



Nottinghamshire & Nottingham

Local Nature Recovery Strategy

User Guide for Schools and Educational Settings

July 2026

working in partnership



Nottinghamshire
County Council



Nottingham
City Council

Contents

Introduction	3
What is the Local Nature Recovery Strategy?	3
The role of schools and educational settings in nature recovery	3
Unmapped Measures and other nature recovery actions	5
Mapping considerations	6
Resources	7



1. Introduction

The aim of this guide is to help schools understand how they can use the Nottinghamshire and Nottingham Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) to support learning and contribute to nature recovery. Useful resources, tools and links are provided at the end of the guide to help put ideas into practice.

2. 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](#).

The LNRS provides educational settings with a locally relevant resource for learning about nature and the environment. It can also help schools identify practical opportunities to enhance biodiversity on their own sites - drawing on the [Local Habitat Map](#), as well as the Priorities and Potential Measures set out in the [Statement of Biodiversity Priorities](#).

3. The role of schools and educational settings in nature recovery

Schools and educational settings play a key role in nature recovery. They can create valuable habitats and wildlife-friendly spaces within their grounds, while also inspiring the next generation by teaching about the importance of biodiversity and the many mental and physical health benefits of spending time in nature.

3.1 National Education Nature Park

Commissioned by the Department for Education as part of their Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy, the National Education Nature Park Programme empowers children and young people to make a positive difference to both their own and nature's future.

This free programme provides all educators with the resources, support and

guidance to embed climate and nature into learning in a way that suits their setting and learners.

It also helps educators and students get to know their outdoor space and use creative decision-making to improve grounds for both people and nature.

See how it works in this short video: [National Education Nature Park: how it works - YouTube](#)

Find out more at: [Home | Education Nature Park](#)

Contact the East Midlands Team: eastmidlandsnaturepark@ltnl.org.uk

3.2. Using the LNRS for nature education

Schools can use the **Statement of Biodiversity Priorities** as a source of clear, locally specific information about nature across Nottinghamshire and Nottingham.

Section 3 of the Statement of Biodiversity Priorities includes a detailed 'Description of the strategy area', covering the county's hydrology, geology, topography and historic environment, along with summaries of protected sites, priority habitats, and notable species in Nottinghamshire. This material can support teachers and educators in helping children and students connect with, understand and appreciate their local environment.

Section 4 sets out the key 'Pressures and Opportunities' for nature recovery in the area, which can be used to engage learners in discussions about real-world environmental challenges and the potential for positive change within their local context.

At the end of this User Guide, you will find useful links to online resources for nature education which are provided by a variety

of organisations and can help you plan learning activities for your students.

3.3. Using the Local Habitat Map

Step 1) See if land owned by a school or educational setting is mapped on 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 a site has been found, 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 the site.

b) Use the 'Combined Mapped Measures' layer to identify which measures are mapped on the site. This layer will provide 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](#).

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 land owned by a school or

educational setting 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.

Step 3) Delivering Potential Measures on your land

There is no obligation on a school or educational organisation 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 are also

measures which are unmapped - see the next section.

4. Unmapped Measures and other nature recovery actions

If a site is not identified on the Local Habitat Map, this doesn't mean that a Potential Measure 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 or because they are similarly beneficial over a wide area.

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.

See Section 5 of the [Statement of Biodiversity Priorities](#) to view the full list of Priorities and Potential Measures in the LNRS.

Other general actions that could be taken to improve biodiversity on school grounds and in educational settings include:

- relaxing mowing regimes on areas of grassland
- leaving margins around field boundaries to encourage wildlife and pollinator activity
- planting native/ and or suitable trees and hedgerows (ideally from local stock) to provide shade and habitat for wildlife
- creating wildflower areas using native and locally sourced seed to promote species rich areas of habitat

It can also be helpful to look at Potential Measures mapped in the area surrounding your site to understand which actions

would have the greatest impact on the school site itself. For example, if land directly adjacent to the school has been identified for woodland creation, planting suitable tree species on the school grounds could strengthen the overall impact of woodland creation in the area.

Alternatively, if land owned by a school or educational setting 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.

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. Resources

Many organisations provide useful online resources for schools. To find out more follow the links in the sections below:

Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust 'Wildlife Watch'

The Wildlife Watch webpage produced by the Wildlife Trust has a range of useful resources for educators, providing ways to incorporate nature into learning and lesson plans: [For educators | Wildlife Watch](#)

Find a Wildlife Watch group near you in Nottinghamshire: [Wildlife Watch | Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust](#)

Schools can log nature recovery actions as well as seeking inspiration from others on the Wilder Nottinghamshire Network map: [Community groups - map form | Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust](#)

There are also a number of resources for nature - related activities such as wildlife spotter sheets, music, crafts and guides for making nature-friendly features such as bug hotels, seed bombs and leaf stacks etc: [Activities | Wildlife Watch](#)

RSPB 'Wild Challenge'

The RSPB have a range of activities and resources available as part of their 'Wild Challenge for Schools'. Find out more at: [Wild Challenge for schools](#)

There are also further resources for educators available at: [Education and inspiring the next generation](#)

Woodland Trust

The Woodland Trust have resources available on their website to help teachers engage in outdoor learning. Find out more at: [Outdoor Learning Resources For Schools - Woodland Trust](#)

There is also a dedicated 'Tree Tools for Schools' hub with guidance on planning, planting and caring for trees, as well as activities for students: [Tree Tools for Schools – Woodland Trust](#)

The Woodland Trust's Green Tree Schools Award encourages outdoor learning and inspires pupils about trees, woods and wildlife. Through the award, schools can take part in fun, practical projects while helping the environment and improving school grounds. It's completely free and the Woodland Trust provide resources and support to help schools get the most out of it: [Green Tree Schools Award](#)

Climate Ambassadors

The Climate Ambassadors programme match volunteer climate experts with education settings to develop climate action plans in nurseries, schools and colleges. Find out more at: [Climate Ambassadors: Turning Climate Ambition](#)

[into Climate Action in Education | Climate Ambassadors](#)

Or contact the East Midlands regional hub:
ca-eastmids@nottingham.ac.uk

Canal and River Trust Explorers

‘Explorers’ is the Canal and River Trust’s learning programme aimed at 5-12-year-olds, designed to inspire learning by connecting young people to canals and rivers and helping everyone to stay safe around water. Find out more here:
[explorers | Canal & River Trust](#)

The programme is aimed at 5-12 year olds and provides classroom resources, water safety information, and a range of learning bundles dedicated to ‘Nature and Environment’ which can be found here:
[Classroom Resources | Canal & River Trust](#)

For older learners see: [STEM Resources | Canal & River Trust](#)

Trent Rivers Trust

Trent Rivers Trust has produced the ‘Love Your River’ activity pack, encouraging people to take five actions of river kindness this summer: [Trent Rivers Trust booklet](#)

Find out more about the campaign on their website: [Take Five Actions For Your River - Trent Rivers Trust](#)

Trent Rivers Trust parent organisation The Rivers Trust has a range of useful resources for including information on river health into the curriculum: [Schools and youth groups | The Rivers Trust](#)

Forestry England

Schools can plan a visit to a forest near them, book time with the Forestry England learning team as well as access a wide range of resources such as blogs and newsletters here: [Educational forest visits | Forestry England](#)

There are also activity resources which have been specifically developed for schools to link into curriculums which can be accessed here: [Downloadable resources | Learning | Forestry England](#).

World Wildlife Fund

WWF has produced a guide of simple ideas and activities to get a daily dose of nature at school. Find out more here: [Get your daily dose of nature at school: Teacher resources](#)