



Nottinghamshire & Nottingham  
**Local Nature  
Recovery Strategy**

# Local Nature Recovery Strategy and meeting the Biodiversity Duty

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working in partnership



**Nottinghamshire  
County Council**



**Nottingham  
City Council**

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## 1. Purpose

This document provides a brief overview of how public authorities can use the Nottinghamshire and Nottingham Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) to help them meet the Biodiversity Duty.

## 2. Background

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

All public authorities in England are required to consider what they can do to conserve and enhance biodiversity under the strengthened 'Biodiversity Duty' introduced by [The Environment Act 2021](#).

Public authorities who must meet the Biodiversity Duty include:

- [government department or public body](#)
- local authority or local planning authority
- statutory undertaker – a business that has public authority duties for their land and delivers something of public importance

Actions taken by public authorities to meet the Biodiversity Duty will contribute to the achievement of national targets set by government in [The Environmental Improvement Plan](#) to improve the natural environment.

DEFRA has issued [guidance](#) for public authorities on complying with the Biodiversity Duty.

## 3. LNRS and Biodiversity Duty

DEFRA's guidance requires public authorities to assess whether relevant strategies - including Local Nature Recovery Strategies - will affect how their organisation complies with the Biodiversity Duty.

The guidance sets out that public authorities must:

- understand how and if they are relevant to their organisation.
- be aware of how these strategies affect land that they own or manage, or actions they could take to conserve and enhance biodiversity.
- consider how they could contribute to the strategy, where appropriate.

## 3.1 Understand how the LNRS is relevant to your organisation

The LNRS sets out Priorities and Potential Measures for nature recovery across Nottinghamshire and Nottingham, identifying the areas where action, if delivered, they will have the greatest impact. It also outlines the broader environmental benefits that such efforts can bring, including cleaner air and water, alongside improved access to green spaces that support both mental and physical wellbeing.

Developed in line with the Lawton principles - creating *more* habitats that are *bigger, better, and joined up* - the LNRS provides a strategic framework that all public authorities operating in Nottinghamshire can draw upon to help fulfil the Biodiversity Duty.

For example:

- Local planning authorities are expected to align development plans and decisions with LNRS Priorities, ensuring sustainable land use and supporting off-site Biodiversity Net Gain to be delivered in a way that maximises biodiversity benefits.
- Transport and infrastructure bodies should consider areas mapped in LNRS when designing projects to avoid habitat fragmentation.
- Public health authorities can use the LNRS to identify and support green space provision, improving the mental and physical wellbeing of Nottinghamshire's people.

## 3.2 Be aware of how the LNRS affects land that you own or manage, or actions you could take to conserve and enhance biodiversity

If your organisation owns, manages or operates on land identified in the LNRS and mapped on the Local Habitat Map, you can use the LNRS to see which Potential Measures, if taken in that location, will have the biggest impact on nature recovery.

Additionally, many Potential Measures in the LNRS are 'unmappable', because it is not possible or necessary to identify a specific location to map, or because they are similarly beneficial over a wide area. Delivery of the 'unmapped measures' will help organisations meet the Biodiversity Duty.

Examples of unmapped measures include:

- **Measure H/M5:** *Install integrated bat and bird (Swift, House Sparrow, Starling) boxes in all new development (especially residential/public), and retrofit in existing development wherever possible.*
- **Measure H/M7:** *Plant native and wildlife-friendly trees and shrubs (providing nectar, pollen, berries) in the gardens and landscaping areas in new developments, to provide nectar, pollen and berries for a range of pollinators and birds.*
- **Measure A/M6:** *Creation of features to benefit pollinators and other invertebrates as part of habitat enhancement and creation projects, including habitat mosaics, sources of pollen and nectar (flowers), deadwood, wet/damp areas, bare ground and both very short and uncut grass.*

- **Measure F/M8:** *Retain areas of rough grassland, scrub and habitat mosaics, recognising the value of these for a range of species.*

### 3.3 Consider how you could contribute to the strategy, where appropriate

By delivering nature recovery actions identified in the LNRS, your organisation will play a vital role in driving the success of the strategy while also contributing to the fulfilment of the Biodiversity Duty.

This could include:

- Updating internal policies, processes and frameworks to make changes to better conserve and enhance biodiversity.
- Manage land to improve biodiversity, reviewing your land holding against the Mapped Measures in the Local Habitat Map.

- Making space for wildlife in and around buildings and public spaces, such as installing nest boxes or planting native trees and shrubs.
- Ensuring that protected sites you own such as Sites of Special Scientific Interest or Local Wildlife Sites are in positive management.
- Educate, advise and raise awareness amongst your staff and the wider public about biodiversity and why it's important to conserve and enhance it.
- Considering biodiversity when making development plans and decisions (if your public authority is a local planning authority).

Each contribution, large or small, strengthens collective efforts to restore and enhance the natural environment.

## 4. Additional Resources

Local planning authorities should read the [Planning Practice Guidance](#) to understand how the Biodiversity Duty requires them to consider the LNRS in their planning functions.

### LNRS User Guides

[User Guide for Planners and Developers](#)

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

[User Guide for Volunteers, Residents and Community Groups](#)

### To find out more about the LNRS

See the LNRS website at [www.nottsnaturerecovery.co.uk](http://www.nottsnaturerecovery.co.uk) to view the [Statement of Biodiversity Priorities](#) and the [Local Habitat Map](#).

Contact the LNRS team:  
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