North West Rare Plants Initiative  
Manchester Metropolitan University\*  
The Woodland Trust  
Butterfly Conservation  
The University of Liverpool\*  
Wigan Council\*  
Salford Council\*

## Funding and Resources

So far, the project has benefitted from major funding from Veolia Environmental Trust and Casey Group Ltd (secured and administered by Lancashire Wildlife Trust), plus additional funding input from Salford CC, Warrington BC, Wigan Council and Bolton MBC. It has also received considerable input from partners and other organisations in terms of employee and volunteer time and expertise, as well as resources (e.g. City of Trees have provided tree species).