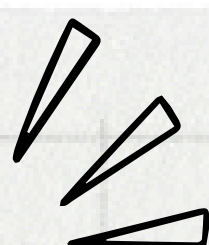


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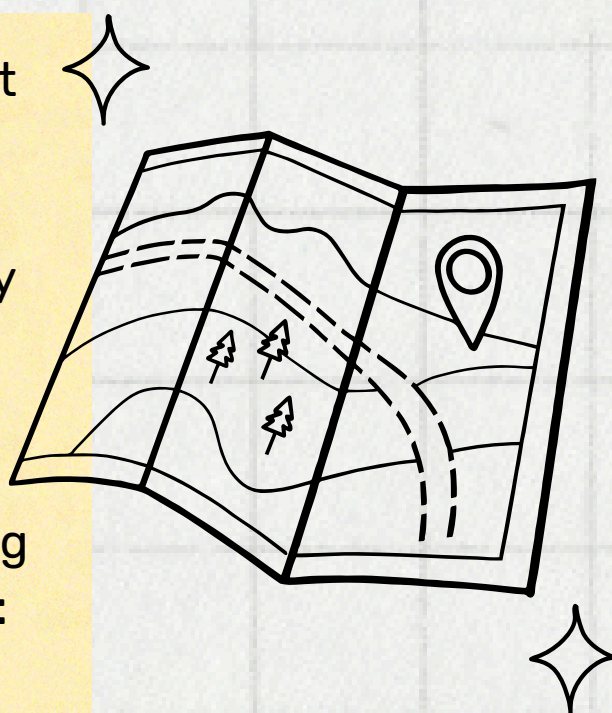


# Wigan Greenheart Landscape Recovery Scheme Local Community Feedback



## 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 supported 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!



### COMMUNITY SPIRIT!

#### 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

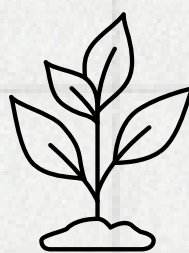
Community groups need more volunteers, especially from diverse backgrounds like young people, to secure their future. Suggestions include improving our volunteering program with accredited training and more varied tasks.





# What You Said: Community Conversations

## ENGAGING YOUNG MINDS!



# 1 YOUTH PROGRAMS

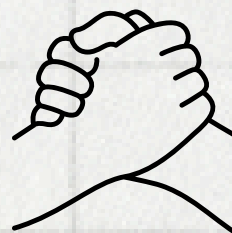
Suggestions for school programmes, family events and young volunteering to connect the youth with nature were abundant.



## 2 GREEN CAREERS

Many have expressed interest in growing Wigan's 'green careers' sector, with more advice, training, and job opportunities for young people entering the workforce.

# CONNECTING COMMUNITIES!



# 1 WORKING TOGETHER

Our scheme is a long-term, Borough-wide project that connects many spaces and stakeholders. To be most effective, our activities should take this 'landscape-level' approach and engage with communities across the entire area.

## 2 IMPROVING COMMUNICATION

With so much activity happening, it can be hard to find the right contacts or information. Better communication will raise awareness and improve the flow of advice on best practices.

# WHAT DOES LANDSCAPE MEAN TO YOU?

Here are the most common words from our visitor survey:







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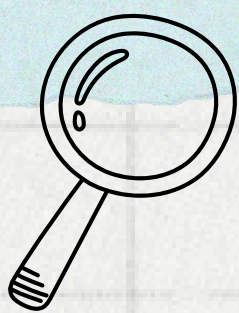
## What You Said:

### 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.

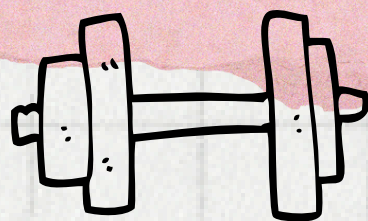


You can find unusual wildlife in Wigan – it is a **unique** semi-urban area.

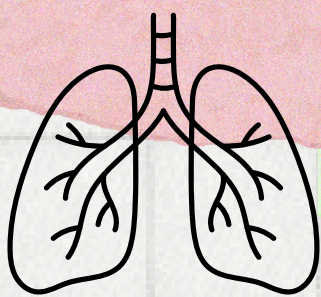
I love seeing the **seasons change**.



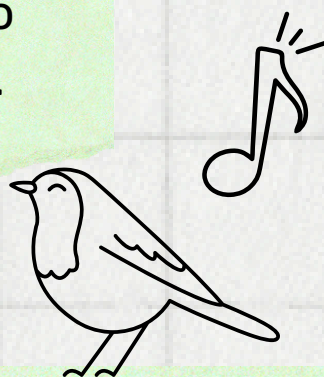
I rely on natural spaces for **mental** and **physical health**. Building walking into my life has been better for me than going to the gym.



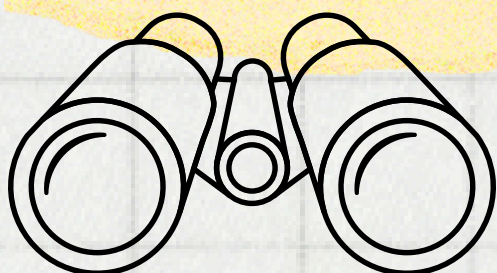
Being away from pollution (even 100m away from a main road) is good for your **health**.



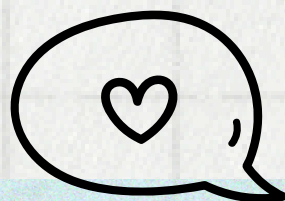
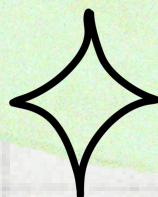
I enjoy listening to **bird** song.



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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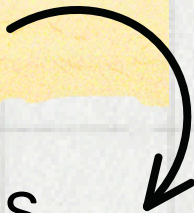
# What You Said: Community Conversations

## WHAT'S NEXT?

### 1 REVIEWING IDEAS FOR IMPROVEMENTS

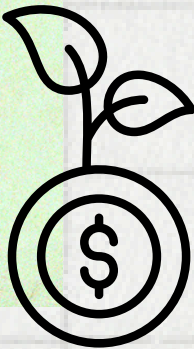


We're reviewing your suggestions, and figuring out which access improvements and activities will have the most benefit for both nature and the community.

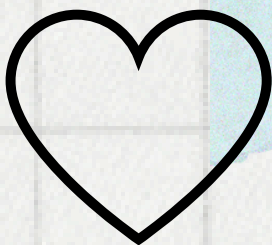


### 2 SUBMITTING OUR PLANS

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!

