

Nature and Land Use

Updates to this sheet are shown in red with original text as 'strikethrough'

Key:
Current Project Stage
 - In discovery (research, fact finding, gather evidence)
 - In design (develop techniques/plan for delivery)
 - In delivery (executing plan agreed at design)
 - Competed (work has been finished)

RAG rating
 - Green - action delivery on track/to agreed timelines (may be agreed to start at a later date)
 - Orange - some delivery off track/timelines, further work to be completed
 - Red - significantly off track/timelines, or may no longer be possible

Action ID	Objective	Action	LCC Role	Who may be involved	Timescales	Cost to Leicestershire	Carbon Saving	Deliverability Score	Project Status	RAG	December 2023 Update
N1	All	Develop a Nature Recovery Strategy for Leicestershire in line with government guidance when available	Lead	Districts Woodland Trust National Forest LRWT Neighbouring authorities and Local Councils Leicester City Land owners and managers VCSE Natural England Environment Agency	S/M	M	L	5	Design	Green	Leicestershire County Council is actively working on the Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) project plan, consolidating data for a comprehensive draft
N2	All	Publish national guidance and best practice on Nature Recovery Strategies.	Influence	Government	S	L	L	9	Delivery	Green	Government guidance has been published on the LCC website. Further guidance will be published/made available as it is released by the government.
N3	1	Complete further research to develop a comprehensive baseline evidence base of the state of nature and carbon storage for Leicestershire.	Lead	Districts Woodland Trust National Forest LRWT	S/M	M	L	5	Discovery	Green	Leicestershire County Council is advancing research as part of developing the LNRS, ensuring quality dependant on available resources and data.
N4	1	Build on the work of the Leicester and Leicestershire Natural Capital Strategy Assessment to develop opportunity mapping and create a natural capital investment plan to support net zero carbon.	Ask	LLEP Districts LRWT National Forest	M/L	M	L	3	Discovery	Yellow	The LNRS will shape an opportunity map, considering biodiversity goals. Delays are due to awaiting government updates; Green Futures EMA project and Enterprise zones projects are encouraging biodiversity schemes as a means of reducing emissions and improving biodiversity.
N5	All	Implement the Action for Nature Delivery Plan and seek to identify carbon storage benefits where appropriate, particularly on the council's own estate.	Lead	Tenants	S	H	M	6	Delivery	Yellow	Some progress being made, but being restricted by limited resources and LCC staff capacity issues.
N6	All	Develop and implement Biodiversity Net Gain policy and approach for Leicestershire.	Lead	Districts	S	M	L		Discovery	Green	LCC's 2023 focus has been on the preparing and expanding the Ecology and Biodiversity Team ready for mandatory Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) implementation in 2024. External working group discussions begin in early 2024 for a coordinated BNG policy.
N7	All	Explore opportunities for the council to be a biodiversity and carbon offset provider.	Lead	Lead	S/M	M	L	5	Discovery	Yellow	Leicestershire County Council land has been explored to use for BNG offsetting; both in relation to its own developments and for sale to other developers. Initiatives to act as a carbon offset provider are to be explored further at a later date.
N8	1	Bid for funding to develop the evidence base for ecosystem services including carbon sequestration.	Lead	LRWT Districts National Forest	M	L	L	6	Discovery	Green	To be progressed at a future point, medium/long timeframes
N9	2, 3	Restore wet woodlands and other carbon rich habitats on council sites and promote case studies.	Lead		S	H	L	3	Discovery	Yellow	To be progressed.
N10	2, 3	Deliver natural flood risk management schemes which support nature and offer carbon storage benefits where appropriate.	Lead	Environment Agency Landowners and Managers	S	H	L	3	Delivery	Green	The Council is implementing flood risk management initiatives such as projects in Beedon on the Hill, along with four additional project in the pipeline. A bid for natural flood risk management projects on the Mease has been submitted.
N11	4	Promote natural flood risk management to landowners, highlighting the wider benefits for the local area.	Ask	VCSE Environment Agency	M	L	L	6	Design	Yellow	LCC Flood Team are working with Trent Rivers Trust and landowners to deliver natural flood risk management works; and promote natural flood risk management and sustainable farming. New webpage developed to support this which will be online in early 2024.
N12	2, 3	Deliver the County Council's tree strategy and commitment to plant 700,000 trees by 2030.	Lead	Districts Woodland Trust National Forest Business Residents	S/M	M	M	10	Delivery	Red	LCC's tree planting initiative has planted over 350,000 trees to date (Dec 2023).
N13	1	Complete the Value of Trees project and consider rollout of toolkit.	Lead	ADEPT	S	L	L	9	Delivery	Green	The value of trees toolkit has been completed and the pilot has been set for this planting season.
N14	1	Continue work to quantify the carbon storage benefits of planted versus naturally regenerated woodland.	Ask	Forestry Research Council	S	M	L	6	Design	Yellow	To be progressed.
N15	4	Investigate natural negative emissions processes e.g. biochar.	Ask	Universities	M/L	M	L	3	Discovery	Green	To be progressed at a future point, medium/long timeframes

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N16	4	Provide information and support to landowners and tenants wishing to maximise the benefit of land assets for public goods such as biodiversity, carbon reduction and climate resilience.	Ask	NFU Natural England LLEP Districts	S/M	L	M	15	Discovery		Leicestershire County Council provides a newsletter to farm tenants which covers support and advice on land assets. LNRS work may spark further activity in this space, dependant on staff capacity.
N17	1	Explore opportunities to gain a better understanding of the carbon and nature benefits of local food procurement and improved land management and how to measure and monitor improvements, particularly on the council's own farms.	Lead	Tenants	S/M	L	L	7.5	Discovery		The Council's report on sustainable procurement for Leicester Traded Services has been delivered, with ongoing work to implement the findings in the discovery phase.
N18	1	Invest in additional research to improve understanding of carbon impact of different land management.	Influence	Government	S	L	L	9	Discovery		To be progressed
N19	2, 3	Develop a single council policy to reflect the multiple objectives for land use and the need to ensure 'additionality' is gained for nature, particularly where several benefits are to be claimed e.g. biodiversity net gain, climate resilience, carbon storage.	Lead		M	L	L	6	Discovery		Leicestershire County Council is set to develop a policy to fulfil our biodiversity duty in 2024.
N20	All	Consider nature and land use in local plans and requirements for developers e.g. Street trees, preservation and creation of green spaces, prioritisation of brownfield sites for development and land for energy generation assets.	Ask	Districts	S/M	L	M	15	Design		Leicestershire County Council actively engages with districts on appropriate nature and land use in Local Plans. The National Planning Policy Framework is currently under review.