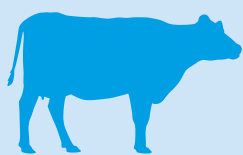


Action For Nature Performance

Hectares of Council Land in Better Management for Nature

Total Land in Better Management
for Nature 2021-22

3,844
hectares



County Farms
2,154
hectares

Highway
Verges

1,068
hectares



Country Parks
585 hectares

Playing Fields **37** hectares



Wildlife Verges



2021 - 22

55
verges



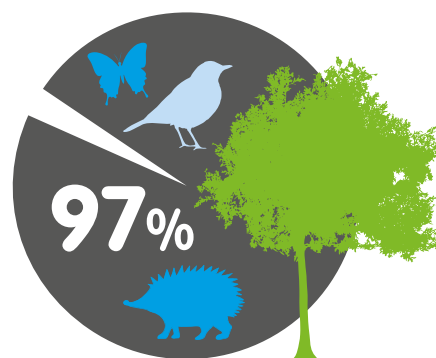
42 parishes participating

These new metrics are **currently under development** and are seeking to show how much of council land is in **better management for nature**, in area terms and as a percentage of the total council land that could be in better management for nature.

Only land where there is a **conscious decision made to manage the land in a way that protects or enhances nature** is included. The figures do not say anything about the quality of that land from a nature perspective. The figures presented are based on the **current available data** so are not the final figures but are **indicative of the position**. Further refinement of the data will be carried out ahead of producing the figures for 2022-23.

The available data shows that **3,844 hectares** of council land are in better management for nature and include county farms and highway verges. This is equivalent to **97%** of the land that could possibly be suitable.

% of Suitable Council Land in Better Management for Nature



The County Council started the **Urban Wildlife Verge scheme** pilot in **2020**. Since then, the scheme has grown in the number of verges included and the number of parish councils participating. At the end of **2021-22** there were **55 verges** in the scheme managed by **42 parishes**. These verges are managed by reducing grass cutting, which is also done at the best time of the year for wildlife. The grass clippings are removed to provide good soil conditions for wildflowers to thrive. For more information on the scheme go to the [Leicestershire County Council website](#).

Number of Trees Planted in Leicestershire



The County Council has set a target to help plant **700,000 trees** in Leicestershire by **2030** as part of its net zero and nature recovery commitments. At the end of **2021-22** some **100,000 trees** were planted across the county by the county council and other organisations and individuals. For more information on this and to keep track of how many trees are being planted visit the [Leicestershire County Council website](https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk).

Treescape Project

During **2021-22** the County Council secured over **£227,000** in funding from the Forestry Commission's **Treescape project**. The funding supported the planting and maintenance of **20,000 trees** across Leicestershire. The scheme was developed in partnership with district and parish councils.

Projects on the ground

Biodiversity Net Gain

As part of the County Council's policy to ensure **10% Biodiversity Net Gain** on any of its strategic property development, it has carried out works on a number of its Country Parks to the value of **£5,368**. The works took place at **Donington Le Heath**, **Bagworth** and **Snibston Country Park** and included dredging a pond, heath restoration, hedge-laying and willow pollarding. These biodiversity net gain offsetting works took place as part of the development of the new **waste site** at **Bardon**.

Trent Rivers' Trust Project

Through partnership with the **River Soar Catchment Partners**, the County Council secured a budget of **£46,700** to **improve grassland** at Watermead Country Park, other Council land and land owned by Broughton Astley Parish Council. So far, the area of natural grassland has been increased by **0.2 hectares**. The project will collectively help to join up grassland habitat along the River Soar Catchment and is part of a wider project which will see **£421,100** spent in Leicestershire.



Leicestershire Local Growth Funding

A **£500,000** project in **Watermead Country Park** has **improved** the **visitor experience** while also creating **greater access for nature**. The works undertaken included physical access improvements and wayfinding for visitors and improvements to natural habitats including wetland scrapes. This helps threatened species such as Lapwing, tree planting, island restoration, grassland work and more planting of vegetation around park entrances.

