



Nottinghamshire & Nottingham
**Local Nature
Recovery Strategy**

User Guide for Residents, Volunteers and Community Groups

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. The role of Residents in nature recovery

Individuals, local groups and communities can always play a part in nature recovery. We all have a responsibility to protect the natural environment, both locally and globally. From volunteering to wildlife friendly gardening and general advocacy, there are small changes you can make to help nature to recover in our gardens, workplaces and the green spaces near where we live.

Gardens in the UK (approximately 24 million) provide more space for nature than all National Nature Reserves in the country put together. By making your garden more wildlife friendly, you can contribute to the bigger picture of nature recovery, giving plants and animals an opportunity to thrive and connect with larger areas of habitat through wildlife corridors.

There is a lot of information on the **Nottinghamshire Biodiversity Action Group** 'Take Action' page showing what you can do in own your home and garden to support nature: [Take Action – Nottinghamshire Biodiversity Action Group](#)

The Notts Wildlife Trust website also has suggestions for **wildlife friendly gardening**: [Wildlife gardening | The Wildlife Trusts](#)

Advocacy for nature recovery is just as important as taking physical action. Sharing messages with friends, family and colleagues about nature recovery and its importance in our everyday lives will help to get more people engaged with protecting, restoring and creating essential spaces for nature.

You can also support local groups and environmental organisations through financial contributions which will help

fund nature recovery activities across Nottinghamshire and Nottingham.

3. Why volunteering is important for nature recovery

Volunteers play a vital role in nature recovery across Nottinghamshire and Nottingham, bringing passion, local knowledge, and hands-on support to conservation efforts.

From planting trees and restoring habitats to monitoring wildlife and maintaining green spaces for people to enjoy, their contributions help reverse biodiversity loss and build resilient spaces for nature. Their dedication not only enhances the county's natural beauty but also fosters stronger community connections and a shared sense of stewardship for the environment.

Without volunteers, many of Nottinghamshire's most cherished landscapes and species would struggle to thrive. If you are able to, volunteering with

a local group is a great way to contribute to nature recovery and help deliver the Priorities in the LNRS.

4. How to use the LNRS

Individuals, local groups and communities can use the LNRS to find out which community efforts are in place that will have the most impact, and where.

Use the [Local Habitat Map](#) to view the **designated Areas of Particular Importance for Biodiversity (APIBs)** within your local area. Consider contributing to conservation efforts by exploring available volunteer opportunities to help protect and enhance these important habitats.

Read the **Priorities and Potential Measures** identified by the LNRS in section 5 of the [Statement of Biodiversity Priorities](#), and consider how can you apply them on your land and gardens.

In particular, the Priorities and Measures for 'Urban' habitats on page 70,

5. Mapping considerations

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.

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. Volunteering Resources

Volunteering on Nottinghamshire County Council sites

Please see the Nottinghamshire County Council (NCC) website page on Countryside Volunteering Opportunities - [Countryside volunteering opportunities | Nottinghamshire County Council](#)

There are regular conservation task days and other opportunities at NCC-owned country parks/nature reserves including **Bestwood Country Park** and **Cotgrave County Park**. Residents can complete an [enquiry form](#) to register their interest in volunteering.

Sherwood Forest National Nature Reserve is owned by NCC but managed by the **RSPB**. Find out more about volunteering with Sherwood Forest on the RSPB

volunteering page: [Volunteer with us - Sherwood Forest](#).

Volunteering in general / all habitats

Residents can also join a local 'Friends of' group or volunteer with partner organisations like Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust and National Trust.

Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust

The Wildlife Trust manages a number of local wildlife sites and nature reserves across the county: [Volunteer with us | Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust](#)

National Trust

There are often opportunities to volunteer in the gardens and parkland at Clumber Park: [Volunteer at Clumber Park | Nottinghamshire | National Trust](#)

Nottinghamshire Biodiversity Action Group

More opportunities to take action for nature are listed on the Nottinghamshire

Biodiversity Action Group website: [Take Action – Nottinghamshire Biodiversity Action Group](#)

Friends of groups

Notts BAG also runs regular volunteer activities in relation to habitat management for Grizzled Skipper butterflies and invasive species control. Please look at the Events tab for information on upcoming opportunities: <https://nottsbag.org.uk/events/>

Grizzled Skipper

There is a link through to details of Friends Of/conservation groups operating in each district area, who may manage a local wildlife site, and these groups can be contacted directly: [Local Authorities and Community Groups – Nottinghamshire Biodiversity Action Group](#)

Volunteering for Woodlands

Forestry England

Some woodland sites, including at Sherwood Pines and around Ollerton, are managed by Forestry England:

- [Volunteering at Sherwood Pines | Forestry England](#)
- [Volunteering at Nottinghamshire Community Woodlands | Forestry England](#)

Sherwood Forest Trust

Sherwood Forest Trust is a charity focussed on nature and conservation of the Sherwood Forest area. Project include restoring Sherwood's threatened heathland, tree-planting and woodland creation, archaeology and history of the Forest. Visit: [Volunteer with us! - The Sherwood Forest Trust Charity](#)

Volunteering for Rivers and Wetlands

Canal and River Trust

The Canal and River Trust looks after canals and rivers across Nottinghamshire and volunteers can help repair canals, rivers, towpaths and the surrounding environment. Visit: [Volunteer with us | Canal & River Trust](#)

Trent Rivers Trust

The Trent Rivers Trust encourages volunteering and citizen science to support positive action for rivers. Volunteers can help at events or record the health status and species of their local river. Visit: [Help Your Local River - Trent Rivers Trust](#)

Citizen Science

Residents can also get involved with a range of **citizen science** projects, such as the Great Garden Bird Watch, the River Watch etc.

6. Relevant Potential Measures

The table below highlights a selection of Potential Measures that may be particularly relevant for Residents, Volunteers and Community Groups to consider initially, as they can be applied across a wide range of locations and circumstances. This is not an exhaustive list, and we encourage you to refer to the [full list of Potential Measures](#) for additional opportunities.

Code	Measure	Further advice/ comments
B/M4	Plant and allow natural establishment of woodlands and other woody habitats at appropriate locations using the UK Forestry Standard to guide design, focussing on the woodland landscapes of the Greenwood Community Forest area, Sherwood Forest and the Mercia Mudwoods, ensuring the right tree in the right place, for the right reason, and maximising co-benefits including in relation to water management.	Tree planting and woodland creation: funding and advice - GOV.UK Greenwood Community Forest: Nottinghamshire's Community Forest The UK Forestry Standard - GOV.UK Tree Planting Advice - Plant Trees - Woodland Trust
B/M7	Plant new woodlands and diversify existing woodlands with a wider range of locally-appropriate tree and shrub species (potentially including the use of genetic stock of a more southerly origin), especially to mitigate the effects of Chalara Ash Dieback.	Tree species diversity - Forest Research
D/M6	Restore and create ponds and ephemeral wetlands in the wider countryside.	New guide will help landowners "bring ponds back to life" - Freshwater Habitats Trust Ponds WWT How to Make a New Pond RHS Advice

H/M2	Carry out wildlife-friendly management of public green spaces (including parks, allotments, churchyards and cemeteries, road verges, hedgerows, walkways, watercourses, wetlands and woodlands), including by relaxing mowing regimes, establishing wildflower grasslands, planting native trees and shrubs, and creating ponds.	Road Verge & Green Space - Management Best Practice - Plantlife The best plants for bees and pollinators The Wildlife Trusts Creating Wildflower Meadows RHS Advice Resources Library - Nature Towns and Cities Managing land for wildlife The Wildlife Trusts Managing Grassland & Green Space - Plantlife Managing-Community-Spaces-for-Pollinators-07.pdf
H/M3	Reduce/eliminate where possible use of herbicides for weed control in the public realm, using alternative approaches where needed	Non-chemical weed control RHS Advice
H/M5	Install integrated bat and bird (Swift, House Sparrow, Starling) boxes in all new development (especially residential/public), and retrofit in existing development wherever possible.	Putting up your box - Bat Boxes - Bat Conservation Trust Our ultimate guide to nestboxes Give birds a place to call home How to build a bird box The Wildlife Trusts

H/M8	Install SuDS systems which wherever possible are multifunctional and subject to appropriate maintenance regimes, providing habitat as well as surface water management, including retention basins, bioswales and rain gardens.	Mansfield sustainable flood resilience Green recovery Wonderful on Tap Severn Trent Water National standards for sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) - GOV.UK
H/M10	Install artificial lighting, where required, which is wildlife friendly and designed to best practice	Lighting - Threats to bats - Bat Conservation Trust Keep it dark - Gardening for bats - Bat Conservation Trust
H/M11	Plant new trees and retrofit 'missing' trees (i.e. empty tree pits) into existing streetscapes and green spaces following well-designed schemes using suitable species, including fruit trees where appropriate, to address tree inequity (as measured against Woodland Trust's Tree Equity Score the to help meet Green Infrastructure Standards), ensuring proper establishment to minimise failures.	Tree Equity Score UK UK Urban Canopy Cover - Forest Research
H/M12	Plant new small-scale woodlands in appropriate locations.	https://treecouncil.org.uk/guidance-resources/the-miyawaki-method-an-introduction/
H/M13	Replace paved surfaces (e.g. concrete, tarmac, artificial grass) where possible with vegetation to provide more habitat and allow water infiltration.	

F/M2	Bring unmanaged and neglected grasslands back into favourable management to increase species diversity, including field margins, buffer strips along watercourses, road verges, railways and amenity grasslands.	Creating Wildflower Meadows RHS Advice Managing Grassland & Green Space - Plantlife Road Verge & Green Space - Management Best Practice - Plantlife What exactly is 'Other Neutral Grassland' and how should we make the best of it?- By Richard Gowing CIEEM
F/M7	Use local donor sites for seed sources to reflect local distinctiveness and avoiding creation of 'generic' neutral grassland using commercial seed mixes.	Your local authority or Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust may be able to advise on suitable local donor sites.
F/M8	Retain areas of rough grassland, scrub and habitat mosaics, recognising the value of these for a range of species.	Scrubland Habitats Canal & River Trust