



Nottinghamshire & Nottingham

Local Nature Recovery Strategy

User Guide for Town and Parish Councils

October 2026

working in partnership



Nottinghamshire
County Council



Nottingham
City Council

Contents

What is the LNRS?	3
The role of Town and Parish Councils in nature recovery	3
Meeting the Biodiversity Duty	3
How to use the LNRS	4
Unmapped measures and other nature recovery actions	5
Using the LNRS to inform local decision making	6
Using the LNRS to strengthen local projects and funding bids	6
Using the LNRS to work with communities and share messages	7
Additional Resources	7
Relevant Potential Measures	8



1. What is the LNRS?

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. The LNRS will also inform the delivery of mandatory Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) in applications for

development and help to guide local planning policy for nature recovery.

There are two main components that make up the LNRS: a written document called the 'Statement of Biodiversity Priorities' and the 'Local Habitat Map'.

These can be accessed on the LNRS website: [Notts Nature Recovery](#)

A short, summary document is also available which provides a quick overview of the key points of the LNRS and how it has been developed: [LNRS - Summary Nov 25.pdf](#)

2. The role of Town and Parish Councils in nature recovery

There are 161 Town and Parish Councils in Nottinghamshire. Many of these councils are already playing an important role in nature recovery by delivering projects such as tree and hedgerow planting, pond creation, wildflower meadow management, watercourse protection,

and the enhancement of parks and green spaces for wildlife. 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. Meeting the Biodiversity Duty

The Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006, as amended by the Environment Act 2021, places a duty on public authorities, **including Town and Parish Councils**, to conserve and enhance biodiversity through the exercise of their functions - the so-called 'general biodiversity objective', also known as the 'Biodiversity Duty'.

DEFRA's guidance requires public authorities to assess whether relevant strategies - including Local Nature Recovery Strategies - will affect how their

organisation complies with the Biodiversity Duty.

For more detailed information on how the LNRS can be used to help meet the Biodiversity Duty, please read our guide: [The Local Nature Recovery Strategy and meeting the Biodiversity Duty 15.04.26.pdf](#)

4. 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 or watch the video tutorial [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

The government is continuing to develop advice on how to deliver LNRs, including further information on funding, monitoring and reporting the nature recovery action taken to achieve the Priorities and Potential Measures identified in the strategy.

Nottinghamshire County Council will produce further documentation, where necessary, to support Town and Parish Councils in delivering nature recovery action on their land.

There is no obligation on Town and Parish Councils to carry out the proposed nature recovery action. The map identifies the best actions that could be taken to create or enhance habitats in a particular

location. There may also be relevant measures which are unmapped - see the next section.

5. 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 cannot 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 **H/M13** '*Replace paved surfaces (e.g. concrete, tarmac, artificial grass) where possible with vegetation to provide more habitat and allow water infiltration*' has not been mapped on the Local Habitat Map because the action could be delivered in any

appropriate location across Nottinghamshire.

If your land is mapped in the LNRS for a specific Potential Measure we encourage you to explore the actions identified in the LNRS, as these have been selected to help deliver local priorities for improving biodiversity. However, the LNRS does not prevent other actions for nature recovery.

6. Using the LNRS to inform local decision making

Town and Parish Councils can use the Notts LNRS to inform local decision-making by ensuring that nature recovery is considered alongside other community priorities.

The LNRS can help guide the management of parish-owned land, such as road verges, open spaces, cemeteries and allotments, by identifying opportunities to enhance

biodiversity and improve ecological connectivity.

It can also provide a valuable evidence base when responding to planning consultations or developing neighbourhood plans, helping councils advocate for developments and policies that support nature recovery by demonstrating how local priorities align with wider environmental objectives and the emerging Nature Recovery Network.

7. Using the LNRS to strengthen local projects and funding bids

Town and parish councils can use the Notts LNRS to strengthen local projects and improve the success of funding bids by demonstrating how proposed actions contribute to agreed county-wide priorities for nature recovery.

The LNRS provides a robust, locally relevant evidence base that can help justify why a particular site or project is important, showing funders that investment is targeted where it can have the greatest impact.

By aligning projects with LNRS priorities, councils can demonstrate strategic relevance, while also highlighting wider benefits such as improved access to nature, healthier communities, climate resilience and enhanced biodiversity.

This can help make applications more compelling and provide greater confidence to funders that projects will deliver meaningful and lasting outcomes for both people and nature.

8. Using the LNRS to work with communities and share messages

The Notts LNRS can help town and parish councils work more effectively with local communities by providing a shared framework for nature recovery that brings together volunteers, community groups, schools and other local partners around common goals.

The LNRS can help councils:

- identify opportunities for community-led projects
- connect local enthusiasm and knowledge with wider networks, expertise and sources of support
- encourage collaboration across parish boundaries where habitat creation and enhancement can deliver greater benefits.

By using the LNRS to guide engagement and action, councils can help ensure that local efforts contribute to wider nature recovery objectives while remaining rooted in the needs and priorities of their communities.

When engaging with communities, Town and Parish Councils can direct residents, volunteers, and community groups to the LNRS User Guide tailored to them [here](#), which explains how they can get involved in nature recovery. The guide provides an overview of what the LNRS means for local communities, along with practical information, opportunities, and useful resources for those who would like to take action and support nature recovery efforts.

9. Additional Resources

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

Government guidance on complying with the Biodiversity Duty: [Complying with the biodiversity duty - GOV.UK](#)

User Guides

[LNRS User Guide for Residents, Volunteers and Community Groups -.pdf](#)

[LNRS User Guide for Farmers and Land Managers.pdf](#)

[LNRS User Guide for Planners and Developers.pdf](#)

[LNRS User Guide for Schools and Educational Settings - July 26.pdf](#)

[The Local Nature Recovery Strategy and meeting the Biodiversity Duty 15.04.26.pdf](#)

To find out more about the LNRS See the LNRS website at: [Notts Nature Recovery](#)

Contact the LNRS team:
LNRSNN@nottscg.gov.uk

10. Relevant Potential Measures

The table below highlights a selection of Potential Measures that may be particularly relevant for Town and Parish Councils to consider initially, as they can be applied across a wide range of locations and circumstances. This is not an exhaustive list, and councils are encouraged 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

User Guide for Town and Parish Councils

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

User Guide for Town and Parish Councils

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

User Guide for Town and Parish Councils

		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