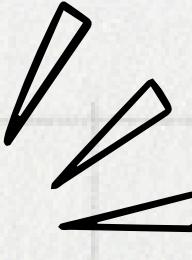




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Wigan Greenheart

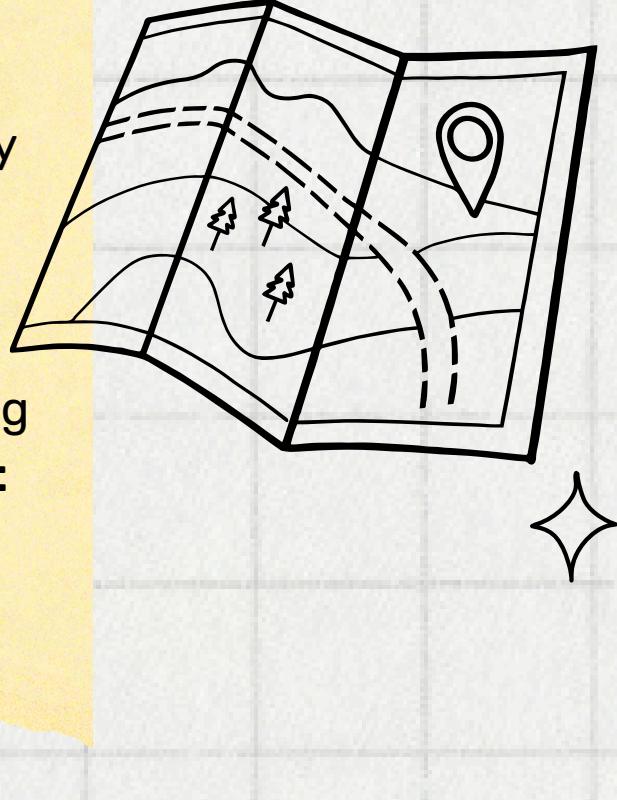
Landscape Recovery Scheme



Local Community Feedback

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

Our scheme is a long-term project that aims to enhance **44** green spaces in Wigan over a period of **20** years. It is transforming areas once dominated by mining into vibrant natural habitats. Imagine a wetland mosaic filled with reedbed, open waters, and wet woodlands— all designed for protecting endangered species like the **willow tit** and **bittern** and creating welcoming spaces for everyone.



WHO'S BEHIND THIS?

This is a collaboration between **Lancashire Wildlife Trust, Wigan Council, and Forestry England**, funded by **Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs (Defra)** with support from **Natural England**. Together, we're nurturing over **1,400** hectares of green spaces, including the Flashes of Wigan and Leigh National Nature Reserve.

WHAT WE'VE DONE?

From **Dec 2023 to Sep 2024**, we chatted with local residents and stakeholders to gather thoughts on improving our green spaces via access improvements and a series of events. See next pages for the key insights!

10 COMMUNITY WORKSHOP

7 WALKING & TALKING

3 TALKING SHOP



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What You Said:

Community Conversations

ACCESS MATTERS!

1

PATHWAY IMPROVEMENTS

Many suggested fixing waterlogged paths, repairing worn-out

surfacing, and adding informative signage about Wigan's industrial history.

2

NAVIGATING THE GREENS

Feedback highlighted the need for better on-site navigation, especially for public transport users.

Tactile maps and more signs around the place can really help out.

3

DIGITAL RESOURCES

Google Maps, social media sites, Lancashire Wildlife Trust's website are popular.

Consistent, up-to-date online info is crucial for easy exploration.

MAPPED OVER **520** DATA POINTS USING GIS SOFTWARE!

1

ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOURS

Illegal motorbike and quad-bike access is a common concern, affecting people, wildlife, and site maintenance. Volunteers often feel isolated dealing with this. While there's no quick solution, we're stronger when we work together to tackle this shared issue.

2

INCREDIBLE LOCAL SUPPORT

We've been inspired by the amazing people and groups who maintain Wigan's greenspaces and connect others with nature through arts, education and volunteering. It's exciting to explore how our scheme can support this thriving 'nature network'.

3

VOLUNTEER RECRUITMENT

Community groups need more volunteers, especially from diverse backgrounds like young people, to secure their future. Suggestions include improving our volunteering program with accredited training and more varied tasks.





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What You Said: Community Conversations



Suggestions for schools

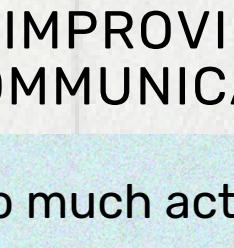
and young volunteering to connect the youth with nature were abundant.



Many have expressed interest in growing Wi

more advice, training, and job opportunities for young people entering the workforce.

U TOGETHER C



connects many spaces
stakeholders. To be

should take this 'landscape-level' approach and engage with communities across the entire area.

find the right contacts or
information. Better

awareness and improve the flow of advice on best practices.

Roads
Scale
Plants
Made
Sky
Wild
Canal
Animals





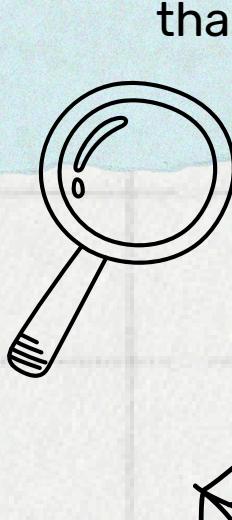
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What You Said: Community Conversations

WHAT DO YOU ENJOY ABOUT SPENDING TIME IN NATURE?

Some of the answers collected from our Community Workshops:

Nature puts things in perspective; nature is **bigger** than us.

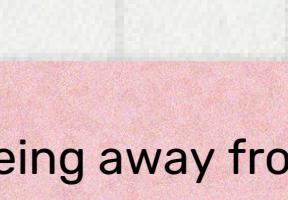


There is always something **new** to see.

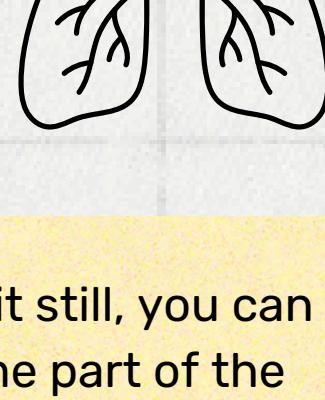


You can find unusual wildlife in Wigan – it is a **unique** semi-urban area.

I love seeing the **seasons change**.



Being away from pollution (even 100m away from a main road) is good for your **health**.



I rely on natural spaces for **mental and physical health**. Building walking into my life has been

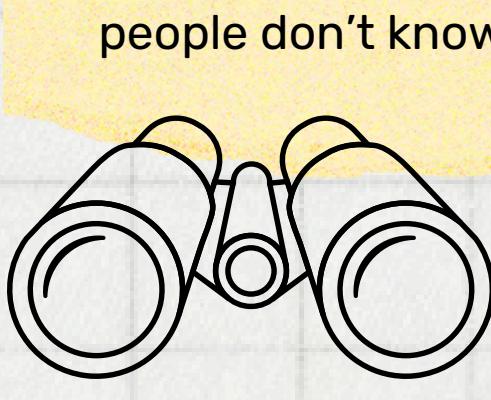
better for me than going to the gym.



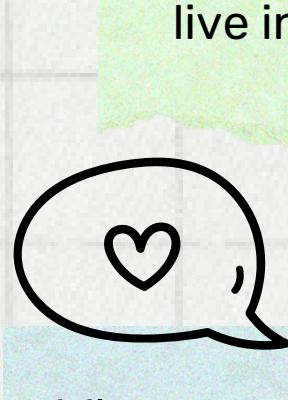
I enjoy listening to **bird** song.



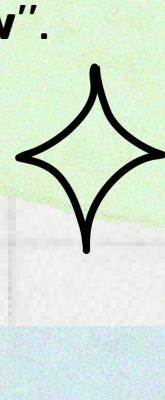
If you sit still, you can become part of the landscape, and experience **wildlife** up close if you are lucky. I have seen kingfishers and deer right by my house. In Wigan, there is a whole world that people don't know exists!



Nature reminds us to be present. Animals live in the "**now**".



When you walk in a green space you **say hello** to everyone you meet, compared to an urban area where you mainly see strangers.





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What You Said: Community Conversations

WHAT'S NEXT?

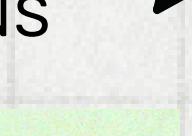
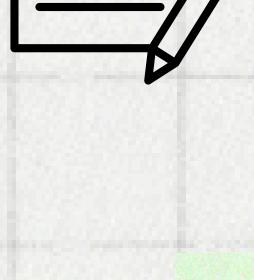
1 REVIEWING IDEAS FOR IMPROVEMENTS

We're reviewing your suggestions, and figuring out which access

improvements and activities will have

the most benefit for both nature

and the community.



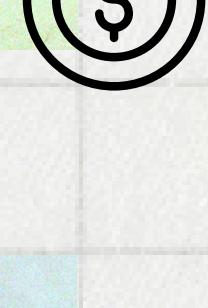
2

SUBMITTING OUR PLANS

In **Spring 2025**, we will submit plans about land management, stakeholder

engagement and access to Defra.

We'll work closely with them and other experts to get everything approved and ready to go.



3

STARTING IMPROVEMENTS

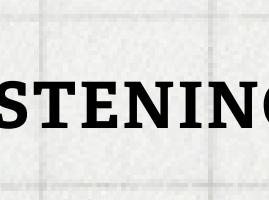
We plan to start making improvements to the green spaces by

late 2025. This includes better

access, habitat improvements,

and fun activities for

everyone to enjoy.



LISTENING TO THE COMMUNITY

A huge thank you for everyone's feedback on our project. We're working on new ways to stay in touch with the community. Please visit our social media channels and website for the latest updates!

