



NOTTINGHAMSHIRE AND NOTTINGHAM LNRS PUBLIC CONSULTATION REPORT



1 AUGUST 2025



The Malt House
17-20 Sydney Buildings
Bath BA2 6BZ

T: +44 (0)330 223 4476

E: enquiries@naturepositive.com

www.naturepositive.com

Please note that this is a report on the LNRS public consultation work for Nottinghamshire County Council. It summarises the responses to the consultation from various stakeholder groups and a variety of styles of events.

Emily Grant, Joseph White, Simon Garrett	Report authors	Date	5 August 2025
Thomas Mason	Technical Reviewer	Date	06 August 2025

Contents

Contents	3
1. Executive summary	4
1.1 Summary of responses from the four stakeholder groupings	4
1.1.1 Those involved in nature conservation	6
1.1.2 Farmers and other land managers	6
1.1.3 Planners and developers.....	7
1.2 Implications and Solutions for the published LNRS	8
1.2.1 Statement of Biodiversity Priorities	8
1.2.2 Local Habitat Map.....	8
1.2.3 Deliverability	8
2. Introduction.....	10
3. Consultation Methods	10
3.1 Appropriate methods for different stakeholder groups	10
4. Responses from broad stakeholder groups.....	12
4.1 The wider public.....	12
4.1.1 Consultation opportunities	12
4.1.2 Level of participation	12
4.1.3 Analysis of responses	13
4.2 Those involved (employed or volunteering) in nature conservation.....	34
4.2.1 Consultation opportunities and level of participation	34
4.2.2 Analysis of responses	34
4.3 Farmers and land managers.....	47
4.3.1 Consultation opportunities	47
4.3.2 Level of participation	48
4.3.3 Analysis of responses	48
4.4 Planners and developers	62
4.4.1 Consultation opportunities	62
4.4.2 Level of participation	62
4.4.3 Analysis of responses	63
5. Implications and Solutions for the published LNRS.....	69
5.1 Implications and Solutions for the Statement of Biodiversity Priorities.....	69
5.2 Implications and Solutions for the Local Habitat Map	70
5.3 Implications and Solutions for the Deliverability of the LNRS	71

1. Executive summary

This report outlines the methodology, rationale, findings and insights gathered from statutory public engagement conducted on the draft Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) for Nottinghamshire and Nottingham.

A variety of engagement modes were used, which were appropriate for different stakeholder groups, including an **online survey**. The online survey was widely publicised and attendees at in-person events were encouraged to use the online survey to provide more detailed feedback if they wished. As a result, some overlap is likely between survey respondents and participants in other events. Survey responses can be found below:

Stakeholder Group	Number of responses
Wider public	270
Work or volunteer in nature conservation	107
Farmers and land managers	31
Planners and developers	11
Total	419

Several **public events**, both in-person and online, were held to reach a wider audience beyond those who typically responded to the survey. At the in-person sessions, participants were invited to answer a series of questions on the draft LNRS. These included interactive activities, such as placing stickers on visual analogue scales to show the extent to which they agreed with certain statements, as well as multiple response questions assessing their sentiment and familiarity with the draft LNRS. Participants were also invited to provide optional comments on how the draft could be improved, and to share the nature-related actions they currently take or would like to take. Questions were tailored to each stakeholder group. Online participants were asked to complete a poll covering similar themes. A full list of events held across the county is provided below:

Stakeholder Group	Event	Number attended
Wider public	Green Hustle (in-person)	100
	Nottingham College (in-person)	42
	Nottinghamshire County Show (in-person)	45
	Worksop Bus Station (in-person)	40
	Evening webinar (online)	13
	Morning webinar (online)	16
Farmers and other land managers	Eakring NFU offices	15
	Newark Showground	18
	Nottinghamshire County Show	16
	Evening farming webinar	12
	Online meeting for health sector	3
Total		320

1.1 Summary of responses from the four stakeholder groupings

The findings presented here provide broad, overarching insights into views on the draft LNRS, which was open for public consultation between **6th May - 16th June**. More information can be found on the Notts Nature Recovery website under 'Report of Public Consultation'.

The wider public

In the online survey, this group was defined by exclusion – i.e. everyone else who responded but who didn't fall into the three groups above. Four events were attended in-person and two were attended online to gauge the responses of the wider public who may not proactively fill in a survey. Events attended are below:

Wider public events	Location	Date	Number attended
Green Hustle (in-person)	Nottingham City Centre	31.05.25	100
Nottingham College (in-person)	Nottingham City Centre	04.06.25	42
Nottinghamshire County Show (in-person)	Newark	10.05.25	45
Worksop Bus Station (in-person)	Worksop	06.06.25	40
Evening webinar (online)	Microsoft Teams	10.06.25	13
Morning webinar (online)	Microsoft Teams	10.06.25	16

Overall, they demonstrated strong support for the draft LNRS, both through survey responses and public consultation events. Participants expressed a clear understanding of the LNRS's aims and showed alignment with its principles, often reflecting personal commitments to nature recovery. The overall sentiment was highly positive: 68% of survey respondents reported feeling 'excited' and/or 'motivated' by the strategy a feeling echoed at both online and in-person consultation events. Across the draft Statement of Biodiversity Priorities and the Local Habitat Map, survey participants largely found the content understandable, accurate and usable. There was near-unanimous agreement with the identified pressures and opportunities (96%), priorities and potential measures (96%) and strong agreement with the local habitat map (86%). Some concerns were raised with the document's length, complexity and the technical nature of the accompanying map. Specific issues included perceived difficulty in applying the strategy to decision-making, the need for clearer implementation policy and omissions of important local sites and species.

The public events reinforced these findings. While many attendees were unfamiliar with the LNRS prior to participation, they responded positively upon learning more. Participants frequently cited potential personal and professional uses for the strategy, including volunteering, creating habitats, and referencing the LNRS in their work. The strategy was viewed as a significant opportunity, with attendees consistently valuing nature and recognising the potential impact of the LNRS.

Nature-related engagement was high across both the survey and public events. A large proportion of respondents were already taking action, such as gardening in wildlife-friendly ways, buying nature-positive products, supporting volunteering with community groups and recording wildlife. Many also expressed their desire to increase their involvement, with suggested future actions including consulting local government, supporting biodiversity-focused initiatives and encouraging green infrastructure like garden roofs.

Although motivation was high, both survey and event participants pointed to significant barriers to deeper involvement, most notably the need for more localised information, clearer communication, accessible funding, and stronger connections to existing community initiatives. Participants also expressed a strong desire for continued and more inclusive stakeholder engagement and weaving in more local input into the draft strategy.

Overall, this group showed a **deep commitment to nature recovery** and a **strong willingness to support the LNRS**. While awareness of the strategy itself is still developing, the consultation revealed **consistent enthusiasm** and a desire for greater clarity and support to enable meaningful action. Feedback from both the survey and events will inform refinements to the final LNRS.

1.1.1 Those involved in nature conservation

In the online survey, many people self-identified as working or volunteering in wildlife conservation. Overall, they indicated broad support and understanding of the draft LNRS, with most respondents showing positive engagement and alignment with its aims. The draft was widely regarded as clear, accessible, and visually appealing, with many participants already referring to it into their professional or personal activities.

Whilst the overall sentiment was positive, several concerns were raised. These included uncertainty about next steps, doubts over implementation, a perceived lack of specificity, and concerns over resource availability – particularly funding. Some respondents also questioned the strategy's enforceability and ability to translate into tangible outcomes for biodiversity. A small number of respondents felt that local context was insufficiently reflected and flagged potential inaccuracies in the mapping and site classifications (these have been considered and addressed if appropriate).

High levels of agreement were seen for pressures and opportunities, with 90% in agreement and for priorities and potential measures, where 83% agreed. Support for the habitat map was lower, with 64% in agreement, largely due to perceived spatial gaps or misrepresentations in certain areas. Usability was another area of concern, especially with respect to technical language and the map interface.

Despite these criticisms, there was **clear willingness among those involved in nature conservation to support and adopt the LNRS**. Constructive suggestions, such as **improved formatting, clearer mapping tools, and better integration of local knowledge**, will be considered as Nottinghamshire County Council refines the final strategy.

1.1.2 Farmers and other land managers

Farmers and land managers across Nottinghamshire engaged with the draft LNRS through the online survey, in-person events and targeted webinars. In the online survey, some identified as farmers or other land managers. For farmers, three in-person events were run, as well as a webinar.

Farmer/land manager events	Location	Date	Number attended
Eakring NFU offices	Eakring	22.05.25	15
Newark Showground	Newark	15.05.25	18
Nottinghamshire County Show	Newark	10.05.25	16
Evening farming webinar	Microsoft Teams	05.06.25	12
Online meeting for health sector land managers	Microsoft Teams	09.06.25	3

While they demonstrated a clear understanding of the strategy's purpose and recognised its positive intent, the overall sentiment was broadly negative, particularly due to concerns around feasibility, funding, resources and a lack of local knowledge integrated.

Survey respondents generally found the LNRS document understandable, accurate and visually accessible. However, significant reservations were voiced about the complexity and clarity of the strategy, especially the habitat map, which many found difficult to interpret and lacking credibility. Additional concerns were raised regarding perceived mapping errors, insufficient local context and a generic approach that reduced confidence. Some respondents consistently asked for more actionable guidance and feared the strategy might be impractical or remain unused.

Agreement with core elements of the draft was mixed: 72% supported the identified pressures and opportunities, but only 50% agreed with the proposed priorities and measures. Agreement with the local habitat map was particularly low (41%), with concerns about vague boundaries and inaccurate inclusions or omissions. Many felt the LNRS did not reflect sufficient input from local land managers.

Despite these concerns, many respondents are already undertaking nature-positive actions, including wildlife-friendly farming, tree planting and hedgerow establishment, often funded through government schemes or personal investment. While there was interest in future initiatives such as regenerative

farming and wetland creation, enthusiasm for deeper engagement, such as forming community groups, remained limited.

Feedback from the in-person events varied significantly. At the Eakring event, farmers showed cautious optimism and saw potential benefits from the LNRS. In contrast, participants at Newark Showground and the evening webinar were more sceptical, citing issues such as a lack of clarity, distrust in DEFRA and poor alignment with practical farming realities. Financial incentives were widely viewed as inadequate, and some participants few comparisons with past schemes that had failed to deliver.

Across all engagement formats, farmers emphasised they are already doing what they can for nature and often see themselves as performing on a par with their peers. However, they want to see clearer, tangible opportunities linked to the LNRS, supported by appropriate funding and policy commitments.

It is important to note that, despite extensive efforts to engage a larger cohort, the number of farmers and land managers who participated in the consultation was small relative to the total in Nottinghamshire. Therefore, the results may not necessarily represent the views of the wider farming community. Individual concerns or suggestions raised have been considered and addressed as appropriate in the drafting of the final version of the LNRS.

In summary, this stakeholder group is already actively contributing to nature recovery but **remains cautious about the LNRS**. Their concerns, particularly around **funding, clarity, and trust**, will need to be addressed to ensure meaningful engagement and successful implementation.

Health sector

Three representatives from two healthcare trusts took part in the consultation via an online meeting. As landowners, the trusts identified opportunities to manage parts of their estate for nature, with potential benefits for both staff and patients. **Overall feedback was positive:** two respondents described themselves as 'motivated', while another expressed feeling both 'motivated' and 'worried'. All participants were open to integrating nature positive actions—such as tree planting or changes to grass management—into their work. The group also expressed clear ambitions to enhance biodiversity and strengthen habitat support through their roles.

1.1.3 Planners and developers

In the online survey, some self-identified as planners or developers (11 participants). This group also engaged in direct email responses with the Nottinghamshire County Council LNRS team. Overall, they expressed a mix of views on the draft LNRS, with responses ranging from positive to neutral or critical. While none of the participants were directly involved in creating the draft, most were aware of the LNRS.

Overall, the document was received relatively well, with general agreement on its structure, clarity, and accessibility, though many responses were neutral, particularly regarding visual appeal. Sections 1-8 were largely seen as understandable and accurate, though concerns were raised about the mapping methodology. Usability of the map received more mixed feedback, especially due to the technical nature of the content and the perceived need for Geographical Information Systems (GIS) experience.

Several respondents called for clearer guidance and better actionability, though the strategy was acknowledged as informative regarding the state of nature and priority areas. This was reflected in the survey, where strong agreement was recorded on the LNRS's identified pressures (80%) and proposed priorities and measures (100%). However, opinions were split on the local habitat map, with some questioning the rigidity of its polygon-based approach.

The planners and developers showed limited current engagement with nature-related activities and less willingness to support or apply the LNRS in their roles, relative to other stakeholder groups such as the farmers and land managers. That said, a few participants reported referring to the LNRS in their work or taking part in species recording.

Importantly, this was the smallest stakeholder group, so the results may not form an accurate representation of the broader planning and development sector in Nottinghamshire. Despite reservations, **participants generally supported the draft** and recognised its potential benefits, whilst emphasising the need for **greater clarity, flexibility** and **continued stakeholder engagement**. Individual points and suggestions have been considered, and where appropriate have influenced the final document.

1.2 Implications and Solutions for the published LNRS

1.2.1 Statement of Biodiversity Priorities

Stakeholders generally **agreed** the draft strategy is **clear, accurate, and usable**, with constructive suggestions to improve readability, integrate more local knowledge, adopt a more flexible mapping approach, shorten the document, and highlight the opportunities more clearly. The LNRS team confirmed the strategy draws on both national and local evidence and that the final LNRS will be supported by a **user guide** to address some of the suggestions made. Broad agreement was found across stakeholder groups on identified pressures, opportunities, and priorities, though only half of farmers agreed, citing limited engagement with land managers, competing land-use pressures, and inadequate incentives for nature-friendly farming. Despite these concerns, farmers showed strong personal and professional commitment to nature. Stakeholders expressed enthusiasm to contribute and make use of the strategy, while emphasising the need for greater clarity on next steps. **Further engagement**, particularly with farmers and other land managers will also be carried out during the delivery phase to strengthen collaboration and ensure effective implementation.

1.2.2 Local Habitat Map

The **Local Habitat Map was the most frequently questioned element of the draft LNRS**, with many describing it as overly **complex, unintuitive, and a barrier to engagement for non-expert users**. Stakeholders called for a more interactive and accessible map that could be more easily translated into practical actions. Concerns about accuracy were strongest among farmers, land managers, planners, and developers, who also questioned the rigidity of the mapping methodology and the lack of clarity around site selection.

In response to comments, the LNRS team has **reviewed and amended mapping** where appropriate, including provision for species such as bittern, creeping willow, and grizzled skipper, as well as adjustments to spatial coverage (e.g. Lowfield Lane at Balderton). Sites with planning permission or Local Plan allocations were removed, while landscape-scale measures and buffers were retained. A **user guide** will be produced on publication to support accessibility and usability.

While disagreement with areas identified on the map remained higher among farmers (59%) and planners (50%), broad support was seen among the public (86%) and conservation groups (64%). Overall, the map was recognised as a **useful strategic framework** to guide opportunity mapping and collaborative planning, provided refinements continue. **Further engagement** during the delivery phase, particularly with the farming community and through sector partners such as NFU and CLA, will be key to building trust and ensuring the map is both practical and widely used.

1.2.3 Deliverability

In terms of the deliverability of the LNRS, **funding** emerged as a key concern across all groups, with calls for financial support and flexibility. The LNRS team clarified the strategy's role as a framework to guide funding decisions.

Usability and accessibility of the LNRS varied, with some groups, especially those who work or volunteer in conservation and the general public, wanting simpler, more inclusive materials. The LNRS team plans to produce **easy-to-read guides for different user groups** and to improve community outreach through ongoing community channels. Concerns about local knowledge and gaps led to commitments for **ongoing engagement with residents and local groups** during the delivery phase.

Delivery scepticism was voiced notably among farmers and those who work and volunteer in nature conservation, who cited mistrust due to past scheme failure and doubts about council capacity. The LNRS team emphasised the statutory nature of the LNRS, and its **alignment with planning and BNG policies**, and plans for **further engagement** with planners and developers.

Despite these concerns, there was broad agreement on the strategy's aims and key strategic elements. Most stakeholders showed strong nature engagement and willingness to participate, though farmers were more cautious and planners less engaged. **Cross-sector collaboration** was widely identified as essential to overcome challenges and support effective delivery.

The LNRS team will **monitor progress** through the next review cycle (3-10 years) and prioritise stakeholder collaboration across sectors to ensure successful outcomes in Nottinghamshire.

Draft LNRS process

Some respondents raised questions about how the draft LNRS had been developed. The consultation process has been carried out **in line with DEFRA guidance**, and the species included have been identified according to the process set out in that guidance. Preparation of the draft LNRS has involved **engagement with farmers, land managers, conservation organisations, Parish councils and green space groups** among many others. It is underpinned by both **national and local data**. Additional engagement with all relevant sectors will take place during the delivery phase.

Further details on the preparation process can be found in the Appendices to the LNRS at the Notts Nature Recovery website.

2. Introduction

This report outlines the methodology, rationale, findings and insights gathered from statutory public consultation engagement conducted on the draft Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) for Nottinghamshire and Nottingham.

All data was gathered by Nature Positive, RSK Wilding and Nottinghamshire County Council staff from 6 May 2025 to 16 June 2025 inclusive.

The findings presented here provide broad, overarching insights into views on the draft LNRS. More detailed individual responses are available on the Notts Nature Recovery website under 'Report of Public Consultation'.

3. Consultation Methods

3.1 Appropriate methods for different stakeholder groups

A variety of methods were used in an effort to capture diverse perspectives on the draft LNRS report during its public consultation period. As described below, this report is divided into four broad stakeholder groupings as they are likely to have different perspectives and levels of detail in responses which is important in understanding how the draft materials are received and perceived by different groups. The groupings are:

- Those involved (employed or volunteering) in nature conservation
- Farmers and land managers (including those in the health sector)
- Planners and developers
- The wider public

Online public survey

The online survey held on the Nottinghamshire Nature Recovery website constitutes the majority of our findings, with a strong response rate of 419 participants. It was designed to gather a wide range of quantitative and qualitative feedback on the draft LNRS documents. Significant differences in the public consultation survey findings may indicate the need for revision to the LNRS, while areas of broad agreement will help to further validate our initial findings.

Participants were asked multiple questions exploring aspects such as readability, clarity, visual appeal, and their level of agreement or disagreement with the identified Pressures and Opportunities, and the draft Priorities and Measures and the areas identified on the Local Habitat Map. Crucially. The survey also assessed how usable the document was and provided space for participants to suggest potential improvements.

This was the only methodology used for those who *work or volunteer in nature conservation*.

Email correspondence

Planners and developers, residents and other organisations engaged in the LNRS consultation through email correspondence alongside the survey. Responses ranged in detail, with some being heavily detailed and others being more succinct and direct.

Visual analogue scales (VAS)

In addition to the survey, both *farmers* and the *wider public* engaged in visual analogue scale (VAS) questions. The wording of these questions was adapted for each group to reflect their distinct perspectives. For farmers the questions focused on farm-level impacts and opportunities, recognising them as a unique stakeholder group that may have a more complex relationship with the LNRS compared to the wider public.

For the VAS questions, participants were asked to place a sticker along a line to indicate their strength of view. Among the wider public, one question was asked which explored the extent to which

individuals agreed that nature is important. For farmers, the VAS questions focused on the extent to which they saw nature as an opportunity for their farm, their belief in how much they are contributing to nature, their views on financial incentives and how they perceive their efforts in comparison to other farms.

For the online webinars, these were undertaken as scaled polls.

Category-based multiple response items

In addition to the survey and VAS questions, a further set of questions were asked to both *farmers* and the *wider public*. These involved placing stickers in designated areas, which were then tallied to produce a total score, as well as providing handwritten qualitative responses about any further information they might need and actions they currently take or might consider in supporting nature. Questions were tailored to each stakeholder group. Online participants were asked to complete a poll covering similar themes.

In conjunction, these four modes of engagement provided us with sufficient data to offer informed comments on potential amendments or revisions to consider for producing the final version of the LNRS for Nottinghamshire and Nottingham.

Survey responses:

Stakeholder Group (survey)	Number of responses
Wider public	270
Work or volunteer in nature conservation	107
Farmers and land managers	31
Planners and developers	11
Total	419

Event responses:

Stakeholder Group	Event	Number attended
Wider public	Green Hustle (in-person)	100
	Nottingham College (in-person)	42
	Nottinghamshire County Show (in-person)	45
	Worksop Bus Station (in-person)	40
	Evening webinar (online)	13
	Morning webinar (online)	16
Farmer and land managers	Eakring	15
	Newark Showground	18
	Nottinghamshire County Show	16
	Evening farming webinar	12
	Online meeting for health sector land managers	3
Total		320

Structure of report

One online survey question asked people to tick statements that applied to them, which allows us to segment responses into broad groups. Overall, 419 responses were received from individuals. Based on these methods, the following sections present and analyse the responses from four broad stakeholder groups, taking into account their responses from the online survey *and* specific relevant events:

- Those involved (employed or volunteering) in nature conservation (107 respondents)

- Farmers and land managers (31 respondents)
- Planners and developers (11 respondents)
- The wider public (270 respondents)

NB - A small number of people ticked two statements. These were almost all people who chose nature conservation and farmers/land managers (10 respondents). This is taken into account in the relevant sections below.

4. Responses from broad stakeholder groups

4.1 The wider public

4.1.1 Consultation opportunities

The wider public had the opportunity to complete the survey, attend 4 in-person events and 2 online webinars if they wanted to provide any feedback during the public consultation process.

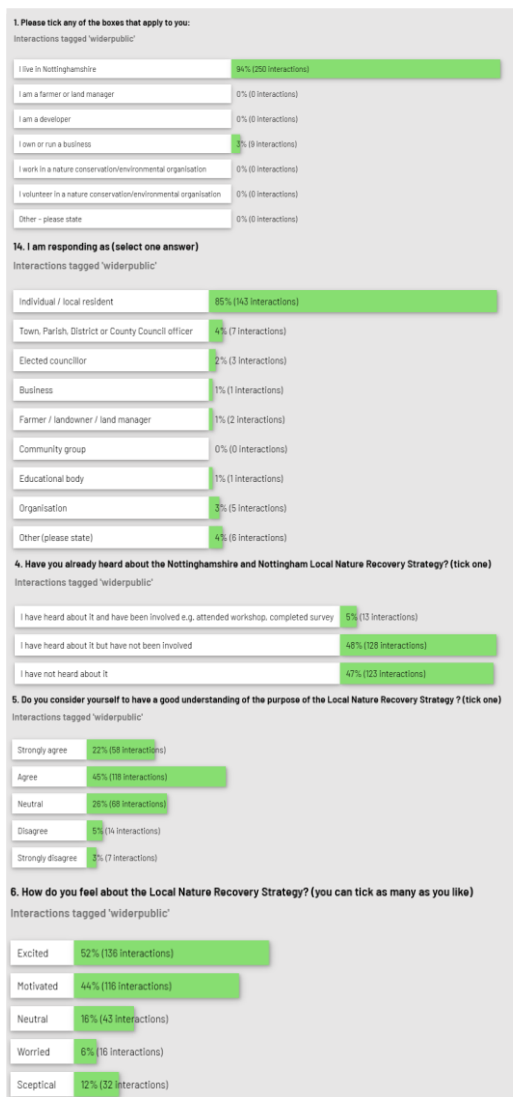
4.1.2 Level of participation

In total, 270 respondents engaged with the online survey and 256 respondents engaged in public events that were held across the county or online.

Survey	Location	Number involved
Survey	Online	270

Wider public events	Location	Date	Number attended
Green Hustle (in-person)	Nottingham City Centre	31.05.25	100
Nottingham College (in-person)	Nottingham	04.06.25	42
Nottinghamshire County Show (in-person)	Newark Showground	10.05.25	45
Worksop Bus Station (in-person)	Worksop	06.06.25	40
Evening webinar (online)	Microsoft Teams	10.06.25	13
Morning webinar (online)	Microsoft Teams	10.06.25	16

4.1.3 Analysis of responses



Stakeholder Group Context and General Consensus

Nearly all participants identified living in Nottinghamshire (94%), with the exceptions being nine individuals who selected that they 'own or run a business'. The majority of individuals (85%) are responding on behalf of an 'individual/local resident', the remaining individuals were split across 'Town, Parish, District or County Council officer' (4%), 'Other' (4%), Organisation (3%), Elected Councillor (2%), 'Business' (1%), 'Farmer/landowner/land manager' (1%) and 'Educational Body' (1%).

Organisations represented are presented below:

- Bulcote Parish Council
- Lowfield Lane wild life
- Green Party
- Balderton wildlife
- Ruddington Parish Council
- Nottingham City Council (Planning Policy Team)
- Children's contact centres Nottinghamshire
- EAST LEAKE PARISH COUNCIL
- Lead Local Flood Authority - Nottingham City
- Colwick Parish Council
- North Muskham Parish Council
- Wilder International
- Severn Trent
- Nadia Whittome MP
- Trent Valley IDB
- Farndon Parish Council
- North Muskham Parish Council
- Canal & River Trust
- NORMANTON ON SOAR PARISH COUNCIL
- Hockerton Parish Meeting

A number of respondents provided further optional detail on who they are identifying as. This includes nine individuals that are in elected/civic roles, nine who are employees, seven who are residents, six who are landowners/managers, five who are volunteers, four who are retirees, three who have memberships or are enthusiasts, three who are students, one architect and one self-employed individual.

In terms of demographics, the majority of individuals who answered this survey identified as female (65%), whilst the remainder were male (30%), non-binary (1%), and the rest either 'preferred not to say' (4%) or selected 'other' (1%). In this group, 90% of respondents identified as 'White - English/Welsh/Scottish/Northern Irish/British/Irish/Other'.

Although there is more or less an even split between those that have 'heard about it but not been involved' (48%) and those that 'have not heard about it' (47%), only 5% of respondents have been involved in the LNRS. Despite this lack of involvement, 67% of respondents agree that they have a good understanding of the purpose of the draft LNRS, while only a small minority (8%) disagree, while the rest are neutral (26%).

Overall Sentiment towards the Draft LNRS

When considering overall feelings towards the draft LNRS, this stakeholder group expressed a particularly positive outlook. Respondents were allowed to select more than one response, and therefore the results have been split into four key categories:

Category	Percentage of respondents (%)
Positive (only excited, motivated or both)	68
Negative (sceptical, worried or both)	8
Positive and negative (i.e. a combination of at least one positive and one negative word)	8
Neutral (only neutral)	15
No answer	1

The majority of participants felt positive about the draft LNRS (68%). Significantly less felt neutral (15%), while an equal number of participants felt negative (8%) and a mix of positive and negative feelings (8%).

Positive

Given the volume of accounts for the responses, the analysis has not broken down the responses to differentiate the

difference between those that selected 'excited' alone as well as 'motivated' alone, instead the results have been aggregated together.

A significant number of positive responses often referenced the draft LNRS' role in addressing climate change and restoring ecological health.

"Because I'm passionate about nature and the environment and I'm fully behind anything that aids it."

"It's time to put nature first."

"Because nature in all its form should NOT be disturbed from their habitat for financial gain."

"I feel that working together as a community we can make small actions which can have a huge impact on wildlife recovery."

"Anything that supports wildlife and biodiversity is fantastic."

"Anything introduced to support recovery and maintaining is great, in my view."

"It's so important to conserve our natural areas and protect the wildlife who depend on it to survive."

Respondents also often expressed their concern with the competing demands of the land due to urban development and recognised the need for the LNRS as a necessary intervention to protect and restore nature.

"Because I think it's critical that nature is protected and it enhances the environment in urban areas."

"We need to protect our natural spaces. The amount of animals lives and habitats being destroyed by humans building on land is outrageous."

"I want green spaces to remain and not be taken over by unnecessary and unwanted housing!"

"We need to build on brown field sites NOT nature reserves or next to them."

"We need to do as much as we can to protect green and blue spaces within Nottinghamshire, whilst encouraging and educating people in local communities to get more involved wherever they can."

Positive responses often also reflected an ethical and moral responsibility as reasons for their positive selections.

"Green spaces are important to me."

"Nature in the area has always been ignored."

"Looking after nature and species is very important and plays a very important part in protecting our climate and future."

"I believe this is an important area and everyone of us has a responsibility"

"Because I think this kind of thing is incredibly important and I want to do what I can to support it."

Other positive quotes centered around the benefits of a collaborative approach like the draft LNRS as well as the mental and physical health benefits which respondents highlighted.

Negative

While negative responses were significantly less (8%) than those of positive ones (68%), it is still important to highlight the more critical ones. Results across the negative selections have been aggregated here given the volume.

Respondents had doubts about the delivery of the published LNRS, referencing past inaction, lack of follow-through and weak governance.

"I worry that this is a camouflage for 'mitigating measures' when intensive development is allowed. There should be natural habitats left alone everywhere- especially where there is a lot of housing- not a 'park' miles away."

"You'll just build more houses on green space, same old."

"Councils and the government don't seem to really care about the environment, they say they do, put out 'strategies' like this which is all talk unfortunately. They are ALWAYS more invested in building on green spaces etc."

"Nice sounding words and concepts but sceptical it will really develop into taking meaningful, long-term actions that benefit the environment and biodiversity. Yet another talking shop."

"It just appears to be a tick box exercise. Responding the peoples concerns but doing nothing."

Many respondents were also disheartened by continued building on green spaces, which they see as directly contradicting the goals of LNRS.

"Until I see our remaining green spaces protected and protected quickly, I am sceptical. I live in Newark where we are suffering from huge over development."

"Green spaces + have are disappearing before our eyes at the moment."

"With on going lack of care, funding, mass development etc there is a continued nett loss to all areas of the UK."

"It appears that everything is solely motivated by financial gain (mainly housing/commercial developments) with bare minimum consideration to nature/impact"

"Impact of Government New Build strategy to build 1.5 MIL homes on the green belt and impact on nature reserves.. We're already seeing floodings around new build highway due to lack drainage, natural habitat and wildlife being impacted."

Positive and negative

While a mix of positive and negative responses was not very common, with only 8% of respondents doing this, it is still important to take into consideration.

Respondents noted that they have faith in the strategy but a lack of trust in government intent towards nature.

"Sceptical because all of the government led rhetoric eventually amounts to nothing."

"Sceptical because government always weasels its way out of caring for what this planet actually needs"

"Government priority seems to be building houses so nature doesn't stand a chance. Also the water authorities giving so much money to shareholders whilst polluting rivers is diabolical."

"Admirable strategy but doubt that there is the political will to see it through. Will the result from the strategy have any enforceable criteria or actions."

Similarly, some respondents also expressed hope in the strategy but they had concerns about stakeholder cooperation.

"I think that the prospect of NCC and local councillors prioritising nature and its ongoing recovery and protection is very promising. I am however very sceptical that even though these policies may get agreed, that the push for continued housing and construction will likely overrule this."

"Lots of competing interests (solar developers, farmers, housing etc...)." "

"Countryside is being ruined by more and more people accessing it, damaging plants and trees. Especially motorbikes and children creating pathways though the woodland areas that were previously undamaged."

"I agree that a LNRS is needed for the UK. we are so depleted of woodland / meadow, our rivers are in a state and all wildlife is in trouble. Any tool to help address this is very much needed. However, I wonder much it will be used and prioritised by developers, farmers, landowners and LA's. Funding?" "

Additionally, although the strategy was approached rather optimistically, there were further concerns around resources and funding.

"I appreciate the importance of local nature and the preservation of wildlife habitats and am excited to think active steps are being taken to improve these. However, I feel sceptical that efforts to achieve and maintain these necessary resources cost money and that is currently quite hard to find."

"I am concerned that there is a lot being asked with little funding available to make it happen. I am excited that plans are being put in place, but how are they going to be delivered?"

There were further concerns expressed by participants, such as the doubts about the actual impact the published LNRS will have, and concerns around how accessible the document is given its length as a draft report. There were also specific concerns about a site in Balderton, which has subsequently been reviewed, and the area south of the development site at Lowfield Lane has been added to the Local Habitat Map.

Neutral

For those that selected 'neutral' (15%), there was generally a more negative stance when analysing the accompanying commentary. Concerns around implementation of the published LNRS surfaced.

"Don't know if you will fulfil your potential."

"Is this another initiative that is funded and nothing changes for the benefit of those most deprived, which firstly is the local habitat & the community that can access nature without all the barriers, one being transport & ability to get to nature sites to enjoy it."

"Because despite in the past there have been a variety of consultation for various subjects, comments from the general public/resident of Notts are very rarely taken into account and it feels like it is just a process followed "because you have to do it!"

"I am unsure how it can be used to benefit our community."

"I'm not clear on how much weight the strategy will have once implemented, or whether there is any financial assistance available for land owners to encourage biodiversity on their land."

Many also highlighted a lack of knowledge or ambivalence about the strategy.

"Don't know enough at present."

"Because I didn't know about it so don't have strong feelings either way."

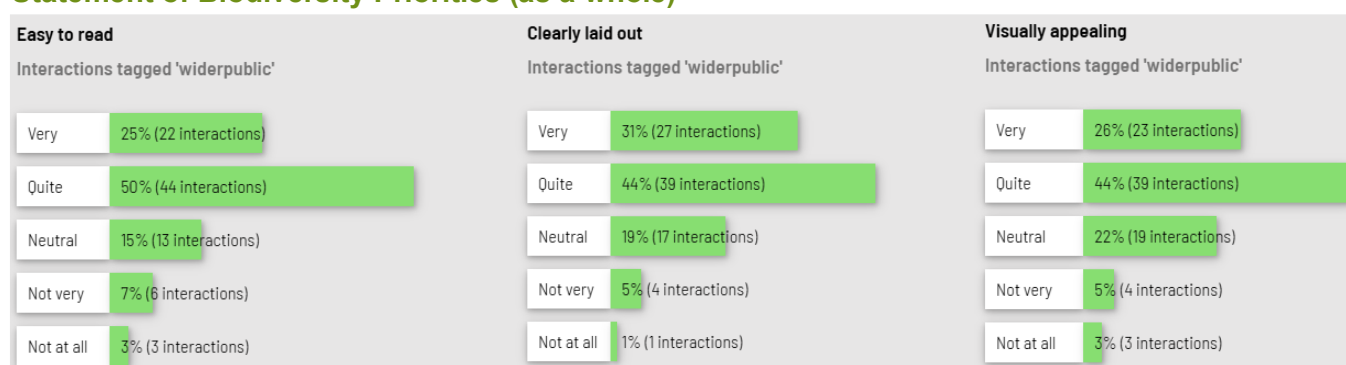
"I am interested but need to know more."

"I don't know much about it."

"Do not know enough about it."

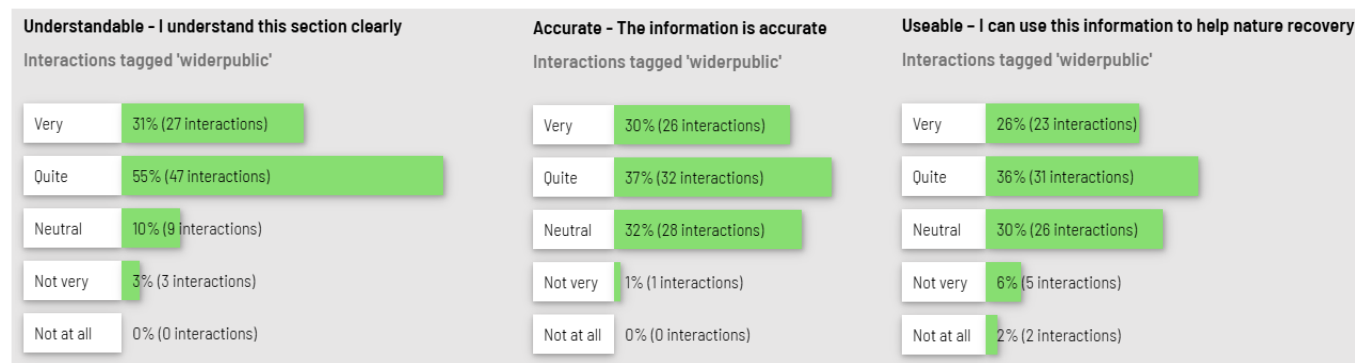
Other respondents expressed curiosities about the opportunities of the strategy as well as frustration with the existing environmental conditions.

Statement of Biodiversity Priorities (as a whole)



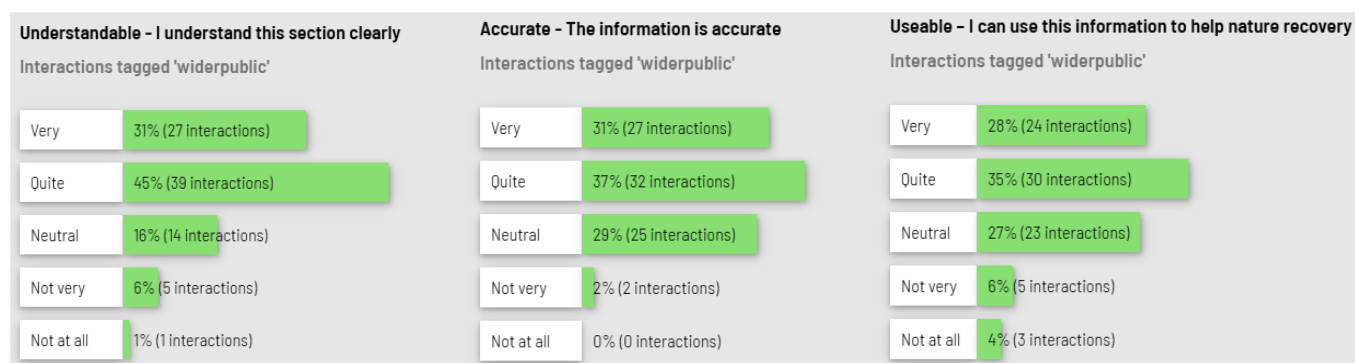
The majority of respondents found the Statement of Biodiversity Priorities to be **easy to read**, **clearly laid out** and **visually appealing**. Those who chose 'not very' or 'not at all' didn't add any explanatory text on how it could be improved.

Section 1: Introduction



The majority of respondents found the introduction to be **understandable**. Those who did not stated that the “*maps and information are mind boggling*”, and that there are “*too many acronyms*”, calling for it to be “*much more succinct*”. The majority of respondents also felt that the information was **accurate**, however one individual queried how “*would a member of the public know whether the information was accurate*”, going on to write that “*while an 81 page LNRS document is probably... OTT for members of the public?*”. Finally, the majority of respondents found the section to be **useable**, who those who did not writing that “*the map is overcomplicated*”, and that there is “*a lot of jargon words like stakeholders*”. One individual, who selected that it was not at all usable, was confused as to how “*as a resident would use this information to help nature recover*”.

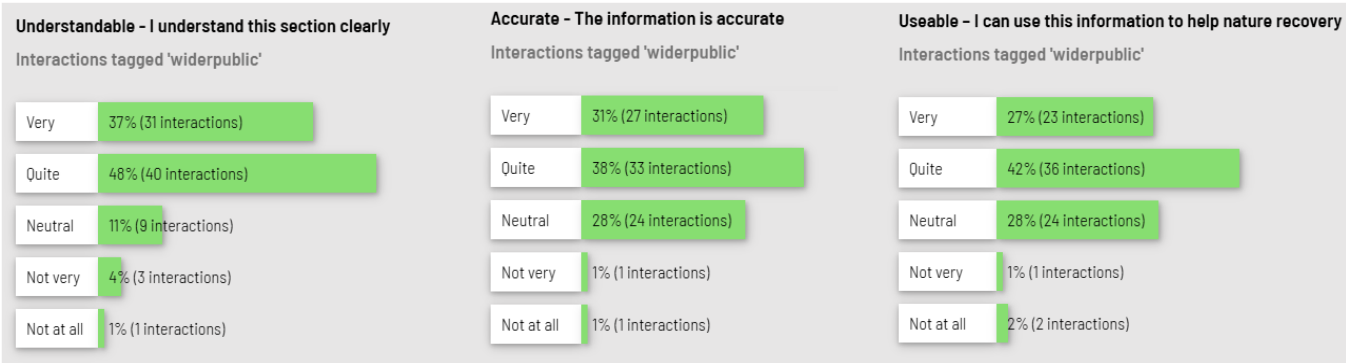
Section 2: How to use the LNRS



The majority of respondents found the information on how to use the LNRS to be **understandable**. Those who did not wrote that the “*lengthy sentences along with the use of specific and sometimes complex language makes this section harder to access*”, and that “*its far too complicated and you will be talking to people who are not necessarily tech savvy*”. The majority of respondents also felt that the information was **accurate** and no additional comments were provided by those who did not.

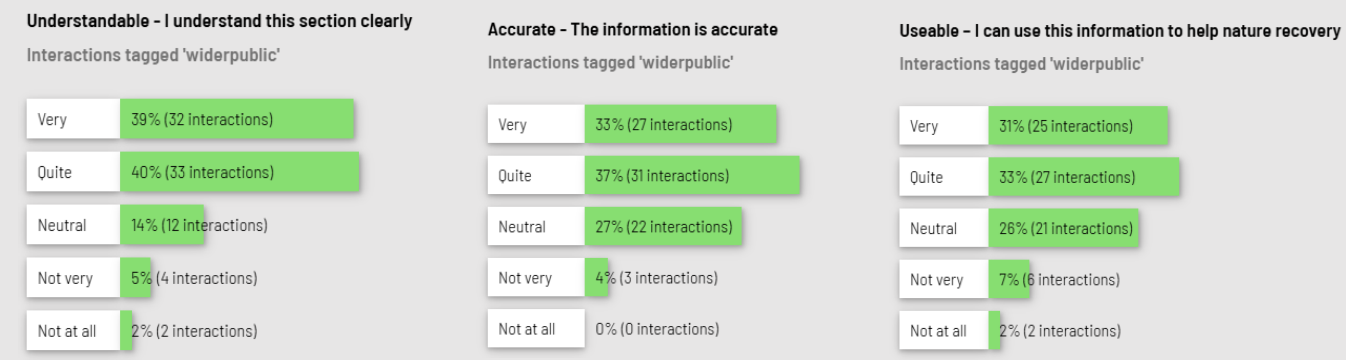
However, one individual who selected ‘neutral’ questioned how they would “*know if the information is accurate?*”. Finally, the majority of respondents also reported that the information was **usable**. Those who did not stated that the information does not “*help everybody to understand what has to be done*”, as well as suggesting it “*doesn’t tell me as an individual anything to do*”.

Section 3: Description of the strategy area



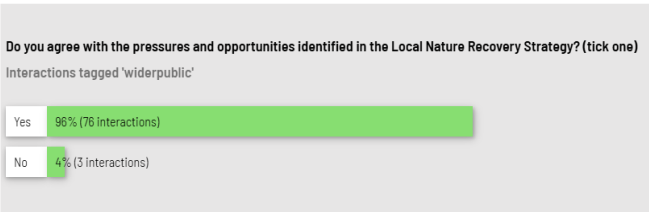
The majority of respondents found the description of the strategy area to be **understandable**. One individual who did not reiterated the importance of making the LNRS accessible to people who are not “*tech savvy*”. The majority of people also felt that the information provided was **accurate**, with no additional comments provided by those who did not. Finally, the majority of respondents also felt that the information was **useable**, however one individual noted that “*it doesn’t tell me anything about nature recovery on page 14*”.

Section 4: Pressures and opportunities



The majority of respondents found the pressures and opportunities to be **understandable**. However, those who did not questioned “*how many people are really going to read all this page after page of densely written screed and then take it all in?*”. The majority of people also felt that the pressures and opportunities were **accurate**, with no additional comments provided. Finally, the majority of respondents felt that the information was **useable**. However, those that did not felt that the document could benefit from “*colour coded icons*” to help “*distinguish resources aimed at individual participation from those aimed at guiding business decisions*”.

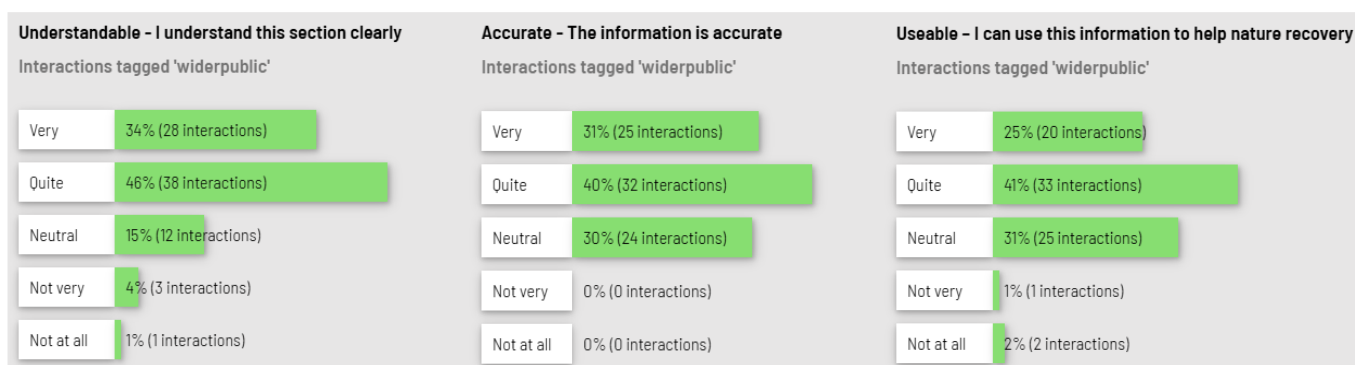
Agreement on pressures and opportunities



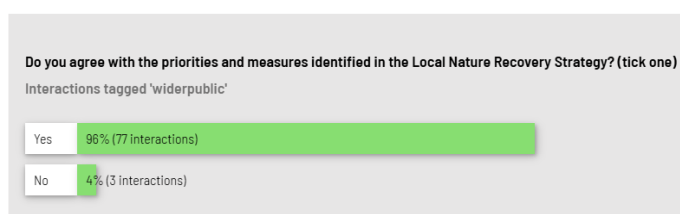
The majority of respondents agreed with the pressures and opportunities identified in the draft Local Nature Recovery Strategy. Those who did not provided a number of additional comments, with one individual calling for “*bike lanes across the county and lanes that are cleaned and maintained as much as roads*”, and another requesting “*more emphasis on urban creep... and how that impacts habitat but also cumulatively increases surface water run-off (which in turn has impacts on our rivers, water quality and increased flooding)*”.

The majority of respondents agreed with the pressures and opportunities identified in the draft Local Nature Recovery Strategy. Those who did not provided a number of additional comments, with one individual calling for “*bike lanes across the county and lanes that are cleaned and maintained as much as roads*”, and another requesting “*more emphasis on urban creep... and how that impacts habitat but also cumulatively increases surface water run-off (which in turn has impacts on our rivers, water quality and increased flooding)*”.

Section 5: Priorities and Potential Measures



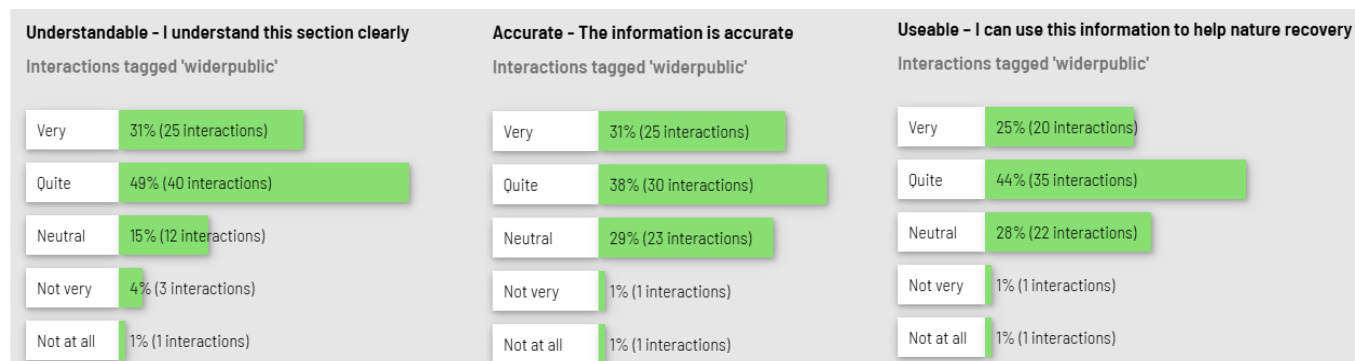
The majority of respondents found the priorities and potential measures section to be **understandable** and **accurate**, with no comments were provided by those who did not. Additionally, the majority of people thought that the priorities and potential measures were **useable**. However, one individual stated that “*as a resident I do not see how I can use this information to help wildlife in my area!*”. Another individual, who selected ‘neutral’ for usability, suggested that “*maybe there’s a way to show how timescale planning and networks of organisations could make these aims practicable? ... concerned about feasibility ... and costs*”.



Agreement on priorities and potential measures

The majority of respondents agreed with the priorities and potential measures identified in the Local Nature Recovery Strategy. Those who did not provided a number of additional comments, including calls for a greater focus on “*education and enforcement of existing legislation*”, as well as on “*areas that are already overdeveloped*”.

Section 6 – Mapping of measures

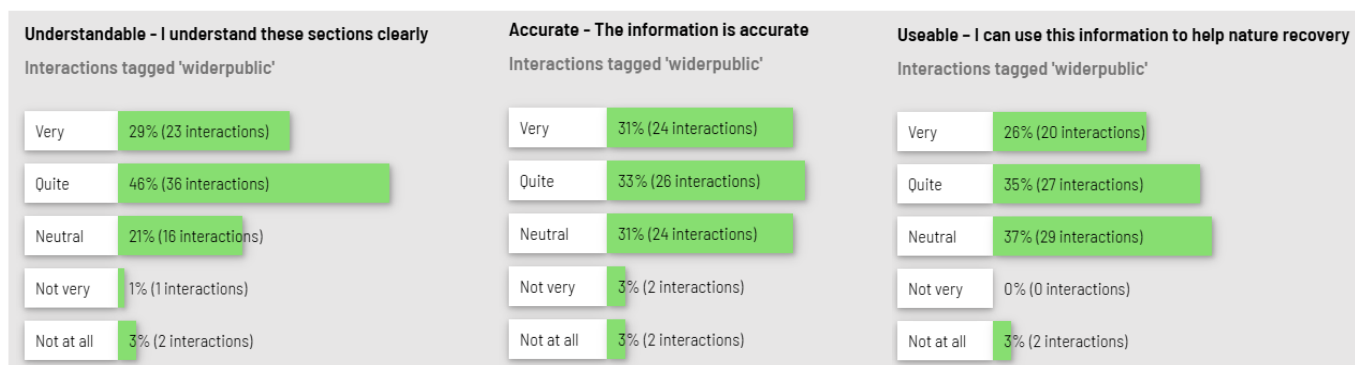


The majority of respondents felt that the mapping of measures was **understandable**. Additional comments from those who did not included a suggestion that “*The Legend of the Mapping needs to be clear in both a written and digital resolution. The colour and pixelation of the digital copy does not clearly and legibly discern one typology from another*”. The majority of respondents also felt that the mapping of measures was **accurate**, with no comments provided by those who did not. Finally, the majority of respondents felt that the mapping of measures was **useable**, with no comments from those who did not. However, one individual, selected ‘very’ for usability, suggested that “*an illustrated example would be excellent*”.

Section 7 – Glossary

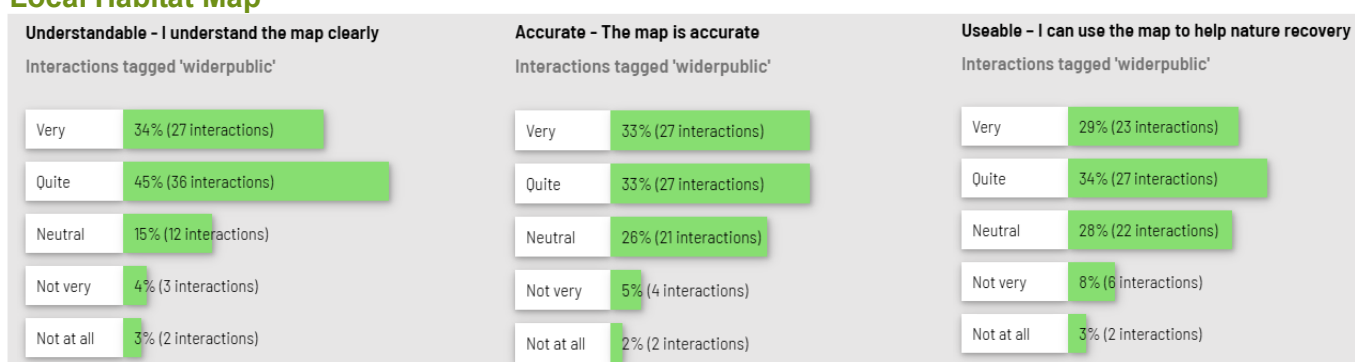
This section of the report was not tested specifically at public consultation as it is simply a glossary of terms.

Section 8 – Appendices



The majority of respondents felt that the appendices were **understandable** and **useable**, and no additional comments were provided by those who did not. The majority of respondents also felt that the appendices were **accurate**, however, one individual noted that the “*Glossary misses out essential technical terms like “measure” for the lay readership*”.

Local Habitat Map



The majority of respondents found the local habitat map to be **understandable**, and no additional comments were made by those who did not. The majority of respondents also found the map to be **accurate**, however comments from those who did not included two regarding solar farms:

“It has made no reference at all to the Great North Road Solar Park or One Earth Solar, or all of the BESS and solar farm applications, that are set to impact on a very large part of Newark & Sherwood. These should be included on the map as a negative impact.”

“It makes no reference at all to the multiple solar farms that are either approved or in the pipeline that will have a direct impact on local habitats.”

Other comments included:

“See previous comments about the legend and clarity. It is also important to recognize that the non-statutory designations such as LWS which have derived from NBGRC record information which is severely out of date, This needs to be updated by survey effort and private land recognised.”

“By including public interest land that should be protected even if it’s at odds with council policies.”

“I feel there are some data gaps in Nottingham City in terms of mapped areas and the “ACB” locations. This is particularly obvious to me around Phoenix Park and Broxtowe Park around existing watercourses and wetlands that don’t appear to have been mapped or considered.”

Finally, the majority of respondents felt that the local habitat map was **useable**. However, there were a number of comments from those who did not:

“Perhaps redesign the map based on the layout of the following? <https://theriverstrust.org/sewage-map>. The current map is very data heavy, perhaps split it into say a number of separate maps, also have filters so users can select a topic area or location to view? Consider colour blindness of user?”

“I feel not enough has been outlined, we can do better and more areas allocated / identified.”

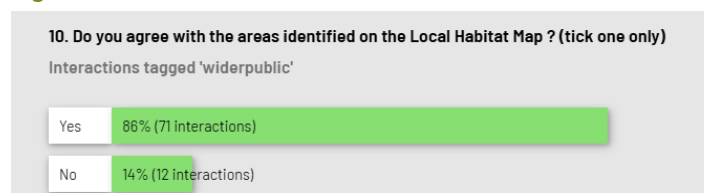
“I think that I must be the wrong sort of person for this survey. I don’t see how any of this, so far, can show me personally how to improve nature.”

“No idea how to use this map. Yes I can click all the layers but what is it really showing me and how do I use it to help nature in my area? Mind you I am a resident so no one will give a toss what I say anyway!”

“The usability of the map could be significantly improved, at the very least with better explanation of the different layers. It would be also good if the map were searchable.”

“It’s can be tricky to differentiate the mapped measures when you have a few selected, the colours and hatching can be pretty similar”

Agreement with the areas identified on the local habitat map



The majority of respondents agreed with the areas identified on the local habitat map. Those that did not agree left a number of additional comments.

Additional questions

What could your role be in making the LNRS happen?

	Level of participation			
	I already do it	Would like to do it	Don't want to do it	Not applicable to me
Support or volunteer with a nature-related community group	37	78	24	31
Start a community or nature group	18	36	63	15
Make my garden more wildlife friendly	121	31	2	15
Use the LNRS in my work	16	43	8	100
Use the LNRS outside of work	17	76	7	67
Incorporate more nature on the land I manage or farm	28	21	2	117
Get involved in recording nature/species	40	80	17	30

This stakeholder group has demonstrated a willingness to support and engage with the LNRS, and is already partaking in a range of nature-related initiatives. 68% of respondents already support or volunteer with a nature-related community group, or would like to, and 33% of respondents are willing to start a community or nature group. Respondents contributed a wide range of ideas for potential nature-based initiatives, with the voluntary creation of wildlife-friendly green space, such as “wildflower meadows” and “community orchards”, being mentioned on numerous occasions. In addition to this, respondents mentioned pre-existing involvement with initiatives such as “community litter-picking” and “gardening club”. One individual explained that they were “instrumental in creating a Facebook group “Balderton Wildlife” recording local wildlife which now has 1.3K members”, leveraging social media to raise awareness and build support within their community.

On the other hand, many respondents also expressed a desire for an increase in funding to support these community initiatives, with one individual expressing that “The two groups I care for both face severe issues with resources - without access to necessary machinery for maintenance, entire fields have been overrun with brambles and weeds, rather than wildflower and other more positive environments”. Respondents also emphasised the need for improved education surrounding nature, in order to “Improve awareness of the general public around issues like putting the right tree in the right place, mowing regimes and use of chemicals.”, as well as helping local schools to “provide for wildlife and encourage students to take part in nature and wildlife activities”.

The vast majority (90%) of this stakeholder group already garden in a wildlife friendly way, or would like to do so. Respondents showed clear support for the installation of “swift bricks, bat boxes and bee bricks”, as well as “hedgehog houses”, “hoverfly lagoons” and “ponds”.

The level of participation for ‘Use the LNRS in my work’ and ‘Use the LNR outside of work’ was more mixed, with many stating that it was not applicable to them (60% and 40% respectively). However, many respondents already do use the LNRS in their work, or would like to, and very few didn’t want to. Furthermore, the additional ideas revealed that many respondents would be willing to work with local authorities to improve the LNRS, such as “improving the Local Habitats web map, to make it a better user/viewing experience.”

The majority of respondents felt that to ‘Incorporate more nature on the land I manage or farm’ was not applicable to them. However, of those who did feel it was applicable, very few selected that they didn’t want to do it. Within this stakeholder group, land managers show a strong willingness to “help promote

nature-friendly development” on their land. Moreover, there is evidence of both intent and existing collaboration with land managers and local authorities aimed at enhancing the ecological value of their land, which is being performed through actions such as *“working with the parish council on wilding”*.

Finally, a large proportion of respondents (72%) were already involved in recording species, or were willing to do so. This was reflected in the additional comments, where one respondent had facilitated the recording of local wildlife by members of the aforementioned *“Balderton Wildlife”* group on Facebook”.

Overall, this stakeholder group shows strong intent to contribute to and participate in the delivery of the LNRS. Although certain activities, such as starting a community or nature group, saw lower participation rates, the majority of respondents showed a willingness to help drive the LNRS forward, providing a broad spectrum of additional ideas. Moreover, instances where respondents selected ‘Not applicable to me’ correspond with the stakeholder group in question.

Is there anything else that you would like to tell us about the LNRS?

When asked if they had any additional comments about the LNRS, 48 respondents provided broader observations.

Eleven respondents emphasised the importance of land use and habitat management for biodiversity:

“The health of our rivers and the biodiversity they support is a real concern. I hope our rivers, streams and other freshwaters can be prioritised, to benefit both people and nature...”

“Invasive non-native species are a very significant threat to biodiversity and nature recovery. The removal of these species and replacement with native planting should be afforded the highest priority...”

“The council contractors who perform the work need greater understanding about biodiversity and ecology...”

“For soil health have you consulted with the Soil Association for the farming section? Species lists seem quite narrow – seems to me ALL wildlife should be a priority – bees, pollinators, butterflies, birds etc Heathland - dog mess, litter, fires are the issues Neonics - big issue for beet in Notts.”

“Turning front gardens from grey to green ... More emphasis on EVERYONE being responsible = not just farmers, developers, councils. Private gardens area massive space potentially for wildlife.”

Ten respondents also made suggestions based on strategy delivery, policy and implementation:

“I would like to know more about specific plans and not just processes and broad principles.”

“Are landowners/involved parties going to be expected to find training and funding themselves to make these changes? ... Because these are skills that need to be learned, and there are costs involved.”

“...Careers associated with nature recovery and management need to be better profiled...”

“Introduce financial incentives to local residents/businesses to roll out green projects.”

“Include references to public transport wherever you can.”

Nine respondents stated the need for sufficient stakeholder engagement, community involvement and education:

“Please do more and involve planning fully, they have to be completely engaged in this.”

“It must be available to all schools and businesses.”

“The power of ordinary individuals, who may not want or have time to volunteer or attend groups, is being overlooked! ... Many are desperate to help but are unaware of simple things they can do to make a big difference ... Social media ads but also simple posters on notice boards work!”

“... I would however like to see more focus on connecting those in the city with nature. Schemes like the Nottz Garden Project are doing great things to bring nature to those in urban areas...”

“Once adopted we would welcome further discussion on how we can best support at a local community level. Like many other town and parish councils, we believe that local councils have a unique and positive role to play in helping principal authorities and other stakeholders reach out at grassroot level...”

Eight respondents expressed concern about specific sites and local nature:

“Please could you re-consider the remaining area of Lowfield Lane...”

“Protect all LWS in particular Park Hall Lane LWS Mansfield Woodhouse. Mansfield District Local Plan should not be allowed to allocate over 400 houses to land that us surrounded by an LWS this would be disgraceful.”

"I see the LNRS should feed into the Local Plan! We have a 95 year old Nottm City Airfield in the plan! There is so much wildlife that will be wiped out. Ground nesting birds. You cannot just flatten a whole area, kill off habitats and expect the wildlife to clear off somewhere else. It is an important breeding ground and wintering site for endangered birds..."

"I believe that there is huge potential to make Beacon Hill in the future Newark East suburb a beacon of nature conservation integrated within new housing."

Six respondents commented on the need for accessibility and communication:

"The document is wordy the summary document is good - do you have an easy read version for those that might require this or available in different languages?"

"It is ridiculously long and densely-worded. I doubt that most people would be bothered to read through 80 pages..."

"In places I couldn't state honestly that I totally understood what was written- I am just a local resident interested in what's happening, not an environmentalist or farmer."

"The strategy is 82 pages, plus the appendices - this does not make it an accessible document for most of the public, and therefore by definition is not inclusive - perhaps that's the intention to limit public involvement."

"In my opinion, it is too long. I would suggest that you have a page or two which precis the information provided in the full document."

Finally, there were two pieces of direct feedback from organisational stakeholders:

"Nottingham City Council's Planning Policy Team have no objections to the draft LNRS..."

"The Canal & River Trust has had a lot of input to the LNRS and was involved on the steering group. We welcome the Strategy as a means to support identification and prioritisation of actions, and collaboration..."

Overall, the additional feedback highlights the need for a strategy that is practical, clearly aligned with local priorities, and supported by proper implementation. While many comments raised concerns, particularly around land use, community engagement, and long-term delivery, there were also numerous positive comments. A number of respondents welcomed the development of LNRS, writing their "congratulations" for what they perceive as a "positive step towards improvement".

Overall summary of survey responses from the wider public

This stakeholder group demonstrates an understanding of the draft LNRS and its aims. The principles of the strategy are aligned with their wider personal commitments, reflecting a group that already supports nature recovery within their lives. Overall, the group conveyed a positive outlook, with 68% of respondents feeling 'excited' and/or 'motivated' by the strategy.

Despite the broadly positive sentiment, a few respondents – 8% expressing negative feelings and another 8% reporting a mix of positive and negative views – voiced concerns around the draft strategy. Their reservations largely stemmed from scepticism over delivering the published LNRS and worries about continued development on green space. Additionally, several qualitative responses highlighted concerns regarding the scope of the draft strategy, its implementation, and the efficacy of how it's being communicated to a wider audience. Primary concerns revolved around land use practices and their impacts on biodiversity, with some respondents questioning whether certain elements had been overlooked. In addition to this, responses focused on the delivery of what is being suggested in the strategy, and the policy that could be installed to facilitate its implementation. The stakeholder group also conveyed a desire for greater community involvement in the LNRS, as well as broader stakeholder engagement to ensure that all parties are heard.

Additional concerns regarded specific sites and the local wildlife they contain, with questions raised about whether important areas are being omitted from the LNRSs scope. Accessibility issues was a recurring theme within the additional comments. Multiple respondents viewed the draft document and map as overly complex and difficult to use, calling for simplification in order to facilitate better communication of the LNRS.

However, the questionnaire that was covered across the draft Statement of Biodiversity Priorities and the Local Habitat Map revealed a largely positive attitude towards the draft LNRS. The majority of respondents found the sections to be understandable, accurate and useable, with a negligible

percentage of respondents expressing that they did not. There was also widespread agreement with the pressures and opportunities (96%), priorities and potential measures (96%) and areas identified on the local habitat map (86%). While additional feedback focused primarily on the document's length, complexity, and the technical nature of the map, responses to the questionnaire indicate strong support from this stakeholder group for the strategy overall.

The wider public indicated strong engagement, or willingness to engage, with nature-related activities: 68% of respondents already support or volunteer with a nature-related community group, or would like to, and 33% of respondents willing to start a community or nature group. Moreover, 90% of respondents already garden in a wildlife friendly way, with many also wanting to do so. The use of LNRS within and outside of work was markedly lower, with 60% and 40% stating that it was not applicable to them. However, this stakeholder group still conveyed a strong desire to engage with the strategy. Additionally, it is worth noting that the use of the LNRS may be perceived as less relevant to this stakeholder group, due lack of land ownership and employment within the environmental and planning sectors. This also applies to the 'Incorporate more nature on the land I manage or farm' query, which saw a similar level of respondents select that it was not applicable to them. There was a willingness to get involved in recording nature/species, with the majority already doing it or wanting to, reflecting the wider public's inclination to get involved with nature-based initiatives.

Answering a survey is a proactive process, so it is not surprising that most respondents are welcoming of the draft LNRS as they are a self-selecting group that already have an interest in nature and will likely be part of groups that will be talking about it. Therefore, the further engagement conducted during this process, to go out to areas to catch the views of a wider group of people, is very important; the results of that wider engagement follow below.

Concerns have been recognised, and these have been addressed in the Implications and Solutions section (Section 5) of the report.

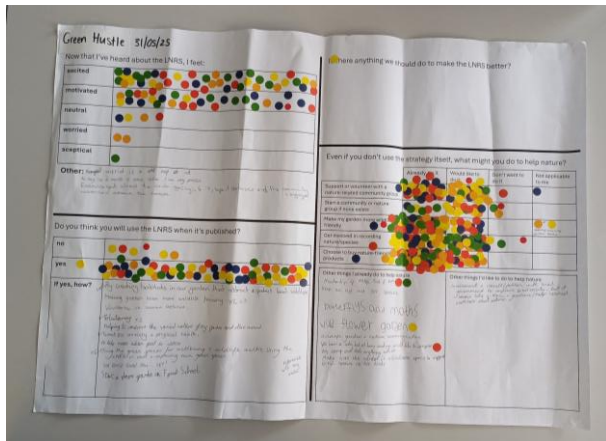
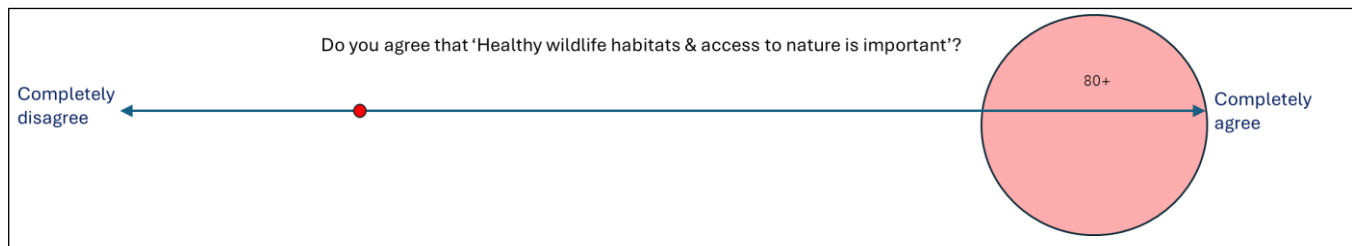
Wider public events

The purpose of these events was to move '*beyond the usual suspects*' to gauge how the LNRS is perceived and received by a wider cohort of people. To achieve this, Nature Positive and Nottinghamshire County Council jointly attended engagement events across the county. Events are as follows

Wider public events	Location	Date	Number attended
Green Hustle (in-person)	Nottingham City Centre	31.05.25	100
Nottingham College (in-person)	Nottingham City Centre	04.06.25	42
Nottinghamshire County Show (in-person)	Newark	10.05.25	45
Worksop Bus Station (in-person)	Worksop	06.06.25	40
Evening webinar (online)	Microsoft Teams	10.06.25	13
Morning webinar (online)	Microsoft Teams	10.06.25	16

Four sessions were in-person and two online. At the in-person events, participants use stickers on visual analogue scales to indicate how strongly they agreed with sentiments about the importance of nature, with some sessions attracting over 80 attendees. They also completed multiple-response questions assessing their sentiment and familiarity with the draft LNRS, alongside optional commentary on how it could be improved and the nature-related actions they currently take or would like to pursue. For the online webinars, participants were invited to complete polls covering similar themes.

This feedback is important because it extends engagement beyond the council's usual stakeholder and will be used to inform future revisions of the draft LNRS. First, the data from a series of events is presented. These will then be discussed and summarised below.



The example above shows data that was gathered at the Green Hustle event, which has been extracted and presented in this report in a tabular/infographic format.

Familiarity with the LNRS:

I haven't heard of the LNRS	68
I have heard about it but not been involved	19
I have heard about it and been involved	2

Sentiment towards the LNRS:

Now that I have heard about the LNRS, I feel:	
Excited	44
Motivated	31
Neutral	4
Worried	2
Sceptical	1

Use of the LNRS:

Do you think you'll use the LNRS when it's published?	
No	8
Yes	59
If yes, how?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> By creating habitats in our garden that attract and protect local wildlife Making garden even more wildlife friendly x3 Volunteering x3 Help to improve the varied nature of my garden and others around Good for anxiety and physical health To help create habitats good for wildlife Using the green spaces for wellbeing and wildlife walks. Using the LNRS in work and improving own green spaces. Start a flower garden in Forest School

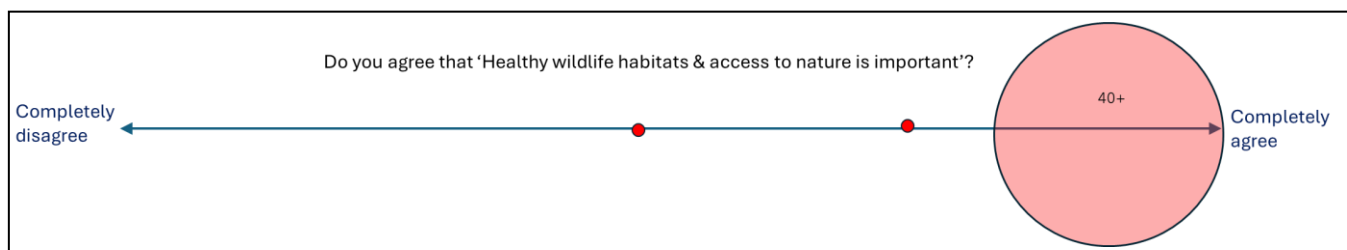
Even if you don't use the strategy, what do/might you do to support nature, either with or without financial/advice support?

	Already do it	Would like to do it	Don't want to do it	Not applicable to me
Support or volunteer with a nature-related community group	28	25	1	1
Start a community or nature group if none exist	6	14	3	0
Make my garden more wildlife friendly	40	13	0	2
Get involved in recording nature/species	20	20	3	0
Chose to buy nature-friendly products	40	15	0	0

Additional comments:

Things I already do to help nature (with support?)	Things I'd like to do to help nature (with support?)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Membership of Wildlife Trust and RSPB • Keep an eye out for species • Butterfly and moths • Wild flower garden • Wildlife garden and nature communication • We have a water butt at home and we would like to compost • Make sure the garden is a biodiverse space to support British species of all kinds 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Involvement and consult/petition with local government to improve biodiversity - but it seems like a maze and guidance/help needed • Learn more about nature

Nottingham College



Sentiment towards the LNRS:

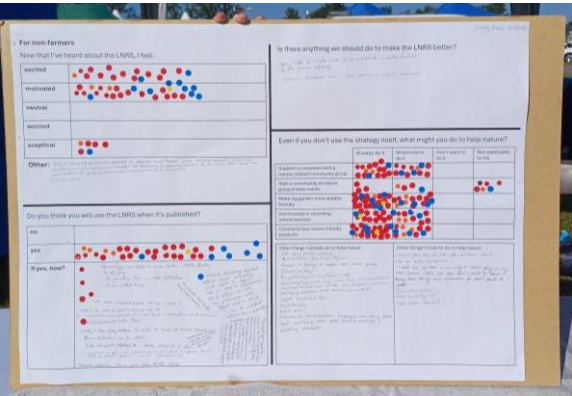
Now that I have heard about the LNRS, I feel:	
Excited	17
Motivated	23
Neutral	10
Worried	0
Sceptical	0

Familiarity with the LNRS:

I haven't heard of the LNRS	44
I have heard about it but not been involved	4
I have heard about it and been involved	0

Additional comments:

Things I already do to help nature (with support?)	Things I'd like to do to help nature (with support?)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Go on walks • Use environmental good products • I don't litter • Cycle to work 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make sure their environment is actually friendly and safe for their babies/family etc • Nature conservation and biodiversity responsible voting • Walk more instead of cars • I would like to see garden roofs - incorporated into existing and newly built buildings • I would like to see nature conservation taught in schools



The example to the left shows data we gathered at the Nottinghamshire County Show, which has been extracted and presented in this report in a tabular/infographic format.

Sentiment towards the LNRS:

Now that I have heard about the LNRS, I feel:	
Excited	18
Motivated	28
Neutral	0
Worried	0
Sceptical	6
Other	Why is planning permission granted for massive solar 'farms' which destroy habitats such as entire ecosystems (mature hedges etc). Already displacing habitats for muntjac deer who now have nowhere to go (Fernwood and additional building in Newark) Lack of action

Future use of the LNRS:

Do you think you'll use the LNRS when it's published?	
No	0
Yes	40
If yes, how?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Encouraging more people to make gardens more wildlife friendly• In scouting• To put things, trees, e.g. in the right place• Beeston Wildlife Group• We have woodland and pond - so we can improve it• Look to see what is local to me/what I can do• Engagement with BGS• Living in city centre it will be nice to learn more• Seeing how it can link into our work and community garden• Informing future land use for nature.• Forestry, management, hedge laying etc - deciding what to do / where• Interested to take forward on local level - learnings from VC, Parish Council & potentially the RLS• Awareness is key - an understanding will help to narrow down areas or groups existing I can get involved with• Personal capacity - share with local RSPB group• Ensure all new builds have habitat creation• Having already worked within local authority, we'd need to figure out a way to incorporate it within our CSR. The publication could suggest ways in which it can be included within the corporate strategy• Trying to get greater access, so that people feel more ownership of their environment. Also to show there is a local need for "something" e.g. when applying for funding or challenging development on nature - rich or potential nature-rich land

Suggestions for LNRS improvements:

Is there anything we can do to make the LNRS better?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You need to make sure it is accessible and understandable to the public at large Publicise summary doc - will reach a wider audience

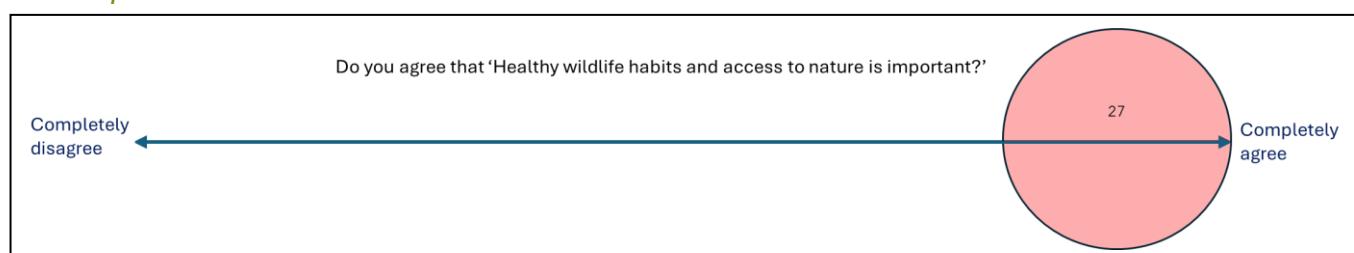
Even if you don't use the strategy, what do/might you do to support nature, either with or without financial/advice support:

	Already do it	Would like to do it	Don't want to do it	Not applicable to me
Support or volunteer with a nature-related community group	6	21	8	1
Start a community or nature group if none exist	0	7	15	4
Make my garden more wildlife friendly	29	9	4	5
Get involved in recording nature/species	5	19	5	3
Chose to buy nature-friendly products	20	11	2	1

Additional comments:

Things I already do to help nature (with support?)	Things I'd like to do to help nature (with support?)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Get young people involved Squirrels, Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Explorers Involved in charity to support local nature groups Schools are key! The public land is important as a start Feed hedgehogs, birds, leave water but worried about the road development in the area (Newark) which is destroying habitats and displacing wildlife Support The Wildlife Trusts Buy sustainably Reduce travel Encouraging grandchildren/engaging with young people Start marketing more green friendly practices and elevating awareness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Schools, green areas to look after and learn about Get the family involved more I would love to start a community or nature group in my area, however I have no idea how I would go ahead doing that. Having some information for that would be great! Get a wilder garden Green my energy use Talk more about it!

Workshop Bus Station



Sentiment towards the LNRS:

Now that I have heard about the LNRS, I feel:	
Excited	20
Motivated	3
Neutral	4
Worried	0
Sceptical	1

Familiarity with the LNRS:

I haven't heard of the LNRS	26
I have heard about it but not been involved	2
I have heard about it and been involved	0

Even if you don't use the strategy, what do/might you do to support nature, either with or without financial/advice support?

	Already do it	Would like to do it	Don't want to do it	Not applicable to me
Support or volunteer with a nature-related community group	4	8	0	10
Start a community or nature group if none exist	0	7	2	8
Make my garden more wildlife friendly	18	4	0	4
Get involved in recording nature/species	8	8	1	4
Chose to buy nature-friendly products	16	2	2	3

Additional comments:

Things I already do to help nature (with support?)	Things I'd like to do to help nature (with support?)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stop littering of the environment especially along the canal areas and lakeside in Worksop Support RSPB and National Trust Pond in garden Saving bees Reduce driving, try to walk more Garden wildlife – don't manicure lawn Teach kids about insects Protect the world around me – look after nature 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bird spotting Litter picking at Godfrey's Pond

Online webinar – evening

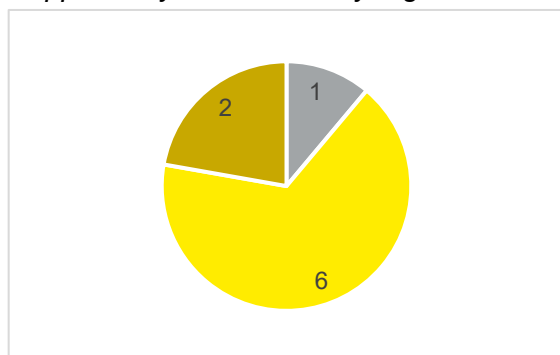
Sentiment towards the LNRS:

Now that I have heard about the LNRS, I feel:	
Motivated	3
Excited	1
Excited; Motivated	1
Neutral	2

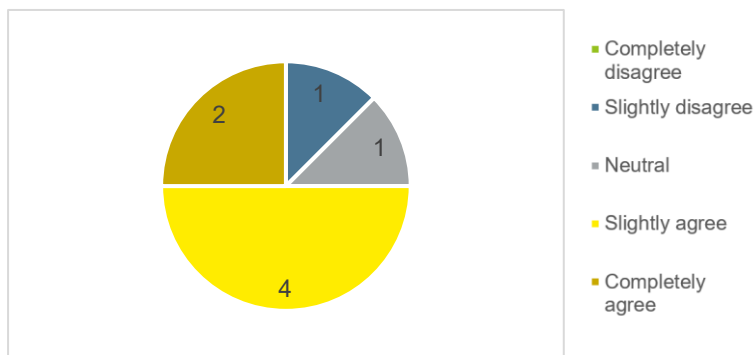
Familiarity with the LNRS:

Have you heard about the LNRS before the invitation to this webinar?	
Yes – attended workshop/event/respond to previous survey/emailed LNRS team	4
Yes – but I have not been involved previously	3
No	1
If yes, how?	Via Notts County Council website or social media x6 Via a wildlife/environmental organisation/nature group x5 Via other district/parish council x2 Through my job x2 Word of mouth x1

I feel that the LNRS might be an opportunity for me and my organisation



I'm already doing as much as I can for nature



Even if you don't use the strategy, what do/might you do to support nature, either with or without financial/advice support?

Things I already do to help nature (with support?)		Things I'd like to do to help nature (with support?)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Helping improve local footpath Wild areas in planting Tree planting Work with farmers Survey and help to inform management STEPS Biodiversity Surveys/monitoring Help improve local footpath and tree planting Guided walks Living Walls, Biodiversity Policy, Tree Planting Wildlife Recording Reserve Warden and Rushcliffe Nature Conservation Strategy Community biodiversity action group STEPS 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> BAT Boxes, Bird Boxes, Bug Hotels Site surveys to inform habitat management Offset small projects cost effectively Bird/Bat Boxes Watercourse management Bug Hotels Lobbying Find new funding opportunities See more habitat around existing site Get a local site included in a management scheme Tree Copse Habitat connectivity Wildflower planting Help farmers deliver Improve local footpath into a nature walk 	
How was that funded?		What help would you need to do more things for nature?	
Other	4	Funding	4
Using existing budget/own money	3	Information about my local area	3
External grant programme - nature/general	2	Other	3
Your organisation nature programme	1	Information about existing groups I could join	1
Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG)	1	Information on what I can do in my own home/garden	1

Online webinar – morning

Familiarity with the LNRS:

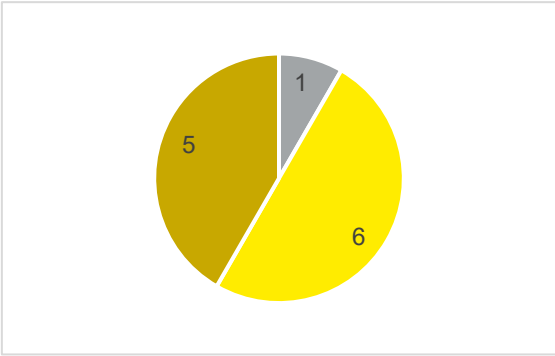
Have you heard about the LNRS before the invitation to this webinar?	
Yes - but I have not been involved previously	10
No	2
If yes, how?	Via Notts County Council website or social media x8 Through my job x6

Sentiment towards the LNRS:

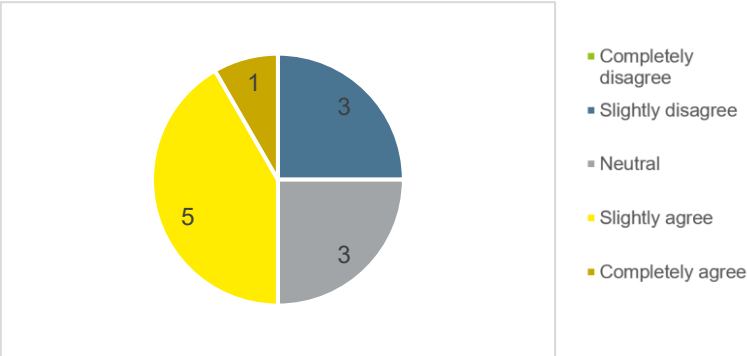
Now that I have heard about the LNRS, I feel:	
Motivated	6
Motivated; Neutral; Worried	1
Excited; Sceptical	1
Neutral	1
Sceptical	1
Excited; Motivated	1

	Via a wildlife/environmental organisation/nature group x5 Word of mouth x3 Via other district/parish council x1
--	---

I feel that the LNRS might be an opportunity for me and my organisation



I'm already doing as much as I can for nature



- Completely disagree
- Slightly disagree
- Neutral
- Slightly agree
- Completely agree

Even if you don't use the strategy, what do/might you do to support nature, either with or without financial/advice support?

Things I already do to help nature (with support?)	Things I'd like to do to help nature (with support?)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manage reserve • Support NGO's and others in their work • Wildlife monitoring • Permaculture principles • Locally spread the word • Buy organic where I can • Advocate • Campaign • Heathland restoration • Charitable giving • Managing the soil bokashi and composting • Citizen science • Research • Community engagement • Wild flowers ..feeding birds • Community garden • Global coordination • Connect landscapes • Invasive control • Coordination • Advocacy • Dont drive! • Nature connection activities • Ecology surveys • Prioritize nature in my work • Education • Reserve management • Restore heathland • Taking guidance • Enable collaboration • Vegan • Encouraging nature connectedness • Wildlife gardening 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local projects • Accelerate action • Homes for insects and lizards • Good planning • Appreciate it more • Nature & human health • Bash balsam • Flood plain meadow • Be involved in nature restoration • Guardianship • Be part of a bigger picture • Influence policy • Change laws - we need more legal rights to protect • Train people • Clear balsam • Expand access • Connect organisations • Get neighbours involved • Connectivity • Grassland restoration • Create new habitats • Habitat management • Devise policy • Improve legislation • Empower people to act • Advocate for nature connection • Input locally • Encourage green social prescribing over medical model • Secure funding

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engage stakeholders through my work Advisory land management Gardening for nature & wildlife 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage nature connectedness in early years - as this encourages pro nature behaviours and guardianship Win lottery Engagement Enthuse people 	
How was that funded?		What help would you need to do more things for nature?	
External grant programme - nature general	7	Information about my local area	9
Other	5	Funding	8
Used existing budget/own money	4	Information about existing groups I join	6
Your organisation nature programme	3	Other	3
External grant programme - woodland specific	3	Information on what I can do in my own home/garden	3

Age and ethnicity across different events

Age group	Green Hustle	Nottingham College	Nottinghamshire County Show	Worksop Bus Station
Under 13 (with family)	10	n/a	3	0
13-15	2	3	2	0
16-24	5	31	7	4
25-34	11	3	7	4
35-44	13	3	7	0
45-54	11	2	8	6
55-64	10	2	4	5
65-74	4	n/a	5	4
75-84	1	n/a	2	1
85 and over	n/a	n/a	n/a	1
Prefer not to say	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

Ethnicity	Green Hustle	Nottingham College	Nottinghamshire County Show	Worksop Bus Station
Asian, Asian British or Asian Welsh	5	10	n/a	n/a
Black, Black British, Black Welsh, Caribbean or African	1	6	1	2
Mixed or Multiple ethnic groups	4	6	n/a	n/a
White: English, Welsh, Scottish, Northern Irish or British	47	16	34	22
White: Irish	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
White: Gypsy or Irish Traveller, Roma or Other White	4	3	4	n/a
Arab	n/a	1	n/a	n/a
Other ethnic group	n/a	1	n/a	1
Prefer not to say	1	n/a	n/a	n/a

For the online webinars (morning and evening) demographic data was not collected.

Summary of wider public events attended

Across both the in-person and online events, the overwhelming majority of participants highlighted the importance of nature, with only a very small minority expressing disagreement. Similarly, most respondents expressed positive feelings towards the draft LNRS, most frequently selecting words such as 'excited' and 'motivated'.

Although the majority of participants had not previously heard of the LNRS, some attendees at online events showed a degree of familiarity with the strategy. When asked, most participants indicated that they would make use of the LNRS once it is published. Suggested uses include both personal and professional applications, such as: *"volunteering"*, *"to help create good habitats for wildlife"*, *"using the LNRS in work"*, *"to put things, trees, e.g. in the right place"* and *"to see what is local to me/what I can do"*.

At the in-person events, most participants reported hearing about the LNRS through the Nottinghamshire County Council website or social media. They tended to view the LNRS as an opportunity and felt they were already contributing as much as possible. Despite demographic differences between events, responses showed a high degree of consistency, with the public broadly approaching the draft strategy with optimism.

This stakeholder group is already highly engaged in nature-related activities. Many participants reported making their gardens more wildlife-friendly (87), followed by choosing to buy nature-friendly products (76). There was also strong participation in supporting or volunteering with nature-based community groups (38), as well as in recording wildlife species (33), with clear appetite for further involvement in both of these activities.

	Already do it	Would like to do it	Don't want to do it	Not applicable to me
Support or volunteer with a nature-related community group	38	54	9	12
Start a community or nature group if none exist	6	27	20	12
Make my garden more wildlife friendly	87	26	4	11
Get involved in recording nature/species	33	47	9	7
Chose to buy nature-friendly products	76	28	4	4

Respondents were also invited to share additional nature activities they currently undertake. While many aligned with the categories shown in the table above, participants also described a wide range of other actions, such as *"locally spread[ing] the word"*, *"prioritis[ing] nature in my work"*, *"restor[ing] heathland"*, *"work[ing] with farmers"*, *"reduc[ing] driving, try[ing] to walk more"* and *"get[ting] young people involved"*. These activities were typically self-funded or supported through external grant programmes. Participants also outlined activities they would like to pursue in the future, including *"nature conservation and biodiversity responsible voting"*, *"I would like to see garden roofs – incorporated into existing and newly build buildings"*, *"consult[ing]/petition[ing] with local government to improve biodiversity"* and *"find[ing] new funding opportunities"*. However, several participants emphasised the need for additional support to enable these ambitions, particularly through *"information about my local area"*, *"funding"* and *"information about existing groups I join"*. This stakeholder group is motivated and committed to taking action that supports the aims of the LNRS.

Overall, the wider public events demonstrate a clear and consistent message: nature is highly valued, and there is strong support for the aims of the draft LNRS. While awareness of the strategy itself is still developing, participants expressed enthusiasm, with many engaged in nature-related action. The wider public, however, have highlighted the need for additional support in order to deliver activities that contribute to the LNRS, particularly in the form of funding, local information and strong connections to existing groups.

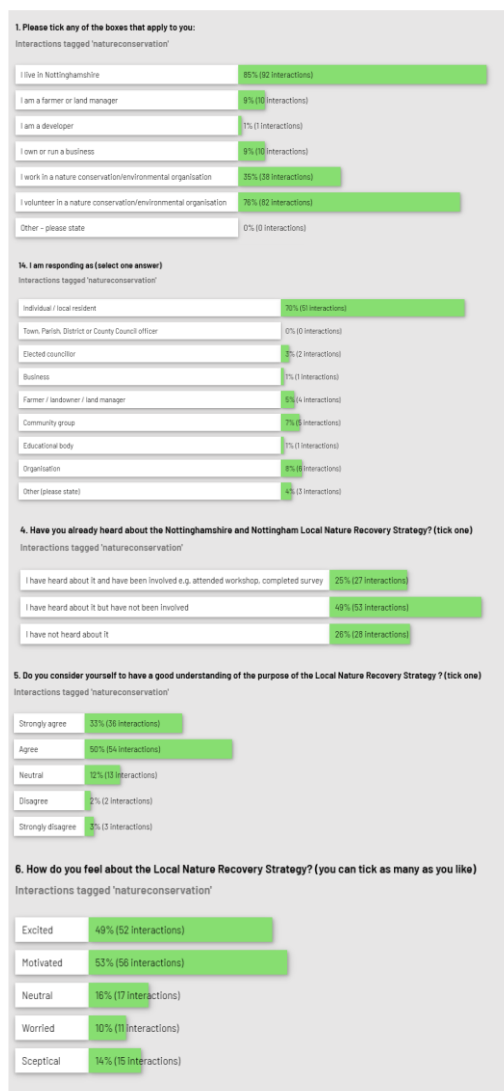
Concerns have been recognised, and these have been addressed in the Implications and Solutions section (Section 5) of the report.

4.2 Those involved (employed or volunteering) in nature conservation

4.2.1 Consultation opportunities and level of participation

Participants in this stakeholder group had the opportunity to participate in the survey. A total of 107 responses were recorded.

4.2.2 Analysis of responses



Stakeholder Group Context and General Consensus

A significant majority (85%) of respondents within this stakeholder group said they are based in Nottinghamshire and 70% are responding as an 'individual' or 'local resident'. Other respondents were responding as an 'organisation', a 'community group', a 'farmer/landowner/land manager', 'other', 'elected councillor' 'business' and 'educational body'. Of those that are responding on behalf of an organisation (8%), organisation names can be found below:

- UK and Ireland Squirrels the Grey Area - facebook group
- Protect Newark's Green Spaces
- Other (Non US)
- Friends of Gedling Borough Memorial woodland
- Derbyshire Swift Conservation
- Nottinghamshire x3
- Southwell Town Council
- Farnsfield Community Spaces
- (FTNCG)
- Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust
- Balderton Wildlife group and farmer
- National Trust
- Zulu Ecosystems
- Forest Town Nature Conservation Group
- Nottingham Trent University
- The British Association for Shooting and Conservation
- Nether Langwith Parish Council
- Lowdham Parish Council
- Carlton-on-Trent Parish Council
- Freshwater Habitats Trust
- Swifts Local Network: Swifts & Planning Group

A number of respondents provided additional optional input on who they're responding as, and those that added this included four elected Scottish representatives, two volunteers, two students, one retiree, one employee and one ex and one current hobby group member.

The group is relatively gender balanced (51% male, 45% female), but lacks ethnic diversity, with 96% identifying as 'White - English/Welsh/ /Northern Irish/British'.

Of the respondents, 25% have actively participated in the production of the draft LNRS, while 49% are aware of it but have not yet been directly involved.

Most respondents also reported a good understanding of the LNRS and its objectives with 83% reporting that they 'strongly agree' or 'agree' that they have a good understanding of the purpose of the LNRS. Those who selected 'strongly disagree' and 'disagree' have either *"not heard of it before"*, only vaguely heard about it through *"a circular email from Nottinghamshire County Council"* or feel as though the *"document is too long to read"* and instead would prefer a *"summary of the aims and a list [of] actions that the interest parties are committed to doing"*.

Overall Sentiment towards the Draft LNRS

Category	Percentage of respondents (%)
Positive (only excited, motivated or both)	62
Negative (sceptical, worried or both)	9
Positive and negative (i.e. a combination of at least one positive and one negative word)	12
Neutral (only neutral)	15
No answer	2

This stakeholder group expressed a broadly positive outlook towards the draft LNRS. 49% selected 'excited' and 53% selected 'motivated'. While the graph gives a good indication of overall attitudes, respondents were allowed to pick more than one answer. Therefore, the respondents have been broken into four categories based on their overall attitudes

towards the strategy.

Positive

When asked how they felt about the strategy, the majority (62%) selected either 'excited', 'motivated' or both.

Those who selected 'excited' often described the LNRS as a rare and positive opportunity to take meaningful action for nature. Many highlighted the urgency of addressing biodiversity loss and the need to raise the profile of local environmental efforts. There was also enthusiasm about the potential for the strategy to help connect more people with nature.

"Because planning for nature doesn't happen very often, so this seems like a great opportunity for people to put decent conservation plans in place for the future."

"Finally, a proposal to improve biodiversity. Let's hope that this strategy improves biodiversity, within the County and that local communities engage more..."

"Because it is vital we increase and strengthen biodiversity."

"I feel that it is very important for improving habitats in Nottinghamshire and will also prompt us to learn more about the habitats and species we have in the county."

"This is really important for the county and city - and we often don't hear about things like this. I found this by accident... People need to know and to speak up for it!"

"I believe far more needs to be done... to better educate – and involve – locals in getting engaged with nature..."

Similarly, respondents who chose 'motivated' frequently referred to their personal connection to nature as a key driver. They expressed a strong belief in the need for restoration and a desire for taking action. Many saw the LNRS as a practical tool to support local engagement and community involvement. Their motivation was more action-oriented than those that just selected 'excited'. There was also a recurring sense of frustration about the current state of the natural environment. This concern, coupled with urgency, appeared to be a key motivator for wanting change.

"I look forward to opportunities to get involved. Nature recovery feels so important to me, I really care about this cause."

"I love nature and want to save it from developments on greenbelt land."

"I believe that flourishing wildlife is necessary for the happiness and well-being of humankind."

"Too much natural habitat is being destroyed in the pursuit of development. We have no right to continually damage the environment."

"Anything we can do to promote and protect our local green spaces & environment should be at the forefront of local decisions."

"It is useful to have the information presented in a comprehensive and accessible format that could help more people to deliver nature's recovery."

Respondents who selected both 'excited' and 'motivated' reinforced these themes, with strong calls for protecting nature, improving wellbeing through access to green spaces and supporting local action. See Table 1 for a selection of representative quotes.

"Our natural habitats & wildlife are in severe decline. I welcome any interventions that protect what we have left."

"We are nature depleted and consequently at great risk of suffering catastrophic loss — not least of both fertile soil and pollinators to enable food production."

"Too many houses are being built without regard for the animals whose homes we are building on... the ecosystem as we know it will collapse."

"It is vitally important we protect our natural habitats, to avoid ecosystem collapse and pass on nature for future generations."

"Because a coherent framework that can include many smaller local actions is the way to involve people in making a difference."

Negative

While negative responses were in the minority - with 9% of respondents reported feeling either 'sceptical', 'worried' or both about the strategy - this feedback is particularly important to consider during the public consultation phase and may be used to inform the final LNRS document and the communication surrounding it when it is launched.

Out of those that selected they felt 'sceptical' about the LNRS, many respondents questioned whether the LNRS will translate into meaningful biodiversity gains, or whether it will end up as another well-intentioned plan with limited follow-through. At a more granular level, many respondents felt that the strategy takes a too generic approach, overlooking important local species, habitats or knowledge. Similarly, concerns were raised over the accuracy and completeness of mapped information.

"Whether the nature recovery will actually improve overall biodiversity and management/incentives to boost said biodiversity won't fall by the wayside."

"Nature always loses out to political and corporate greed."

"Little support from Councils locally... biodiversity initiatives are not checked... council land is not managed properly."

For those that selected 'worried' they shared similar feeling to those that were sceptical. There were concerns that the strategy may not be entirely accurate and may overlook significant environmental challenges.

Positive and negative

12% of respondents expressed mixed feelings about the LNRS, holding both positive and negative views simultaneously. For example, some individuals who felt 'excited' also reported feeling 'worried' or 'sceptical', recognising the strategy as a promising opportunity, but question whether meaningful outcomes could be achieved - particularly due to concerns about funding and delivery.

"I think there could be opportunities for farmers to become involved in the delivery of LNRS but they will need to be fairly remunerated for their actions. That is why I worry because the money is not there and what was once a non mandatory scheme may in the future become mandatory with comp purchase."

"I think it is exciting but am unsure whether it will deliver any meaningful results."

Similarly, those who felt 'motivated' but also 'worried' or 'sceptical' acknowledged the urgency and importance of the strategy, yet raised doubts about its ability to influence key decision-makers such as land managers and planners, and expressed concern over opposition from certain groups. These ambivalent views highlight both hope and hesitation, underscoring the need for clear implementation plans, stronger accountability mechanisms and clear communication on launch of the final LNRS and thereafter.

"I am involved as a member of a small local voluntary group working to increase biodiversity in our rural village, involve the community and help educate. We want to see more biodiverse gardens and public spaces including our churchyard. Support is good but there is organised noisy opposition."

"It is a strategy that is long overdue, however it lacks the ability to protect areas and that worries me. Landowners, planners and developers can ignore it, if they wish."

"Lack Consistency."

One responded reported feeling 'excited', 'motivated' and 'worried'.

"I hope that the strategy can be embedded as a key document and focus for nature recovery across the county and that different projects can use the work of the strategy to influence an approach to managing, improving and enhancing wildlife. However I do have worries about it's implementation."

Two respondents reported feeling 'excited', 'motivated' and 'sceptical'.

"Rules keep changing and don't feel confident it will stand the test of time!"

"I think the initiative is an excellent one but I am sceptical that it will deliver."

Two respondents reported feeling 'excited', 'motivated', 'worried' and 'sceptical'. For example:

"There are a number of challenges, that if they can be overcome would be wonderful, but with ever increasing budget issues, and pressures on the environment these challenges seem to be getting harder, not easier to overcome."

Neutral

A considerable proportion of respondents (15%) reported feeling 'neutral' towards the draft strategy. This was often down to either not having looked into the strategy or knowing enough about it, or they don't want to have an opinion until they actually see the results happening.

"I like to think it can lead to something positive but as with all government led initiatives I will want to get excited until it starts to become a reality. I am in to do the work and makes positive changes."

"I don't know enough about it to make a judgement."

"I think the idea is great but the implementation needs more thought. Currently, the strategy has a budget which appears to have been ringfenced for engagement, mapping and planning but there is little mention of funding for physical implementation or maintenance."

"There is a lot of detail to the plan and being so high level it's difficult to see tangible deliverables. The value and measure of success is that it influences decision makers (ie councils, developers etc) and delivers real change."

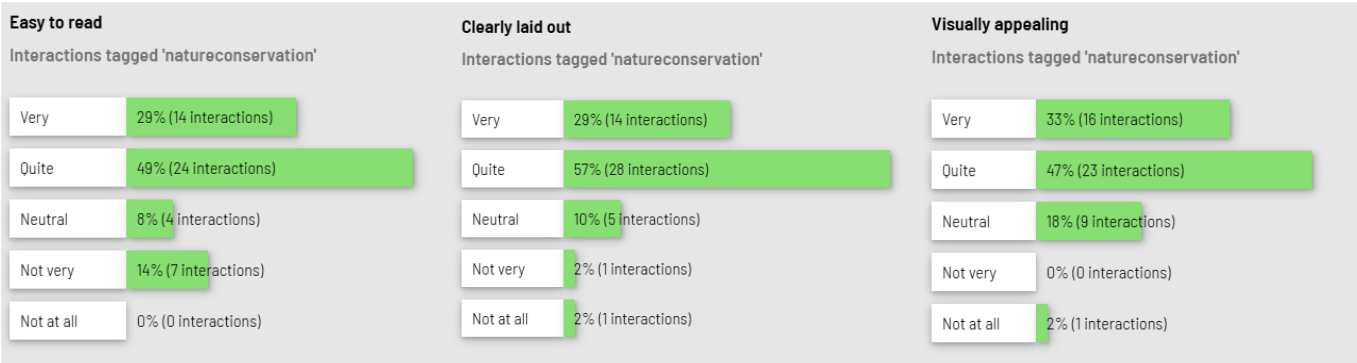
"Actions speak louder than words n not sure what you hv done yet. I am worried that mitigation may mean planting and green spaces miles from the area concerned."

"Does not go far enough."

"Not aware of the strategy to be able to form an opinion."

"I do not know the details."

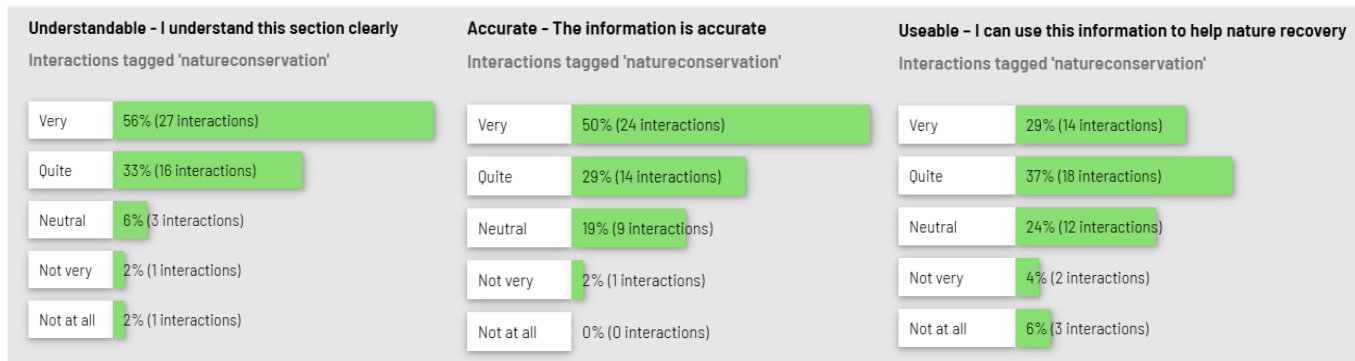
Statement of Biodiversity Priorities (as a whole)



This question was looking at gathering feedback on the draft document as a whole. In terms of the **readability** of the document, the majority of responses fell under either 'very' readable (29%) or 'quite' readable' (49%). The remaining responses were distributed between 'neutral' (5%) and 'not very' (14%). When considering the **layout** of the document, a similar set of results are seen with the majority of responses falling under 'very' clear (29%) and 'quite' clear (57%). The remaining responses were split between 'neutral' (10%), 'not very' (2%) and 'not at all' (2%). The **visual appeal** of this section was also mostly seen as positive, 33% selecting 'very' visually appealing and 43% selecting 'quite' visually appealing. A larger number of respondents selected 'neutral' here than in the other questions (18%), while only one respondent selected 'not at all'.

In summary, in alignment with the general positive sentiment towards the LNRS, most respondents were also in agreement that the document is easy to read, clearly laid out and visually appealing. However, those who chose 'not very' or 'not at all' didn't add any explanatory text on how it could be improved for them.

Section 1 – Introduction



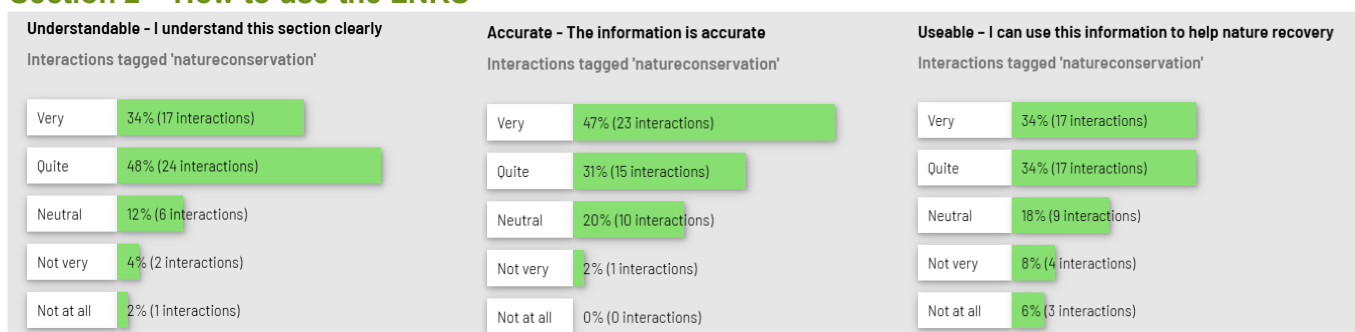
The introduction was generally well **understood** by the majority of participants, with 56% rating it as 'very' clear and a further 33% as 'quite' clear. However, written feedback indicates that the format could be improved. One comment noted: *"This introduction should be summarized with bullet points, there are far too many words to make it impactful."*

The section was also widely regarded as **accurate**, with 50% rating it as 'very' accurate and 29% as 'quite' accurate. Only one respondent rated the accuracy as 'not very', citing concerns about the preparation process. They felt that local input had been overshadowed by a more generic landscape approach: *"LNRS preparation process was the wrong way round, local input was requested last year but this has now been somewhat swamped by a generic landscape approach, somehow the local knowledge on sites needs to be recaptured, either now or in a full review in 3 years time, not 10."*

Perceptions of **usability** were more mixed, albeit the majority still gave more positive answers. While most participants rated it as 'quite' usable (37%), the rest were mostly split between 'very' useable (29%) and 'neutral' (24%). Two respondents rated the usability as 'not at all'. One expressed uncertainty about the practical value of the information: *"The statistics are interesting but not sure how it makes it so I can use the information"*. The other offered constructive feedback, suggesting the section should *"be broken down into chunks that are usable by different groups"* to improve accessibility. Among those who rated usability as 'not very', key concerns included limited stakeholder engagement - *"stakeholder engagement [being] too narrow"* - and a lack of inclusivity beyond farmers and conservationists: *"The appendix shows little engagement outside of farmers and conservation"*. Others noted that while the section is important, its utility for non-experts may be limited due to the technical demands of GIS tools and the ecological knowledge required. Comments included: *"how decision useful [is it] for non-experts"* and *"GIS expertise is required to use the map, and using the documentation requires some level of expertise across nature and how it intersects with the reader's discipline"*.

In summary, there was broad agreement that the introduction is largely understandable and accurate, with only a few minor concerns around the format and preparation process. Usability received more varied feedback, indicating opportunities to enhance accessibility and relevance for a broader range of users.

Section 2 – How to use the LNRS



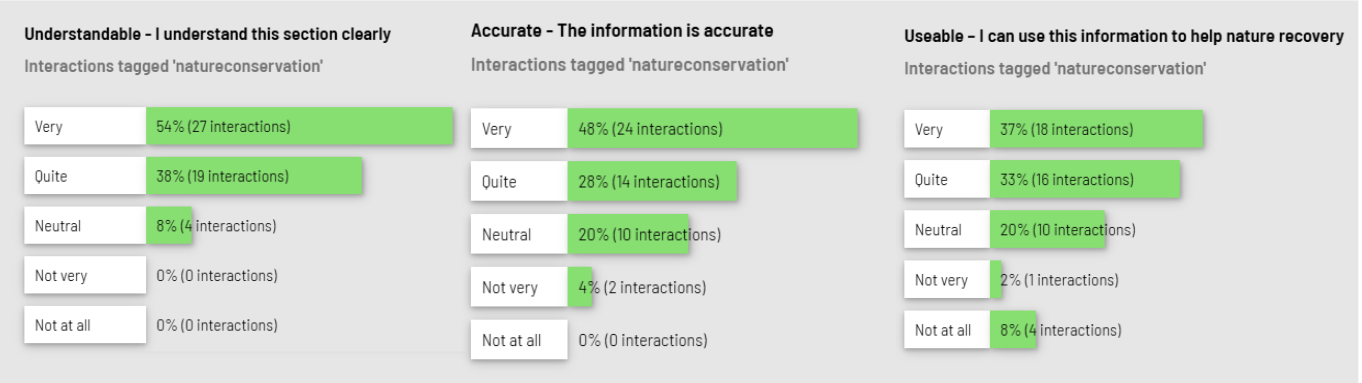
The majority of participants indicated they **understood** the section clearly, with 34% selecting 'very' understandable and 48% 'quite' understandable. A small proportion reported difficulty, with 4% selecting 'not very' and 2% 'not at all', while 12% were neutral.

Perceptions of **accuracy** were generally positive, with 47% rating the section as ‘very’ accurate and 31% as ‘quite’ accurate. Neutral responses account for 20%, while only 2% rated it as ‘not very’ accurate. The one respondent who rated it as ‘not accurate’ provided further commentary and mentioned that *“there are few mapped measures in urban areas, so concerned that strategic multiplier for BNG funds at priority sites deprioritizes nature in urban areas, increasing disconnect with people.”*

Views on **usability** were more mixed: 34% rated the section as ‘very’ useable and another 34% as ‘quite’ useable. Meanwhile, 18% were ‘neutral’, 8% rated it ‘not very’ useable and 6% ‘not at all’ useable. Among those less satisfied with usability, specific concerns were raised about the map. Two respondents commented: *“The map is not clear or easy to use and it doesn't explain how to use it”* and *“The sections of the LNRS could be used in an interactive way with the map.”* Additionally, concerns about how the LNRS will be implemented were raised by respondents in both the ‘not at all’ and ‘not very’ categories. One remarked, *“There are a lot of caveats which worry me as I can't see how its going to be enforced”*, while another stated, *“It sounds as if this is just a load of hot air and there is actually no legal framework or protection for any of the land identified as of value for nature. So this whole document has no legal force and developers can just ignore it with impunity! There is nothing on this page that gives me any hope”*. A further respondent, who also rated the section as ‘not very’ usable, attributed their difficulty to a lack of accessibility for non-experts: *“The strategy is informative about the state of nature and priority areas, but it might be hard for a non-expert to use it to make good decisions.”*

Overall, the section was well received in terms of clarity and accuracy, with most participants reporting positive responses. Although usability was generally rated similarly, selections were more varied and often accompanied by additional comments. These often pointed to areas for improvement, such as enhancing the map, providing clearer guidance on how the LNRS will drive change despite lacking legal enforceability, and simplifying the content to make it accessible to non-experts. These issues will be taken into account in the final iteration of the LNRS document.

Section 3 – Description of the strategy area



The majority of participants found Section 3 to be **understandable**, with 54% rating it as ‘very’ understandable and a further 38% as ‘quite’ understandable. Only 8% selected ‘neutral’, and notably, there were no negative responses.

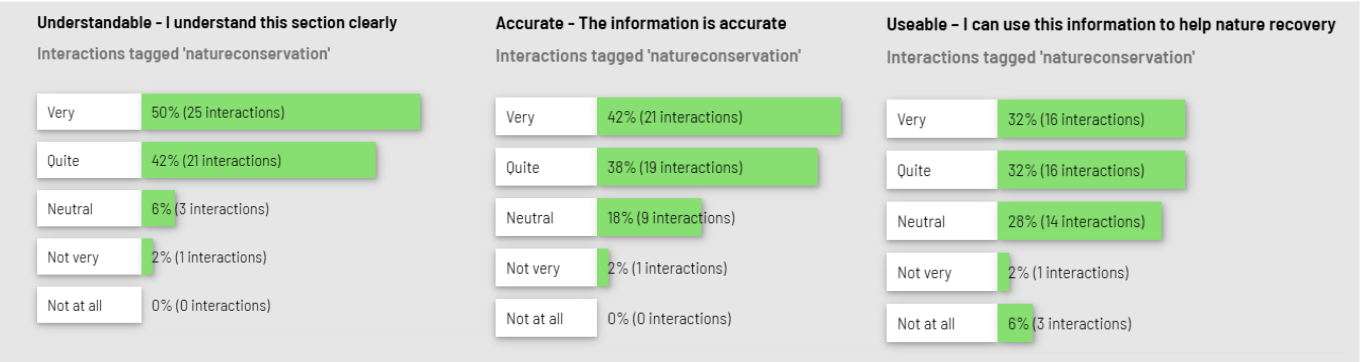
Similarly, the section was generally seen as **accurate**, with 45% of respondents rating it as ‘very’ accurate and 28% as ‘quite’ accurate. However, 20% felt ‘neutral’, and a small number (2 participants) rated it ‘not very’ accurate. One of these respondents noted that the mapping was incomplete: *“some of the mapping has missed out key areas of opportunity to the south of Newark and conversely appears to have mapped areas of urban expansion”*. Another participant echoed concerns about gaps in content, stating: *“Table 1 misses 2/3 irreplaceable habitats”*.

Perceptions of **usability** were broadly positive but showed greater variation. While 37% rated the section as ‘very’ useful and 33% as ‘quite’ useful, a significant proportion of participants (22%) were ‘neutral’, and a small minority found it ‘not very’ (2%) or ‘not at all’ useful (8%). Among those who selected ‘not at all’ useful, two respondents provided further comments. One remarked: *“It just tells me the area it does not do anything to make it better!”* and the other suggested the information would be more

accessible if tailored to the intended user and presented interactively: “The document is very detailed and academic it would be more useful if tailored to the type of person or group that is trying to use the LNRS. The types of habitat would be better presented on an interactive map”. A similar concern was raised by a respondent who rated the section as ‘not very’ usable, highlighting the challenge for non-experts: “The strategy is informative about the state of nature and priority areas, but it might be hard for a non-expert to use it to make good decisions”.

In summary, participants broadly agreed that Section 3 was clear, accurate and usable. However, qualitative feedback, particularly around completeness and accessibility for non-experts, highlights areas for improvement. These insights will be considered in the development of the final LNRS document.

Section 4 – Pressures and opportunities



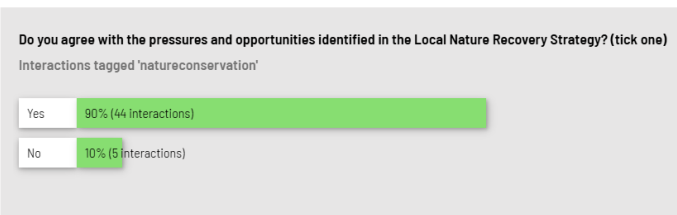
Section 4 was largely viewed by participants as **understandable**, with 50% of participants rating it ‘very’ clear 42% ‘quite’ clear. Only a small minority rated it ‘neutral’ (6%) or ‘not very’ clear (2%).

Similarly, perceptions of **accuracy** were also largely positive, with 42% rating it as ‘very’ accurate and 38% ‘quite’ accurate. However, 18% rated the accuracy as ‘neutral’, while a few rated it ‘not very’ accurate.

Views on **usability** were more mixed. Responses were relatively evenly distributed among ‘very’ useful (32%), ‘quite’ useful (32%) and ‘neutral’ (28%), with a small number of participants rating it as ‘not very’ useful (1 respondent) or ‘not at all’ (3 respondents). Two of the three participants who selected ‘not at all’ provided further commentary. Their feedback suggests that the section may be too technical for general users: “It feels like you would need a degree in Environmental studies to make use of this part of the document. If that is what is intended, as it is to be used by professional architects, lawyers and developers etc. then ok... but it is too complicated for general use”. Another respondent offered more critical feedback, placing emphasis on how the proposed actions could potentially worsen biodiversity loss: “You recognise the need for variety but we will have nothing but fenced off solar around our area = not good for nature, removal of mixture of habitats therefore less diversity, therefore not only little opportunity for nature to recover but an increased decline”. Similarly, the participant who rated the section as ‘not very’ usable explained that greater inclusion of local information is needed: “More info on specific local pressures/opportunities is needed. E.g. Specific Invasive species are a problem in which specific locations?”. Such feedback is important and will be taken into account when devising the final LNRS.

Overall, participants generally found Section 4 to be clear and accurate; however, qualitative feedback indicates that its usability could be enhanced.

Agreement on pressures and opportunities



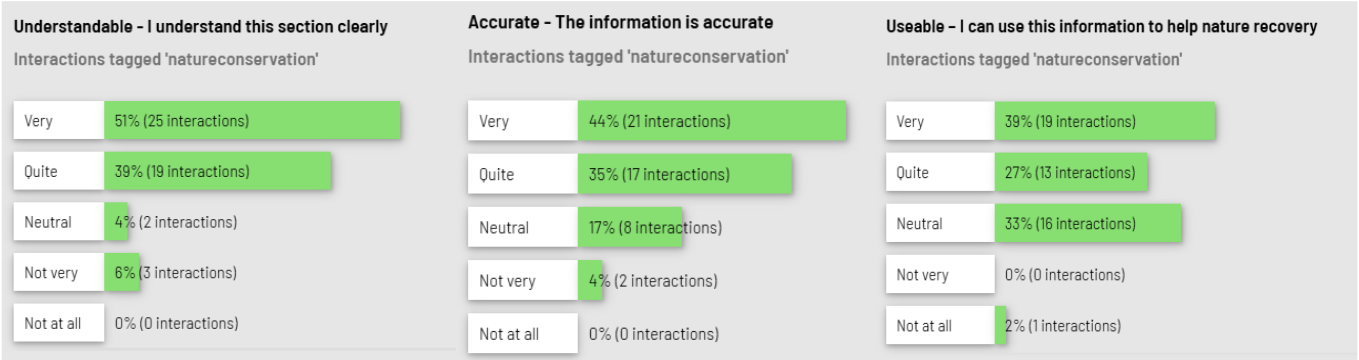
There was broad agreement with the pressures and opportunities outlined in the draft LNRS, with 90% of participants expressing agreement and only 10% disagreeing. While limited qualitative data was provided here, the comments that were submitted were relatively specific. Suggestions

included incorporating the “GNR, One Earth Solar” development and incentivising individuals “to bring back the garden hedge” as a way to increase hedgerows in urban gardens.

One participant also emphasised that Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) funding should be used to support public nature recovery plans, like the LNRS, rather than generating profit for private companies and landowners: “At national level the opportunity for LNRS to be funded by BNG instead of private companies and landowners making profits”. Additionally, a concern was raised - echoing earlier feedback - that some proposed actions could unintentionally lead to further biodiversity loss.

Although these views were raised by a small number of participants (four), they highlight important considerations and will help inform the development of the final LNRS.

Section 5 – Priorities and Potential Measures



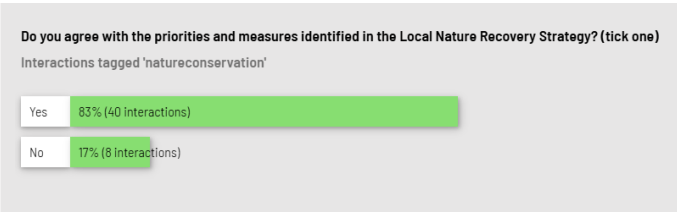
Section 5 was largely viewed by participants as **understandable**, with 51% of participants rating it as ‘very’ understandable, followed by 39% who voted it as ‘quite’ understandable. The remaining participants made up the minority, with only 4% selecting ‘neutral’ and 6% rating it as ‘not very’ understandable.

A similar set of results can be found for the **accuracy** of section 5, with the majority rating it as ‘very’ accurate (44%) and ‘quite’ accurate (35%). A slightly larger number of participants fell into the ‘neutral’ category (17%), while only 4% felt it was ‘not very’ accurate.

Unlike previous sections, the **usability** of Section 5 was perceived more positively. A total of 98% of responses fell under ‘very’ usable (39%), ‘quite’ (27%) or ‘neutral’ (33%). Only one participant rated the section as ‘not at all’ usable (2%), though no further explanation was provided. One participant who selected ‘neutral’ noted that the “measures are [in some instances] too broad to be useful” and “also ambitious”. Another respondent, who selected ‘neutral’ commented that effectively using this section “requires some expertise on how nature interacts with the user’s area of interest or business activities” adding that “more work would be required by the user to understand and make good decisions”. This respondent also offered constructive feedback in suggesting that the section “could be more easily translatable to actions” to enhance its usability.

Overall, participants responded similarly across all three questions - understandability, readability and usability. While this section received more positive feedback for usability, any negative or constructive feedback will be taken into account when crafting the final LNRS document.

Agreement with the priorities and potential measures

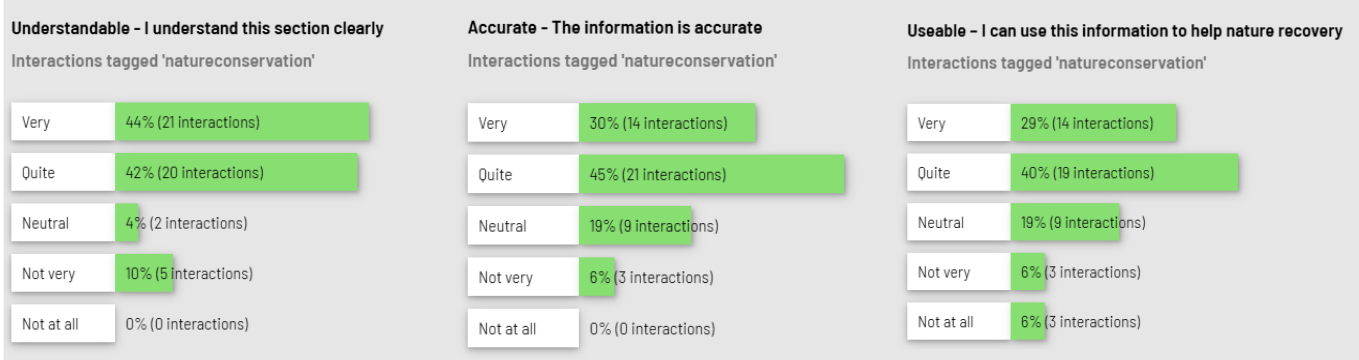


There was broad agreement with the priorities and measures outlined in the draft LNRS, with 83% of participants in agreement and only 17% expressing disagreement.

Qualitative responses were provided by 7 out of the 8 participants who disagreed with the statement; no qualitative comments were submitted by those who agreed. Broader concerns were

raised regarding the vagueness of the priorities and potential measures. For example, one respondent noted: *“Primary concern is that blanket approach to large areas has over-ridden local knowledge so action may be inappropriate”*. Others expressed concern about an *“over emphasis on new developments, ignoring the value of existing buildings”*.

Section 6 – Mapping of measures



When participants were asked about the **understandability** of Section 6, responses were nearly evenly split between ‘very’ understandable (44%) and ‘quite’ understandable (42%). While the majority of responses were mostly positive, a small proportion felt ‘neutral’ (4%), while 10% found this section ‘not very’ understandable. Those that found the section ‘not very’ understandable attributed this to the section not being perceived as clear: *“I found this section unclear and worry that urban areas will be omitted”*.

Regarding **accuracy**, most participants rated the section as ‘quite’ accurate (45%), followed by 30% who said ‘very’. Although most responses were positive, there was still a significant proportion (19%) that felt ‘neutral’ and a smaller proportion (6%) that rated it as ‘not very’ accurate. Respondents who selected ‘not very’ mainly referred to the issue of inconsistency as well as noting areas of inaccuracy: *“Inconsistent Watercourse measures”* and *“inaccuracy of mapping to the south of Newark, it has missed some opportunities and mapped areas of development”*.

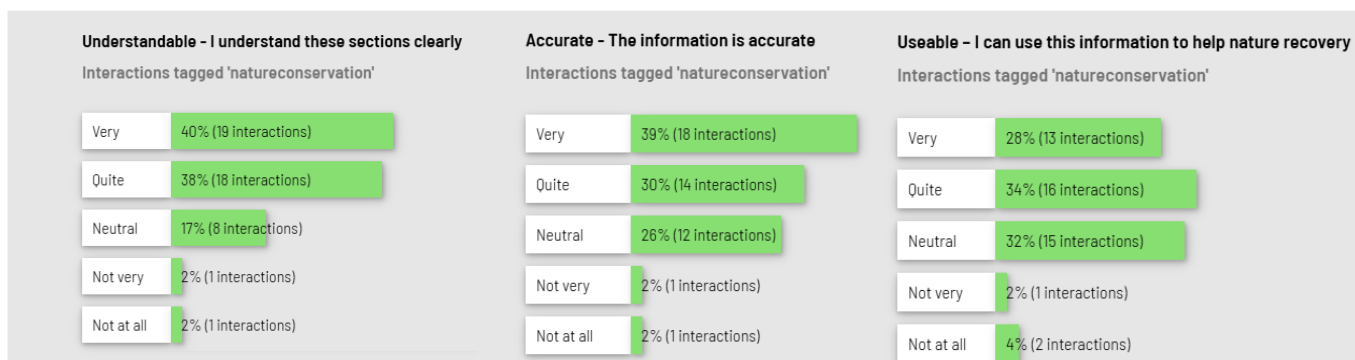
Similarly, the majority of respondents (40%) felt this section was ‘quite **usable**’ and 29% said it was ‘very’ usable. One respondent elaborated on their selection of ‘quite’ usable and left constructive feedback suggesting that it *“would be helpful if map showed Local Green Spaces (LGS) designation and Strategic Green Infrastructure”* as well as *“buffer strip measures around LGS to prevent encroachment and allow light to reach LGSs”*. Another respondent who selected ‘quite’ usable said that the *“map is awful to use”*. However, although the majority of respondents found it either ‘very’ useful or ‘quite’ useful, a significant 31% expressed less positive views, being split across ‘neutral’ (19%), ‘not very’ usable (6%) and ‘not at all’ usable (6%). One respondent who selected ‘neutral’ made reference to the fact that it is difficult for users to interpret the data and that *“some expertise is required in interpreting and making decisions on the content of the report”*. Those that selected ‘not very’ useful cited difficulties with the interactive map, describing it as *“very clumsy to use and not intuitive”* and criticised it for being too general, highlighting the importance of incorporating local knowledge: *“Generic blanket mapping of certain measures diminishes credibility, needs more specificity based on local knowledge which sites are better and have a willing owner?”*. Similarly, those who rated the usability as ‘not at all’ attributed this to being unable to operate the map and found the language overly complex and filled with technical jargon: *“I don't understand how works. If an area is on the map, what it means in terms of development or action in that area, or who is responsible for it”* and *“It is very wordy and not written in plain English”*.

Overall, most participants considered Section 6 to be clear and accurate, with the majority giving positive ratings for its understandability and accuracy. However, feedback on usability was more mixed. Some participants noted that the map was too difficult to use, and suggested improvements were made to simplify the technical language for better clarity.

Section 7 – Glossary

This section of the report was not tested specifically at public consultation as it is simply a glossary of terms.

Section 8 – Appendices



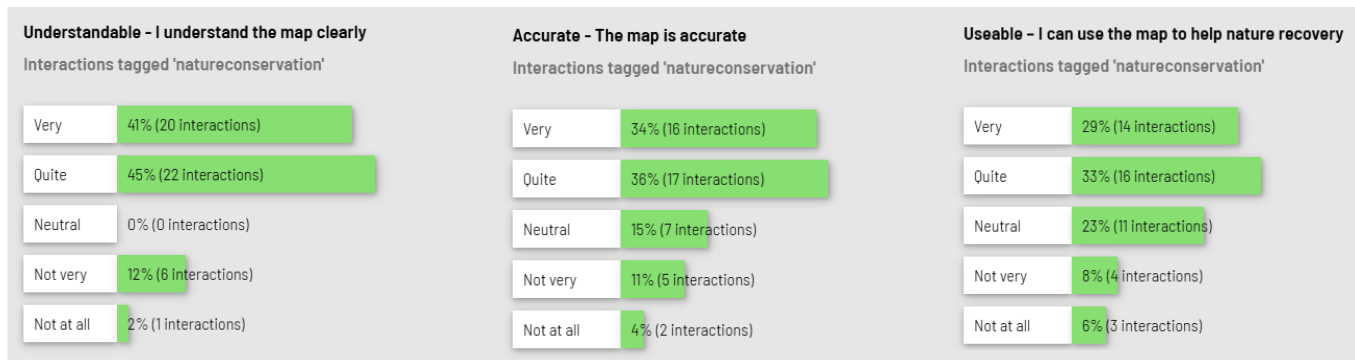
Responses for understandability, accuracy and usability of the section showed a consistent pattern, with most participants selecting 'very', 'quite' or 'neutral' across all three areas.

For **understandability**, 40% rated the section as 'very' understandable, 38% as 'quite' and 17% as 'neutral'; only two participants responded negatively (one for 'not very' and the other for 'not at all').

A similar trend appeared in **accuracy**, with 39% selecting 'very' accurate, 30% 'quite' and 26% 'neutral', again with only two negative responses (one for 'not very' and the other for 'not at all').

In terms of usability, responses leaned slightly towards the positive. The largest group of respondents (34%) rated the section as 'quite' usable, followed by 32% who felt neutral, and 28% who rated it as 'very' usable. Only a small minority expressed negative views, with three respondents rating the section as 'not very' or 'not at all' usable.

Local Habitat Map



The vast majority of participants agreed that the local habitat map was **understandable**, with 41% saying it was 'very' and 45% saying it was 'quite'. Albeit, seven respondents responded negatively here with additional comments revealing that the *"titled map measures"* need to be *"clear what they are"* as well as another respondent saying, *"there is no information attached to the areas of interest apart from what they are"*.

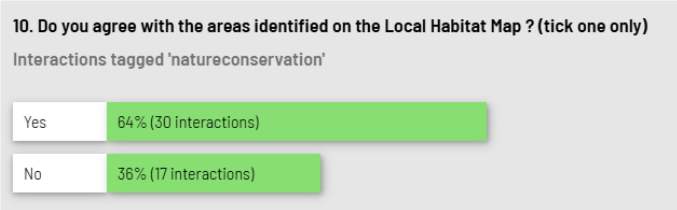
In terms of the **accuracy** of the map, there was slightly less agreement: although 34% and 36% said it was 'very' and 'quite' accurate, respectively, 15% selected 'neutral', 11% selected 'not very' and 4% selected 'not at all'. There was slightly more disparity here. For those that selected 'not very' or 'not at all', additional comments included that the map misses out areas such as *"Thorney Abbey Farm Wood"*. One individual summarised this by suggesting that *"there will always be information missing that is known to the locals. This will build up over time."*

This trend was also similarly replicated in how **usable** the habitat map was, with the most common answer being 'quite' (33%), followed by 'very' (29%) which was closely followed by neutral (23%). There

were also seven negative answers for this question, with 8% claiming it was ‘not very’ usable and 6% saying it was ‘not at all’ usable. Comments raised suggested that the “map is difficult to use. Very off-putting. The whole document is 86 pages long so almost deliberately designed to put off most residents. It took me over two hours to read and still cannot use the map. At some point it even told me the site and map had technical issues.” Other respondents cited a lack of “information attached to the areas of interest, apart from what they are” as the primary usability issue.

Overall, the majority of respondents found the map to be understandable, accurate and usable. Those who did not cited the need for improved data completeness, clarity and a more accessible user experience to support wider engagement with the Local Habitat Map.

Agreement with the areas identified on the map



While a clear majority supported the areas identified on the Local Priority Map (64%), over a third of respondents were opposed (36%). Of the 36%, sixteen individuals provided additional comments highlighting the potential limitations of the map. The primary reason was a lack of

spatial coverage, which was identified by twelve respondents. These included omissions or inaccuracies relating to specific areas such as the “plantation area to the south of the A52 off Radcliffe, a brilliant new rewilded area that is not covered”, as well as broader omissions such as “Local Green Space (LGS) designation and Strategic Green Infrastructure”. In addition to this, nine respondents noted the under-representation or misclassification of certain habitats, such as “hedges, verges”, “ancient woodland,” and “meadows”, as well as the omission of important habitat features, such as “veteran trees”. Four respondents emphasized the need to better reflect urban nature, highlighting key features such as “playgrounds”, “planters” and “allotments”.

Overall, the responses suggest a need for greater spatial completeness, as well as improved representation of habitats, particularly in urban fringe areas.

Additional questions

What could your role be in making the LNRS happen?

	Level of participation			
	I already do it	Would like to do it	Don't want to do it	Not applicable to me
Support or volunteer with a nature-related community group	56	12	1	5
Start a community or nature group	20	17	12	24
Make my garden more wildlife friendly	55	9	0	10
Use the LNRS in my work	17	23	0	34
Use the LNRS outside of work	14	38	1	20
Incorporate more nature on the land I manage or farm	20	4	0	51
Get involved in recording nature/species	34	30	5	5

This stakeholder group (self-identified as either working or volunteering in nature conservation) shows a strong willingness to contribute to the success of the LNRS and is already actively engaged in a range of nature-related initiatives. Notably, 76% are involved in community-based nature projects, 27% have started a community or nature group. This was strongly reflected in the additional comments, with ten of the seventeen responses highlighting the need to “involve community groups in the LNRS”, bringing “together community groups to help and support each other”. Individually, 74% of respondents are making their gardens more wildlife-friendly, incorporating features such as “hedgerows in urban gardens... especially in front gardens where they shelter wildlife from the road”.

Additionally, 23% are already using the draft LNRS in their work, 19% outside of work, 27% are enhancing nature on the land they manage or farm, and 46% are taking part in species or habitat recording. Despite nature action being taken, there are calls from respondents to increase the support available for those managing land for nature, with one person writing that they “manage all the local wildlife sites on Lowfield lane and have had no support or funding to maintain this”.

Although this group is currently engaged in most nature-related action asked, the only exception was the action concerning the incorporation of more nature on managed or farmed land, which 68% in the group found irrelevant. However, the additional comments highlighted calls for greater collaboration between different stakeholder groups, particularly with “schools, churches, farmers” and other land managers.

These patterns of behaviour suggest that this is a well-informed, locally connected group with high potential to support nature recovery efforts across the county. Even among those not currently engaged in these activities, there is a strong interest in doing so in the future, with a desire to increase and develop partnerships between different stakeholders to aid these efforts.

Although this group is generally willing to support the delivery of the LNRS through nature-related actions, and many are already actively involved, certain activities were less well received. Twelve respondents said they do not want to start a community or nature group, and five said they do not want to get involved in recording nature or species. However, it should be noted that these activities tended to be those that require a greater commitment and more time.

Is there anything else that you would like to tell us about the LNRS?

When asked if they had any additional comments about the LNRS more broadly, nearly one-third of respondents (32 individuals) provided a range of further remarks. A number of these responses raised issues that require a specific response. These included references to particular sites, species, charities, the relevance of data, local environmental groups, and renewable energy.

Eleven respondents expressed concerns that the map was not comprehensive, and had not been created with local knowledge in mind:

“I would also like some interest in ancient lowland grassland and SSSIs in both my areas of Lowfield Balderton and South Scarle... I am in the group that... protect the old meadows in Lowfield area.”

“Have you included enough detail of the local environment groups working in Newark and Sherwood... what about Green Southwell and Farnsfield Community Spaces...”

“...little opportunity to identify areas that should have been on the Local Habitat Maps. Responsible authorities must ensure that the consultation allows for local intelligence to inform the process...”

“I live next to Lowdham Grange Prison... there is a communal grassland/open space area... this area currently has A/M2 and B/M5 going right through the middle.. these measures which may see trees planted would ruin this area for the residents...”

Eight respondents questioned whether the strategy would deliver meaningful change without stronger funding, accountability, and enforcement:

“LNRS needs to be funded directly by BNG through a straightforward tax on development...”

“... this is not a delivery plan and won't force people to comply, which is worrying. Is it a box ticking exercise?”

“...nothing more than a sham exercise to allow Government/developers to build on the Green Belt...”

“It definitely needs much better support & endorsement at Government levels...”

“It will only be properly delivered if considerable funds are made available to do so by Government...”

“It is a bit “faceless”! I'd like to know who is going to be accountable for it and make any of it happen... feels like a box ticking exercise.”

“... enforcement of regulations Is needed...”

Six respondents felt that the strategy and map were too complex for the wider public, which has been a recurring theme throughout this stakeholder group, suggesting the need for clearer language, improved communications, and better use of digital tools:

“... needs to be more ‘punchy’ in layout and information... most people wouldn't be bothered to plough through all that information, which will then mean no feedback... is that the intention?...”

“Many don't know about it, even when working in similar areas such as green social prescribing”

“It's too difficult for most folk who would be interested . Particularly the map...”

“...Better use of social media platforms ... to encourage public support for these initiatives.”

“...There are some ways in which it could be clearer and more easily applicable to businesses, landowners and other stakeholders who might use it...”

“...This should be made clear so that landowners don’t just sit and wait.”

Five respondents emphasised the importance of urban nature, calling for habitat connectivity, better protection, and more urban greenspace:

“Just to reiterate how important it is to protect urban wildlife. Much of urban Gedling has only been urban for a few decades... We need wildlife corridors across the city and suburbs joining up these habitats...”

“Urban and Post-industrial Priorities and Potential Measures ... only recognizes new developments as a potential site for universal nest bricks as breeding sites ... the vast majority of these birds in urban environments are nesting on EXISTING buildings, yet this habitat is totally ignored in the LNRS...”

“...emphasis should be on creating wildlife corridors rather than pockets of habitat...”

“...Urban measures should be added...”

“...beelines... aim to create linked habitats...”

Four respondents highlighted the need for public education, on issues such as wildlife-friendly gardening and species loss:

“Important to educate people to encourage wildlife friendly gardening and discourage “neat and tidy” being the aim.”

“...better use of ... education ... to encourage public support of these initiatives.”

“...Education is key to getting land owners on board...”

“...Training potential surveyors...”

While a number of respondents offered a number of constructive criticisms, five respondents expressed that they were pleased with its scope, welcoming the opportunity to shape it:

“I think it is great work...a very impressive mass of information. Well done to all those involved so far. We have to make sure this goes forward...”

“...good luck with it and I hope the new NCC administration support all the work, research and accurate information that have been gathered and included within it.”

“...It seems to be a very thoroughly comprehensive document.”

“This is generally a great standalone document and map...”

“We appreciate the collation of relevant documents and data and can see that a great deal of work has gone into producing this draft.”

Overall, the additional feedback suggests the need for a strategy that is accessible, enforceable, and built on local knowledge and wider collaboration. Although most responses in this section were arguably more critical and constructive, a few comments did express satisfaction with the LNRS which has been a key finding throughout this report.

Overall summary of survey responses from those who work or volunteer in nature conservation

This stakeholder group generally demonstrates a strong understanding of the draft LNRS and its objectives. They are familiar with the draft strategy and already engage in nature-positive behaviours, both in their work lives and outside of work. Overall, the group expressed a broadly positive attitude towards the draft LNRS, with most respondents reporting feelings of excitement and motivation towards the strategy.

Despite this generally positive sentiment, a few respondents raised concerns regarding both the draft strategy itself and the way information has been presented. Key concerns centred around uncertainty regarding next steps: respondents raised questions over how the draft strategy would lead to tangible biodiversity gains, doubts about the level of follow-through and worries that the strategy could be disregarded entirely. Additional concerns included a lack of trust in the council, doubts about whether sufficient resources (especially funding) are available to implement the strategy, and perceptions that the document takes on a generic approach – potentially overlooking important local knowledge and nuance. A minority of respondents also questioned the documents’ accuracy.

Nevertheless, most respondents agreed that the draft LNRS is easy to read, clearly structured and visually appealing. When considering the LNRS document as a whole, while views were mixed, the majority were positive. The council will take the more critical and constructive feedback into account when refining the final LNRS document.

Across the draft Statement of Biodiversity Priorities and the Local Habitat Map, the vast majority of respondents found the content understandable, with few additional comments provided. One suggestion for improvement was to use bullet points in Section 1 to enhance formatting. Regarding accuracy, most participants agreed the content was mostly correct, though some felt that it lacked detail and completeness. Usability elicited more varied feedback. Several respondents found the information difficult to apply in practice, citing that it was too technical and therefore less accessible to non-experts. The map, in particular, was seen as unintuitive and hard to use by some. Other concerns included the strategy's lack of legal enforceability, overly broad or ambitious measures, and in one instance, fear that certain actions could inadvertently harm biodiversity. Constructive suggestions included making the map interactive, breaking content into more digestible sections, tailoring content to different user types, incorporating more local knowledge and improving the strategy's translatability into actions.

Regarding the agreement with the pressures and opportunities in the draft LNRS, 90% of respondents expressed agreement, while 10% disagreed. Some suggestions included using BNG funding to support the implementation of the LNRS. A similar trend was observed in responses to the priorities and potential measures, with 83% in agreement and 17% not. One respondent commented that the priorities and measures lacked specificity. There was slightly less agreement with areas identified in the local habitat map, with 64% agreeing, but 36% disagreed. This was primarily due to respondents noting a lack of spatial coverage, as well as a misrepresentation of habitats, particularly in urban fringe areas. Across all three of these questions, the majority of qualitative feedback was detailed and will be addressed by Nottinghamshire County Council.

Many respondents emphasised a strong willingness to support the LNRS and already actively engage in a range of nature-related initiatives. The draft LNRS is already being referred to by a considerable amount of people in their work (17) and personal lives (14), accompanied by a strong appetite to use it in the future. When presented with the opportunity to provide any further remarks about the draft LNRS, there were five positive comments welcoming the strategy and the opportunity to shape it. However, many of these extra contributions were more critical and/or constructive suggestions for improvement. Respondents highlighted concerns around misclassified sites or local groups, the impact the LNRS will have without stronger funding, accountability and enforcement, as well as other issues echoed above, such as the complexity of the draft strategy and map and the need to increase urban nature.

Concerns have been recognised, and these have been addressed in the Implications and Solutions section (Section 5) of the report.

4.3 Farmers and land managers

4.3.1 Consultation opportunities

From the responses, it has been estimated that approximately two-thirds of this stakeholder group are likely to be primarily farmers, while roughly one-third are land managers focused on wildlife conservation rather than food production. However, in practice, there is overlap between these roles, with some respondents likely engaged in both. This should be kept in mind when interpreting the results as it makes drawing firm statistical conclusions more difficult. This is coupled with the fact that this stakeholder group only reflects a small proportion of the farming and land management community in Nottinghamshire.

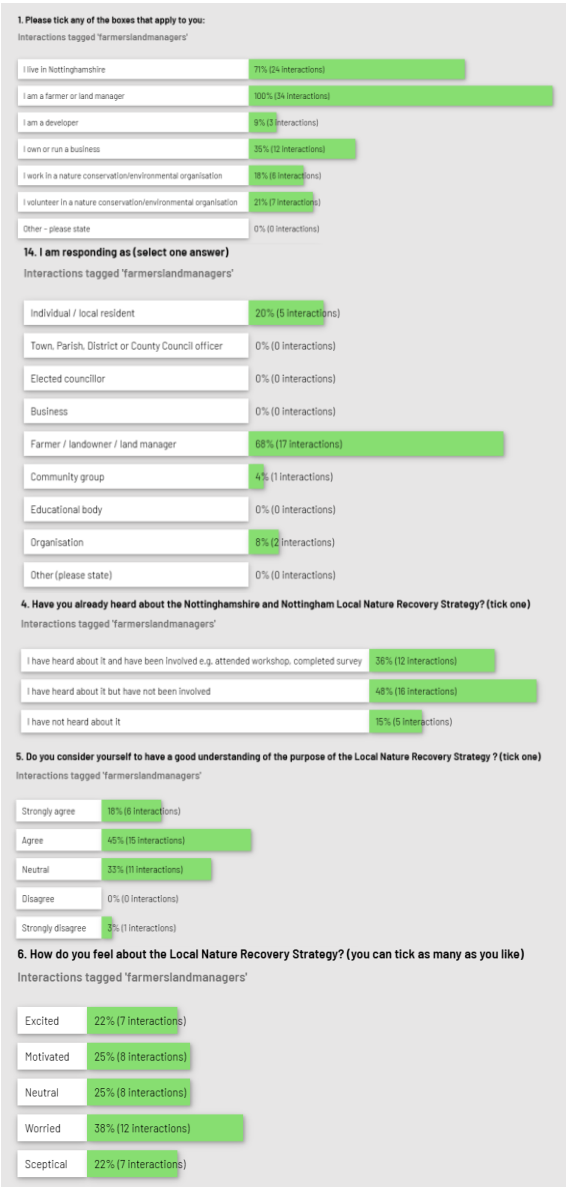
Farmers and land managers were invited to provide feedback through the online survey (34 responses) and by attending dedicated events. Both engagement methods used anonymous techniques, which

encouraged a wide range of views to be shared. The survey combined closed and open questions, while the events allowed participants to indicate their level of agreement with a series of questions relating to nature and the draft LNRS.

4.3.2 Level of participation

Efforts were made to promote broad engagement, including through the NFU, the CLA and local farmers association, as well as via newsletters, county shows, and the events held at venues across the north and south of the county. However, despite these efforts, the number of farmers and land managers engaged was relatively small. As a result, the following findings may not be fully representative of the wider farming and land management community across the county.

4.3.3 Analysis of responses



Stakeholder Group Context and General Consensus

A significant majority (71%) of respondents within this stakeholder group stated that they are based in Nottinghamshire and are responding as a ‘farmer/landowner/land manager’ (68%) or an ‘individual/local resident’ (20%). Other respondents included those who are responding as a ‘community group’ or an ‘organisation’

The group was 63% male, 38% female. The ethnicity of the group saw 92% of respondents identifying as ‘White English/Welsh/Scottish/Northern Irish/British/Other’.

Of the respondents, 36% have actively participated in the production of the draft LNRS, while 48% are aware of it but have not yet been directly involved.

63% of respondents considered themselves to have a good understanding of the purpose of the draft LNRS. Only one person disagreed, but left no explanatory comment, whilst the remainder felt neutral.

Overall Sentiment towards the Draft LNRS

Category	Percentage of respondents (%)
Positive (only excited, motivated or both)	28
Negative (sceptical, worried or both)	41
Positive and negative (i.e. a combination of at least one positive and one negative word)	9
Neutral (only neutral)	22
No answer	n/a

This stakeholder group expressed a varied outlook towards the draft LNRS. The majority of respondents selected ‘worried’ (38%). While the graph gives a good indication of overall attitudes, respondents were allowed to pick more than one answer. Therefore, the respondents have been broken into four categories based on their overall attitudes towards the strategy, as shown in the table above.

Positive

When asked how they felt about the draft strategy, 28% of respondents selected ‘excited’, ‘motivated’ or both.

Those who chose 'excited' often referred to the importance of improving biodiversity within the county and viewed the LNRS as a valuable opportunity to do so.

"Finally, a proposal to improve biodiversity. Let's hope that this strategy improves biodiversity, within the County and that local communities engage more, with regards to the improvement of local habitats and green spaces."

"It should offer a great framework for nature and promote positive management of declining features and build on existing hotspots to engage people with nature."

Respondents who selected 'motivated' expressed similar sentiments, emphasizing the strategy's potential to tackle biodiversity loss. However, some also acknowledged potential financial and political challenges.

"I believe that we need to encourage reinstating our lost biodiversity for the sake of all of our health and wellbeing."

"It is useful to have the information presented in a comprehensive and accessible format that could help more people to deliver nature's recovery."

"There is a lot of potential in the strategy but due to financial and political pressures how much will be activated."

Those who selected both 'excited' and 'motivated' touched on the importance of our relationship with nature as a key reason for their positive outlook on the draft LNRS.

"We are part of nature so if it is harmed we are harming ourselves."

"Nature connection is key and the use of greenspaces is key to achieve this."

Negative

Negative sentiments were expressed more frequently than positive ones, with 41% of respondents selecting either 'sceptical', 'worried' or both.

Those who chose 'sceptical' often acknowledged the good intentions behind the strategy but questioned its feasibility due to concerns over inadequate management, limited resources and insufficient local knowledge.

"These types of schemes in my experience start with great vision BUT are invariably badly managed (by national and local gov employees) resources are inflexible land managers become disenchanted."

"We already have large areas of trees and heathland, in fact way more than the average for the country in parts of Notts (Sherwood). We need to produce food and if we take land from production it just means that habitat rich rain forests etc will be cut down to provide our food at a higher environmental cost."

"The more environmental events I attend the I am convinced many environmental projects are dreamed up by people highly educated but with little understanding of the land areas involved."

"Intent behind LNRS is great but disappointing that specific local knowledge of ACBs not included in favour of a largely generic landscape approach to defining those areas, this means a lack of specificity. But there's also a lack of consistency, some important watercourses and land types missing?"

Respondents who selected 'worried' commonly expressed concerns about food security, a lack of financial support for farmers and insufficient details regarding the strategy's implications and opportunities.

"I worry that food production will be sacrificed on the back of other objectives and that farmers will not be adequately compensated for the changes they will be made to make, we already care deeply about the environment and most do the best they can but need to be profitable to do so."

"Lack of detail on what the opportunities are. No trust in Defra or faith in their competence."

"lack of detail on future planning implications unknown."

"330 ha of tenanted farm land under threat. It is highly productive irrigate sand land producing potatoes, carrots, beetroot, maize and wheat. There is only limited land in the UK that can be used to grow potatoes, carrots and beetroot. Potatoes and carrots can only be grown on a field every 10 years."

"We are a family farm and have always farmed traditionally and cared for our surroundings therefore we are to be greatly impacted by this proposal as our farm is unspoilt. The farm will be unviable as a business for generations and ultimately the nations food security will be impacted by such actions."

"I do not wish for my farm to be forcibly involved in an new environmental scheme when the farm is committed to producing food and is involved in other nature enhancing schemes."

"I am concerned that you are going to take productive arable land and force the landowner to plant trees on it, and not give them a choice in the matter."

Respondents who selected both 'sceptical' and 'worried' raised concerns about not being contacted regarding the LNRS and some expressed alarm that their land appears to be included in the draft strategy without their knowledge.

"Because we feel we have not been contacted and believe the LNRS has involved some of our land."

"I own a small amount of woodland and farmland in Notts. The woodland is in a number of separate plots. 2 plots are shown incorrectly as part of XXX Plantation. I am concerned that you might not consult with me. 3rd plot shown as ancient woodland. VERY CONCERNED."

Positive and negative

A very small number of participants (9%) expressed mixed feelings about the draft strategy. Among the three that did, their comments highlighted concerns around competing demands for land, the need for appropriate remuneration for farmers and uncertainty around what the LNRS will ultimately entail.

"We are excited about the prospect of new wildlife corridors being introduced in Forest Town to the west of Spa Ponds, but are unsure if it will actually be delivered given that some of this land could be used for housing as per the 2025 MDC Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment (HELAA)."

"I think there could be opportunities for farmers to become involved in the delivery of LNRS but they will need to be fairly remunerated for their actions. That is why I worry because the money is not there and what was once a non mandatory scheme may in the future become mandatory with comp purchase."

"I don't know how this could affect my farm going forward. With our loss of confidence with DEFRA and this government it sounds very dangerous to have parts of our land with 'designations'."

Neutral

A significant number of respondents (22%) reported feeling 'neutral' towards the draft strategy. This sentiment was often attributed to a perceived lack of support and clear information for farmers - particularly regarding the opportunities and constraints of including or excluding their land from the LNRS.

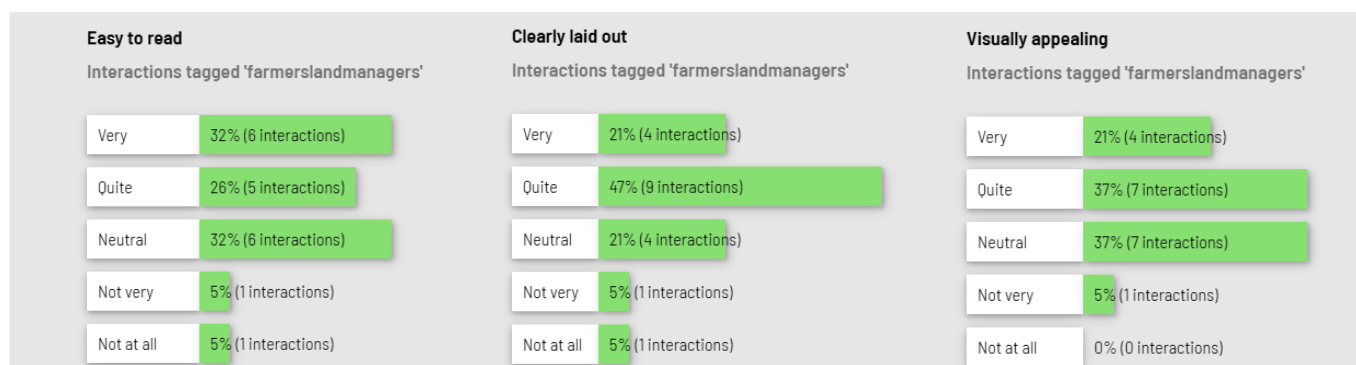
"Our farm is already engaged with Habitat activities. Fail to see that the strategy has a strong purpose. Always a feeling with opt in schemes that could become mandatory in the future. Historically farmers have always invested in environmental features when having good profits."

"The opportunities are not clear in terms of outcome or financially, and neither are the future limitations of keeping my land in this scheme/strategy in terms of future issues with development or planning."

"Actions speak louder than words n not sure what you hv done yet. I am worried that mitigation may mean planting and green spaces miles from the area concerned."

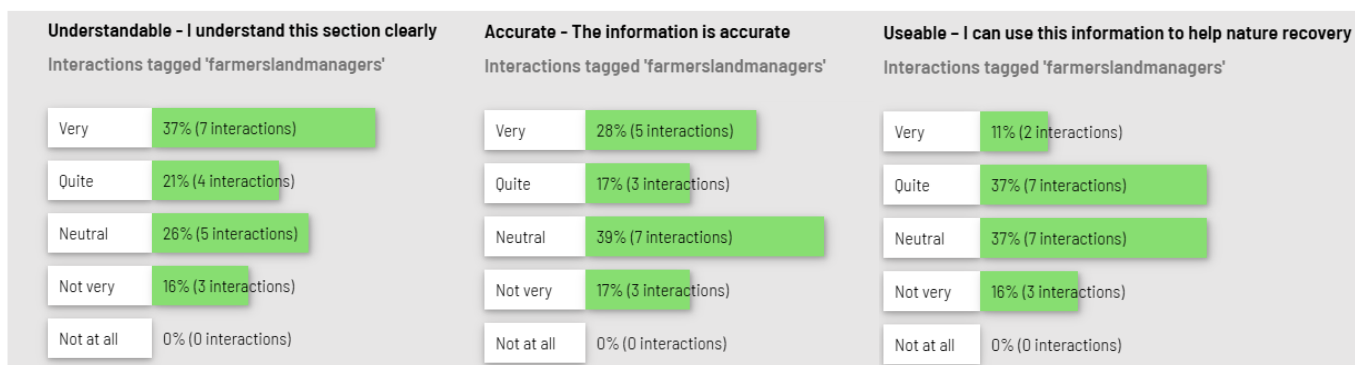
"As a farming business we do a lot for nature so I sometimes think you are preaching to the converted. We did our first conservation scheme about 30 years ago. I don't see a lot of support for farming in LNRS."

Statement of Biodiversity Priorities (as a whole)



The majority of respondents found the Statement of Biodiversity Priorities to be **easy to read** (58%), **clearly laid out** (68%) and **visually appealing** (58%). Those who chose 'not very' or 'not at all' didn't add any explanatory text on how it could be improved.

Section 1: Introduction

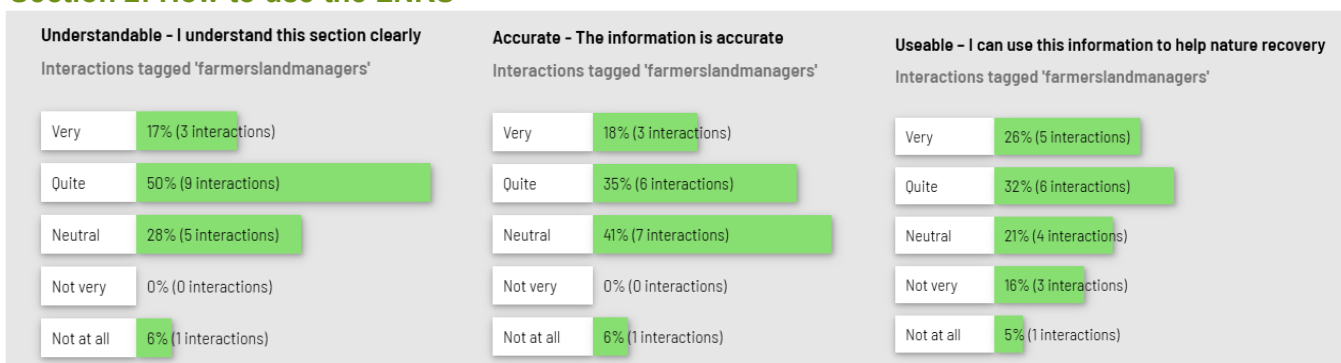


The majority of respondents found the introduction section to be **understandable** (58%). Those who did not cited that *“it is very complex and not so approachable for ley people”*. In terms of **accuracy**, 39% of respondents found the content accurate, while another 39% remained neutral. Those who thought it was not very accurate suggested that the LNRS has been performed *“the wrong way round, local input was requested last year, but this has now been somewhat swamped by a generic landscape approach”*. The respondent went on to say that *“somehow the local knowledge on sites needs to be recaptured, either now or in a full review in 3 years time, not 10”*.

The statistics were more favourable for **usability**, with 48% of respondents finding the information usable. Of the 37% who were neutral, one respondent stated that *“it was a very long read and the map was difficult to use”*, going on to write that *“I live in Rushcliffe and if there was a section dedicated to each council I would have found it more interesting and helpful to concentrate on the area where I live”*. Respondents who found the information insufficiently usable in practice wrote that *“DEFRA have not given LNRS any dedicated budget or funding so it isn’t in any way clear what advantage any of this would be for a business to take part.”*, and as a result it seems *“very idealistic and not particularly realistic”*.

Overall, most respondents found the section understandable and viewed the content as generally accurate or were neutral. However, concerns were raised about complexity, local relevance and practical usability – particularly due to unclear implementation pathways, funding, and challenges with the map and document structure.

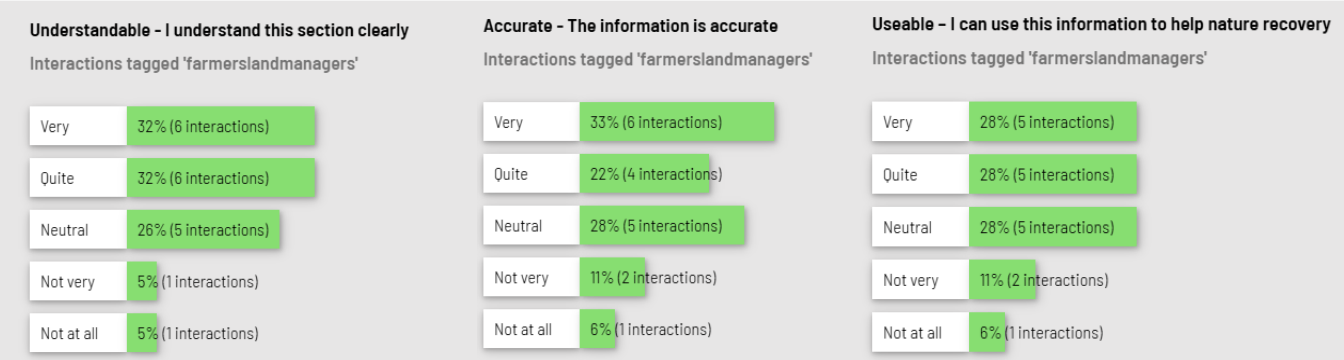
Section 2: How to use the LNRS



The majority of respondents found the information on how to use the LNRS to be **understandable**, **accurate** and **useable**. A number of respondents provided additional information as to why they did not find the information to be useable, citing the need for *“more about how to do it rather than what could be done”*, as well as it not being *“entirely clear on the linkage of how it will drive change”*. One individual expanded on this, writing that there needs to be *“More on how LNRS works in practice. Clarify that APIBs (not just ACBs) are eligible for BNG funding via LNRS to improve/extend/manage/monitor? Clarify that nature recovery activity can start now – e.g. how to bank BNG credits. Need info on priority areas where owner is already aware/willing.”*

Overall, while most respondents found the guidance on using the LNRS to be understandable, accurate, and usable, some felt it lacked practical detail on implementation and clarity on how it would drive change.

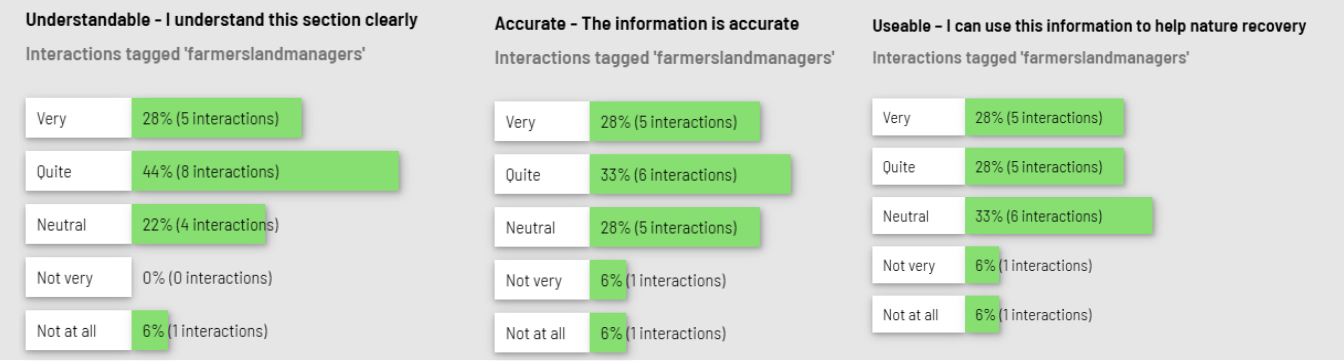
Section 3: Description of the strategy area



The majority of respondents found the description of the strategy area to be **understandable, accurate** and **useable**. However, one respondent found the contrary to be true for all instances, stating that *“drawing lines and areas on a map without visiting or consulting the landowner (who understands the land best) is never a great outcome”*. More specifically, those who thought that the information was inaccurate stated that there are issues regarding *“ownership/naming”*, as well as *“missing out key areas of opportunity to the south of Newark and conversely appearing to have mapped areas of urban expansion.”* In addition, one individual cited the work that farmers have done to create habitats *“since 1980”*, with *“species decline”* being *“frequently quoted but nothing about species that have increased such as hares”*.

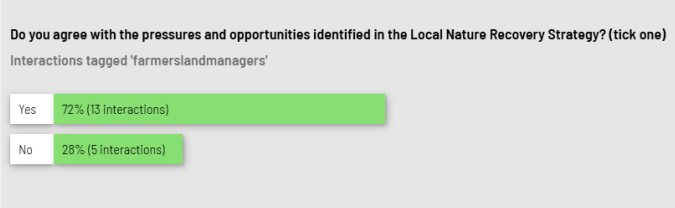
Overall, while most respondents found the description of the strategy to be understandable, accurate, and usable, a few raised concerns about mapping accuracy, lack of land manager consultation, and omissions of key local detail.

Section 4: Pressures and opportunities



When evaluating the pressures and opportunities, most respondents considered the section to be **understandable, accurate** and **usable**. However, a small minority raised concerns across these areas. Although only two respondents provided specific feedback, their comments included suggests such as *“more info on specific local pressures/opportunities is needed”* and the observation that *“agricultural use of chemicals and fertiliser has declined over the last 10 years”*.

Agreement with pressures and opportunities



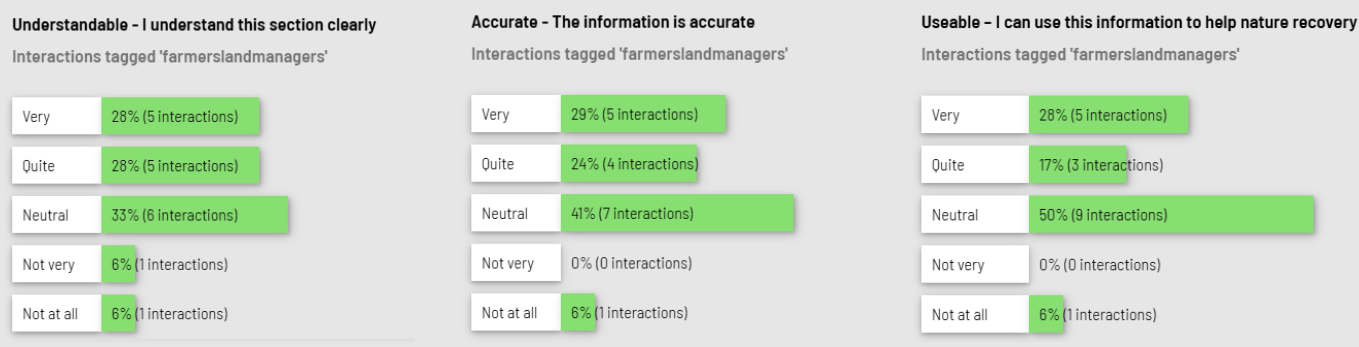
While a considerable amount (72%) of respondents agreed with the pressures and opportunities identified, a significant number (28%) disagreed. Three respondents who disagreed provided additional comments. Concerns were raised about the concept of

reintroducing species into the wild, with one stating: *“I am not convinced it is necessary to rewild or reintroduce various animals such as adders”*. There was also disagreement by the same respondent over

the introduction of renewable energy infrastructure, noting that “large areas that are shown as important, are to be covered in solar panels which seems at odds with the scheme”.

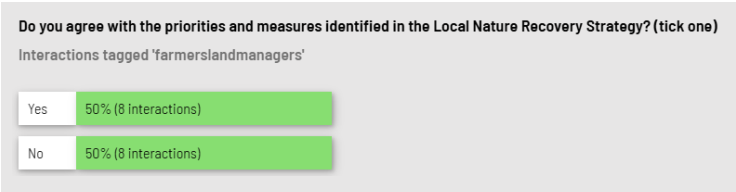
The “county wide” scope of the strategy was another point of concern, with one respondent suggesting it may be “too general”. Another respondent emphasised that “the opportunities for the landowner must involve some clear outlines”. They also highlighted the need for transparency about potential challenges: “The opportunities for the landowner must involve some very clear outlines, the also needs to be some honesty over the issues this will also present”.

Section 5: Priorities and Potential Measures



Overall, majority of respondents felt that the Priorities and Potential Measures were **understandable** and **accurate**. However, views on **usability** were more mixed, with some finding the content generally usable and others remaining neutral. Of the respondents who did not find the measures understandable, one wrote that it is “not very clear what driver will be applied.”

Agreement with the priorities and potential measures



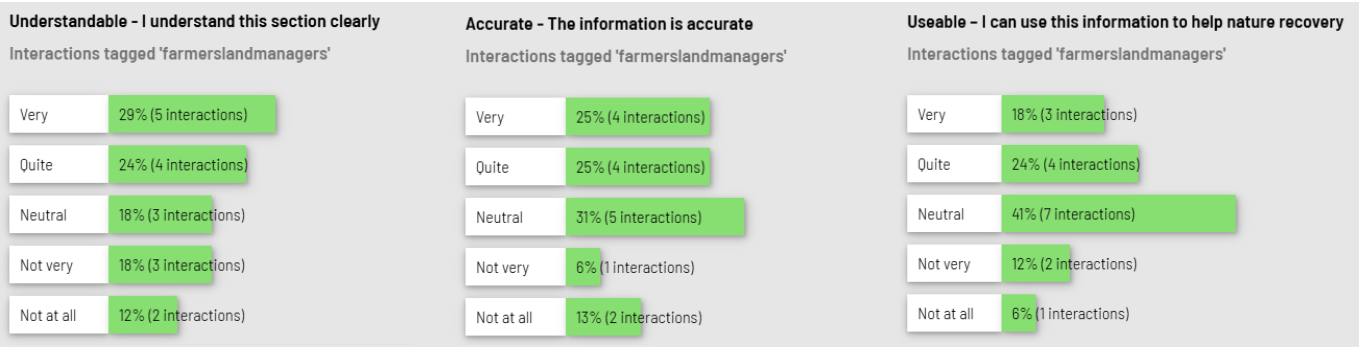
There was a split verdict regarding agreement with the Priorities and Potential Measures. Those who disagreed emphasised the need for engagement with “local landowners too, who run businesses in the area” and should have been involved “from the

beginning”. As a result of this lack of involvement, the respondents claim that “many have still never even heard of LNRS”.

One individual queried the applicability of the LNRS, posing the question: “Other than regenerative farming, how else can the environment be enhanced while still producing affordable food?”. Another respondent stated that the question itself is “too binary. I do not agree with all the priorities”.

Overall, responses were evenly split on the Priorities and Potential Measures. Those who disagreed highlighted the lack of early engagement with local land managers and raised concerns about the balance between environmental goals and food production.

Section 6 – Mapping of measures



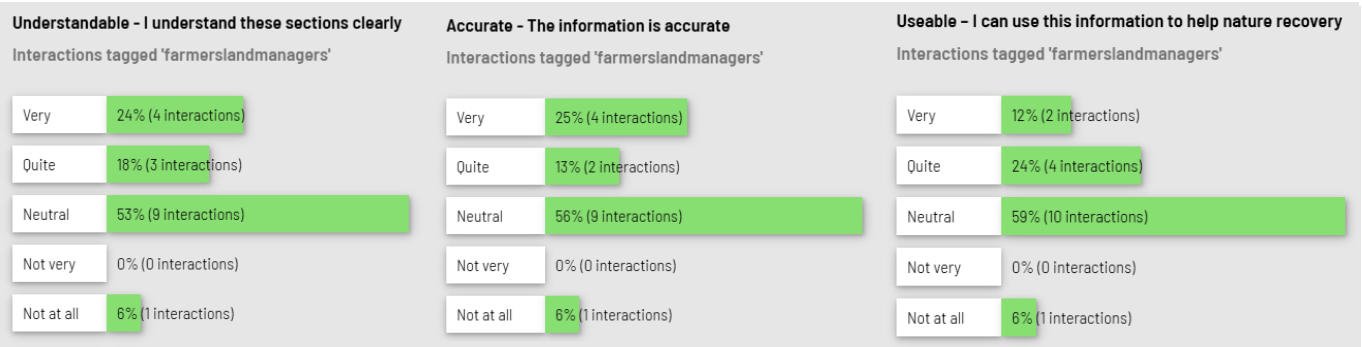
In terms of the mapping of measures, respondents expressed mixed views. Those who scored the **understandability** negatively often found the map difficult to use, with comments such as “the mapping

is not overly clear” and that it is “awful to use”. The **accuracy** was also challenged by a few participants. One respondent remarked that the “generic blanket mapping of certain measures diminished credibility” and suggested that the mapping “needs more specificity based on local knowledge which sites are better and have a willing owner”. Another respondent specifically highlighted the “inaccuracy of mapping to the south of Newark”. **Usability** concerns were also raised, with some describing the maps as “incredible complicated and difficult to navigate”. Additionally, one respondent commented on the level of detail in the report itself, indicating that its complexity could hinder its practical use: “It is so detailed that the document could sit on the shelf unused. I think it needs to prioritise the main points needing action as a focus for going forward”.

Section 7 – Glossary

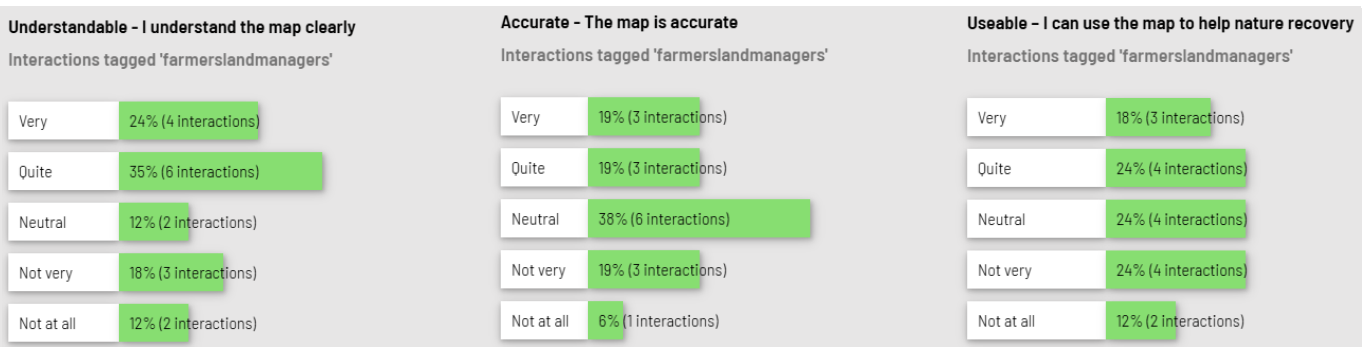
This section of the report was not tested specifically at public consultation as it is simply a glossary of terms.

Section 8 – Appendices



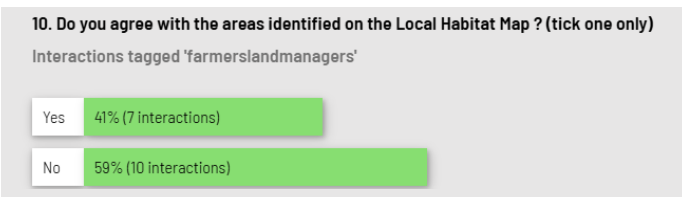
Respondents generally had neutral feelings when reviewing the appendices.

Local Habitat Map



Feedback on the local habitat map revealed a range of opinions. While the majority described this section as **understandable** (59%), **accurate** (38%) and **usable** (42%), a notable proportion expressed neutrality or disagreement. Concerns about accuracy were raised, with feedback suggesting it relied on “inaccurate information” and lacked clarity regarding “what this might mean for landowner[s]”. In terms of understandability and usability, respondents criticised the map, describing it as “not easy to read”, “difficult to use” and “very off-putting” with a call to “uncomplicate the map and the key”. The length of the overall document was also criticised, with one participant remarking that “the whole document is 86 pages long so almost deliberately designed to put off most residents”.

Agreement with the areas identified on the map































The majority of respondents disagreed with the areas identified on the local habitat map (59% disagreed, while 41% agreed). Further comments were provided solely by those who disagreed. One respondent described the identified areas as “very broad brush”, highlighting how they are currently vague. Another noted confusion, stating that the “areas included and excluded ...make no sense”.

There was also reference to an “*under representation of grasslands*”. Remaining respondents offered specific suggestions for additional areas to be included.

Additional questions

What could your role be in making the LNRS happen?

	Level of participation			
	I already do it	Would like to do it	Don't want to do it	Not applicable to me
Support or volunteer with a nature-related community group	 11	 4	 6	 4
Start a community or nature group	 6	 2	 11	 6
Make my garden more wildlife friendly	 21	 2	 0	 3
Use the LNRS in my work	 12	 6	 4	 3
Use the LNRS outside of work	 4	 10	 4	 7
Incorporate more nature on the land I manage or farm	 18	 7	 1	 1
Get involved in recording nature/species	 8	 11	 5	 3

This stakeholder group demonstrates a commitment to supporting the LNRS and many are already actively involved in nature conservation. While many respondents either already volunteer with nature-related community groups or expressed interest in doing so, willingness to take part varied.

Interest in starting a new group was more limited, with most participants indicating they were not interested or felt it was not relevant to them. These patterns were echoed in the additional comments, with one respondent expressing a desire for “*sponsorship opportunities for community groups for tree planting*”, and another noting they “*manage all the local wildlife sites on Lowfield lane and have had no support or funding to maintain this*”. This suggests that financial constraints may be a barrier to greater participation in community-led nature activities amongst this stakeholder group.

In contrast, the majority of respondents either already use the LNRS in their professional roles or expressed a desire to do so. A similar, though slightly smaller, majority reported current or intended use of the LNRS in a personal capacity. In the additional comments, one respondent, who selected that the use of LNRS was not applicable to their work, but they would like to use the outside of work said that they would like to “*inform and engage local councilors and others, actually being involved in actions on my own land, setting an example for others.*” Another respondent, who already considers the LNRS both in and outside of their work, stated that they “*would like my land taking off the plan until we have been properly consulted and surveyed so that we can move forward together.*”

The majority of respondents already incorporate nature onto the land they manage or farm, with many also wanting to do so. However, one individual who selected that they would like to incorporate more nature onto the land they manage or farm wrote that “*Nature and its 'theoretical' recovery needs to clear in terms of what we are trying to recover it to? Pre-Ice age, Post-ice age, 100 years ago? A starting point would be helpful, and then considering we are a business there needs to be some very very clear short, medium and long term benefit to the business, not just to nature.*”, going on to make the statement: “*A farm can't be green if its finances are in the red.*” This reinforces the view that financial barriers limit participation in nature-related initiatives among this stakeholder group and underscores the need for clearer guidance on the intended outcomes of the LNRS for nature recovery. A similar trend was recorded for those who would like to get involved in nature recording, with the majority either already involved or wanting to be involved.

Overall, many within this stakeholder group are aligned with the aims of the LNRS and many are already engaged in nature conservation. However, the additional feedback highlights the need for increased collaboration with farmers and land managers, particularly those who are primarily managing land for farming and food production, as well as clearer guidance on the strategy's nature-recovery goals and practical application. Financial barriers are a key constraint, pointing to the need for targeted support to enable wider participation.

NB: *Despite extensive efforts to engage the farming community through a variety of in-person and online opportunities, we recognise that the number who engaged in this process was small in*

comparison to the overall number of farmers throughout Nottinghamshire. Therefore the results presented here may not be representative of farmers as a whole. Also, a small number of very engaged farmers came to several of the events, and since the various ways of interacting were generally anonymous, we cannot say for certain whether some views have been expressed in these results more than once. Therefore, ongoing efforts to engage with the farming community are even more important after publication of the LNRS, as it moves into implementation.

Is there anything else that you would like to tell us about the LNRS?

When asked if they had any additional comments about the LNRS, 11 respondents provided broader observations.

Three of the responses focused on the financial constraints surrounding nature conservation. One responded stated that they are *“looking at how we can remove the ‘designations’ since we already do this work and we do not wish to be forced into a position where cannot afford to”*, while another cited the *“successful SFI scheme that took 8 years to produce and implement at great expense, was scrapped after 2 years... his was probably the best vehicle ever created in the UK to promote improved wildlife and environmental improvements whilst also helping farmers remain solvent, it was a bargain to the taxpayer.”* These comments reflect fears that funding may not be adequate to facilitate nature recovery on farms under the LNRS. Another respondent reinforced these concerns, writing *“it will only be properly delivered if considered if considerable funds are made available to do so”*.

The remaining comments largely centred around the complexity of the LNRS, poor communication with land managers, and the lack of local knowledge being employed. One respondent stated that they *“would delay its finalisation to make sure every single landowner is individually contacted”*, while another wrote *“listen to and acknowledge the views of the local community in designating these areas.”* One person wrote that the LNRS was *“too generic in places”*, going on to say that *“the draft needs more.. local specific info... info on landowner willingness...”*. A dairy farmer emphasised that his *“business will not be able to undertake two sets of requirements (unless they can be double counted!”*, with another individual explaining that the LNRS is *“too difficult for most folk who would be interested. Particularly the map.”*

Overall, the additional comments highlighted concerns about funding, complexity, and limited engagement with local people. Respondents stressed the need for clearer communication with land managers, better use of local knowledge, and adequate resources to support effective implementation of the LNRS.

Overall summary of survey responses from farmers and land managers

NB: *It is important to remember that this stakeholder group includes a variety of land managers: around two thirds primarily managing their land for agriculture, and a third managing land for other reasons including nature, with of course an overlap – many farmers will at least partly manage land for nature, and other land managers may manage part of their land for farming. Thus, there will be a variety attitudes towards the draft LNRS depending on how and why they currently manage their land.*

The majority of participants in this stakeholder group have a good understanding of the purpose of the draft LNRS. However, sentiment towards it was broadly negative, with many expressing concerns about feasibility due to limited funding, resources and local knowledge. Despite this, respondents acknowledged the draft strategy's potential and positive intent, and many are already engaged in nature-related activities. A recurring theme throughout this section was the desire for farmers to be presented more clearly with the opportunities the LNRS could bring.

In terms of the document as a whole, most found the draft strategy easy to read, clearly laid out and visually appealing. The draft Statement of Biodiversity Priorities and the Local Habitat Map were generally seen as understandable, accurate and usable, though reservations emerged around clarity and credibility. The map, in particular, was criticised as overly complex, difficult to interpret and off-putting. Concerns about accuracy were also raised, with respondents citing mapping errors, a lack of local knowledge and a *“blanket”* approach that reduced confidence in the outputs. While usability was

rated more positive than by nature conservation stakeholders, issues remained. Respondents also called for clearer guidance on how to take action, not just what to do. Some felt the document's level of detail risked limiting its practicality, with one remarking it *"could sit on the shelf unused"*.

Regarding the agreement with the pressures and opportunities in the draft LNRS, 72% of respondents expressed agreement, while 28% disagreed - mainly due to concerns about species reintroduction, renewable energy integration and the *"county wide"* approach being too general. Responses to priorities and potential measures were evenly split between those that agree and disagree (50:50), with criticisms around a lack of local land manager input and the binary nature of the question. Agreement with the local habitat map was lower, with 41% in agreement and 59% disagreeing, largely because areas were viewed as vague or inaccurately included/excluded.

Despite most respondents being cautious about the draft LNRS, many showed commitment to supporting it and are already involved in nature conservation, albeit willingness varied. Common activities included improving wildlife in gardens and incorporating nature into managed land. There was some interest in recording species and consideration of the LNRS outside of work, though enthusiasm was mixed, and there was little appetite for starting new community or nature groups. However, it must be noted that this is a time consuming and resource heavy commitment, which many, not just farmers, may not be able to commit to. Financial constraints, limited local knowledge, poor communication and the complexity of the draft strategy, particularly the map - were, again, cited as barriers to engagement.

It should also be remembered that the numbers that engaged in the survey is very small compared to the number of farmers and other land managers throughout Nottinghamshire, therefore, despite efforts to engage more widely, there is no way of knowing how representative these responses are of the wider farming community.

Concerns have been recognised, and these have been addressed in the Implications and Solutions section (Section 5) of the report.

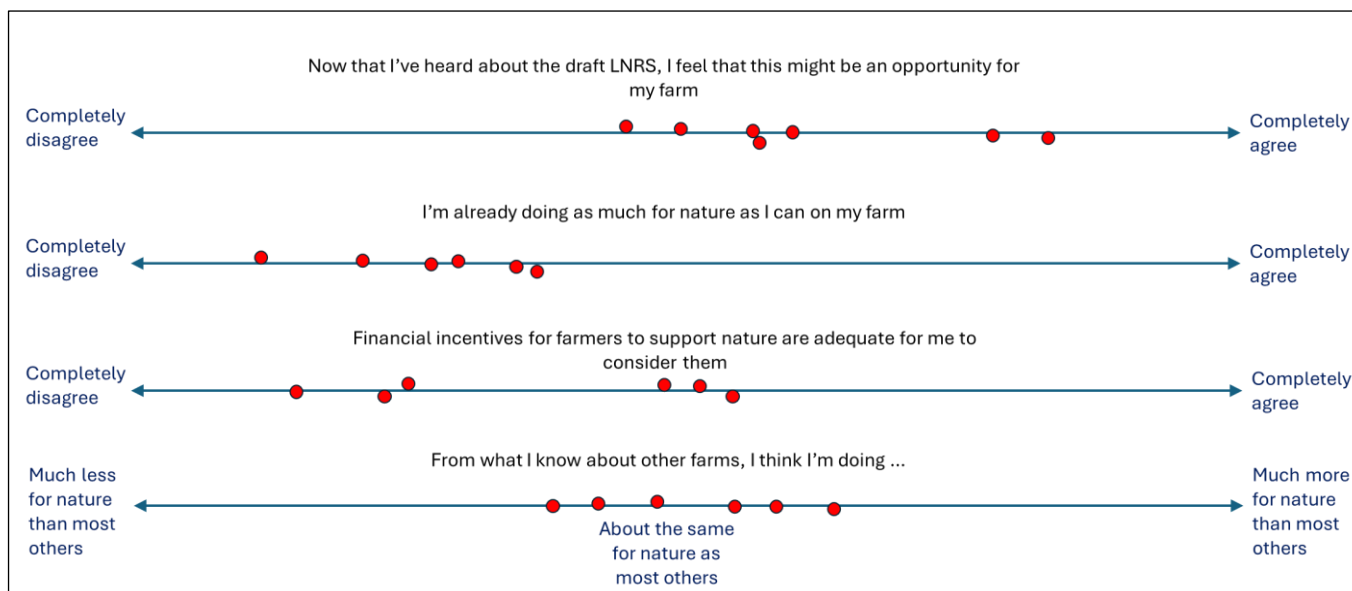
Farmer/land manager events

Similarly to the survey responses above, the number of farmers engaged in the organised events was small compared to the whole county's farming community. Also, some people attended several of the events and also answered the survey questions. Since data was collected anonymously, it cannot be ascertained how many people have contributed multiple times. Therefore, these results and the discussion should be taken as indicating a broad direction of views but not taken as specific numbers.

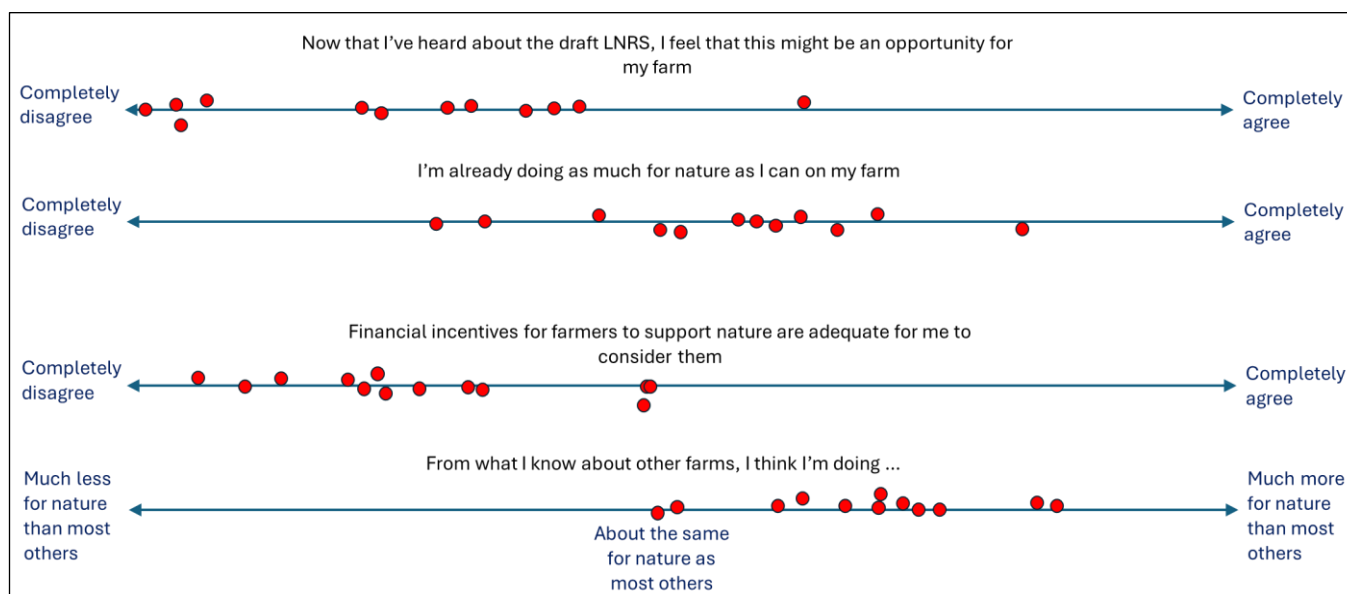
The difference from the survey, however, is that in the survey there was a mix of land managers with potentially differing priorities - about two thirds managing for farming, but some also managing land for wildlife. At the following events, they were predominantly attended by farmers managing their land for food production. The data collected at each event are presented below, followed by a discussion of the overall results. Events are outlined below:

Farmer/land manager events	Location	Date	Number attended
Eakring	Eakring	22.05.25	15
Newark Showground	Newark	15.05.25	18
Nottinghamshire County Show	Newark	10.05.25	16
Evening farming webinar	Microsoft Teams	05.06.25	12
Online webinar for health sector	Microsoft Teams	09.06.25	3

Eakring



Newark Showground



Opportunities and barriers:

Opportunities	"Guaranteed funds"
	"Funding is required that will cover the whole project for several years to cover the maintenance e.g. tree planting, keeping weeds sprayed and vermin control, this is ongoing and costly to the farmer"
Barriers	"Uncertain time"
	"Lack of clarity"
	"The lack of potential flexibility for other 'opportunities'"
	"No dedicated funding"
	"A distinct lack of trust in DEFRA"
	"Lack of trust in government (especially DEFRA)"
	"Uncertainty"

Funding schemes assessment:

Of current or past schemes, which work(ed) well, and why?	"BPS long term - knew where we were" "Direct payments - ability to ride out economic volatility in agricultural markets and allowed individual businesses to create natural habitat suitable on their farms"
Of current or past schemes, which don't (didn't) work well, and why?	"Prescriptive" "Too low a budget from DEFRA (hence initially low take up for SFI/mid-tier)" "Lack of flexibility"

Future use of the LNRS:

Do you think you'll use the LNRS when it's published?	
No	5 (1 respondent said "we will have a choice")
Yes	0
Even if you don't use the strategy, what might you do/might you do to support nature either with or without financial/advice support?	
Things I already do to help nature:	"SFI x2" "Woodland creation grants"
Things I'd like to do to help nature:	"More flexible schemes like SFI"

Sentiment towards the draft LNRS:

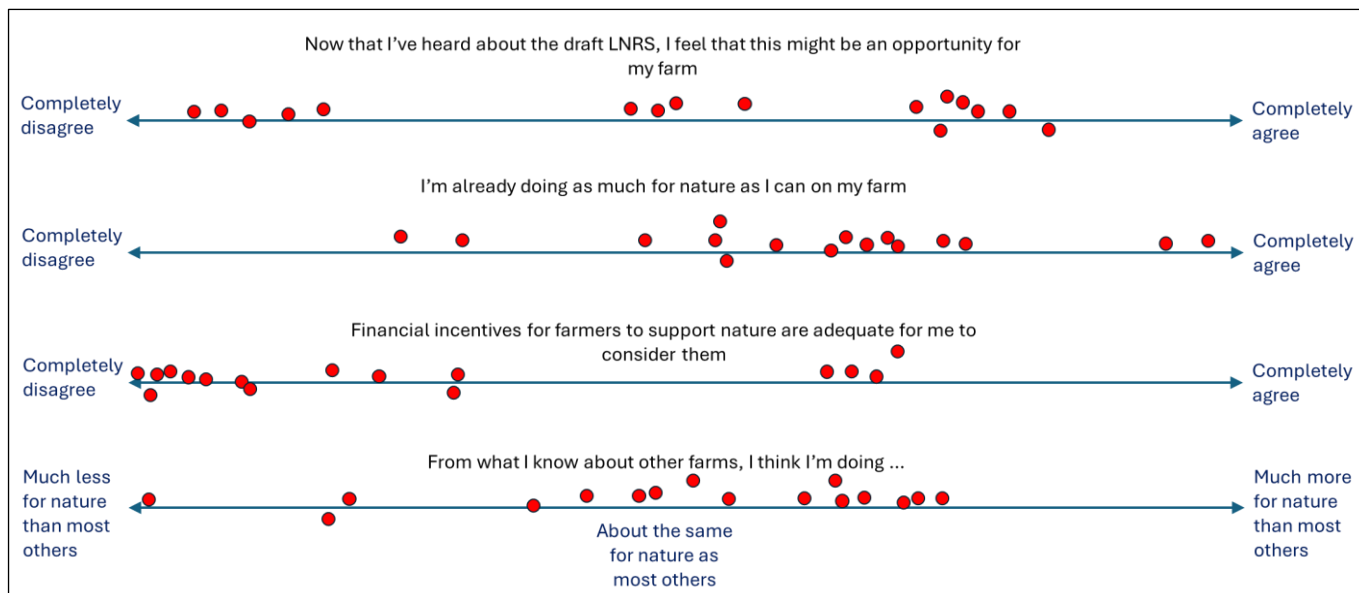
Now that I have heard about the LNRS, I feel:	
Excited	0
Motivated	0
Neutral	0
Worried	3
Sceptical	9

Extra information required from Nottinghamshire County Council/DEFRA:

What specific information would you require from us/DEFRA to help you feel (more) interested/motivated?

- "More detail on what opportunity looks like for individual small/medium farms"
- "A reflection on how this mapping could affect other opportunities/flexibility for our farming business"
- "A definition regarding the 'opportunity', seeing as this is the selling phrase of the strategy"
- "A clause to say it is not compulsory"
- "Woodland is forever on arable land"

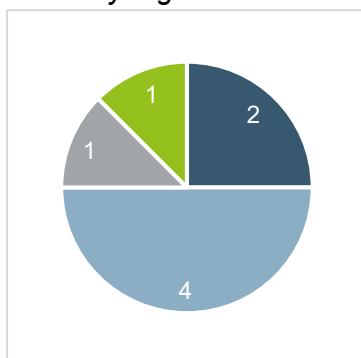
Nottinghamshire County Show



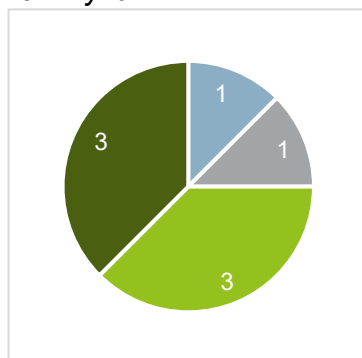
Evening farmer webinar

Have you heard about the LNRS before the invitation to this webinar?	
Yes	6 (either through "NFU" (4), "Farmer Cluster Group" (3), "CLA" (1), "DEFRA" (1), "Word of mouth" (1) or "Other" (1))
No	0

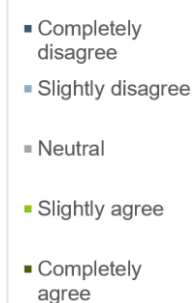
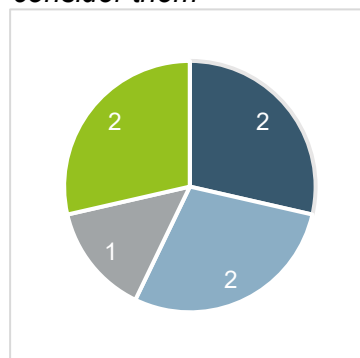
I feel that LNRS might be an opportunity for me and my organisation



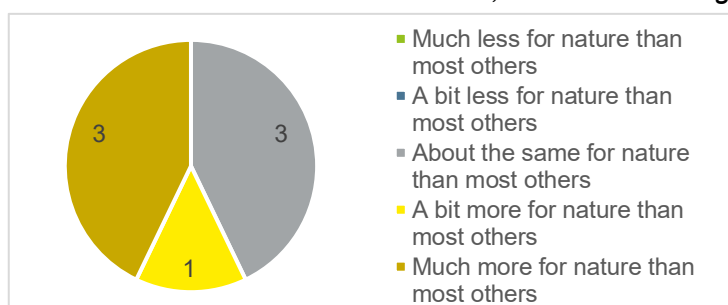
I am already doing as much as I can for nature on my farm



Financial incentives for farmers to support nature are adequate for me to consider them



From what I know about other farms, I think I am doing



Existing nature action:

Things I already do for nature	Votes
Thick/dense hedgerows	3
Plant trees, plant wildflowers	2
Pollen and nectar connectivity	1
Without SFI	1
Improving rotation	1
Bird habitats	1
Reducing inputs	1
Maintain sustainable business	1
Using break crops	1
More than enough	1
Bird food	1
Nurturing soil	1

How was that funded?

Funding source	Votes
No funding support/use own funds	3
Sustainable farming initiative	3
Countryside stewardship	2
Ant specific woodland creation grant	2
Other	4

Future nature action:

Things I would like to do for nature	Votes
Regenerative farming	3
Plant more trees	1
Shelter belts	1
More bird enhancements	1
Flood poor drained land	1
Farm sustainably (for nature)	1
Public linear access	1
Create wetland	1
Restore soil OM	1

Questions raised in farmer workshop:

Throughout the evening webinar, key themes covered included: funding/incentives, purpose and long-term enforcement of the LNRS, inclusion/removal of land in the LNRS and mapping comments, farmer engagement, planning concerns/compulsory purchase, what works well, other concerns and next steps.

Overall summary of farmer events attended

Across the various farmer events, opinions and sentiments towards the draft LNRS were mixed. At the Eakring event, many farmers viewed the LNRS as a potential opportunity for their farms, while this outlook was far less common at the Newark Showground and the evening webinar. Feedback at the Nottinghamshire Show was particularly varied, with some farmers in favour of the draft LNRS and some expressing strong opposition.

Most farmers across all events felt they were already doing as much as they could to support nature on their farms – though the exception was at Eakring, where most majority disagreed. A clear consensus across all events was that current financial incentives for nature-friendly farming are inadequate. When comparing themselves with peers, farmers' views were mixed, but a common theme emerged: most felt they were doing "about the same for nature as most others".

At Newark Showground, farmers identified several barriers to engaging with the draft LNRS, including lack of time, funding, clarity, trust in DEFRA and general uncertainty. Many felt these echoed the failings of past schemes. Farmers at this event were overwhelmingly sceptical or worried about the draft and stated they would not use the final version once published. They emphasised a need for clearer opportunities from both Nottinghamshire County Council and DEFRA.

Although there was generally negative feedback from the farmers' events when considering the draft LNRS, the evening webinar revealed further detail about current and planned nature-friendly activities. Farmers reported already planting hedgerows, establishing trees and improving crop rotations, often funded through a mix of personal investment or through a mix government agri-environment schemes. They also expressed interest in future actions such as regenerative farming, enhancing soil organic matter and creating wetlands.

Overall, farmers hold mixed views on the draft LNRS. While some see opportunities, many are sceptical, citing inadequate incentives, lack of clarity and distrust in DEFRA. Farmers feel they already contribute significantly to nature, though funding and support remain key barriers.

Concerns have been recognised, and these have been addressed in the Implications and Solutions section (Section 5) of the report.

Health sector

Sentiment towards the LNRS:

I feel the LNRS might be an opportunity for the NHS	Votes
Neutral	1
Completely agree	1
Slightly agree	1

Nature action:

I am already doing as much as I can for nature in my NHS role	Votes
Neutral	1
Slightly agree	2

Even if you don't use the strategy, what might do/might you do to support nature, either with or without financial/advice support?

Things I already do for nature in my work role	Things I would like to do for nature in my work role
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support tree planting • Bioblitz • Tree Planting • Staff flower and veg plot • Encourage Greenspace Usage • Tree planting • Summer Grass Growing Long • Try to encourage positive comms re nature and health • Wildflowers • No Mow Zones • Communicate • Veg Garden 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More patient engagement • Increase Biodiversity • More linking health and biodiversity • More staff engagement • Support Habitats • Have more links to green prescribing • More management for nature • Identify more people to lead on this clinically

How was that funded?
External grant programme - general
External grant programme - woodland specific
Specific NHS programme x2

Another group of land managers which were spoken to were healthcare trusts. Three respondents from the health sector contributed to our public consultation activities by attending an online meeting. The trusts own land at some of their sites, so there is an opportunity to manage this for nature which may also benefit staff or patients at those sites. Awareness of the LNRS was evenly divided, with half of the participants familiar with the other half encountering it for the first time. Overall sentiment towards the draft LNRS was favourable: two respondents described themselves as 'motivated', while another expressed feeling both 'motivated' and 'worried'. Notably, none of the participants viewed the LNRS as a missed opportunity; all either agreed or remained neutral when asked about integrating nature positive actions into their work life, such as tree planting or allowing grass to grow long during summer. This stakeholder group expressed a clear aspiration to expand their contribution to nature recovery, highlighting ambitions to enhance biodiversity and strengthen habitat support within their work roles.

Concerns have been recognised, and these have been addressed in the Implications and Solutions section (Section 5) of the report.

4.4 Planners and developers

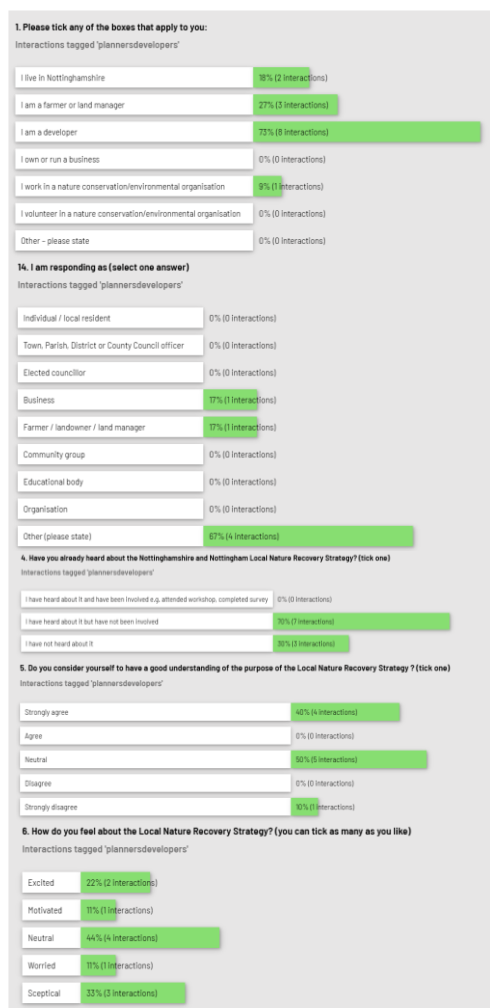
4.4.1 Consultation opportunities

Planners and developers had the opportunity to participate in the consultation process through the survey. They also used email correspondence to provide feedback.

4.4.2 Level of participation

In total, 11 participants took part in the consultation engagement.

4.4.3 Analysis of responses



This stakeholder group expressed a varied outlook towards the draft LNRS. The majority of respondents selected 'neutral' (44%). While the graph gives a good indication of overall attitudes, respondents were allowed to pick more than one answer, therefore respondents were broken down into four categories based on their overall attitudes towards the draft strategy, as shown in the table on the right.

Positive

When asked how they feel about the draft strategy, 33.3% of respondents selected 'excited', 'motivated' or both. Those who selected excited touched on the efforts of uniting residents and businesses and how it is a comprehensive document. However, there are calls for better understanding of how the strategy can be implemented.

"It is exciting to see a plan which brings together the residents and businesses within Nottingham in an effort to undertake large scale habitat restoration or preservation. This approach reflects Lawton's report for bigger, better and more connected habitats."

"It is exciting to see a comprehensive LNRS. The habitat map and the statement on biodiversity priorities are important things to have. I would like to see more on how the strategy can be implemented and actioned. What are the next steps?"

"XXX (Landowner/Developer) is supportive of the objective of enhancing biodiversity, however, we have some initial comments on the approach adopted to identify areas for nature restoration."

Stakeholder Group Context and General Consensus

A small number of respondents live in Nottinghamshire (18%), this is expected considering that the majority of this group (73%) said that they were acting on behalf of a developer. 27% identified as a farmer or land manager, which likely means land manager in this instance, and 9% identified as someone who works in conservation or for an environmental organisation.

One respondent selected they are responding as a business and another selected they are responding as a farmer, while the remainder selected 'Other', of which all identified as a planning agents, one was a planning agent representing themselves, and three were agents acting on behalf of either a developer or land promoter.

Females made up 50% of the group, with the remainder being either male (33%) or non-binary (17%). All respondents identified as 'White - English/Welsh/Scottish/Northern Irish/British/Irish'.

Thus far, no members of this stakeholder group have been involved in the draft LNRS, however, 70% of respondents have heard of it, while the remaining 30% have not. While there are varied levels of understanding about the LNRS in this stakeholder group, a significant amount had a strong understanding (40%).

Overall sentiment towards the Draft LNRS

Category	Percentage of respondents (%)
Positive (only excited, motivated or both)	33.3
Negative (sceptical, worried or both)	33.3
Positive and negative (i.e. a combination of at least one positive and one negative word)	0
Neutral (only neutral)	33.3
No answer	n/a

Negative

Negative sentiments were also expressed to the same extent as positive, with 33.3% selecting either ‘sceptical’, ‘worried’ or both. Such responses refer to specific areas within the county and will be reviewed and addressed by the council separately.

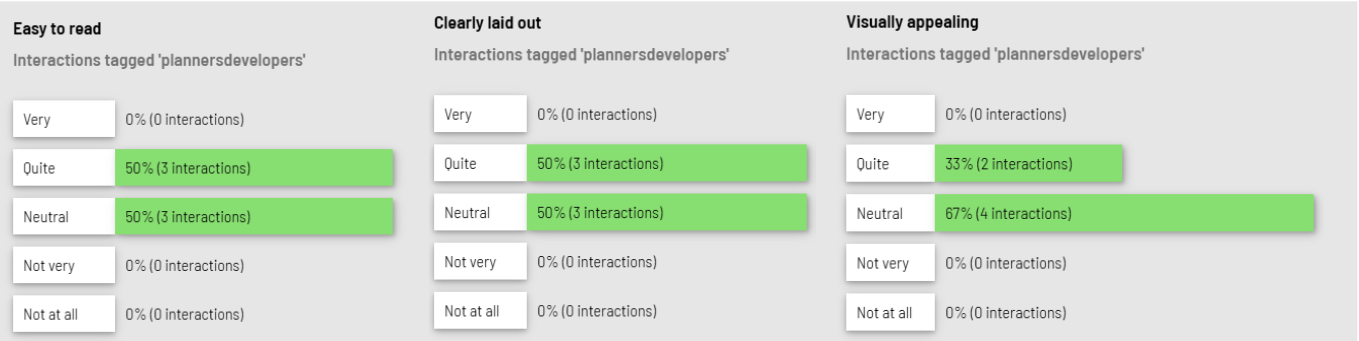
“XXX (Landowner) are actively promoting the land west of Cotgrave (the site), totalling 14.84 hectares across two areas of land either side of XXX Road adjacent to the settlement. XXX (Developer) raises concerns as outlined in the accompanying letter and response sent via email.”

“Blidworth Lane (Map ID: F5) is marked as an ACB area. Designated by Mapped Measure A/M2 and G/M4. Although the LNRS will not prevent / limit development taking place, given the current wind turbines on the site we consider the drawing of the ACB area needs to be reconsidered to reflect this use.”

Neutral

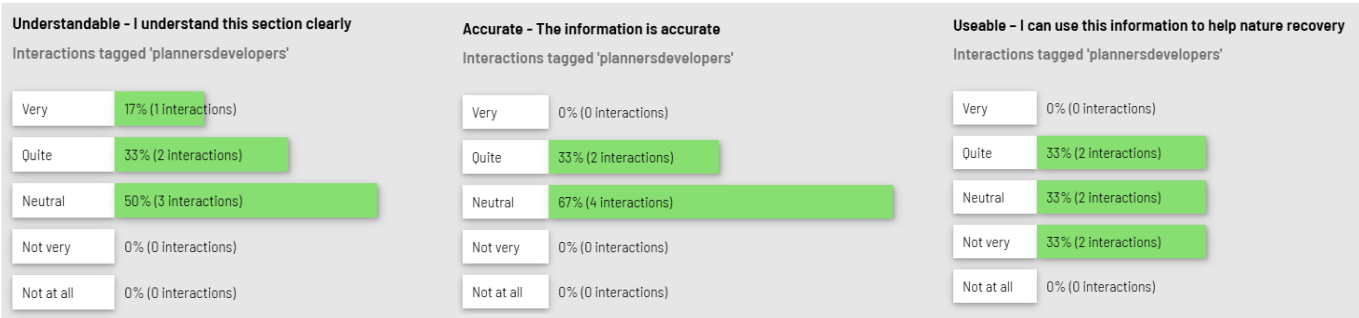
33.3% of respondents reported feeling ‘neutral’ towards the draft strategy.

Statement of Biodiversity Priorities (as a whole)



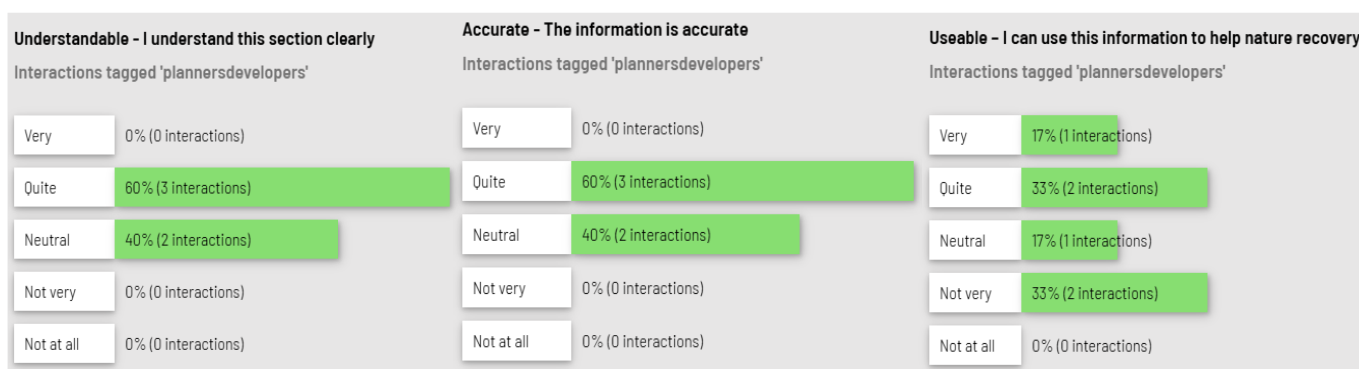
All of the respondents found the Statement of Biodiversity Priorities to be either quite **easy to read**, quite **clearly laid out**, and quite **visually appealing**, or were neutral on each aspect.

Section 1 – Introduction



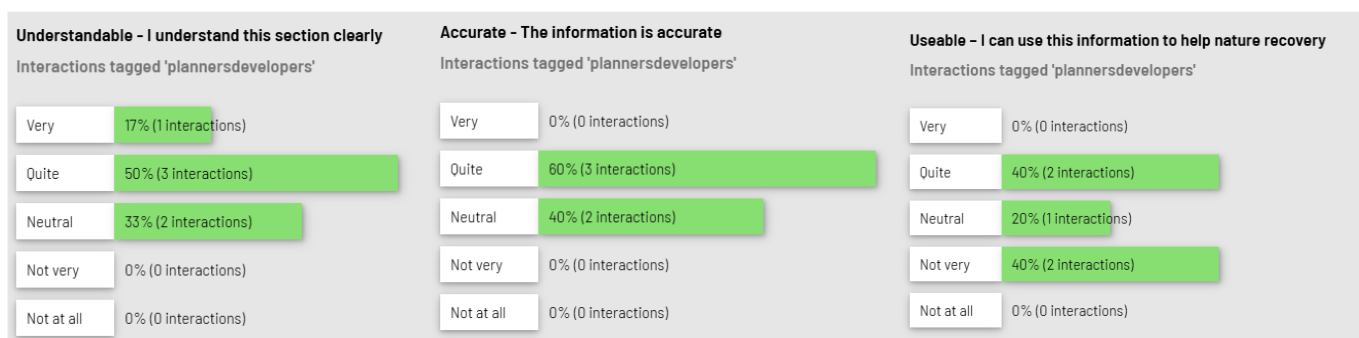
Respondents found the introduction to be either broadly **understandable** or selected a neutral view, with perceptions of **accuracy** following a similar trend. However, **usability** received a mixed response, with equal numbers of respondents finding the introduction quite usable, not very usable, or holding a neutral stance. One individual provided an additional comment, stating that “the map and documentation is certainly important”. However, they went on to express that they were “slightly concerned about how decision useful they are for non-experts. GIS expertise is required to use the map, and using the documentation requires some level of expertise and how it intersects with the reader’s discipline”.

Section 2 – How to use the LNRS



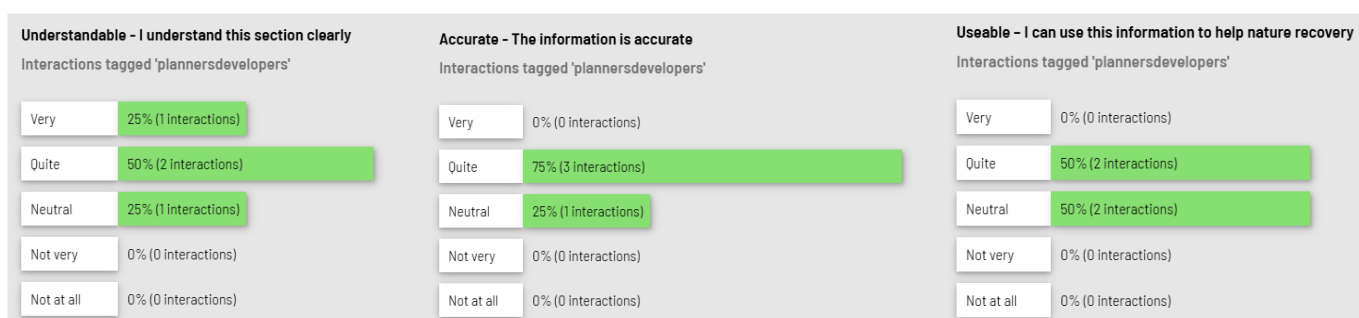
The section 'How to use the LNRS' was viewed as generally **understandable** or met with neutrality, with assessments of **accuracy** showing a comparable response. However, usability received a diversity of reactions, with opinions divided between the section being broadly **usable**, viewed neutrally, or considered to be not very usable. One respondent provided an additional comment, expressing a mixed view that the *"strategy is informative about the state of nature and priority areas, but it might be hard for a non-expert to use it to make good decisions."*

Section 3 – Description of the strategy area



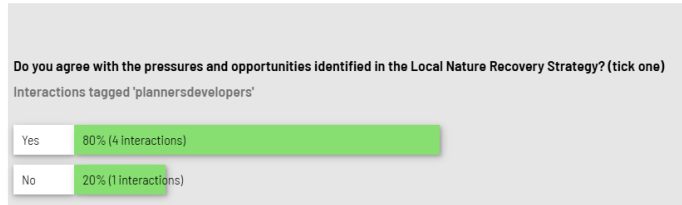
Respondents regarded the description of the strategy area as either broadly **understandable** or neutral, with views on **accuracy** reflecting a similar pattern. However, opinions on usability were more varied, with a split between those who found the description quite **usable**, those who did not, and those who remained neutral. One respondent provided an additional comment, writing that *"the strategy is informative about the state of nature and priority areas, but it might be hard for a non-expert to use it to make good decisions."*

Section 4 – Pressures and opportunities



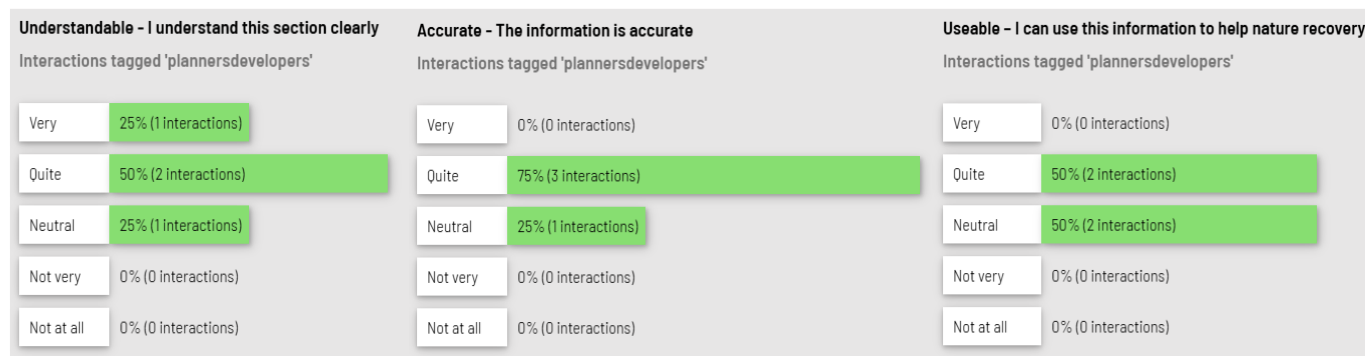
When evaluating the pressures and opportunities, most respondents considered the section to be **understandable** and **accurate**, whereas **usability** saw a split opinion between quite useable and neutral. One additional comment left by a respondent described the section as being *"a bit more useful for understanding what drives nature loss but could still be hard to make decisions and actions from."*

Agreement on pressures and opportunities



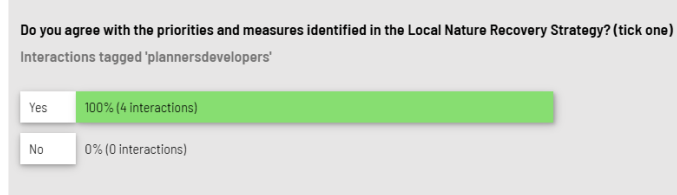
The majority of respondents (80%) agreed with the pressures and opportunities identified in the LNRS.

Section 5 – Priorities and Potential Measures



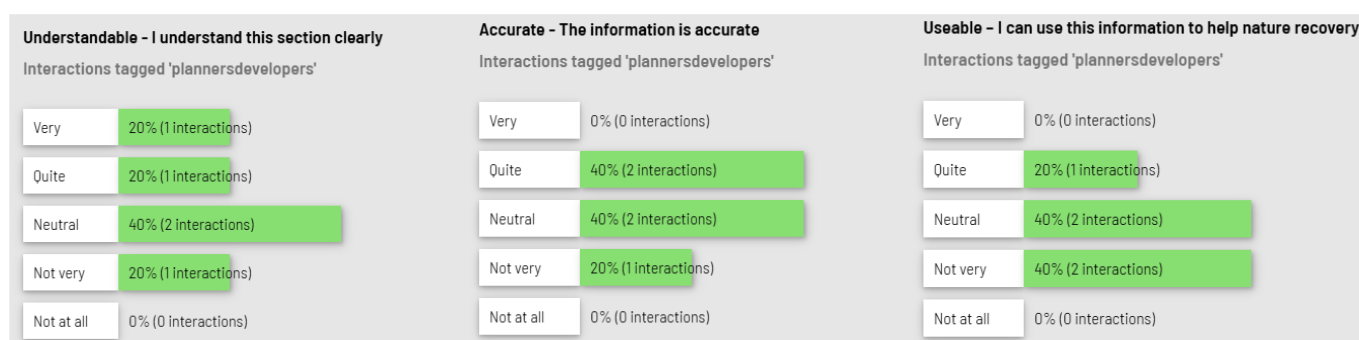
The majority of respondents felt that the Priorities and Potential Measures were **understandable** and **accurate**. However, views on **usability** were split between quite useable and a neutral stance. One additional comment left by a respondent stated that *"using this requires some expertise on how nature interacts with the user's area of interest or business activities. More work would be required by the user to understand and make good decisions, it could be more easily translatable to actions"*.

Agreement with the priorities and potential measures



There was a clear consensus on the priorities and measures outlined in the LNRS, with 100% of respondents who answered the question indicating their agreement.

Section 6 – Mapping of measures

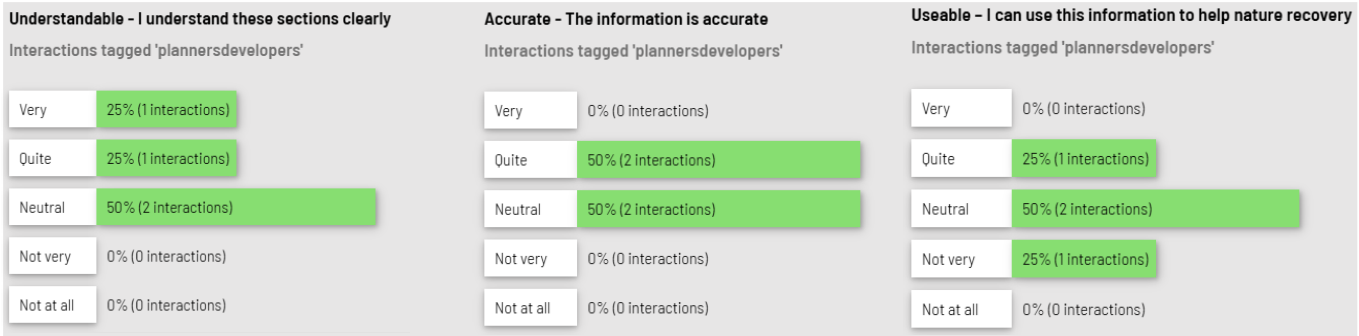


The mapping of measures evoked a mixed response, with respondents providing varied ratings for its **understandability**, **accuracy**, and **usability**. Within the additional comments, one respondent cited the need for *"expertise"* to be able to *"make decisions on the content of the report"*, going on to write that *"it may be hard for some users to understand how to best make decisions with the information provided"*. Another respondent questioned the accuracy, stating that they whilst they are *"supportive of the objectives behind the LNRS and the potential measures, we consider the exact polygon shape illustrated on our Client's Site to be overly prescriptive."*

Section 7 – Glossary

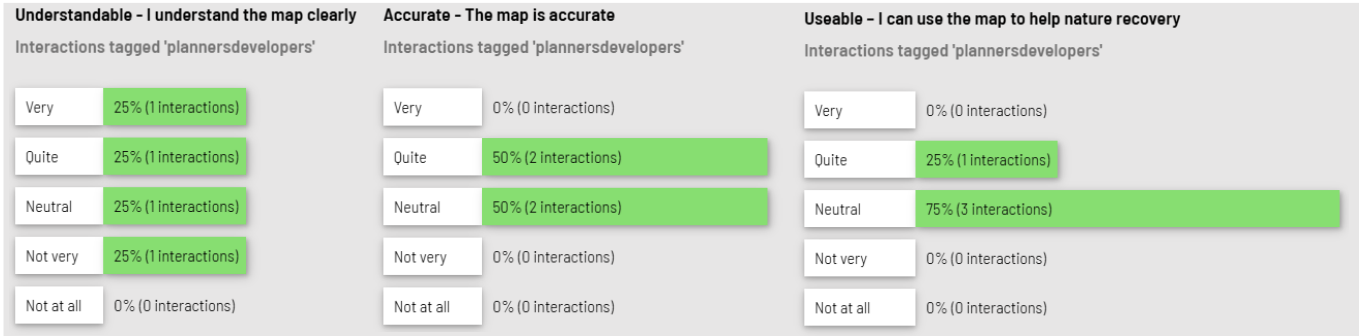
This section of the report was not tested specifically at public consultation as it is simply a glossary of terms.

Section 8 – Appendices



Respondents generally found the appendices to be **understandable** or held a neutral view, with assessments of **accuracy** reflecting a similar pattern. However, feedback on the **usability** of the appendices was varied. One additional comment reported that the appendices contained “*general background information that is informative and provides credibility to the main report but is perhaps not very decision useful.*”

Local Habitat Map



When evaluating the local habitat map, feedback on **understandability** was mixed. One additional comment questioned the understandability of the map, writing that the “*proposed polygon on our site would significantly limit the developable area... the basis for this polygon shape remains unclear, and we question the methodology behind this*”. Responses regarding the map’s **accuracy** and **usability** were split, with participants viewing it as quite accurate and usable, or adopting a neutral stance, with an additional commenter writing that “*the map is clear for an expert user like me*”, though “*without domain expertise it may be hard for users to apply the information provided to make good decisions.*”

Agreement with the areas identified on the local habitat map



Agreement with the areas identified on the map was split between ‘Yes’ and ‘No’. Some of the respondents who selected ‘No’ left additional comments, with one raising concerns “*with the mapping methodology, specifically the Woodland Mapped Features contained within the LNRS.*”

Another respondent claimed that “*the exact polygon shape would not need to be followed exactly in order to achieve the identified objectives. High quality landscaping and design at the application stage can play a key role in fulfilling similar objectives*”.

Additional questions

What could your role be in making the LNRS happen?

	Level of participation			
	I already do it	Would like to do it	Don't want to do it	Not applicable to me
Support or volunteer with a nature-related community group	0	1	0	4
Start a community or nature group	0	1	0	4
Make my garden more wildlife friendly	1	0	0	4
Use the LNRS in my work	2	1	0	2
Use the LNRS outside of work	0	1	0	4
Incorporate more nature on the land I manage or farm	1	0	0	4
Get involved in recording nature/species	2	1	0	3

Across the planners and developers that were engaged in the survey, personal engagement with nature is generally low, with only a small number taking part in nature-related activities. The most common activities were using the LNRS in their professional roles and recording nature or species. Some respondents also reporting making their gardens more wildlife-friendly or incorporating nature into the land they manage. In the additional comments, one participant highlighted the *“pressure on central government to fund nature correctly”*, calling for the return of *“SFI or some incentives for private landowners to manage their land for nature”* along with *“increase[d] inspections to ensure it is done accurately”*. However, despite these suggestions, the majority of activities were marked as not applicable by this group, and while there was some interest in volunteering, starting a nature group or using the LNRS outside of work, this was very minimal.

Overall, this stakeholder group demonstrates a relatively low personal connection to nature.

Is there anything else you would like to tell us about the LNRS?

Within the additional comments, respondents were supportive of the draft LNRS and recognised its potential to deliver real benefits, but several emphasised the importance of making it clearer, more practical and easier to apply across different stakeholder groups. This group also expressed a strong desire to be more closely involved in the process, with one stating that *“XXX (developer) would welcome the opportunity to engage further with the development of the LNRS...to ensure the strategy is informed by practical development considerations.”*

While the LNRS and its mapping were generally seen as a good starting point – described by one respondent as *“a great standalone doc and map”* – concerns were raised about its accessibility, particularly for stakeholders with competing priorities: *“Nature is important, but for stakeholders who have lots of different and competing priorities it is always had to see how nature can fit in, and even help improve/deliver on other priorities.”*

Others highlighted the need for flexibility and clarity in the evidence base, noting that *“clarification of the mapping methodology is necessary”* and cautioning that *“the proposed polygon is overly prescriptive.”* One suggestion was to relocate habitat measures to areas better aligned with development viability, *“thereby allowing green infrastructure and biodiversity net gain while retaining flexibility in site design and minimizing planning conflicts.”* At the same time, there was recognition of the broader opportunity the LNRS provides to optimise land use at scale, with one respondent remarking that *“there's a real opportunity here for us to optimize land use on large scales and make sure all our needs are met but we're still not quite there.”*

Overall summary of survey responses from planners and developers

This stakeholder group expressed a varied outlook towards the draft LNRS with responses split between feeling positive sentiments as well as negative and neutral towards the draft strategy. While no respondents have been directly involved in the draft LNRS, the majority have heard of the LNRS.

When considering the draft document in its entirety, it was relatively well received by this group of stakeholders and there was broad agreement. For aspects such as the ease of the read and how clearly laid out it was, results were split between ‘quite’ and ‘neutral’ whereas for the visual appeal, the majority of respondents were neutral (67%) while the remainder felt it was ‘quite’ visually appealing.

More specifically, the draft Statement of Biodiversity Priorities and the Local Habitat Map were generally regarded as understandable and accurate, with only two notable exceptions: one respondent suggested that some users may struggle to understand how to apply the information to decision-making, and another raising concerns about the methodology and accuracy of the polygon mapping on specific sites. Opinions on usability were more varied, and overall, usability was rated less positively than understandability and accuracy. This pattern was consistent across most sections, apart from Sections 4 and 5 and the Local Habitat Map. Respondents noted that non-experts may find the content difficult to use due to the need for “*GIS expertise*”, and one respondent called for the information to be “*more easily translatable to actions.*” Despite these criticisms, there was recognition that the “*strategy is informative about the state of nature and priority areas*”

There was widespread agreement with the pressures and opportunities identified in the LNRS, as well as for the priorities and potential measures, with agreement levels of 80% and 100%, respectively. However, views were evenly divided on the areas shown in the local habitat map. Respondents who disagreed left further comments, raising concerns about the rigidity of the mapping methodology and noted that the same outcomes could be achieved without following the exact polygon boundaries.

This stakeholder group demonstrated limited commitment to nature-related activities and showed little interest in supporting the LNRS in their role. Most of the suggested activities were considered not applicable to them, although there was some engagement in using the LNRS in their work and in recording nature/species. Unlike conservation groups and farmers, they expressed less willingness to become actively involved. It is important to note, however, that this was the smallest stakeholder group, with only 11 participants, and therefore the findings may not be representative of the wider planning and development community in Nottinghamshire. When invited to provide additional input on the LNRS, respondents were generally supportive of the draft strategy and its potential benefits, but highlighted the need for greater clarity, practicality and flexibility to ensure it can be effectively applied across different stakeholder groups. They also stressed the importance of continued stakeholder involvement and recognised the wider opportunities the LNRS presents for balancing nature recovery with other priorities.

Concerns have been recognised, and these have been addressed in the Implications and Solutions section (Section 5) of the report.

5. Implications and Solutions for the published LNRS

5.1 Implications and Solutions for the Statement of Biodiversity Priorities

When considering Sections 1-8 of the draft strategy, there were high levels of agreement on both the understandability and usability of the document. However, several constructive suggestions emerged that, while raised by a small number of respondents, highlight opportunities for consideration in the final published strategy. These include:

- Using bullet lists to simplify content and aid readability
- Greater integration of local knowledge to improve accuracy
- Revisiting the polygon mapping methodology to allow for a more flexible approach
- Shortening the document to make it more accessible
- Providing clear indication of opportunities

In response to these suggested amendments, the LNRS team have confirmed that the draft strategy is based on national and local evidence and that a variety of stakeholder groups were involved in preparing it. An easy-to-read user guide will be developed once the final strategy has been published to address issues around understandability and the length of the document, although these comments and concerns were infrequent overall.

There was strong agreement across all stakeholder groups on the pressures and opportunities identified. A similar pattern was seen when analysing the agreement with the priorities and potential measures. The only exception was among farmers, where only 50% agreed. Farmers highlighted the need for increased engagement with local land managers – many of whom are not aware of the LNRS according to the farmers – and raised concerns around competing land-use demands. Some felt the framing of priorities and measures was too binary and lacked nuance. Further engagement with all relevant sectors will be carried out during the delivery phase.

Across farmer events, there was consistent concern that current financial incentives for nature-friendly farming are inadequate. Participants likened this to perceived shortcomings of past schemes as well as a lack of trust in DEFRA and uncertainty around delivery. Despite this, many farmers reported ongoing engagement in nature-related activities within both their work and personal lives, highlighting a strong underlying commitment to nature.

Overall, although awareness of the strategy is still developing, the majority of participants expressed positivity, with many already engaged in nature related action. The draft LNRS was broadly welcomed and was seen as a positive step, with constructive feedback provided across the survey and events. The three criteria assessed – understandability, accuracy and usability – are closely interlinked, with each shaping and reinforcing others. Achieving the right balance across all three will be essential to ensure the published LNRS is widely used. Stakeholders also showed clear appetite to contribute to and make use of the LNRS but emphasised the need for greater clarity on next steps, which remains a key area of uncertainty (see Section 5.3 for the implications for deliverability).

5.2 Implications and Solutions for the Local Habitat Map

The habitat map was the most frequently questioned aspect of the draft LNRS. Many respondents found it unintuitive and difficult to use, describing it as overly complex and inaccessible for non-expert users. This was seen as a barrier to meaningful engagement, potentially excluding some stakeholders from the LNRS process. Although the strength of this view varied, it was consistent across all stakeholder groups. Participants highlighted the need for:

- A more interactive map
- A simpler, more user-friendly map. In response to this, the user guide for the Local Habitat Map will be reviewed upon publication of the LNRS.
- A map that can be more easily translated into practical actions

Such amendments were viewed as essential to help mitigate potential barriers to engagement.

Beyond complexity, concerns were also raised about the accuracy of the map. Farmers and land managers, in particular raised concerns about its accuracy, while planners and developers questioned the rigidity of the mapping methodology. They noted that the same outcomes could be achieved without adhering strictly to the polygon boundaries.

Level of agreement with the areas identified on the local habitat map varied across stakeholder groups. Among the wider public, there was broad agreement with 86% agreeing, while 64% of those who work or volunteer in conservation also agreed. However, even within these results, respondents highlighted gaps in spatial coverage, particularly around the Lowfield Lane area in Balderton. In response, the area has been reviewed, resulting in the inclusion of land to the south of the development. With regards to broader specific site queries, the LNRS mapping team reviewed the sites and made amendments to the Local Habitat Map where appropriate. As a general approach, sites with planning permission or those allocated in a Local Plan were removed. However, landscape-scale measures and general buffer zones covering these areas have been retained. Respondents were also concerned about the under-representation and misclassification of habitats, as well as specific species. In response to this, additional provision for species including Bittern, Creeping Willow and Grizzled Skipper have been included.

In contrast, disagreement was more pronounced among farmers and land managers (59%) and planners and developers (50%). Their feedback centred on the methodology itself and the perception that identified areas were overly broad or vague. Some respondents also expressed confusion over why certain areas were included or excluded, suggesting that a clearer justification of the selection criteria would be beneficial. In response to this, it is important to note that the mapping process identified priority areas which could be deliverable within the first 10 years of the strategy, and that the information provided on the map meets the guidelines provided by DEFRA. It is also worth noting that the LNRS is a strategic framework to identify opportunities, and landowners are not obligated to carry out nature recovery action identified in the LNRS. Engagement with the farming community especially will be ongoing, as key stakeholders in the delivery of the LNRS, working with the NFU and CLA.

However, this shouldn't detract from the overall positive feedback that the draft LNRS has received, with many respondents finding the map intuitive and recognising its value as a starting point for engagement and collaborative planning, provided that the suggested refinements are incorporated.

5.3 Implications and Solutions for the Deliverability of the LNRS

Stakeholder perception of the draft LNRS varied across the four stakeholder groupings. While those working in nature conservation and the wider public viewed the draft LNRS with a sense of positivity, the farmers and land managers, as well as the planners and developers, viewed the strategy critically. Throughout the stakeholder consultation stage, both quantitative and qualitative data was gathered from the stakeholder groups, providing evidence to inform the deliverability of the LNRS.

Across the groups, a key concern was the lack of sufficient funding. Those in nature conservation had worries over whether funding would be available to implement the strategy, while farmers and land managers also provided commentary on the lack of financial incentives available for nature-friendly farming. While planners and developers did not reference funding directly, they questioned the scope of the LNRS and emphasised the need for a flexible approach. Amongst the wider public, there was a feeling that more funding needed to be made available to facilitate individual or community-based nature-positive action. There is therefore broad consensus that the LNRS cannot succeed without significant and sustained financial support. In response to this the LNRS team has confirmed that the LNRS is a strategic framework to help partners coordinate and make decisions on projects and to prioritise available funding. It is not in itself a funding mechanism.

Certain stakeholder groups found the draft LNRS to be more understandable, usable, and therefore inclusive, than others, and the ratings of these metrics also varied from section to section within the groups themselves. A number of respondents from both the nature and conservation group, and the wider public, wanted a simpler, more accessible version of the strategy, with suggestions that the complexity of the LNRS may be marginalising the layman as well as those with sensory impairments, and for whom English is not their first language. The LNRS team will produce easy-to-read guides for residents with information about things they can do on their own property to help nature as well as provide information about potential delivery. Additionally, once the LNRS is published, the LNRS team will review the clarity of information on the LNRS webpage and communicate messages through local community channels. Broader concerns about marginalisation were raised by individuals across several stakeholder groups, particularly regarding the perceived lack of local knowledge used in developing the draft. Many felt that this had implications on the overall accuracy of the LNRS. Further engagement amongst local residents and community groups will be carried out during the delivery phase to raise awareness of the LNRS and its role in guiding nature recovery.

There were also constructive comments regarding the implementation of the strategy. Individuals within three of the four stakeholder groups expressed scepticism about the real-world delivery of the strategy. Amongst the nature-conservation group, there were concerns regarding the fact that the LNRS will not be enforced, and there is existing mistrust in the council's capacity to deliver the strategy. The farmers and land managers echoed the past failings of similar schemes and held long-standing mistrust

in organisations such as DEFRA when it came to delivery. The LNRS response team have addressed questions round the legal weighting of the LNRS and have confirmed that these are statutory documents which have been designed to work with the planning system and BNG. There will also be further engagement with planners and developers during the delivery phase. Lastly, the wider public questioned whether green spaces would be protected from development and what policies will be put in place to do so. However, the LNRS team cannot prevent legitimate land uses from taking place and that new developments are subject to BNG regulations. It has been and needs to be constantly emphasised that the LNRS is a guiding document. It doesn't mandate action, nor prevent other legitimate land-use and land-use change. In practice, some of the 'broad brush' areas mapped will be subject to detailed planning and consideration as individual projects take shape on the ground. This 'non mandatory' message needed constant reiteration during engagement events, especially with farmers and land managers, as there was always a concern that mapped LNRS areas would either mandate or restrict what they could do on their land.

Despite the constructive criticism, there was common ground on several aspects that were positively received by all stakeholder groups. Generally, the stakeholder groups found the document clear and visually engaging. The nature conservation, farmers and land managers, and planners and developer groups all found that the draft LNRS was easy to read and well laid out. The wider public, despite some comments on complexity and length, found it understandable. There was also frequent agreement with the strategic content of the draft LNRS across the stakeholder groups. One example of this is the pressures and opportunities, where there was agreement from all of the stakeholder groups with what had been identified.

Additionally, amongst most of the stakeholder groups, there was a strong existing engagement with nature. The nature conservation group actively engage with nature in their work or personal lives, and the farmers and land managers are already tending to the land in a nature-positive manner. The wider public displayed high levels of participation in nature-friendly activity, with extensive involvement in recording, volunteering and gardening for wildlife. This nature-engaged attitude translated into willingness to, or existing, involvement in the LNRS, though this varied between these groups, with farmers emerging as more cautious. The outlier to this trend was the planners and developers, who displayed little engagement with nature, and thus also a reduced willingness to engage with the LNRS. However, there were calls for stronger collaboration across stakeholder groups, with the wider public and nature conservation groups showing a desire to engage with farmers and land managers, for whom the feeling was somewhat mutual, as well as planners and developers.

Overall, while stakeholders raised constructive criticisms of the draft LNRS, there was broad support for its overarching aims. Concerns centred primarily on funding, clarity and the lack of legal enforcement, which were viewed as the main challenges to effective delivery. The LNRS team has confirmed that they will be monitoring delivery until the next review, expected within 3-10 years. Although the consultation process engaged stakeholder groups separately, feedback highlighted clear appetite for greater collaboration. Encouraging cross-group working within the county could help address specific concerns and play an important role in ensuring the successful delivery of the LNRS in Nottinghamshire.

The Malt House
17-20 Sydney Buildings
Bath BA2 6BZ
T: +44 (0)330 223 4476
E: enquiries@naturepositive.com

www.naturepositive.com

