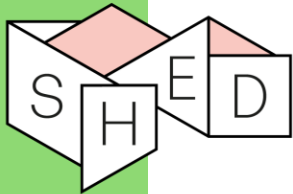


Shedding Light on Nature: Have Your Say!

**A Designing Dialogue CiC report for
Derbyshire County Council's Local Nature Recovery Strategy
A process of public engagement and consultation in partnership with
University of Derby.**

February – March, 2025





Overview

This report summarises the public consultation delivered by Designing Dialogue CiC that runs the project S.H.E.D on the Derbyshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy: Shedding Light on Nature: Have Your Say! which took place in February and March 2025 for Derbyshire County Council. The report is broken down into three main sections, methodology, delivery and findings. The work has built upon insights from the local nature recovery strategy resources, which are publicly available through [Resources - Derbyshire's Nature Recovery Strategy](#).

Designing Dialogue CiC was commissioned by the University of Derby to design and deliver for Derbyshire County Council their consultation of the first Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) for Derbyshire and the City of Derby. The strategy will set out where and how we can improve, enhance and make space for nature in our area. As part of the public consultation phase of the LNRS, Designing Dialogue CiC set out to hear views from local people and communities on the vision and priorities for nature recovery in Derbyshire. A 2-month programme featuring creative commissions, interventions and ideas generation took place over February and March 2025.

The methodology contains information about our approach to creative placemaking and co-designing pop-up installation spaces ('SHEDS') for public engagement and consultation. It also describes a short documentary created by Space-Face-Film, commissioned by Designing Dialogue CiC, to report on the public consultation approach and process. We also commissioned Baby People, a hip-hop school based in Derby, to work with a group of 13–16-year-olds from Derbyshire to create an original track entitled 'Sounds of Derbyshire'.

Our creative approach to public consultation doesn't just reside in the unique design of our touring spaces and engagement activities, but in our reporting formats and engagement with our commissioners and stakeholders.

The Designing Dialogue CiC approach aimed to innovate the council's approach to public consultation, shifting the narrative and practice towards public engagement through community building and co-designing of pop up S.H.E.D. PODs. The priority was to identify who hadn't been communicated with, and what spaces and places we needed to visit to connect with these people – the often-unheard groups who might want to contribute to nature's recovery, but who do not know about the LNRS and/or take part in the online survey.

The S.H.E.D PODs toured five locations around Derbyshire. Locations were identified in collaboration with Derbyshire County Council and represented a range of landscape characteristics, geographical positions within the county, and a wide mix of demographics. Sites included a leisure centre, public park spaces, tourist destinations, a farmer's market, and a local museum across village, town and city geographical locales in Derby and Derbyshire - from rural high peaks to an urban inner-city park. In collaboration with local creatives, young people, community groups, University of Derby's Nature Connectedness Research Group, and the wider LNRS team, Designing Dialogue CiC created opportunities for the public to share their insights and lived experiences and engage in personally meaningful discussions about the LNRS, encouraging wider engagement with the consultation survey and maps. Three online sessions were also held - two for the public and one for the core S.H.E.D delivery team with Derbyshire County Council to share feedback and initial reflections. The S.H.E.D PODs provided a platform for people to share their artistic and personal views on nature, nature's recovery and people's relationships with nature.

Our approach emphasises listening and conversation and engaging with communities and groups that rarely get opportunities to feed into Derbyshire County Council consultations. We specifically set out to reach people who were unaware of Derbyshire's Local Nature Recovery Strategy but who have views about nature they want to share. We also wanted to engage young people - the future leaders and problem solvers for recovery of Derbyshire's nature.

We are pleased to add these voices to the wider consultation and to have shown how this kind of engagement is possible. This report is to be read in conjunction with the 'Sounds of Derbyshire' track and the [film documentary](#).



Listen to the
Sounds of
Derbyshire



Shedding Light on Nature: Have Your Say!



S.H.E.D is brought to you by: Designing Dialogue Community Interest Company (S.H.E.D) the first spinout company from the University of Derby.

Founding Director & CEO: Dr Rhiannon Jones
Company Directors: Barend Slabbert & Dr Victoria Barker
Company Secretary: Sarah Webb

S.H.E.D and Derbyshire County Council LNRS Project Team:

Harry Freestone, Chris Preece, Nick Barker, Dr Rhiannon Jones,
Jordan Carr, Callum Bate, Dr Carly Butler, Dr Victoria Barker

What is S.H.E.D ?

S.H.E.D stands for the Social Higher Education Depot, and was created in 2019 by Dr Rhiannon Jones, Associate Professor (Civic Practice). Exploring how we design dialogue with the public for the shedding of preconceptions about people and place. Taking the premise of a garden shed, it was developed into a flat pack, reconfigurable, touring space that could support cultural and socio-civic research and practice. S.H.E.D has been working to address how to co-design with communities, a D.I.Y, sustainable and civic space to talk. It has over 33 different possible configurations all co-designed and co- created with the public. It is a unique space for civic dialogue and social cohesion in relation to justice, equality and climate change while opening opportunities for conversations with the public in the city. It was incorporated as a community interest company in 2020 by Dr Rhiannon Jones, Sarah Webb, Dr Victoria Barker.

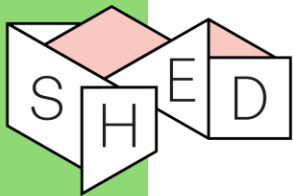
S.H.E.D provides a unique space to showcase the public perspective from across the UK. The work of S.H.E.D acts as a catalyst for positive change, to address challenges of climate change, inequality and promote social mobility.

www.wearshed.co.uk





Delivery locations

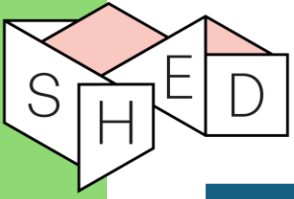


DERBYSHIRE'S NATIONAL CHARACTER AREAS

- Dark Peak
- South West Peak
- White Peak
- Derbyshire Peak Fringe and Lower Derwent
- Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire and Yorkshire Coalfield
- Southern Magnesian Limestone
- Needwood and South Derbyshire Claylands
- Trent Valley Washlands
- Melbourne Parklands
- Leicestershire and South Derbyshire Coalfield
- Mease/Sence Lowlands

Derbyshire is a large county with geographically and demographically distinct areas. The communities of the towns and villages of Derbyshire have varied relationships with the nature around them, reflecting the heritage industries and human activities that have shaped and are shaped by their local landscapes. As well as being home to the iconic Peak District, Derbyshire has large areas of land recovering from coal extraction and mining.

Five locations were selected to ensure that the tour visited a village, town and city which also cover five of Derbyshire's 11 National Character Areas (see key): Glossop in the Dark Peak in the northern part of the county, the coalfield regions around Killamarsh in the West and Swadlincote in the South, Bakewell between the White and Dark Peak, and the urban environment of Derby City.



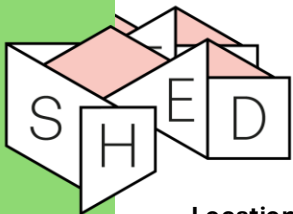
Where and When	Why and Who
Killamarsh Active Centre Monday 17th February 2025 (Half Term Week) 	Killamarsh is in the North-East of the county, close to the border of South Yorkshire. As a village, Killamarsh has a smaller population than our other locations and different demographic, ensuring we reach those who may not normally engage in public consultation. We chose to visit Killamarsh Active during the February half-term to provide an opportunity to engage with a wide range of people and age groups - families visiting the centre's soft play area, those attending activities and classes at the centre, as well as those passing by. We engaged with young people and families, local residents, LNRS steering members, councillors, Centre staff families, dog walkers
Bakewell Farmers Market – Agricultural Business Centre Saturday 22nd February 2025 	Bakewell is a market town and civil parish in the Derbyshire Dales district of Derbyshire, England, known for Bakewell pudding. It lies on the River Wye, 15 miles south-west of Sheffield. It is the largest settlement and only town within the boundaries of the Peak District National Park. The Farmers' Market is visited by a wide range of people from the town and wider area, including visitors, residents, families, farming community, local traders and businesses. Increased footfall attracted a wider range of people to the ABC, including visitors, residents and families. Mostly, we spoke with local people, people involved in national parks and local councils, homeowners, holiday makers and local business owners.



Where and When	Why and Who
Arboretum Park, Derby City Saturday 1st March 2025 	Britain's first public park, gifted to the working people of Derby City in 1840. This was the only urban city location on the tour. SHED was located by the community café, near the playground and sports facilities. Reach global majority families and individuals.
Manor Park, Glossop Monday 10th March 2025 	Glossop is a gateway to the Peak District National Park and is a market town resting at the foot of the famous Snake Pass. It lies in the Dark Peak, approximately 15 miles east of Manchester and 55 miles north of Derby, near Derbyshire's county borders with Cheshire, Greater Manchester, South Yorkshire and West Yorkshire. We were at Manor Park – a public green space popular with residents, families and visitors. We spoke with members from the retired community, grandparents, local rambler and bird watching groups and nature trustees.
Sharpe's Pottery Museum. Swadlincote Wednesday 12th March 2025 	Swadlincote is a historic mining town in South Derbyshire. We were located at Sharpe's Pottery Museum, a fascinating social history museum that tells the story of the heritage and landscape of coal mining, clay extraction and industry in South Derbyshire, right up to the 21st century with the journey to a new sustainable landscape led by the creation of the National Forest. We spoke with retired community members, cultural venues and local stakeholders from Swadlincote.



Place-based Insights



Location One: Killamarsh Active

Our engagement here showed us people were keen for active ways to engage, with visitors to SHED keen to talk with us about their views on nature's recovery.

Key themes were a desire for more tree planting and hedgerows, a sense of pride about hyperlocal pockets of nature, and an interest in sharing stories about what nature could be seen 'on your doorstep'. People called for more information and support about opportunities for new planting.

Location Two: Bakewell Agricultural Business Centre

There were several differing themes in Bakewell. A lot of people expressed concerns about the effects of development, with people citing development close to riverbanks and the effect this has had on Water Vole habitats. There is also a lack of information about local wildlife and habitats, so people do not know how to respect and preserve these, particularly visitors to the area. Easy information that can be viewed and shared was requested.

People praised tree planting efforts and aftercare from Derbyshire County Council, but raised concerns over mature trees getting cut down, and the reduction in flood protection this causes.

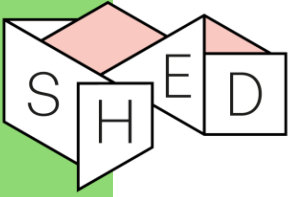
Other comments included a desire for improved communication between local stakeholders (national parks, county council) and residents, a need for protected/no access areas to increase biodiversity and protect habitats, and concern about reduced maintenance of natural spaces due to fewer park rangers. There was a call for supporting development of skills and knowledge to enable people to look after nature.

Location Three : Derby Arboretum Park

Parents and children really engaged with the art wall and spoke about how this was what led to them further engaging with the other SHED pods. This was thoroughly enjoyed by younger participants as is something they would love to see again. Other members of the public mentioned they felt drawn to the event as it seemed busy with other people engaging with it.

Local residents were pleased the consultation was based at Arboretum Park, versus other city parks. The surrounding area is in the bottom 2% deprivation, but Arboretum is the most heavily used park in Derby City. Residents also shared their deep love of nature and recognised how it helps their mental wellbeing. There was a real desire to help nature, interact with local nature, and to help people realise benefits of nature.

People's visions for nature recovery in Derby City included green corridors connecting up parks, and a desire to bring more nature into Arboretum. Residents talked fondly of the history of the park, including the menagerie that used to be there. Some shared an interest in wanting to do more to help but not being sure how – reporting difficulty finding paid nature-related work.



Location Four: Glossop, Manor Park

Issues of place came up heavily at Glossop. Some people related to Derbyshire, whilst others had talked about Glossop being an overspill for Manchester.

Residents wanted to see more encouragement and support for local initiatives, such as the Glossop Eco Church and their work installing swift boxes and planting wildflowers. They want to see nature's recovery in the urban environment near where people live, as well as in dedicated green spaces and rural areas.

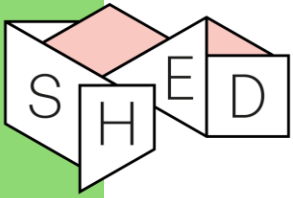
Accessibility was also a key theme, as residents find it hard to access nature across other areas of Derbyshire. While Glossop is seen as a 'beauty spot' and attracts visitors, this can lead to green spaces being crowded, blocked by cars or damaged by visitors.

Location Five: Swadlincote

In Swadlincote, conversations focused on the people and wildlife priority area. People were keen to get involved and for the expertise of local environmental groups and residents to be drawn on in the implementation of the strategy. There was an emphasis on the importance of embedding opportunities for individuals and communities to help local nature.

There were also comments about how the landscape in the area has changed completely, so the strategy needs to be adaptable to future changes. Concerns around border complexity were also raised – some who lived on the Leicestershire border expressed concerns about local nature on one side of the boundary being treated differently than nature on the other. Nature works to different borders than humans. There was a call for more integration of people and nature across the range of environments spaces – more opportunities for work in rural areas, and more opportunities for rest in towns and cities.

Locals were also keen to input into local policy and decision making relating to nature.



Attendees were eager to ensure the strategy recognized the importance of people and communities in the process and to maximise opportunities for public involvement in its implementation.

- People want to actively help nature, to help people via nature, and get involved in nature recovery, and want more opportunities to do so.
- Concern that only those who actively care about or are engaged with nature would take part in a formal process,
- There was support for greater public involvement in policy making and decision making relating to nature.
- Some attendees expressed frustrations about a lack of funding and lack of staffing in green spaces. There was a concern about loss of people to maintain spaces, and lost opportunity for those with knowledge and skills to teach others about maintaining spaces.
- Concerns about nature disappearing and what is happening to it. Housing pressures make it feel like more green space is used for development
- Appetite for community ownership so that local people can hold on to and use their green spaces.
- Lack of nature-based education in schools to connect young people to nature from an early age. Attendees expressed concern about people coming into the area and disturbing nature, especially dog walkers. They are unresponsive when people try to tell them what they are doing wrong.

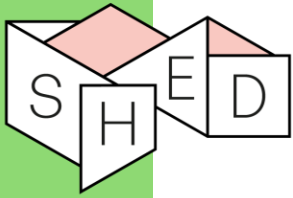


225 people spoke with us through direct engagement at S.H.E.D

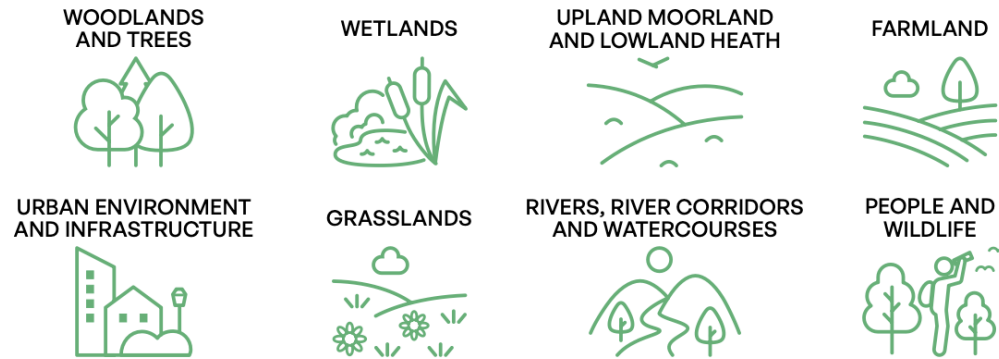


5 days of consultation. Members of the public who spoke with us were aged 3 to 81.

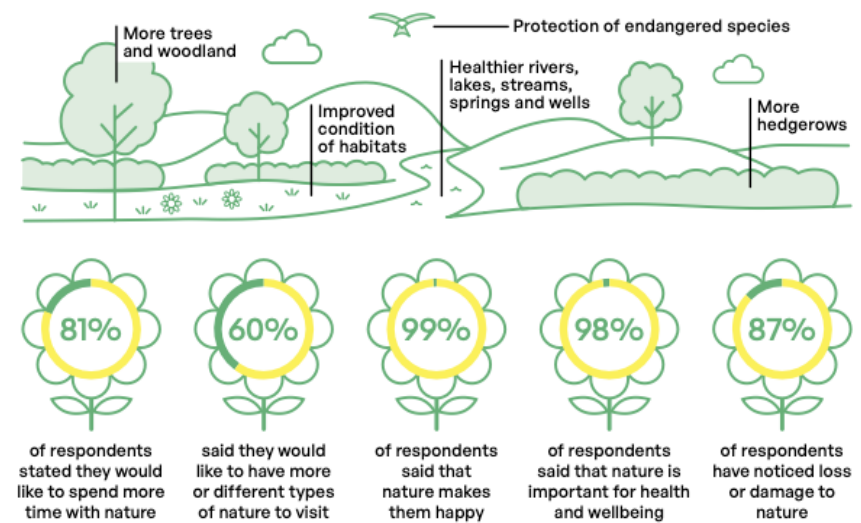




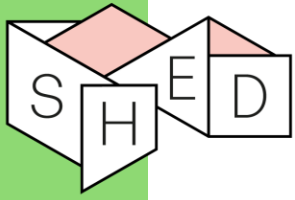
The draft Derbyshire LNRS identifies eight priority areas. Overall, people agreed with these as areas for priority though most conversations focused on the people and wildlife priority. In discussions about this priority, people shared their views on the importance of nature for communities and individuals, and an interest in seeing local people involved in the recovery of nature near them.



What do the people of Derbyshire want for nature recovery?



This is a data from the LNRS Nature Survey undertaken August - October 2024. [Click here](#) to see the results of the survey and [here for pre-consultation public survey results](#)



What did the public tell us about how they can show up for nature?

- By taking action to protect foxes and badgers
- By spending more time in nature.
- Through more community building and working with local community groups to help put the strategy into action
- By helping to monitor and record nature and nature's recovery.

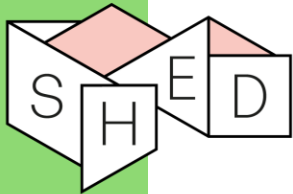
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What did the public tell us nature needs?

- There is currently a lack of pride in place, and it needs a closer relationship with humans.
- People to take home litter when out walking.
- Help, care and protection from humans.
- More trees, planting, growing.
- Dogs on leads.
- Care, love, and space to thrive.
- Humans to have good knowledge of the local area.

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The Derbyshire LNRS identified a number of priority species for Derbyshire. We talked with the public about their favourite species. There was a lot of interest in hedgehogs, toads, bats and bees.

Stories of personal experiences in their local gardens, parks and neighbourhoods with these species heavily influenced their view on what species matter most to local people and their lived experiences and encounters with nature.

Here are some of the priority species for Derbyshire and their habitats:

RIVERS:



European Beaver



Water Vole

FARMLAND AND GARDENS:



Yellowhammer



Common Hedgehog

TREES AND WOODLAND:



Willow Tit



White-Letter Hairstreak

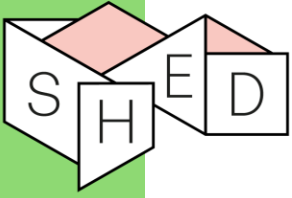
PONDS:



Common Toad



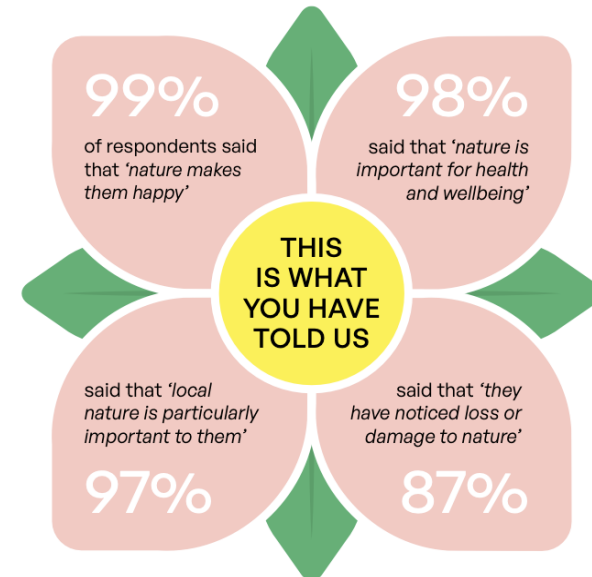
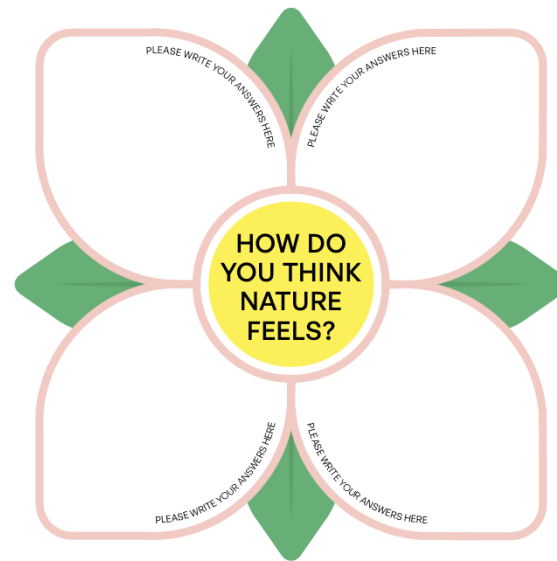
Great Crested Newt



We asked the public, how do you think nature feels? The response was overwhelmingly negative, with people talking about nature feeling fatigued, threatened, overwhelmed, isolated and angry.

This contrasts with descriptions of how nature makes people feel, with respondents talking about the positive impact that nature has on their health and wellbeing.

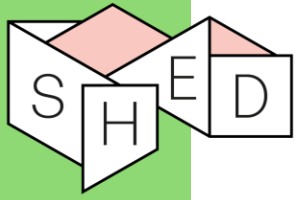
People discussed how to increase opportunities for people to engage with nature in Derbyshire. There was seen to be opportunity for mentoring and skills development within communities and across generational groups. Increased sense of connection to nature, belonging to local place, and opportunities for active engagement would help give people a sense of co-ownership of the strategy and be key to the implementation and delivery of nature's recovery in Derbyshire.



This is a data from the LNRS Nature Survey undertaken August - October 2024. This is a data from the LNRS Nature Survey undertaken August - October 2024. [Click here](#) to see the results of the survey and [here for pre-consultation public survey results](#)



What did the public tell us?

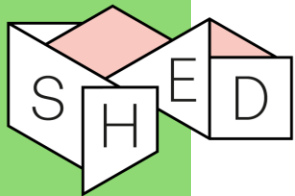


Derby City Council's Public Health team recently invited young people aged 5-11 from schools across Derby to produce artwork to reflect what a more climate-friendly Derby might look like. We displayed some of this artwork at S.H.E.D. Many of these young artists and their families travelled to see their artwork displayed and then engaged with us in discussion about nature and the Local Nature Recovery Strategy. In describing their art and talking about a nature-friendly Derby, the young people highlighted the importance of more sustainable transport and more green spaces for everyone to enjoy. Lots of young people also commented on working together as a community to achieve this, with collaborative action needed for a climate- and nature-friendly Derby that is 'beautiful' and a 'better place to live in'.



Jones, R, 01/03, Derby, 2025





"It was nice to see the community coming together. People were excited about the event."

Heart of the Park Cafe Manager,
Julie Cowley

"I think the thing that stood out for me was just the engagement again with children. There was a little girl there about 9, and she was running backwards and forwards saying what she'd seen. She was following the Nature trail. She was very excited to say that she'd found a shadow, and she'd found something spiky, and it was just really nice to see her engage and trying to bring her family into that activity."

Caroline Toplis, Programme Manager, Climate Change, Derbyshire County Council

"Nice to see lots of children getting involved."

"More like this from S.H.E.D and more events needed."

"[my drawing] was about a greener Derby" and included a "field, bikes and scooters because it helps the environment". The young person was asked by their parent if they were pleased to see their artwork outside on the pledge wall and why displaying it outdoors was different. The young person noted that it was different "because my work involves the environment and this [displaying of artwork outside via SHED] helps the environment."

Young Participant: Arboretum Park.

"I think that the sheer fact that you came out into the community to talk to people is a very positive step. Far too many decisions nowadays are taken by people in offices that are far from the people that the decisions will affect. Also, the average person needs to see artwork and designs of what you are talking about and what the process entails."

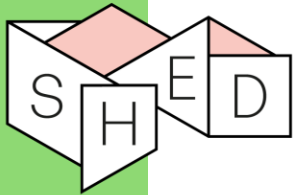
Participant: Manor Park, Glossop

"They've found such a real diverse range of fallen nature. It is just a wonderful experience, and I guess I'll say nothing more other than they've found such a real diverse range of fallen nature, whether it be leaves, branches, someone brought back, this whole kind of deadwood piece of bark, it was fantastic. And I think it really allowed them to immerse themselves in what is nature to them rather than, you know, just not always large vistas, but kind of little, small micro elements of nature."

Dr Chris Barnes, University of Derby. Describing the nature connection session with young people at Derby Arboretum



Online Engagement & Insights



Online Engagement

As part of the consultation process, we offered two online sessions so that members of the public were able to participate in the conversation about Derbyshire's Local Nature Recovery Strategy. A dedicated page was created on the LNRS website provided key information about the consultation and how members of the public could get involved. This included the full schedule for our in-person consultation, details about our online events, and links to the survey so people could engage and feed into the process.

We also emailed local organisations and posted about our consultation in Facebook groups for each of the areas so that we could connect with local residents, encourage them to engage with the consultation, as well as giving them a space to continue the conversation. This boosted engagement and local WhatsApp groups were alerted to our installation and we saw an uptick on footfall consequently. There were 24 members of the public who joined the online sessions. They were initially invited to explore the topic of nature recovery from the perspective of the natural world, with the question: **'How do you think nature feels?'** Responses tapped into the emotional aspects of nature's loss, which went beyond the numbers and statistics. Given that many of the participants were involved in actively helping nature, there was a prompt to also consider how nature feels in places where people are engaged in nature's recovery and regeneration.

Responses highlighted nature's sense of separation and isolation, neglect and abandonment, and anger, confusion and fear. There was also a sense of exhaustion and fatigue, speaking to the effort of nature to survive and thrive. Participants identified different experiences for different parts of nature – woodlands were a little more hopeful, yet tired. In contrast, nature that was cared for was described as feeling more hopeful and understood. People spoke about nature having space, feeling less constrained and with room to grow.

Those who engaged in the online sessions told us what they wanted for Derbyshire nature recovery.

- People expressed an interest in improved access to existing natural spaces. Access was limited by lack of transport options and management of green spaces.
- People expressed that often green spaces are under-managed, for instance, with paths often overgrown, or gates broken and restricting access to some spaces. There were also frustrations aired about cars blocking roads and entryways in rural areas. People identified some issues with the reporting portals. On the other hand, some over-management of spaces like verges was considered to be at odds with nature's recovery.
- There was a call for greater understanding of the countryside code, with lack of awareness currently leading to nature being harmed (e.g. bikes being ridden where they shouldn't)
- There is a desire for easy ways for the community to get involved, as supporting nature can be seen as a big task. Community action groups could be involved with this.
- People shared concerns about losing green space due to housing pressures.
- Increasing people's nature knowledge and skills was identified as key. It was thought that greater understanding of local nature would improve people's treatment of nature.
- There was an appetite for a greater nature economy and a more circular relationship with local nature.



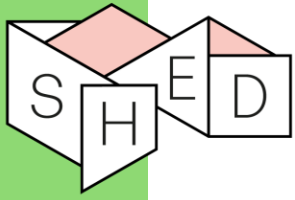
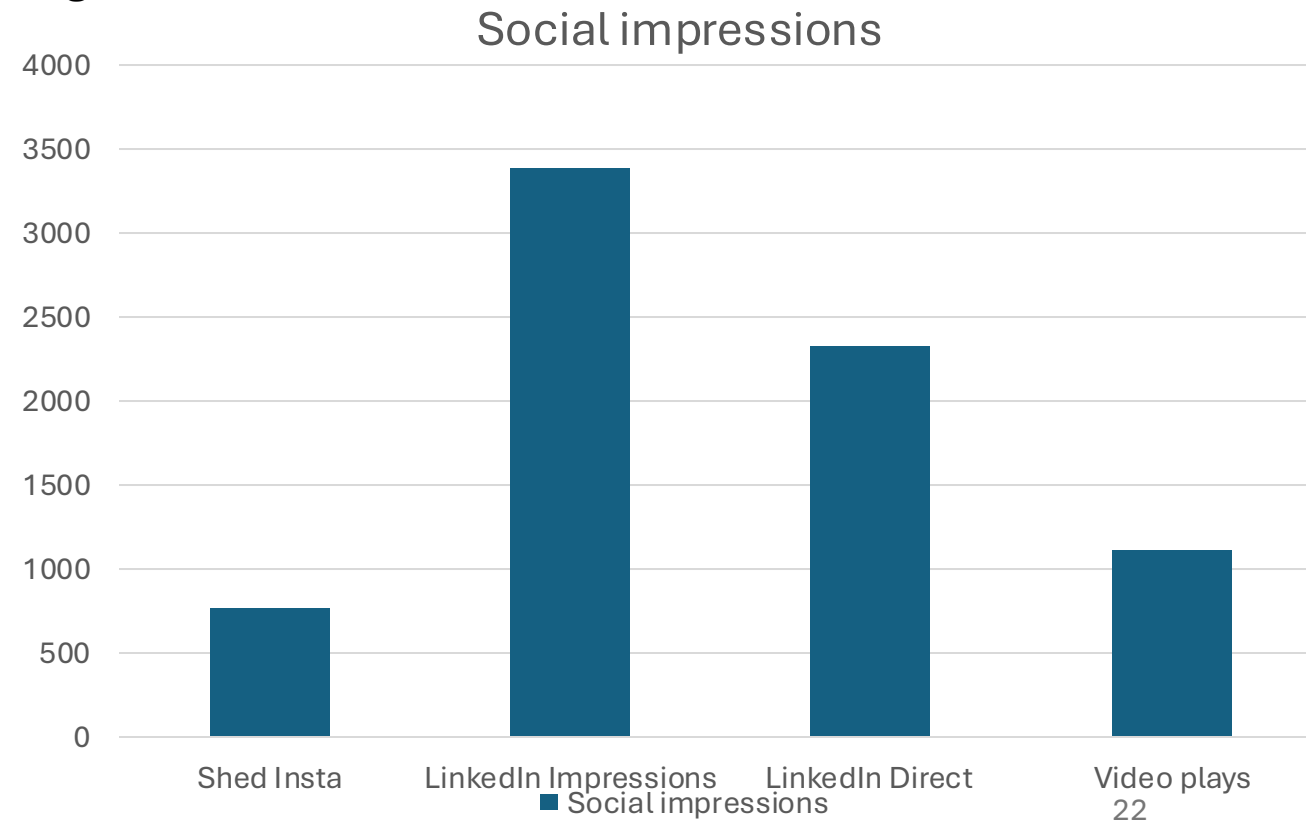


Figure 1 shows the range of members of the public who engaged in the online session, with most people identifying as nature practitioners and members of the public (non-specialists). Figure 2 displays the number of people who engaged through digital media and online social platforms directly with S.H.E.D, this online social media engagement helped us connect with local stakeholders, facilitates two-way communication, allows for real-time feedback, and enables the creation of online communities, fostering stronger relationships and wider reach for organisations and initiatives. People also reported that they came to engage with us directly because of posts seen online through local groups and networks; and this helped to garner local press attention.

Figure 1:

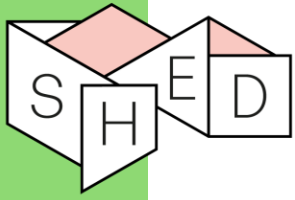


Figure 2:





Summary



It will be critical to understand how local communities can be a part of the implementation and delivery of the strategy when it is published later in the year. There is also a real connection between the S.H.E.D and Derbyshire communities by association with the local nature recovery work, and it has built a community of interest with local partners, stakeholders and individuals. The work of Designing Dialogue was to provide a platform for the unengaged to be able to engage with the consultation process, if they wanted to do so. It also raised public awareness of the LNRS and consultation, and opportunity for local communities to be a part of the conversation through engagement with Designing Dialogue and S.H.E.D staff.

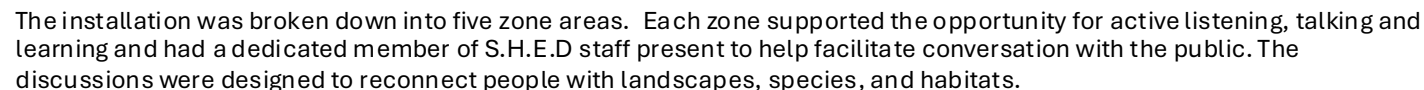
People welcomed the opportunity to talk about nature and nature's recoveries at S.H.E.D events, and conversations were generally long and involved, ranging from about ten minutes to half an hour or more. As well as bringing attendees' attention to the LNRS and consultation process, some visitors expressed an interest in talking to others about the strategy – for instance, taking some flyers to share in their local business. There was a lot of enthusiasm for helping nature, with people eager to know how they can engage with the recovery process.

It was clear across conversations that people really care about their area and the issues unique to their place. As Derbyshire is such a large county, there was an appreciation of the visits to different areas of the county to hear the voices of locals and the needs for local areas.

There are clear opportunities to increase ongoing engagement with community-based organisations as the strategy moves into the implementation phase. Local groups have deep and close understandings about the nature and community near where they live and are eager for their knowledge and skills to be shared. With rapid changes to policy and practice at national and local levels, there was an interest in seeing the strategy's implementation offer a central shared focus for nature recovery in Derbyshire. Local knowledge about the local area is a valuable resource for this process, given the vastly different landscapes and communities in Derbyshire and Derby.



Appendix – methodology



Curiosity Box – a sensory nature-based activity housed in the S.H.E.D pods with information from existing local nature recovery data, encouraging people to engage with natural artifacts and nature-based activities. This included items such as pinecones, bark, twigs with lichen, fox teeth and jawbone, grasses, feathers, snail shells, acorns and seeds, along with identification guides.

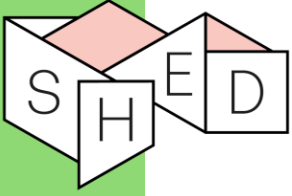
Listening POD- A QR code linking to '[Messages from the Wild podcasts](#)' featuring an interview with a Water Vole (spoken by Christine Gregory – a Derbyshire based expert on the water vole).

Talking POD- iPad for members of the public to take part in the DCC LNRS Survey.

S.H.E.D Panel - Derby City Council Public Health worked with us to exhibit artwork by young people across the city. There were 220 artworks, and we displayed 27, in response to what a 'greener and nature connected Derby' would look like.

Learning POD - Handouts and information sheets, books, colouring sheets and maps for talking with the public tailored to all ages and different interests. Featuring the Curiosity Nature Hunt , information about characteristics of and, variety of documents, objects and photos to talk through with people to trigger discourse with the public.

Throughout the install area, there were posters with key information about the project and QR code to survey – this included information questioning where do I live, what are the benefits of living in this place. Reminding people of the benefits of the area, what is important in the area and what they think they need from their local area. We also asked, what is special about this place to you? And invited people to add a comment and pin information about what is important to them in relation to their connectivity with nature.



Celebrating Youth Nature Engagement



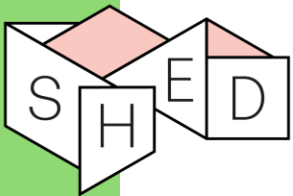
Galloway, L, 01/03, Derby, 2025)

We invited Derby City Council Public Health team to share some submissions to their art competition on S.H.E.D. Young people around Derby City had been asked to draw pictures in response to questions such as:

How do you move around a climate-friendly Derby?
What does your house look like in a climate-friendly Derby?
What hobbies and activities do you do in a green Derby?
What job do you have in a climate-friendly Derby?

Showcasing some of this artwork meant that primary school children visited S.H.E.D with their families to view their artwork, which opened opportunities to talk with them and their families about their hopes and dreams for a nature connected future. The artwork also created a talking point for other members of the public.

One young person described their drawing of a 'greener Derby' including a "field, bikes and scooters because it helps the environment". They said seeing the art displayed outdoors was special "because my work involves the environment and this [displaying of artwork outside via SHED] helps the environment."



Sounds of Derbyshire



S.H.E.D commissioned [Baby People](#) (The UK's first dedicated Hip Hop school, based in Derby) to create an original track and album cover artwork with a group of young people from the University of Derby's Society and Change National Saturday Club programme.

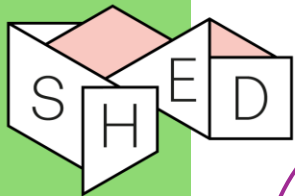
Club members and members from the public aged 13–16 took part in a nature connection session and lyric writing workshop at the S.H.E.D in the Arboretum Park. They then worked at BabyPeople Studios, where they recorded their lyrics and nature sounds captured in the park, to inspire their track.

This commissioned opportunity provided many benefits for young people to have their voice heard and seen. It also gave an opportunity for local creative organisations to engage with the consultation process who otherwise wouldn't have done so, and for the community café in the park to be 'open' on a weekend for business due to the volume of people taking part in this project.

The artwork for the track was illustrated by Ben, from Baby People

Listen to the Sounds of Derbyshire





Baby People love supporting the S.H.E.D project as it gives an opportunity to young people in the city to engage in activities for no cost, especially at a time where people have limited disposable income. We think the pods are a brilliant way to access areas within the city that otherwise would be out of limits due to the facilities available. This way the S.H.E.D project is able to target certain areas where young people would feel comfortable and confident to participate in the available activities.

We think the engagement and marketing of the project was done well and a good amount of young people signed up to the project.

During the Baby People studio time the young people seemed to really find their voices and grow in confidence. It was amazing to see the young people push themselves and record in the booth and produce something they felt proud of.

Something which could encourage future engagement (which is also something we are currently looking into at Baby People) is exploring the different social media platforms. TikTok seems to be what the younger generation is currently using and engagement on this platform is super high. Perhaps a S.H.E.D TikTok account would be great where you can advertise the projects and then share all of the amazing events!

Frankie Thomson
Baby People, Project and Operations Assistant

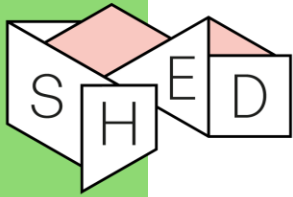


As part of our Director of Public Health annual report, we ran an art competition for children and young people on the theme of “What does a green and climate-friendly Derby look like to you?”. We were delighted to work with the University of Derby’s S.H.E.D. team to display some of the art that we received as part of the Nature Recovery Consultation. The art was enjoyed by a wide audience, including some of the children and young people that had entered the competition. The display also highlighted the themes of health and wellbeing that came through from lots of the art, hopefully enabling conversation about health to be embedded into the Nature Recovery Consultation.

Hannah Martin, Public Health Support Officer, Public Health, Derby City Council



Derby City Council



The Curiosity Hunt invited people to seek out sensory, emotional, and meaningful experiences with ordinary nature on their doorstep. The hunt prompts people to look out for nature that makes them happy or amazed, find trees that are beautiful, and hunt for smells and sensations. It was designed using the University of Derby's Pathways to Nature Connection framework – which helps increase noticing of nature in ways that support wellbeing and a deeper sense of nature connection.

[Nature Connection Handbook](#)





CURIOSITY NATURE HUNT

LET'S BE CURIOUS AND NOTICE NATURE!
 Explore your neighbourhood, town, city, or local park to find the beauty and wonder in ordinary nature that is all around us. How many of these can you find?

Something natural that makes you smile ☐	Something natural that is beautiful ☐	Something natural that is amazing ☐	Something natural you'd like to care for ☐	Something natural that you find curious ☐
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☐ Something alive	☐ A feather	☐ A sound from nature
☐ An insect	☐ A pointy leaf	☐ A smell from nature
☐ A bird	☐ A reflection	☐ A plant growing through a crack
☐ Soil	☐ A shadow	☐ Something moving in the breeze
☐ Lichen or moss	☐ Something tiny	☐ Something natural that is yellow

Where is the best tree you saw?	What was the most beautiful bird?	Where is the smallest plant you saw?	What do you hope you will see, hear or feel again?	What will you remember?

Simple acts of noticing everyday nature are the key to growing nature connectedness – a closer relationship with nature that has been found to boost wellbeing and pro-environmental behaviour. These invitations to find nature's gifts in any environment are based on University of Derby's Five Pathways to Nature Connection.

Scan the QR code to see the Nature Connection Handbook.



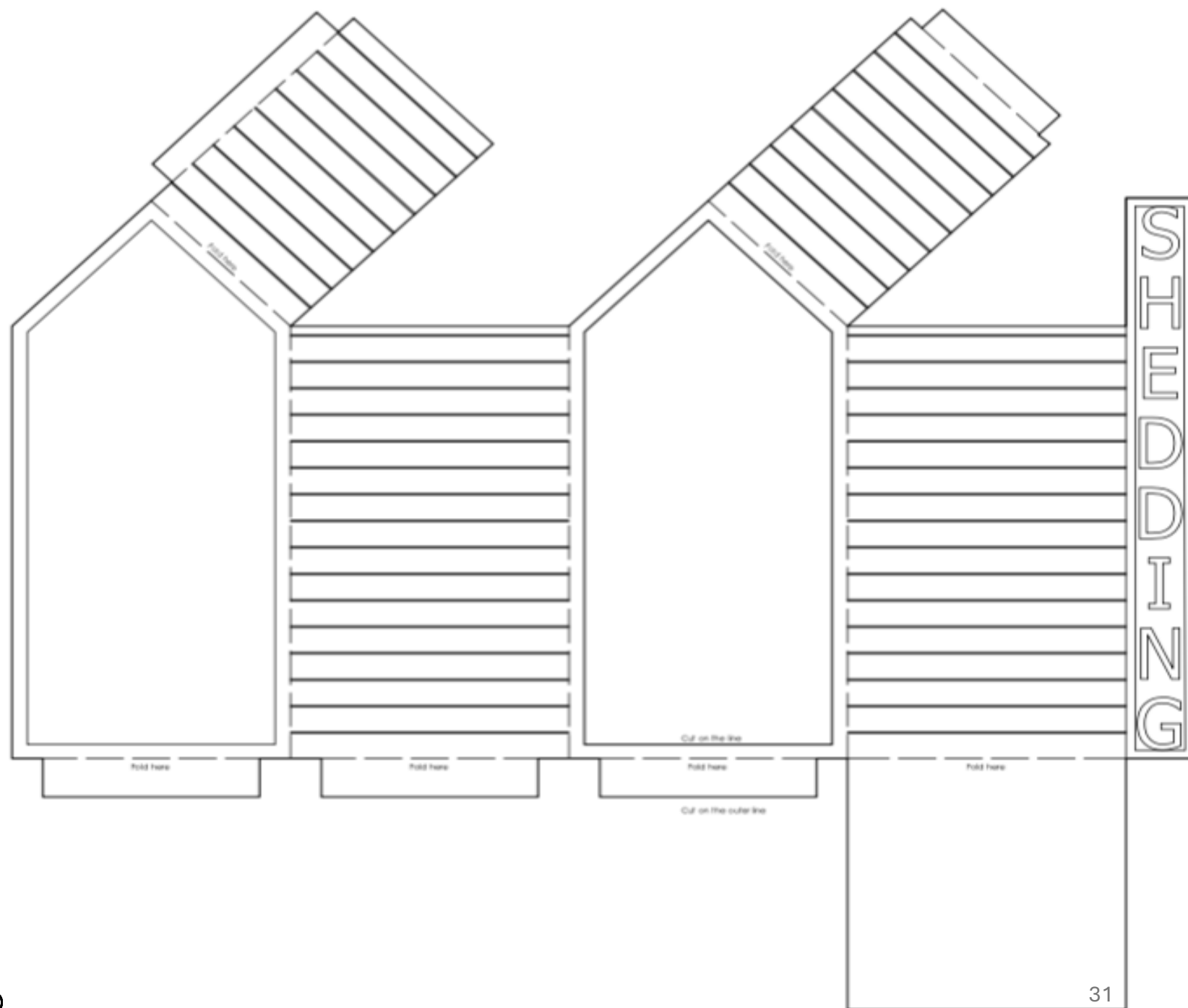
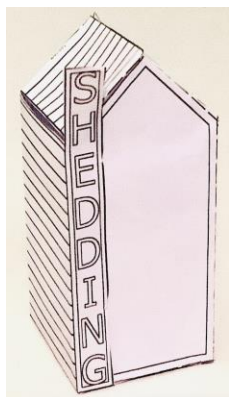
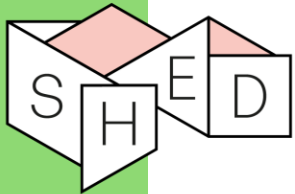


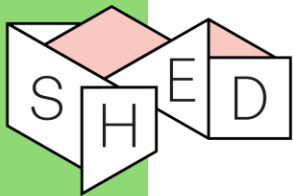
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#Shedding #Shed #Community #Consultation #Derbyshire #NatureRecovery #DCCLNRS



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Jones. R, Carr, J, Bate. C, Barker. V, Butler, C (2025) Shedding Light on Nature: Have Your Say! Report by Designing Dialogue for Derbyshire County Council. University of Derby, UK. ISBN: 978-1-910755-44-0