



Nottinghamshire & Nottingham

Local Nature Recovery Strategy

User Guide for Farmers and Land Managers

Revised October 2026

working in partnership



Nottinghamshire
County Council



Nottingham
City Council

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1. What is the Local Nature Recovery Strategy?

Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRSs) are a new, England-wide system of spatial strategies established by the Environment Act 2021.

The main purpose of these strategies is to:

- Help reverse the ongoing decline of nature in England
- Establish priorities for nature recovery
- Identify locations to create or improve habitat where this is most likely to provide the greatest benefit for nature and the wider environment

As one of 48 LNRSs across England, the Nottinghamshire and Nottingham LNRS will form part of the UK Government's Nature Recovery Network, which seeks to address biodiversity loss, climate change, and public health and well-being on a national scale. For an overview of the LNRS, read the [Summary Document](#).

2. Why Farmers are important to the LNRS

Farmland is the dominant land use in Nottinghamshire. Based on DEFRA statistics from 2021, the total farmed area of the county is 138,104 hectares, or around 64% of the county area, spread over 1,328 holdings. While it is essential to maintain the land's functionality for agricultural production, there is potential to create more space for nature without a change in land use.

For years, many farms in Nottinghamshire have been supporting nature through wildlife-friendly practices, habitat creation and protection of the local environment. The LNRS is a tool to build upon existing efforts and serves as a strategic framework to guide the delivery of nature recovery initiatives where it will have the most impact.

3. Why the LNRS is important for Farmers

2.1 The LNRS is an opportunity

The LNRS is an opportunity for farmers and landowners. If your land falls in an area identified on the Local Habitat Map as an ACB (Area that Could Become of Importance for Biodiversity) it will open up enhanced opportunities for support.

Importantly, the LNRS is not a delivery plan, and it does not force landowners, local authorities, or other agencies to deliver the works identified in the LNRS. It should also be noted that areas that are mapped in the LNRS for habitat creation or improvement do **not prevent other legitimate land uses**, do not place new restrictions on developing land, and do not identify areas to be given **legal protection**.

In summary, the LNRS aims to

drive the delivery of local and national objectives for nature and the wider environment by helping to inform decisions about how land is used, and how funding may be allocated.

2.2 Relationship to Environmental Land Management (ELM) schemes

The LNRS and ELM schemes are intended to complement each other as part of the UK's post-Brexit environment and agricultural policies. Whilst the exact details of how they will interact are being developed, both schemes share the same goal of improving biodiversity and the environment. It is anticipated that the LNRS will guide local ELM funding allocation, ensuring resources are directed to areas with the greatest potential positive impact, and help identify opportunities for Landscape Recovery project proposals.

4. Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG)

Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) is a significant new approach to development, which aims to ensure that biodiversity is left in a measurably better condition after development has occurred. Ideally the existing biodiversity will stay on the site and will be improved. If this is not possible, new habitats must be created elsewhere, and an important purpose of the LNRS is to help to influence the location of BNG that is delivered at off-site locations.

Farmers and Landowners can benefit from the newly established BNG regulations by selling off-site BNG units to developers, or through future potential government support for landscape recovery projects (details not yet known). Areas identified and mapped as ACBs in the LNRS are eligible for the BNG 15% uplift through the strategic significance multiplier.

5. How to use the LNRS

Step 1) See if your land is identified in the LNRS using the Local Habitat Map

Access the Local Habitat Map here: [Local habitat map | Nottinghamshire County Council](#)

Use the search bar on the top left-hand corner of the map display screen to enter an address or postcode. Once you have found your land, there are two ways to see if a 'Potential Measure has been identified in the area:

- a) Turn on **all habitat and species layers** in the layer control panel on the right-hand side of the screen. See which Potential Measures are mapped on your land.
- b) Use the **'Combined Mapped Measures' layer** to identify which measures are mapped on your land. This layer will give you the Potential Measure **codes**, which can be cross referenced with Section 5

‘Priorities and Potential Measures’ in the written [Statement of Biodiversity Priorities](#).

For more detailed guidance on how to navigate the Local Habitat Map, please see our user guide [here](#).

For more information about what is included in the Local Habitat Map, see section 6 of the [Statement of Biodiversity Priorities](#). For more information about how the map was developed, see Appendix 6 ‘[Process for the mapping of Measures and ACBs](#)’.

Step 2) Understand the proposed Potential Measures on your land

Potential Measures are ‘specific practical actions’ to achieve the Priorities identified in the LNRS. In other words, Potential Measures are suggested activities that benefit a particular habitat or species or provide wider environmental benefits and help to deliver the agreed Priorities.

There may be multiple Potential Measures mapped on your land in the LNRS, covering different habitat groups or targeting specific species. All Potential Measures identified on a piece of land are listed alphabetically and the order of measures as they appear on the Local Habitat Map does not determine priority status. Decisions about which is most appropriate should be considered on a case-by-case basis, with expert input where necessary, recognising that a mixture of habitats in a mosaic may be desirable.

The Mapped Measures are made up of a number of different mapping approaches, including site specific locations, landscape areas and buffers. An effect of using landscape areas and buffers is that they may cover areas where the Potential Measure is clearly not feasible, and whilst efforts were made to remove obviously incompatible or conflicting areas from

these buffers, there continue to be cases where they wash roads, residential areas and other areas of incompatible habitats such as lakes. A commonsense approach should be adopted when interpreting these mapped areas.

See sections 6.3 and 6.4 of the ‘Statement of Biodiversity Priorities’ for further guidance on how to interpret the Potential Measures shown on the Local Habitat Map, with particular attention to feasibility and other constraints.

Step 3) Delivering Potential Measures on your land

Guidance on how to deliver LNRSs is still being developed, including further information on funding, monitoring and reporting nature recover action taken to achieve the Priorities and Potential Measures identified in the strategy. When this guidance is published, Nottinghamshire County Council will

produce further documentation to support Farmers and Land Managers in delivering nature recovery action on their land.

Farmers and Land Managers can contact the East Midlands **Catchment Sensitive Farming Representative** for advice on how to improve water and air quality and reduce flood risk on agricultural land.

[Catchment Sensitive Farming: advice for farmers and land managers - GOV.UK](#)

Farmers and Land Managers can also contact their local **Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group** for a broad range of Agri-Environmental advice, helping develop applications for schemes and grants tailored to their farm business.

[About FWAG — The Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group](#)

6. Unmapped measures and other nature recovery actions

If your land is **not identified on the Local Habitat Map**, this doesn't mean that Potential Measures can't be delivered there. Many Potential Measures in the LNRS are 'unmappable', because it is not possible or necessary to identify a specific location to map, because they are similarly beneficial over a wide area or a suitable location for a Potential Measure could not be found.

For example, Potential Measure **G/M5 'Plant new diverse, native hedgerows with hedgerow trees on farmland'** has not been mapped on the Local Habitat Map because the action could be delivered in any appropriate location across Notts.

Alternatively, if your land is **mapped in the LNRS for a specific Potential Measure but there are other things you would like to do to help nature recovery**, the LNRS should not stop you from doing so; the

LNRS welcomes all action taken to help recover nature.

The financial benefit of the BNG 15% uplift from the strategic significance multiplier is **only** applicable on land mapped on the Local Habitat Map where the Potential Measure(s) specified are being delivered as part of a BNG plan.

However, delivering unmappable Potential Measures on your land may still lead to other funding opportunities, such as Environmental Land Management Scheme funding.

7. Resources

More information on Catchment Sensitive Farming is available from the government website, including contact information for regional representatives: [Catchment Sensitive Farming: advice for farmers and land managers - GOV.UK](#)

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Find out more about the Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group and find your local group at: [About FWAG — The Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group](#)

The Nature Friendly Farming Network is a farmer-led membership organisation that supports farmers who want to restore the balance between farming and nature.

The network is also open to the public and other organisations. Find out more at: [Home | Nature Friendly Farming Network, NFFN](#)

The Guardians of Sherwood is a Farmer Cluster group operating primarily within the Sherwood and Trent & Belvoir National Character Areas (NCA 49 and NCA 48), with 72 members covering an area of 27,000 hectares. The group's objectives are to collaborate to address local air, soil, water and biodiversity priorities. To find out more contact: lesley.sharpe@live.co.uk

The Country Land and Business Association (CLA) champions and protects the rural economy, environment, and way of life. It promotes innovation and supports members to help them feed the nation, create jobs, invest in communities, and safeguard the environment for future generations. Find out more at: [Home • CLA](#)

The National Farmers' Union (NFU) represents more than 44,000 farming and growing businesses. Their purpose is to champion British agriculture and horticulture, to campaign for a stable and sustainable future for British farmers and to secure the best possible deal for their members. Find out more at: [NFUonline](#)

The Tenant Farmers Association (TFA) provides dedicated advice on all aspects of agricultural tenancy, land occupation and ancillary matters to non-land-owning farmers in England and Wales. Find out

more at: [Tenant Farmers Association \(TFA\)](#)
[-Tenant Farmers Association \(TFA\)](#)

This User Guide will be updated as new information about funding schemes becomes available.