



Nottinghamshire & Nottingham

Local Nature Recovery Strategy

User Guide for Planners and Developers

Revised October 2026

working in partnership



Nottinghamshire
County Council



Nottingham
City Council

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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 Local Nature Recovery Strategy for Nottinghamshire and Nottingham was

published on 10th November 2025, including the interactive [Local Habitat Map](#).

For an overview of the LNRS, read the [Summary Document](#).

2. 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.

3. 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.

4. 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.”

5. 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’). See Appendix 1 for more information on the LNRS, strategic significance and the statutory biodiversity metric.

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. The Framework is available to read here: [nottinghamnottinghamshirebngframework.pdf](#)

To assist with translating between the naming of habitat types used in the LNRS and those used in the BNG metric, guidance has been provided in Appendix 2 of this document.

6. 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.

7. 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---Significant-On-site-Enhancement.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: [nottinghamnottinghamshirebngframework.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 Local Nature Recovery Strategy and Biodiversity Net Gain: [The Local Nature Recovery Strategy and Biodiversity Net Gain.pdf](#) - this document explains the relationship between the general habitat definitions used in the LNRS and the UK Habs definitions used in the BNG Metric.

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

Appendix 1 - THE LNRS, STRATEGIC SIGNIFICANCE AND THE STATUTORY BIODIVERSITY METRIC

What is the Statutory Biodiversity Metric?

The Statutory Biodiversity Metric¹ (DEFRA Statutory Biodiversity Metric) is a tool produced by DEFRA which is used can be used in non-exempt development proposals to calculate the biodiversity value of:

- Existing habitat
- Habitat loss or degradation
- Habitat enhancement or restoration
- Habitat creation

This biodiversity metric tool uses “proxy” measures, which have been developed during an extensive pilot development phase, to allocate a value in “biodiversity units” to a habitat parcel based on the distinctiveness, condition and strategic significance. There are biodiversity units for separate “modules” of: habitat area, hedgerow and watercourse.

This completed biodiversity metric can be used to calculate and forecast the change in habitat areas, which occurs as a result of development proposals. As such, this approach to habitat creation or enhancement will be assessed by the determining authority during the planning application process.

The Strategic Significance Multiplier

The biodiversity metric tool has a strategic significance “multiplier” within it, which increases the unit value of a habitat parcel where it is “strategically significant”. This means that if this habitat parcel is to be lost or degraded as part of development proposals, its lost unit value would be higher than if the identical habitat was outside of this strategically significant geographical area.

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/statutory-biodiversity-metric-tools-and-guides>

In a similar way, where a habitat parcel is being proposed for creation, enhancement or restoration (either on a development site or on a habitat creation site, such as a habitat bank), this parcel will create higher unit value if it is within a strategically significant area at its location (not at the development location).

How do strategic significance and the LNRS relate to each other?

The Statutory Biodiversity Metric User Guide² specifies that where a Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) has been published, it must be used to assign strategic significance. Strategic significance must be applied as per Table 7 within this User Guide. Within Nottinghamshire and Nottingham, the use of ‘high’ strategic significance is set out within the table below (in line with Table 7 on page 30 of the Statutory Biodiversity Metric User Guide):

Habitat Scenario	Details	Multiplier Value
Baseline Habitats	All baseline habitats should be recorded as low strategic significance. This occurs even when the baseline is a habitat of value, a formally designated site or is a habitat mapped within the LNRS.	1.0
Post Development Habitats	High strategic significance can only be allocated at post-development when the location of the habitat parcel has been mapped ¹ in the Local Habitat Map as an area where a potential measure has been proposed to help deliver the priorities of that LNRS; and the proposed intervention must be consistent with the mapped potential measure in the LNRS for the habitat parcel.	1.15

² [The Statutory Biodiversity Metric User Guide \(February 2024, updated June 2026\)](#)

High strategic significance

Where a post-development intervention is within a Mapped Measure location as shown on the LNRS Local Habitat Map, only if the mapped measure habitat aligns with the measure priorities can the habitat parcel be assigned as having high strategic significance. The following are example scenarios:

Scenario 1:

A development contains an area of other mixed woodland which will be retained and enhanced from 'poor' to 'moderate' condition through habitat management and falls within Mapped Measure area B/M2: *"Increase structural diversity in woodlands and other woody habitats including by (re-) establishing rides, glades and ecotones, coppicing coupes, promoting a greater age range of trees and diversity of canopy structures, and retention/creation of standing and fallen deadwood"*.

'High' strategic significance can be assigned as the location is mapped on the LRS Habitat Map, and the proposed intervention is consistent with the relevant Mapped Measure.

Scenario 2:

A minerals development which includes a restoration scheme to be delivered in phases. The restoration includes the creation of areas of species-rich neutral grassland and falls partly into LNRS Mapped Measure area F/M5: *"Undertake creation of new and locally distinctive species-rich neutral grassland in locations with suitable geology, including on low value arable land (where appropriate)"*.

In this case, the areas of species-rich neutral grassland to be created which fall within the Mapped Measure area F/M5 the Mapped Measure should be assigned 'high' strategic significance', whilst areas of species-rich neutral grassland to be created outside the Mapped Measure area should be assigned 'low' strategic significance.

Scenario 3:

A development has an area proposed for the creation of modified grassland in a moderate condition. This area will form an area of Public Open Space as part of a well-used playing field. This area falls into Mapped Measure area 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”.

The proposals will see the modified grassland will meet the condition assessment criteria for moderate grassland by enhancing to a species rich sward, with a relaxed mowing regime but still maintain a relatively short sward to function as a playing field. Overall, the enhancements will meet 4 of the 7 habitat criteria and therefore the habitat can be allocated ‘high’ strategic significance.

It may be appropriate to provide a justification of how the proposed habitat will meet the ‘Mapped Measure’ priorities and targets at the planning application stage, in order to demonstrate that the strategic significance has been inputted correctly.

Scenario 4:

A development is proposing to create an area of wildflower grassland and broadleaved woodland planting in an area mapped as E/M4:

"Undertake creation of new heathland and acid grassland in Sherwood and on the windblown sands in north-east Nottinghamshire, including as part of quarry restoration and on low value arable land (where appropriate)".

This is not an acid grassland or heathland creation and therefore this habitat creation should be allocated ‘low’ strategic significance.

Priority Species mapping

Please note that Priority Species mapping is not included as part of the strategic significance multiplier. This is because the biodiversity metric is a habitat-based metric, which does not currently consider combined issues of protected or priority species.

If a development proposes habitat enhancement or creation which falls within a Mapped Measure area for a Priority Species, then this can be assigned ‘high’ strategic significance if the following apply:

- The proposed habitat enhancement or creation aligns with the measure for the relevant species.
- Suitable justification is provided with the metric or application which outlines how this will be achieved including details of specific management interventions which will benefit the species in question.

An example of where this would be acceptable is provided below:

An area of woodland and hedgerow creation is proposed within mapped measure area SP/M8: Continue work to establish a self-sustaining population of Dormouse in north Nottinghamshire, including by targeted enhancement of woodlands and improving ecological connectivity between woodlands. The woodland and hedgerow creation will provide direct connectivity between two areas of woodland within this Mapped Measure area, and the applicant has demonstrated how this will be specifically managed to benefit Dormice.

Medium significance

This category cannot be applied where a LNRS has been published.

Low significance

Any area outside of the Mapped Measure areas shown on the Local Habitat Map should be assigned a significance of 1.0 in the strategic multiplier e.g. no magnification in value.

Summary of steps an applicant needs to consider

Before submitting a planning application, applicants should consider the following:

- An applicant should seek ecological advice from an appropriately qualified and experienced ecological consultant in the first instance. The ecological consultant should be a 'competent person' as defined within the Statutory Metric User Guide.
- The existing baseline strategic significance value for all habitat parcels should always be scored as low.
- All existing habitat parcels impacted by development, or proposed post-development, should be checked against the LNRS Local Habitat Map, to identify if the habitat parcel is within a Mapped Measure area and hence a strategically significant area for that habitat type.
- The habitat proposals for creation, enhancement or restoration must be consistent with the relevant Measure(s) in the LNRS in that strategically significant location.

- Each individual habitat parcel should be assessed separately, in both on-site and off- site situations.
- Off-site habitats should be assessed against the relevant local documents, not those relevant to the development location e.g. if an off-site area is within a neighbouring county or National Character Area.

Assessment within the planning application process

The location and type of planning application will determine which Local Planning Authority is responsible for the assessment.

- Minerals and waste development applications are the responsibility of county and unitary authorities, which is Nottinghamshire County Council and Nottingham City Council
- All other types of application are the responsibility of the relevant unitary or district and borough council, depending on location
 - Nottingham City Council
 - Rushcliffe Borough Council
 - Broxtowe Borough Council
 - Gedling Borough Council
 - Ashfield District Council
 - Mansfield District Council
 - Newark and Sherwood District Council
 - Bassetlaw District Council

Appendix 2 – TRANSLATION OF LNRS HABITAT TYPES TO UKHab CLASSIFICATIONS

The Nottinghamshire and Nottingham LNRS uses general habitat definitions to ensure that it is user friendly and non-technical and therefore is accessible to non-specialists, whereas the Statutory Biodiversity Metric (SBM) uses a more detailed and technical habitat classification system called the [UK Habitat Classification \(ukhab.org\)](https://ukhab.org), or **UKHab**.

When undertaking a SBM calculation and determining the strategic significance there is a need to translate between the UKHab habitats used within the calculation and the more general habitat types used within the LNRS.

The table below provides this translation to ensure that the habitat types used in the LNRS can be correctly translated into the relevant UKHab habitat type, to avoid confusion or misapplication. It should be noted that the translation provided relates to all habitats covered by the LNRS but does mean that some habitats are listed for which there is no corresponding potential measure mapped on the Local Habitat Map.

Priorities and Measures grouping	LNRS habitat type	UKHab habitat type	UKHab code
Woodland	Lowland mixed deciduous woodland	Lowland mixed deciduous woodland	w1f
	Wet woodland	Wet woodland	w1d
	Wood pasture and parkland	Wood-pasture and parkland	26
	Planted coniferous woodland	Other coniferous woodland	w2c
	Other broadleaved woodlands	Other broadleaved woodland	w1g
		Other woodland – mixed	w1h
	Scrub	Blackthorn scrub	h3a
		Hazel scrub	h3b
		Gorse scrub	h3e
		Hawthorn scrub	h3f
		Mixed scrub	h3h
		Willow scrub	h3j
	Ancient and veteran trees	Veteran tree, Ancient tree	204, 205

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Priorities and Measures grouping	LNRS habitat type	UKHab habitat type	UKHab code
Watercourse	Rivers	Rivers (priority habitat)	r2a
		Other rivers and streams	r2b
	Streams	Other rivers and streams	r2b
	Canals	Canals	r1e
Wetland	Floodplain grazing marsh	Coastal and floodplain grazing marsh	19
	Eutrophic standing water	Eutrophic standing waters	r1a
	Mesotrophic lakes	Mesotrophic lakes	r1b
	Ponds	Ponds (priority habitat), pond (non-priority)	40, 41
	Reedbed	Reedbeds	f2e
	Lowland fen	Lowland fens	f2a
	Marsh and swamp	Aquatic marginal vegetation	f2d
		Other wetlands	f2f
		Swamp	406
Heathland	Lowland heathland	Lowland heathland	h1a
	Lowland dry acid grassland	Lowland dry acid grassland	g1a
		Other lowland dry acid grassland	g1d
Grassland	Lowland calcareous grassland	Lowland calcareous grassland	g2a
	Lowland meadows	Lowland meadows	g3a
	Other semi-improved grassland	Other calcareous grassland	g2c
		Other neutral grassland	g3c

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Priorities and Measures grouping	LNRS habitat type	UKHab habitat type	UKHab code
Farmland	Arable field margins	Arable field margins	c1a
	Hedgerows	Native hedgerow	h2a
	Traditional orchards	Traditional orchards	27
	Arable farmland	Temporary grass and clover leys	c1b
		Cereal crops	c1c
		Non-cereal crops	c1d
		Intensive orchards	c1e
		Horticulture	c1f
	Improved grassland	Modified grassland	g4
	Ditches	Ditch	50
	Woodland / watercourse / wetland / heathland / grassland as above	See above under relevant habitat grouping	See above
Urban and Post-industrial	Open mosaic habitats on previously developed land	Open mosaic habitats on previously developed land	80
	Urban green and blue spaces (including gardens)	Suburban mosaic of developed and natural surface	u1d
		Garden	827
		Cemeteries and churchyards	90
		Bioswale	849
		See above under relevant habitat grouping	See above
	Buildings	Developed land; sealed surface	u1b
		Green roof, Biodiverse green roof, Other green roof	86, 87, 89
	Woodland / watercourse / wetland / heathland / grassland as above	See above under relevant habitat grouping	See above