



Nottinghamshire & Nottingham

Local Nature Recovery Strategy

User Guide for Planners and Developers

November 2025

working in partnership



Nottinghamshire
County Council



Nottingham
City Council

Contents

Role of the LNRS in Development	3
How to use the LNRS	3
Planning Practice Guidance	3
Biodiversity Net Gain	4
Mapping considerations	5
Resources	6



1. Role of the LNRS in Development

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 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**.

Generally, new developments have the potential to support nature recovery by integrating climate-resilient design principles, promoting sustainable land use, and facilitating long term gains for biodiversity. To maximise environmental benefits, development proposals should incorporate **specific features** that support biodiversity and contribute to wider environmental benefits such as improved

water quality, flood mitigation, climate regulation, enhanced air quality, and increased access to recreational spaces. The LNRS serves as a strategic tool to identify priority areas and guide interventions where they will have the greatest positive impact on nature recovery.

2. How to use the LNRS

Planners and Developers should use the LNRS to identify where nature recovery efforts should be prioritised within local plans and to ensure that planning decisions and processes support local biodiversity goals and contribute to the broader Nature Recovery Network. The LNRS will also guide developers when choosing the location of off-site Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) units.

Importantly, the **Levelling Up and Regeneration Act (2023)** requires local plans (including minerals and waste plans

and joint spatial development strategies) to ‘take account’ of the relevant LNRS.

3. Planning Practice Guidance

The Planning Practice Guidance sets out how LNRSs and the planning system work together. For more detail, see the full guidance [here](#), but in particular:

For local plan development: “Local planning authorities should be aware of those areas mapped and identified in the relevant Local Nature Recovery Strategy and the measures proposed in them and consider how these should be reflected in their local plan. In doing so, they should consider what safeguarding would be appropriate to enable the proposed actions to be delivered, noting the potential to target stronger safeguarding in areas the local planning authority considers to be of greater importance.

This will enable local planning authorities to support the best opportunities to

create or improve habitat to conserve and enhance biodiversity, including where this may enable development in other locations.”

For planning decisions: “The Local Nature Recovery Strategy is an evidence base which contains information that may be a ‘material consideration’ in the planning system, especially where development plan documents for an area pre-date Local Nature Recovery Strategy publication. It is for the decision-maker to determine what is a relevant material consideration based on the individual circumstances of the case.”

4. Biodiversity Net Gain

Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) is a significant new approach to conserving biodiversity through development, which aims to leave biodiversity in a measurably better condition.

Importantly, a purpose of the LNRS is to help to influence the location of habitat enhancements required through BNG.

The LNRS identifies strategic locations on the [Local Habitat Map](#) where biodiversity enhancements should be targeted, with the provision of off-site BNG at these locations being given a higher weight in terms of value in the ‘metric’ used for BNG (through the ‘strategic significance multiplier’).

Areas identified and mapped as **Areas that Could Become Important for Biodiversity (ACBs)** in the LNRS are eligible for the BNG 15% uplift through the strategic significance multiplier. The financial benefit of the BNG 15% uplift is **only** applicable to land mapped on the Local Habitat Map where the **Potential Measure(s) specified are being delivered as part of a BNG plan**.

This effectively means that more BNG units can be delivered per unit area if the

location has been identified in the LNRS for the relevant habitat to be created or enhanced, incentivising the location of off-site BNG in places where it will have the biggest impact for nature recovery.

Nottinghamshire County Council's [Biodiversity Net Gain Supplementary Planning Document](#) sets out how the County Council will apply national legislation and local planning policies to ensure that all qualifying developments deliver measurable improvements for biodiversity.

The City, District and Borough Councils within Nottinghamshire have developed or are in the process of developing Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) to provide more guidance on how BNG policies are expected to be implemented through Local Plans.

A Biodiversity Net Gain Framework for Nottinghamshire and Nottingham has

been developed to foster a local, shared approach to BNG in Notts, including requiring 20% gain where feasible. The Framework is available to read here: [final-nottingham-and-nottinghamshire-bng-framework-october-2024.pdf](#)

To assist with translating between the naming of habitat types used in the LNRS and those used in the BNG metric, a separate guidance document has been produced which can be accessed [here](#).

5. Mapping considerations

National guidance has been followed in relation to development allocations, such that the mapping of Potential Measures on allocated or permitted development sites has generally been avoided, unless the Potential Measure is considered to be compatible with that development and would deliver habitat creation or enhancement of 'strategic significance'.

Furthermore, development sites will be covered by **unmapped Potential Measures** which encourage actions for nature recovery which are generally good things to do as part of any development to make space for nature but are not strategically significant.

Habitat banks being developed for the provision of BNG units have also generally not been deliberately mapped, not least as such sites are generally still in development in Nottinghamshire, and their location in most cases was not known.

Quarry sites with approved restoration plans have not been mapped as they are considered to be under positive management for nature recovery already.

The strategic nature of the LNRS mapping means that mapping has been developed without detailed site-based surveys or assessments having been carried out on each proposed area for nature recovery.

Therefore, before embarking on a habitat creation or enhancement project in an area that is mapped in the LNRS, it is essential that the desirability and feasibility of the project is assessed (including by obtaining relevant expert advice) and that potential constraints (e.g. in relation to ecology and the historic environment) are considered.

Similarly, where a Mapped Measure is located over an area of built development such as a road, railway, housing or other buildings, it is not intended that these would be removed to make way for new habitat, so a **commonsense interpretation is required**.

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.

6. Resources

BNG Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) and guidance

Ashfield District Council: [developer-guide-to-biodiversity-and-nature-conservation-november-2022.docx](#)

Bassetlaw District Council: [appendix-3-draft-biodiversity-net-gain-spd.pdf](#)

Broxtowe Borough Council: [Biodiversity Net Gain \(BNG\)](#)

Gedling Borough Council: [Bio Diversity Net Gain Guidance.pdf](#)

Mansfield District Council: [bng-spd-version-for-adoption-september-2023](#)

Newark and Sherwood District Council: [Mandatory-Biodiversity-Net-Gain---Strategic-Significance-Policy.pdf](#)

Rushcliffe Borough Council: [Ecology in Planning and Biodiversity Net Gain - Rushcliffe Borough Council](#)

Nottingham City Council: [Biodiversity Net Gain - Nottingham City Council](#)

Nottinghamshire County Council:

[Biodiversity Net Gain Supplementary Planning Document | Nottinghamshire County Council](#)

Biodiversity Net Gain Framework for Nottinghamshire and Nottingham: [final-nottingham-and-nottinghamshire-bng-framework-october-2024.pdf](#)

Other resources on BNG

Visit the government website for more information about BNG: [Biodiversity net gain - GOV.UK](#)

More information about key issues in implementing policy to protect and enhance the natural environment, including local requirements can be found here: [Natural environment - GOV.UK](#)

Planning Practice Guidance: [Planning practice guidance - GOV.UK](#)

The Environment Act 2021: [Environment Act 2021](#)