

# Managing for Nature – parks and green space

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# Context – Ecological Emergency

## One City Ecological Emergency Strategy



## One City Plan

- Double the abundance of wildlife by 2040
- Double tree canopy by 2045

# What is 'Managing for Nature'?

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Managing land that focuses on providing habitats for wildlife and contributes to ecological connectivity.

## Definition

- Land with active habitat management plan, or
- Nature conservation maintenance specification.



# Managing for Nature – our approach

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**Informed by ecological data** – habitat and species data and ecological trends

**Strategic application** – contributing to a coherent and resilient ecological network – bigger, better and more joined up

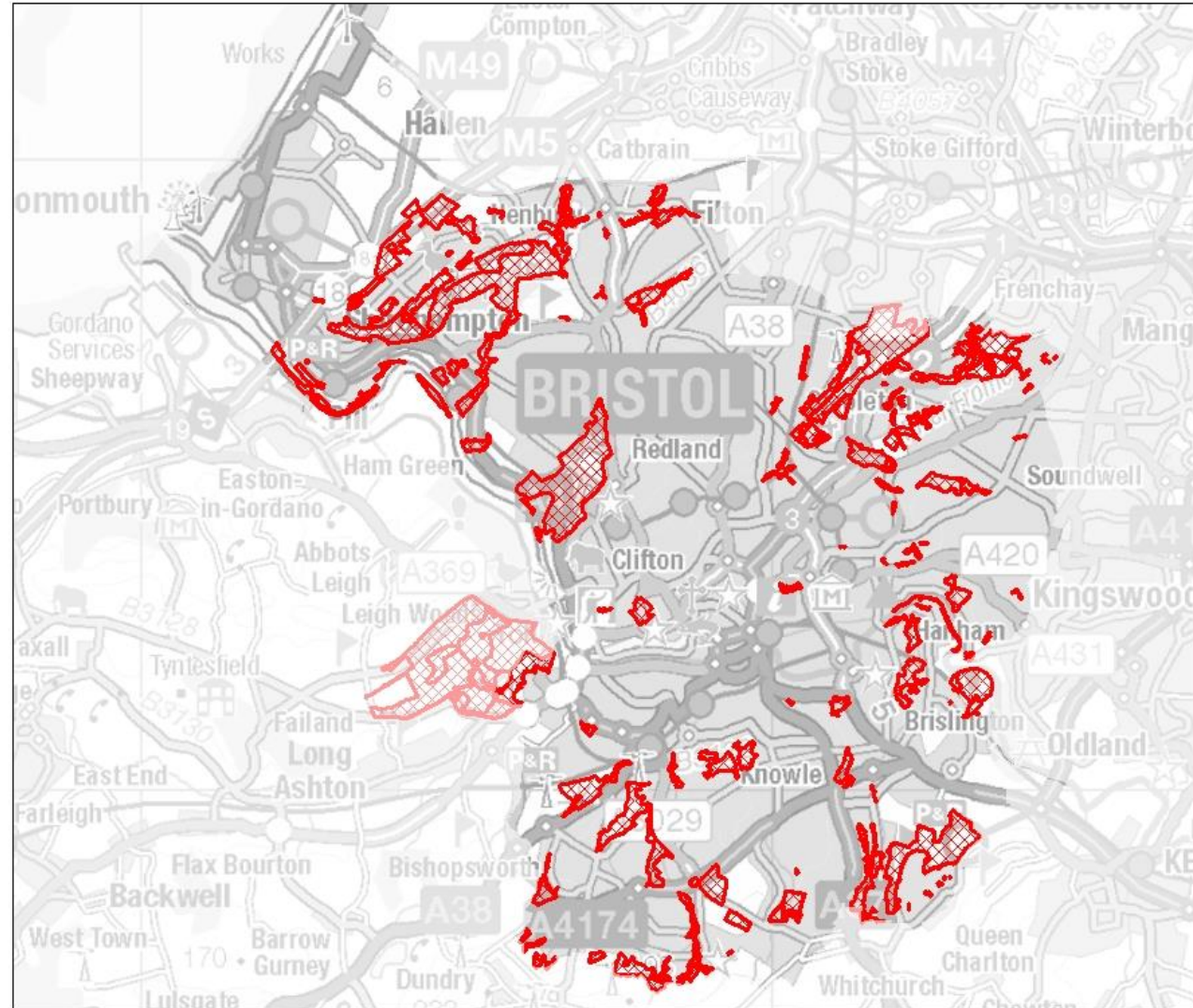
**Community collaboration** - recognising the value communities place on having wildlife in their green spaces and opportunities for contact with nature

**Founded on ecological principles** – maintenance regimes informed by a sound understanding of ecology



# Ecological data

- Up-to-date data to inform Bristol Ecological Network
- Prioritising protection of existing valuable habitats
- Identifying opportunities for habitat creation / enhancement
- Baseline for Biodiversity Net Gain calculations as offset site.



Parks & Green Spaces that have had habitat surveys (UKHab) carried out

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# Strategic application

Ecological networks – bigger, better  
and more joined up

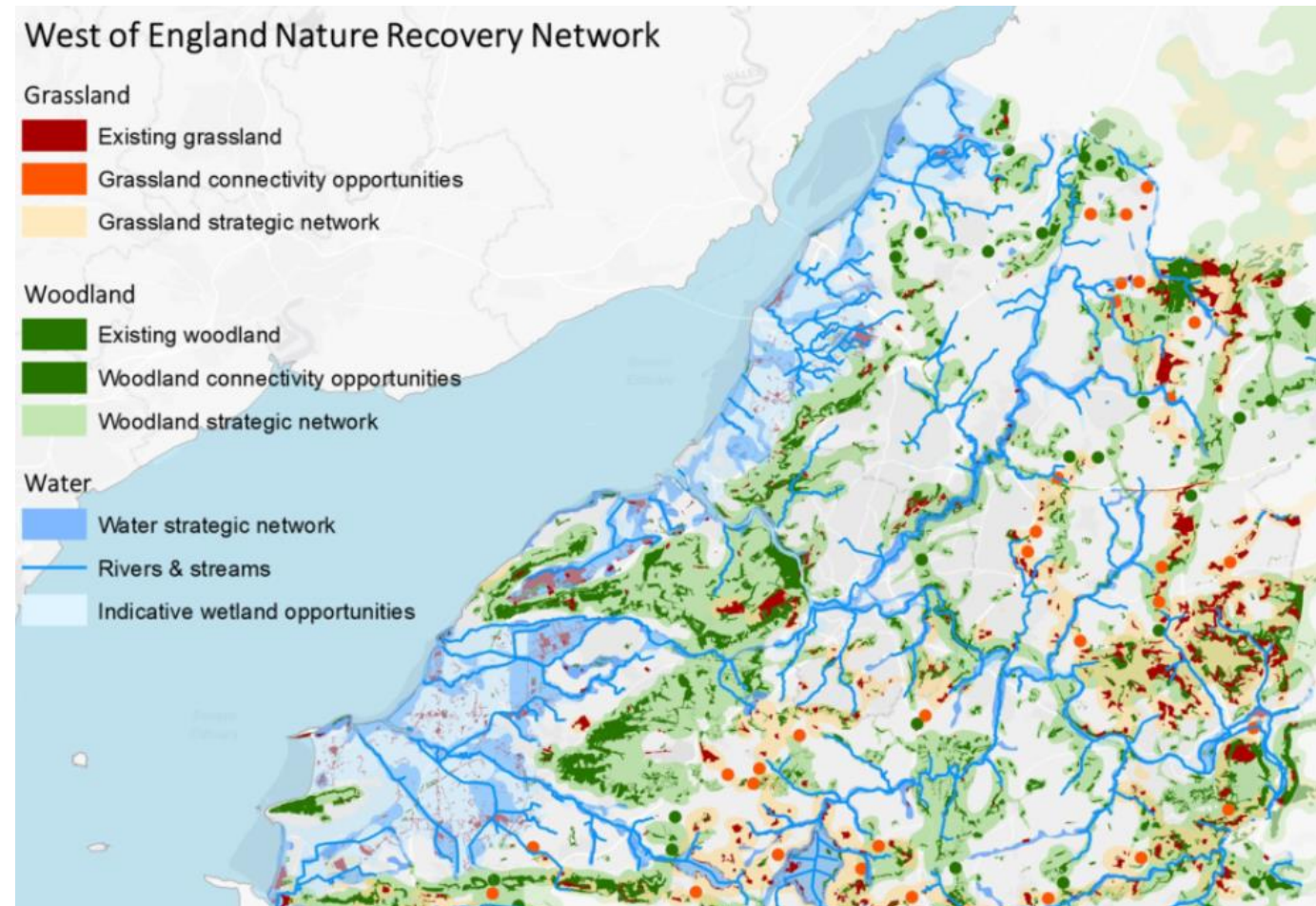
West of England Nature Recovery Network



Bristol Ecological Network



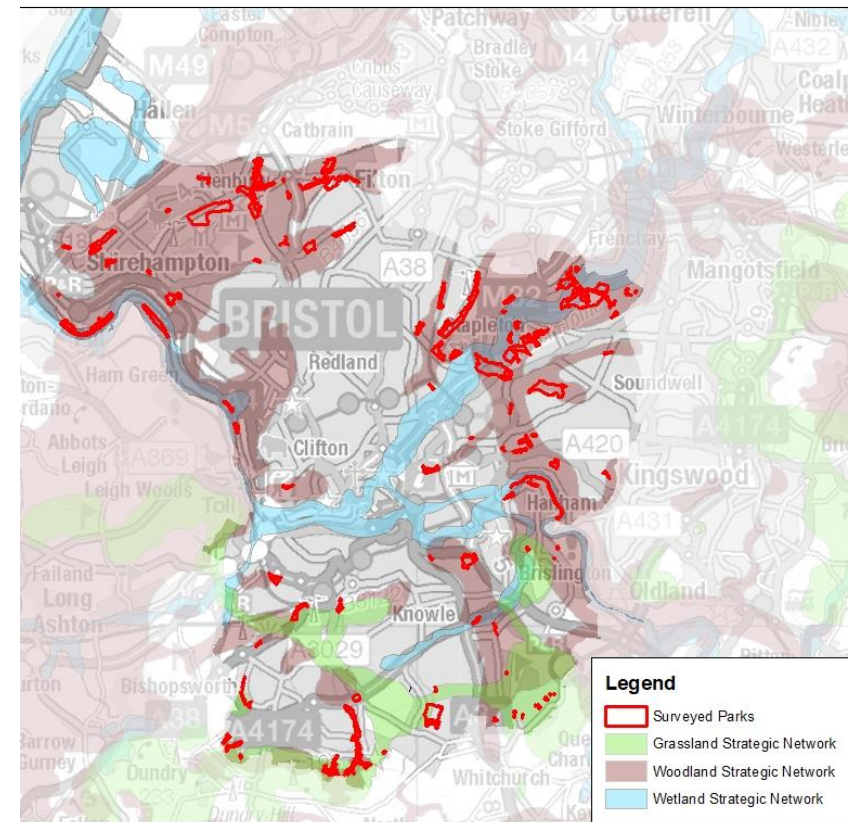
PGSS Nature Theme – nature recovery  
prioritisation





# Parks Nature Recovery Project

- ❖ West of England Nature Recovery Network : grassland, woodland and wetland networks
- ❖ **130** parks and green spaces of natural or informal typology surveyed to classify existing habitat and assess current condition
- ❖ Habitat creation/enhancement proposals put forward for over half of them. A range of habitats proposed, with a mosaic of different habitat types at many of the sites including woodland, orchards, large native open grown trees, hedgerows, species-rich scrub, species-rich grassland, tussocky grassland, and ponds.
- ❖ Local consultation involving key stakeholders



# Bristol Ecological Network

West of England Nature Recovery  
Network



Bristol Ecological Network

## **Why a Bristol Ecological network**

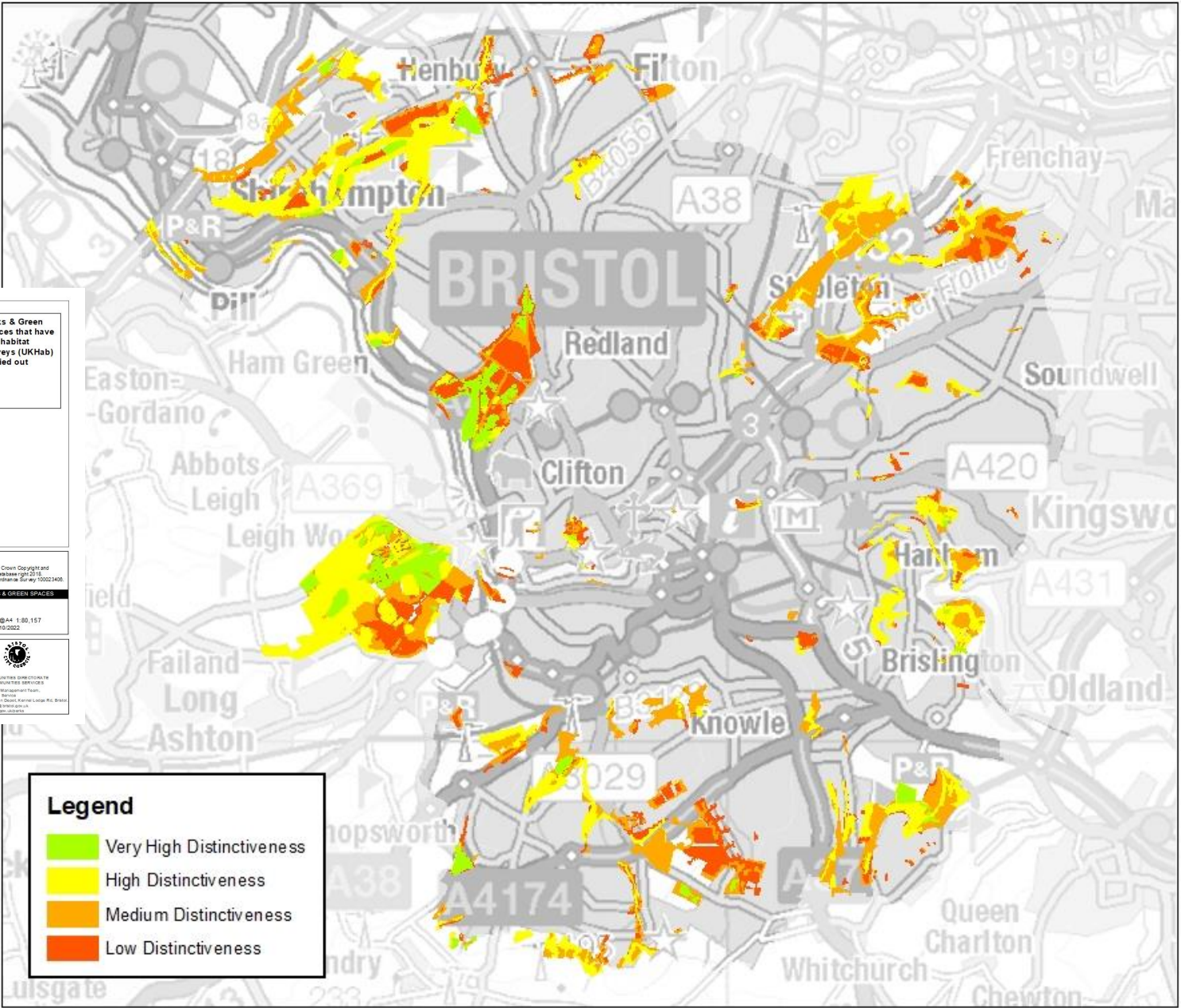
- Based on the requirements of species more likely to be found in smaller / more fragmented urban areas

## **What information will it give us and how will we use that to inform decisions?**

- Ecological network maps - location of core habitats and connecting habitats for woodland, wetland and grassland.
- Identifies opportunities for expanding core habitat areas within green spaces
- Will be used to prioritise the location of habitat creation / enhancement work
- The model will enable us to add additional or updated data in the future to produce more accurate network maps.



# Habitat Distinctiveness Scoring



Parks & Green Spaces that have had habitat surveys (UKHab) carried out

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## Legend

- Very High Distinctiveness
- High Distinctiveness
- Medium Distinctiveness
- Low Distinctiveness

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# PGSS Nature Recovery prioritisation work

For example

Habitat survey data (UK Hab)



Distinctiveness Score  
(Very high to Low)



Bristol Ecological Network  
(Woodland, Grassland and  
Wetland Networks)

UK Hab classification = Modified  
grassland



Distinctiveness score = 1



Bristol Ecological Network =  
Woodland network



Potential opportunity for tree  
planting (woodland, orchard of  
native open grown trees)



# Our approach – Community collaboration

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- Engagement exercise to seek people's views on where they would like to see green spaces managed for nature and how they would like to be involved.
- Inform spatial priorities for change
- Feed into developing Nature Conservation Volunteering programme
- Consultation on proposed changes to maintenance regimes



# Our approach – Founded on ecological principles

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New 'managing for nature' maintenance regimes:

- Species-rich grassland – cut and collect on sites which are too small for a traditional hay cut.
- Tussocky grassland – rotational cut once every 2 or 3 years
- Flowering lawn
- Orchards
- Ponds
- Hedgerows
- Young woodlands





# Managing for Nature – Implementing change

- Changes in machinery and land management practices
- Phased over several years
- Securing funding:
  - Trees for Climate fund
  - Sponsorship, e.g. re-launching Meadow Bristol
  - Biodiversity Net Gain
  - Government land management schemes

# Timeline

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## **October**

- Complete mapping of 'Managing for Nature' baseline
- Incorporate data from Bristol Ecological Network to complete PGSS Nature Recovery prioritisation mapping
- Map potential application of new 'Managing for Nature' maintenance regimes.

## **November**

- Parks Nature Recovery site focused consultation
- City-wide 'Managing for Nature' engagement
- Modelling resource requirements of potential application of new maintenance regimes

## **December**

- Review of modelling; applying prioritisation mapping and incorporating feedback from engagement work.

## **January/February**

- Managing for Nature consultation (within PGSS)

## **February/March**

- Development of implementation plan