GLNP Nature-Based Project Map (Nat-Map)

User Guide: Version 1.0

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1. Introduction

The GLNP Nature-Based Project Map (Nat-Map) is a web application developed in partnership between the [Gloucestershire Local Nature Partnership](#) and the [Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group](#) South West (FWAG SW).

It can be accessed from the Gloucestershire Local Nature Partnership Website [here](#).

The primary purpose of the project map is to showcase the kinds of nature-based projects that are being undertaken across the county of Gloucestershire, or ideas that have potential to be delivered given the right circumstances, finances and support.

This tool is publicly accessible and available for any user, but may be of particular interest to environmental NGOs, Local Authorities, Parish Councils, community groups and members of the public.

The map will enable users to explore projects and initiatives that are listed in specific locations across the county or search the entire map for projects of a certain theme. This will help steer collaboration rather than duplication, whilst supporting others with case studies for future opportunities or evidence gathering.

Those that submit their projects and ideas can make requests of users, whether that be calls for funding, for partners to join forces, or for evidence to help an application, or even just a little resource to help turn an idea into a bid-ready project.

More often than not we have many great ideas get lost in the ether simply because they are thought up at the wrong time, or the wrong place. The Gloucestershire Local Nature Partnership wants to help turn ideas into reality by better facilitating the progression of ideas so that when a funding or partner opportunity does pop up, we know there are ideas primed and waiting.

Key functions of the tool:

1. Provide environmental practitioners, local authorities and other stakeholders the opportunity to explore the variety of nature-based projects either active, complete or as concept across the county of Gloucestershire and ultimately **know "what's on my patch"**.
2. **Facilitate and empower a more collaborative, strategic approach** across the county to develop concepts and partnerships, or to grow successful projects further.
3. Enable ideas to gain traction by helping stakeholders to reach out for **support in creating 'bid-ready' projects** or to source partners to help turn an idea into a reality when the time is right.
4. To provide a **platform of case studies providing evidence** of successful nature-based solutions being implemented at a range of scales.

The data presented in this tool is provided by project leaders/organisations willing to share their information. Please note, that any project information submitted via the tool will be made publicly available. Please do not share any sensitive information, only what you wish to be seen by others. Website links and contact information may be shared by those that wish to discuss projects with interested parties outside of the tool.

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2. The Nat-Map Interface

The home screen that users arrive at when navigating to the tool is shown below.
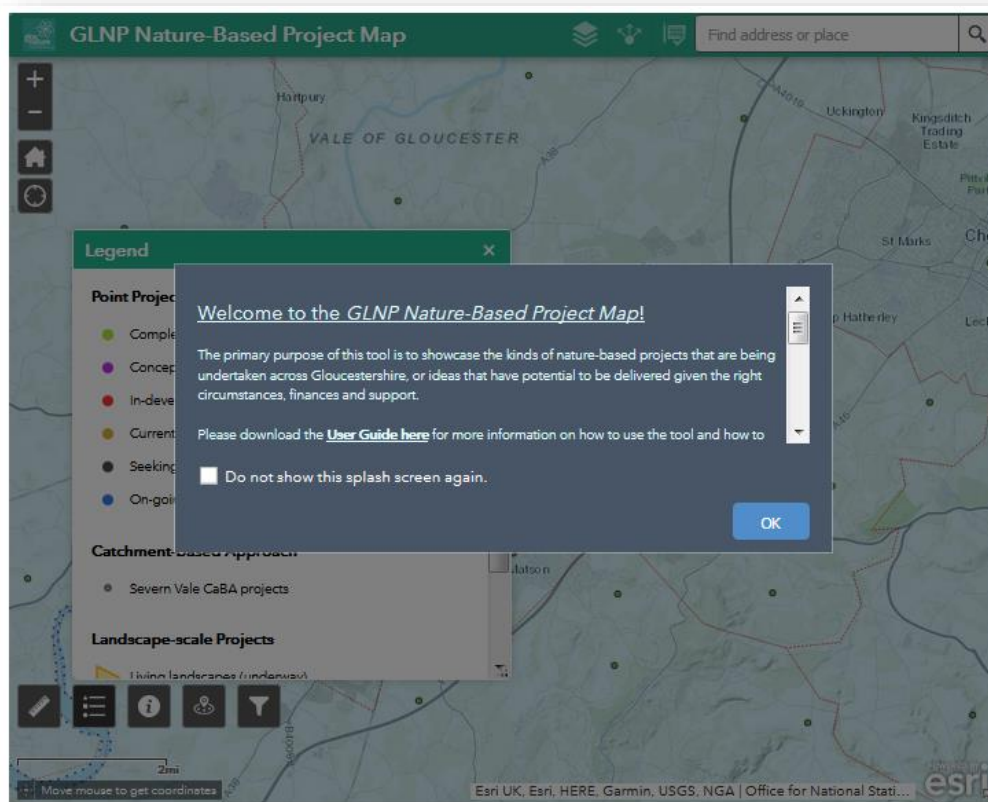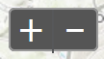
Once you have read the introduction text, you will be able to instantly see all projects and ideas that have been submitted to the tool. These will fall into six main categories of Project Status as identified by the legend:

- Complete [green]
- Conceptual Idea [purple]
- In-development [red]
- Currently Underway [amber]
- On-going Working Group [blue]
- Seeking Funding/Partners [black]
- CaBA project information [small green]

The project map is made up of layers that simply include the Gloucestershire County boundary and each district boundary, along with an OS base map.

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You can interact with the map through a series of tools:

- **Zoom** in or out using either the or buttons on the bottom left of the screen or by using the mouse's scroll wheel.

- **Default Extent** will take you back to the "home" view which is of the entire county boundary.

- **My Location** will require you to allow your location services to be activated and will zoom you into your current position. This is not necessary however as you can also use the search function described below.

- **Search** for a location using the search bar at the top right, either typing in an address, a town/city or a postcode.

- **Pan** across the map by grabbing (clicking and holding the left mouse button) then moving the mouse to pull the map in the direction you wish to move.

- **Information** button gives you a summary of the map, the GLNP and a couple of links to for more information, including how to submit data yourself (you may need to scroll down to see this). When accessing the map from a mobile device, the link to submit a project can be found here.

- **Measurement** enables you to determine area, distance and your location on the map at any point.

- **Near me** is a useful tool to identify any projects that fall within a set distance of a location of your choice.

- **Legend** is your key to identify which categories each of the points falls into.

- **Filter**

- **Layer List** not only provides an overview of all the layers included within the map, but also gives you several options to set your preferences for viewing the various layers and data points by clicking on the three dots against each layer. Within here you can change the transparency, set visibility range, and more.

- **Share** the map with colleagues and across your network using this button.

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3. Viewing projects

If you wish to view the details behind any of the project points on the map, simply **pan** to the point on the map you wish to view and left click on the point.

If there are lots of points in the same area, you may need to **zoom** in closer to help separate the multiple data points from one another, making it easier to select the ones you are interested in.

You can use the filter tool [icon] to search for a specific project status, a local theme and/or those that fall under a chapter of the 25 Year Environment Plan. You can search for either or all point projects, landscape-scale projects and Severn Vale CaBA projects.
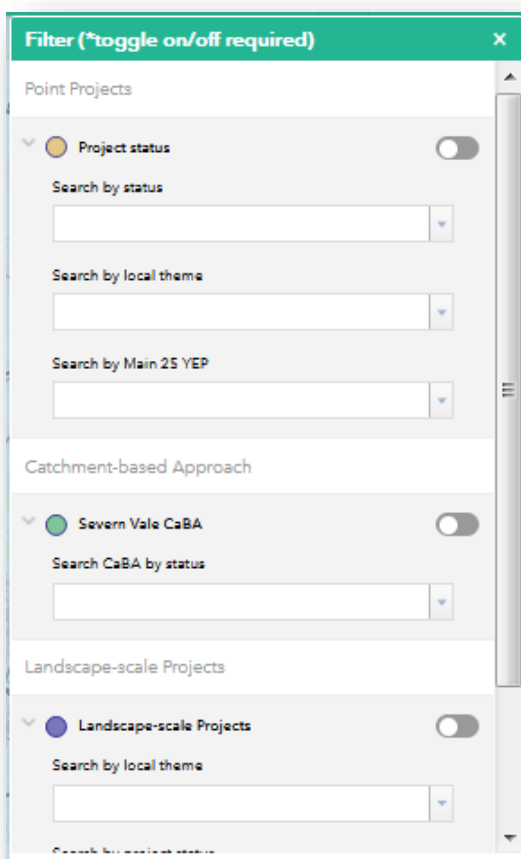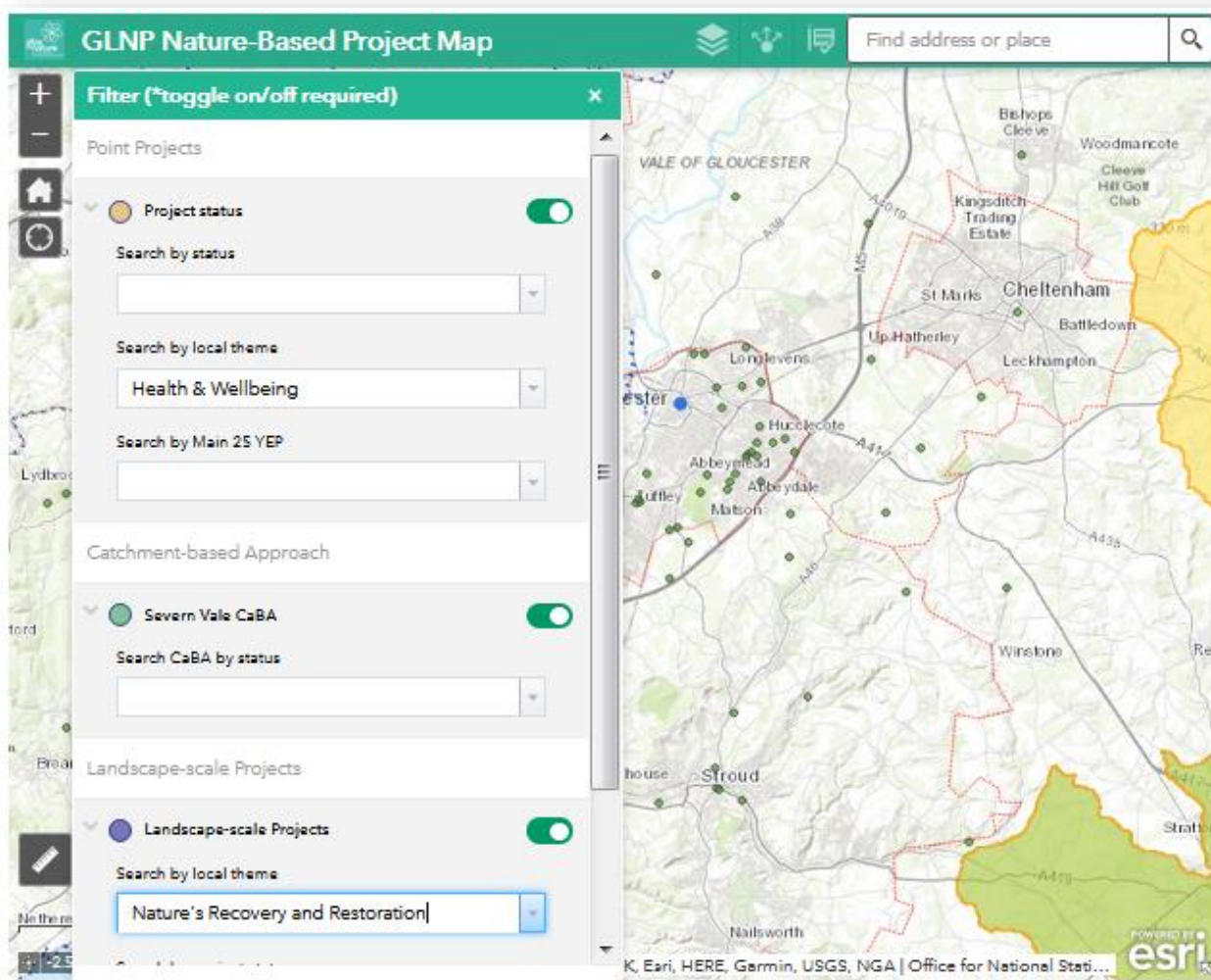

If your work involves collaboration with the **Severn Vale Catchment Based Approach (CaBA)**, in order to avoid duplication of efforts for those using their project mapping tool, we have taken the open source data and pulled it within this tool. We therefore are able to have a fuller understanding of projects across the county without the need to duplicate efforts to replicate your data over both platforms.

Please note, we are only pulling in open source data and the information may not reflect the same questions we have set for our data collection.

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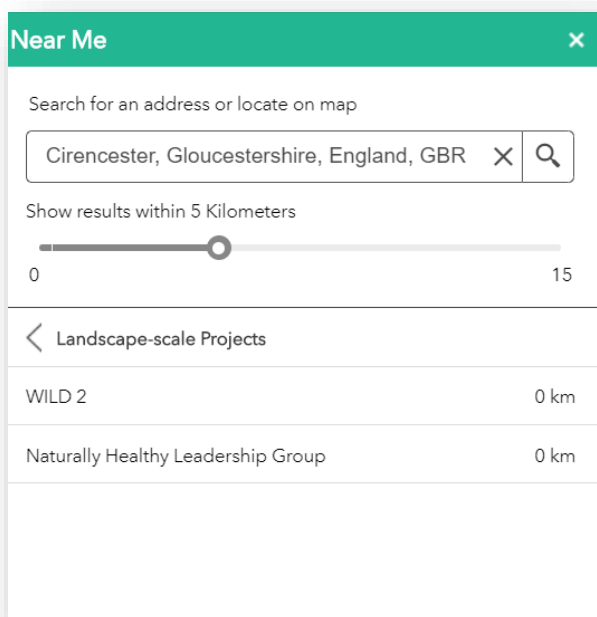To search, firstly, turn on the project status and/or the landscape-scale projects and begin your search.

This is the slider in the right corner that will turn green when activated . Then select the dropdowns that you wish to filter by. These should automatically update the map with your selection. If not, please turn the slider off/on to refresh it.

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Alternatively, the **Near me** function is a very useful tool to generate a list of projects all within a certain distance of a defined point. You can use the slider bar to increase or decrease the distance of projects from your defined point.

Once your address has been defined along with your search distance, you will be provided with a list of projects and the distances from your point. You can then click on each row for further information on each project.

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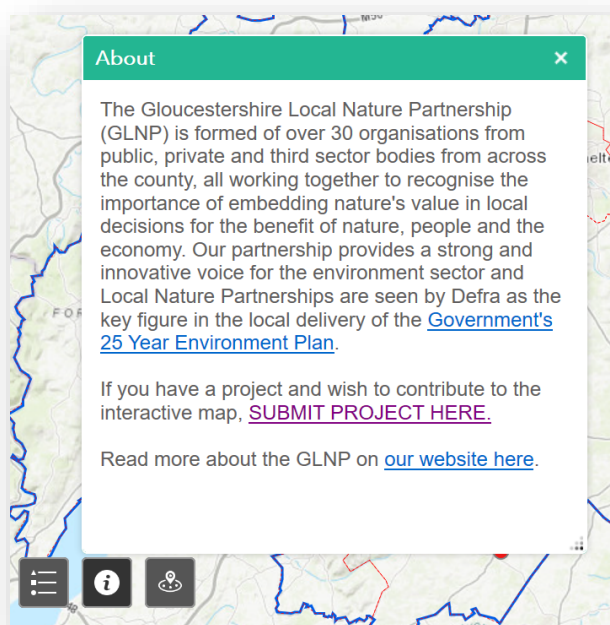
4. Submitting your own project data

It is very simple to submit your own data to the project map.

If you are using a desktop on full-screen mode, then you will be able to easily find the link to submit at the top bar of the map.
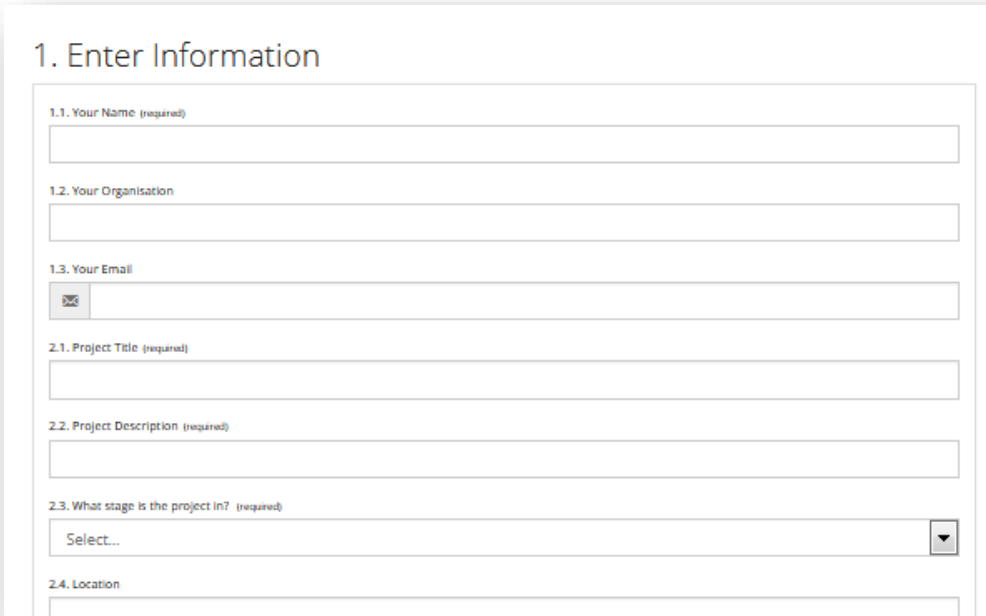

If you have a reduced screen view or are using a mobile, you may lose this feature. In this case, you can

find the link to the submission form under the information button. *Your information button may be positioned either to the top left of the screen or bottom left.*

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You can also find the [submission form here](#). Or visit the GLNP website where the link is shown separately, and the map embedded within: https://www.gloucestershirenature.org.uk/gloucestershire-nature-project-map

This link will open a new tab called a GeoForm, which will ask a series of questions about the project, your idea and you/your organisation.

This form is split into three key sections:

1. **Your Information**
   a. Section 1.1 - 1.3
      i. This is **information about you**, the person submitting the project data, so we can contact you if we need to should there be any queries with the information you have submitted. This will not be shared publicly and only used internally to contact you.
   b. Section 2.1 - 2.16
      i. This is the **Project Information** - Please note, the information provided here will be displayed within the project map. By completing the questions, you agree to share these details publicly.
      ii. All questions are directly related to the project.
      iii. There are a mix of required and non-essential boxes for you to fill in at your discretion.
      iv. The information provided in this section will be displayed for users to see, so ensure you have permission to do so before submitting.

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v. There is an option to upload any documents or photos you wish to share related to the project. This can be very useful if the project is complete and you have a final case study to share.

One of the questions is related to the 25 Year Environment Plan (25 YEP), asking which chapter is most relevant to the project. You can read the 25 YEP here to find out more about each chapter if you are not currently familiar.

2. **Select Location**
   a. To add the location of your project, you can use the **Select Location** function that you can either find an address, use latitude/longitude grid references, enable the Location Me function, or simply drop a pin on the map itself. Once your pin is dropped, you can easily drag it to another point if you are not happy with your current selection.
   b. If you need to upload an area rather than a point, please mention so and upload a shapefile (.ZIP) or highlighted map in the 'Select File' upload function. You will still need to add a pinpoint to the map for the time being. It may take up to two weeks to convert your pin into a polygon layer displaying your area extent. See Section 5 for further information.

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3. Complete Form

    a. Please ensure that you read the Terms of Use before submitting your form.

The following information is made visible when clicking on each project:

(1) Project name
(2) What stage the is project in
(3) Lead Partner
(4) Location
(5) Project Description
(6) Local Theme

(7) Main 25 YEP
(8) Further Information
(9) Other Partners
(10) Project Start Date
(11) Timescale
(12) Estimated Cost

(13) Funding Secured From
(14) Attachments
(15) Project Website
(16) Primary Contact for the Project

5. Adding a project 'area' rather than just a 'point'

We are currently trialling the ability to add project *areas* (known as polygons) to the map, rather than just point data, as we realise many projects cover a region or landscape. For now, we will manually add your boundary to the project map. This keeps the map simple for users and allows us to manage it carefully should it become too clustered and difficult to use.

If you wish to add your area rather than just a point, please us the Select File function to either upload a shapefile (.ZIP) of your boundary (ideally) or upload a highlighted map document.

All the data is checked on a fortnightly basis and therefore may take a little time before your data is converted. If you have any issues, please contact us directly and we will do our best to help: Dan Geerah Dan.geerah@fwagsw.org.uk

PLEASE NOTE: This trial will be keeping an eye on the density of landscape scale projects across the county, if the data becomes too much for the map and undermines usability and clarity, we will revert all landscape data to points only and we will encourage you to add your boundary maps as attachments for users to see the extent of your work.

6. Further help

If you need any technical assistance with using the map or adding your own data to the map, please contact Dan Geerah Dan.geerah@fwagsw.org.uk.

For any other queries regarding the map, including feedback ideas or suggestions, please contact Jackie Jobes jackie@gloucestershirenature.org.uk.

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