

## Why we need to act

Climate change is happening, and its impacts are unavoidable. We are already experiencing the dangerous impacts of a rapidly heating climate. Even if we cut emissions to zero tomorrow, further warming is inevitable due to the legacy of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere that will take decades to decline to safe levels.

Global and UK average temperatures have increased by around 1.2°C since the 1850–1900 period. The 2018 Climate change projections for the UK are broadly consistent with the UK Climate Projection 2009 (UKCP09) showing a change towards warmer, wetter winters and hotter, drier summers and an increasing frequency and intensity of extreme weather events which will continue to amplify as climate change intensifies. Action was urgent in 2009 but we have lost another decade, making action even more urgent now – and requiring a deep and collective response.

As well as a climate crisis, we are experiencing a biodiversity crisis. State of Nature uses the latest and best data from biological monitoring and recording schemes, collated by thousands of people to provide a benchmark for the status of our wildlife. Here are some of the headlines from the State of Nature report 2023:

- Across the UK species have declined on average by 19% since 1970.
- Nearly one in six species (16%) are threatened with extinction in Great Britain
- 151 of 10,008 species assessed have already become extinct since 1500

The full report can be accessed here: <https://stateofnature.org.uk/>

In the 1930s, 40% of the Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) was covered in wildflower-rich grassland. This habitat was abundant with beautiful wildflowers, and supported a vast diversity of wildlife, including rare wildflowers such as the beautiful Pasqueflower and a huge variety of invertebrates and all the birds and mammals that depend on them. Wildflower grasslands are particularly important for pollinators such as bees and butterflies, including many rare species such as the Chalkhill Blue and Duke of Burgundy. Sadly, agricultural intensification and changing land management practices have led to the loss of almost all this wildflower grassland...less than 1.5% remains.

## Values of the LVEP

A **COLLECTIVE** that works for each other for shared benefit

**SUSTAINABILITY** is at the heart of our approach to solutions

We **ADVOCATE** for all of our partners and for the visitor economy

We **ALIGN** our practices to achieve exceptional standards across all areas of our work

We bring **OPPORTUNITY** to businesses across our region

## Objectives

- **Clear audit of what is already provided and by who and until when**
- **Understand business needs following pandemic and preferred ways to access**
- **Develop useful training information for visitor economy businesses that helps make a difference**
- **To encourage 'cross authority' shared training – making use of virtual to broaden the reach**
- **Clear signposting and communication of all business support including funding available across the LVEP region**
- **Supporting the growth of the visitor economy**
- **Link across to the other work streams of skills & training and research and data**
- **Bridging the gap between businesses and policy makers**

## Activities to be carried out 2023/2024 LVEP led & delivered

For Led and Delivered activities plans should highlight the value(s) that are linked to them. They should also describe a method of success measurement/KPI, and describe the proposed visitor economy impact.

Activity	Align to values	Expected Outcome	Responsible	Priority (1 Key to 5 low)	Cost of Activity	Provider(s)	Start date	KPI's	Completion Date
<p><b>Increase understanding of how businesses can reduce energy, water and waste (and save money)</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Audit of existing resources and activity including online content, training, funding etc.</li> <li>Where existing resources don't exist, creation of simple guides to identify best practice – or case studies to demonstrate practical ways businesses can reduce waste, energy use and water (and ultimately save money)</li> <li>Promotion and dissemination to businesses</li> </ol>	<p>Collective Sustainability Opportunity</p>	<p>To understand what businesses are already doing in this area</p> <p>Best practice guides/ case studies produced</p> <p>Key learnings and guides disseminated</p>	Cotswolds Plus LVEP	1	Officer time	<p>All strategic partners LVEP</p> <p>Cotswolds Tourism team</p> <p>Each workstream lead</p>	Winter 23	<p>Min of one example of good practice for energy, water &amp; waste</p> <p>Creation of a comms plan</p>	
<p><b>Increase understanding of how businesses can reduce energy, water and waste (and save money)</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Create a group of ambassador businesses - examples of what can be done and how to do it. Take innovative approaches and help amplify across the region</li> </ol>	<p>Collective Sustainability Opportunity</p>	<p>Identify businesses that are willing to be ambassadors and share their approach with others</p>	Cotswolds Plus LVEP	2	Officer time	<p>All strategic partners LVEP</p> <p>Cotswolds Tourism team</p> <p>Each workstream lead</p>	Winter 23	<p>Min of one business each for energy, water &amp; waste</p>	

COTSWOLDS PLUS LVEP SUSTAINABLE BUSINESS PRACTICES & BIODIVERSITY WORKSTREAM, ACTIVITY PLAN SEPTEMBER 2023 – DECEMBER 2025

Activity	Align to values	Expected Outcome	Responsible	Priority (1 Key to 5 low)	Cost of Activity	Provider(s)	Start date	KPI's	Completion Date
<p><b>Increase understanding of how businesses can reduce energy, water and waste (and save money)</b></p> <p>1. Virtual or in-person sessions on key topics such as creating a simple sustainability plan or how to do an audit</p>	<p>Collective</p> <p>Sustainability</p> <p>Opportunity</p>	<p>Use the LVEP's professional network and expertise to deliver session(s) on key areas.</p>	Cotswolds Plus LVEP	3	Officer time	<p>All strategic partners LVEP</p> <p>Cotswolds Tourism team</p> <p>Each workstream lead</p>	Winter 23	One session delivered	
<p><b>Encourage nature positive initiatives among visitor economy businesses</b></p> <p>1. Creation of simple guides (where no existing resources are identified) to demystify biodiversity</p> <p>2. Acting as an intermediary, linking businesses to nature-based activity and organisations</p>	<p>Collective</p> <p>Sustainability</p> <p>Opportunity</p>	<p>To understand what resource/ material is already available</p> <p>Creation of guides</p> <p>Identify appropriate nature-based activity and organisations that can be promoted</p>	Cotswolds Plus LVEP	1	Officer time	<p>All strategic partners LVEP</p> <p>Cotswolds Tourism team</p> <p>Each workstream lead</p>	Winter 23	Guides created	
<p><b>Encourage nature positive initiatives among visitor economy businesses</b></p> <p>1. Create a group of ambassador businesses – examples of what can be done, how to do it. Take innovative approaches and help amplify across the region.</p>	<p>Collective</p> <p>Sustainability</p> <p>Opportunity</p>	<p>Identify businesses that are willing to be ambassadors and share their approach with others</p>	Cotswolds Plus LVEP	2	Officer time	<p>All strategic partners LVEP</p> <p>Cotswolds Tourism team</p>	Winter 23	Min of three businesses	

						Each workstream lead			
Activity	Align to values	Expected Outcome	Responsible	Priority (1 Key to 5 low)	Cost of Activity	Provider(s)	Start date	KPI's	Completion Date
<p><b>Encourage nature positive initiatives among visitor economy businesses</b></p> <p>1. Virtual or in person event on nature positive initiatives</p> <p>This could include attracting bees and other pollinators (including window boxes for those with no green space), encouraging birdlife and wildlife, tree planting, wild meadows and 'no mow' areas, pond installations and other activities within their available patch of green space (however big or small).</p>	<p>Collective</p> <p>Sustainability</p> <p>Opportunity</p>	Use the LVEP's professional network and expertise to deliver session(s) on key areas.	Cotswolds Plus LVEP	3	Officer time	<p>All strategic partners LVEP</p> <p>Cotswolds Tourism team</p> <p>Each workstream lead</p>	Winter 23	Plan one session for the next FY	

## Activities being undertaken where LVEP has an influencing role

Note these activities are not delivered directly by Cotswolds Plus LVEP but delivered by strategic partners

Activity	LVEP Values	Expected Outcome	Responsible
Identify funding streams for activities/projects	Opportunity	Funding opportunities shared with businesses	Cotswolds Tourism
Increase awareness of Caring for the Cotswolds to businesses (especially DMO members) because the scheme offers an easy way for businesses and their customers to give something back to nature	Opportunity	Increase membership of Caring for the Cotswolds Increase revenue generated of Caring for the Cotswolds	Cotswolds Tourism Cotswolds National Landscape

## LVEP Related activity to monitor

LVEP Monitored activity should be a simple list describing who is delivering it and where.

Activity	Delivered by
Visit England business advice hub & webinars, Growth hub plans & training events (and other resources identified during audit process)	Visit England Growth hub