



Nottinghamshire & Nottingham

Local Nature Recovery Strategy

Summary

working in partnership



Nottinghamshire
County Council



Funded by
UK Government



Nottingham
City Council

1. What is a Local Nature Recovery Strategy (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)** and help to guide local planning policy for nature recovery.





2. Why is the LNRS needed?

We are in a global biodiversity crisis, and biodiversity is declining faster than ever before. The good news is that in many cases we know what we need to do to halt and reverse the declines of nature. The purpose of the LNRS is to identify actions and locations where focussed, evidence-based and properly resourced activity should be prioritised at a local level, to continue to drive the recovery of nature. Using local knowledge to extend, improve, and join up existing important habitats, the LNRS acknowledges what is already here in Nottinghamshire (key areas such as Sherwood Forest Ancient Woodland, the Trent Valley and Sherwood Heathland), as well as identifying the creation of new areas that may become important for biodiversity in the future. The LNRS is designed to integrate with existing plans and strategies to create a joined-up approach to nature recovery.



3. How has the LNRS been developed and who was involved?

The LNRS guidance and regulations require identified **Responsible Authorities** to work together with partners when preparing their strategy, so that it provides a single vision for nature recovery that all parties have been able to contribute to. Nottinghamshire County Council is the Responsible Authority covering the boundaries of the county of Nottinghamshire including the City of Nottingham. It has worked closely with a wide variety of stakeholders including farmers and landowners, government bodies, environmental and conservation organisations and local groups.

There are also identified **Supporting Authorities** which includes the seven District and Borough Councils (Ashfield, Bassetlaw, Broxtowe, Gedling, Mansfield, Newark & Sherwood, Rushcliffe), Nottingham City Council, East Midlands Combined County Authority and Natural England who have helped to develop the strategy.



4. Who will use the LNRS?

The LNRSs will be used by all sectors of society to inform nature recovery efforts, from large scale projects covering a wide area to activity on a single site.

Planners and developers should use the LNRS to:

- Provide essential evidence for local plans, helping to identify where nature recovery efforts should be prioritised, and ensuring that planning decisions support local biodiversity goals and contribute to the broader Nature Recovery Network
- Guide developers when choosing the location of off-site Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG)
- Inform decisions on planning applications

Farmers, landowners and land managers can use the LNRS to:

- Help make decisions about habitat creation and improvement on their land
- LNRS may also have an impact on how government environmental schemes are applied to land

Public and environmental organisations should use the LNRS to:

- Guide policies and decisions
- Direct investments
- Prioritise funding to deliver maximum benefits to nature recovery

Individuals, local groups and communities always have a part to play in nature recovery and can use the LNRS to find out which community efforts will have the most impact, and where.



5. How to use the LNRS

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

Statement of Biodiversity Priorities

The Statement of Biodiversity Priorities covers the following:

- An introduction to the LNRS containing background information on the strategy, an ecological description of the strategy area brief report on the state of nature, the purpose of the LNRS, how it has been prepared, and plans for future review
- Instructions on how to use the LNRS, with information on different user groups, links to other plans and strategies, BNG and farming schemes, as well as links to wider environmental benefits
- A description of the strategy area looking at Nottinghamshire's National Character Areas, geology, topography, hydrology, climate, habitats and species of importance, and protected areas

- Anticipated pressures on nature in Nottinghamshire broken down by habitat, species and wider environmental issues, as well as broadly identified opportunities for nature recovery
- The Priorities and Potential Measures for the LNRS, broken down by habitat type and species
- Information on the mapping of measures and the Local Habitat Map, which explains **Areas of Particular Importance for Biodiversity (APIBs)**, **Mapped Measures** and **Areas that Could Become of Particular Importance for Biodiversity (ACBs)**, and how measures have been mapped. This section also addresses feasibility and constraints during the mapping stage

The Local Habitat Map

The Local Habitat Map shows the areas that have been identified as being the most important for nature recovery in the region, including existing APIBs (national conservation sites, nature reserves, local wildlife sites etc) and proposed ACBs. The map should be used in conjunction with the written statement, to identify which Priorities and Potential Measures identified in the LNRS apply to which locations.

What's important?

For the purpose of the LNRS:

- **Priorities** are “the end result that the strategy is seeking to achieve”; in most cases these are relevant to habitats, or species. Priorities generally do not include site-level locations, and should reflect local circumstances, including the most important issues to local people and organisations
- **Potential Measures** are “specific practical actions to achieve the priorities”; they are suggested activities that benefit a particular habitat or species or provide wider environmental benefits, and help to deliver the agreed priorities

The Priorities and Potential Measures identified in the LNRS have been informed by the **Lawton Principles**, which consider that to aid nature recovery, we need to:

- Make habitats bigger - **Bigger**
- Improve the quality of existing habitats - **Better**
- Create more habitats - **More**
- Connect habitats together – **Joined Up**

Priorities and Potential Measures have been categorised into habitat types, and there are separate measures for species included in the LNRS, as well as some ‘overarching’ or general measures which cover a range of habitats. The main habitats are:

- Woodland
- Watercourses
- Wetland
- Heathland
- Grassland
- Farmland
- Urban and Post-Industrial

Some of the key proposals in the LNRS include:

- Wetland creation in the Trent, Idle and Erewash Valleys
- Opportunities for natural flood management and watercourse enhancements across multiple catchments
- Several landscape-scale locations for woodland creation
- Heathland and wood-pasture creation in the Sherwood Forest area
- Grassland creation and enhancement particularly on the western fringes of the county
- Several landscape-scale locations for enhancements to farmland
- Enhancements to accessible urban green spaces



6. Delivery of the LNRS

While the LNRS can be used by anyone to identify the best areas for nature recovery, one of the key uses of the strategy is to inform the delivery of mandatory Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG).

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. It is also expected that the LNRS will help to guide future government funding for farmers, to help direct resources to areas where they provide the best opportunities for nature recovery projects.

The LNRS will help to deliver the following:

- 1. Biodiversity enhancement:** delivering the creation and restoration of habitats to support a diverse range of species, at locations where such actions will have the greatest benefit, helping to achieve local and national targets
- 2. Sustainable land management and resource production:** encouraging sustainable land use practices and resource production that benefit both the environment and local economy
- 3. Climate resilience:** mitigating and adapting to the impacts of climate change, including flooding, building the resilience of our natural landscapes and the habitats and species which define them
- 4. Access and enjoyment:** improving access to natural spaces for residents, especially around the places where people live, promoting physical and mental well-being through nature-based activities
- 5. Community engagement:** fostering a stronger connection between people and nature by promoting community involvement in conservation efforts and providing educational opportunities



7. Future review of the LNRS

The government has indicated that all LNRSs will be reviewed and updated every 3-10 years. Nottinghamshire County Council and its partners will therefore be required to monitor the impact of the LNRS in the county, and review what action has been taken that delivers the strategy. As a result, Nottinghamshire County Council will identify any new strategic priorities over time, taking account of progress made in nature recovery and changes in the local area as they take place.

For more information about the LNRS please visit

nottinghamshire.gov.uk/naturerecovery





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