



Final Local Nature Recovery Strategy

for Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland

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Environment & Climate Change
Overview & Scrutiny Committee

11 June 2025

Department of
Environment & Transport



Purpose



- ☐ To present to the Committee with the final LNRS ahead of seeking the Cabinet's approval on 17 June and Full Council's approval on 2 July, for it to be sent to the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs to approve its publication.
- ☐ The Committee is asked to note the contents of the report and to provide any comments that they have.

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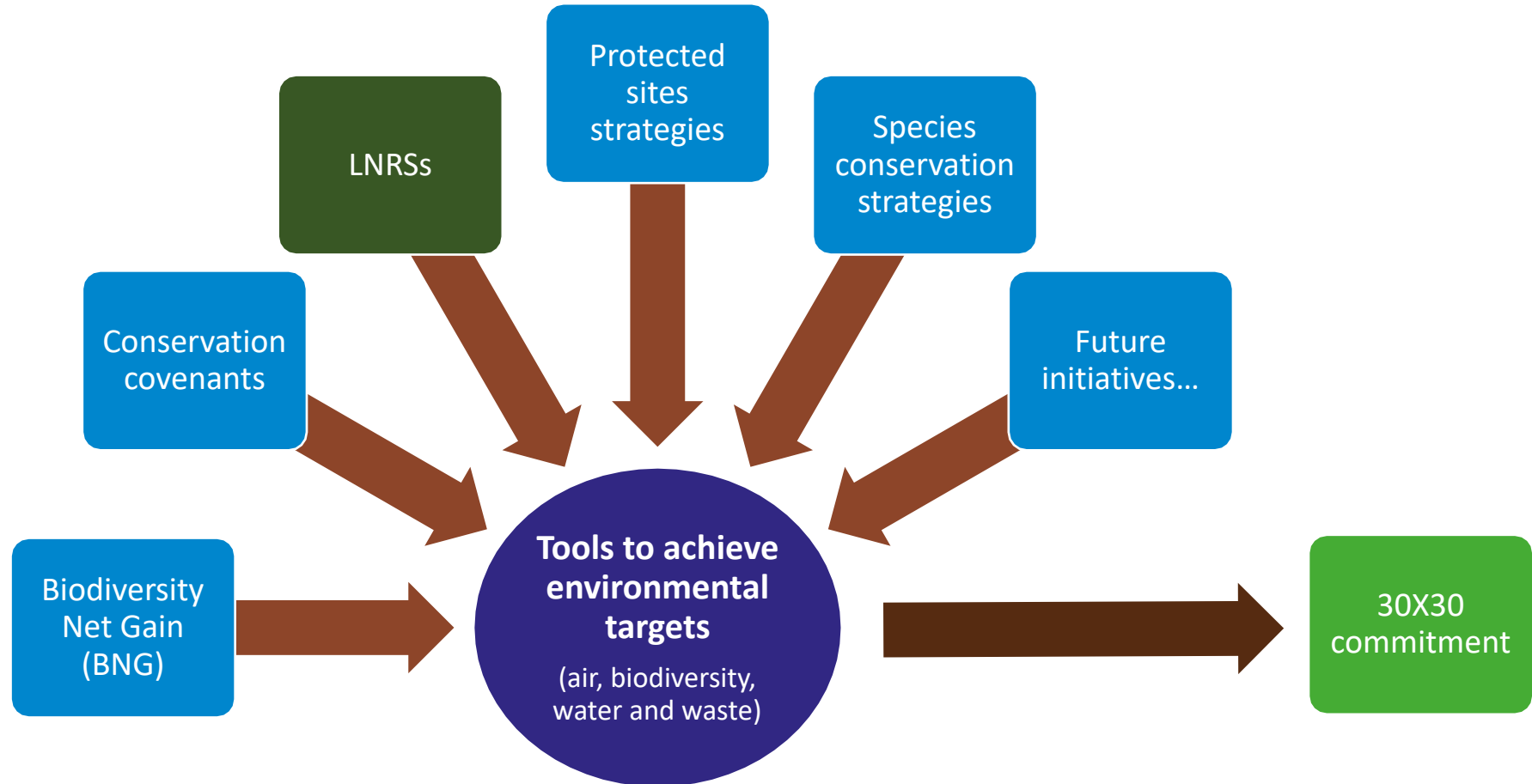
Local Nature Recovery Strategies:

- ❑ Were introduced as part of the **Environment Act 2021**.
- ❑ Provide a new mandatory system of **spatial strategies** covering all of England.
- ❑ Are designed to **drive nature's recovery** and **wider environmental benefits**.
- ❑ Are a delivery mechanism for the national **Environmental Improvement Plan**.
- ❑ Support the achievement of the **national environmental targets** and commitments.

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Background

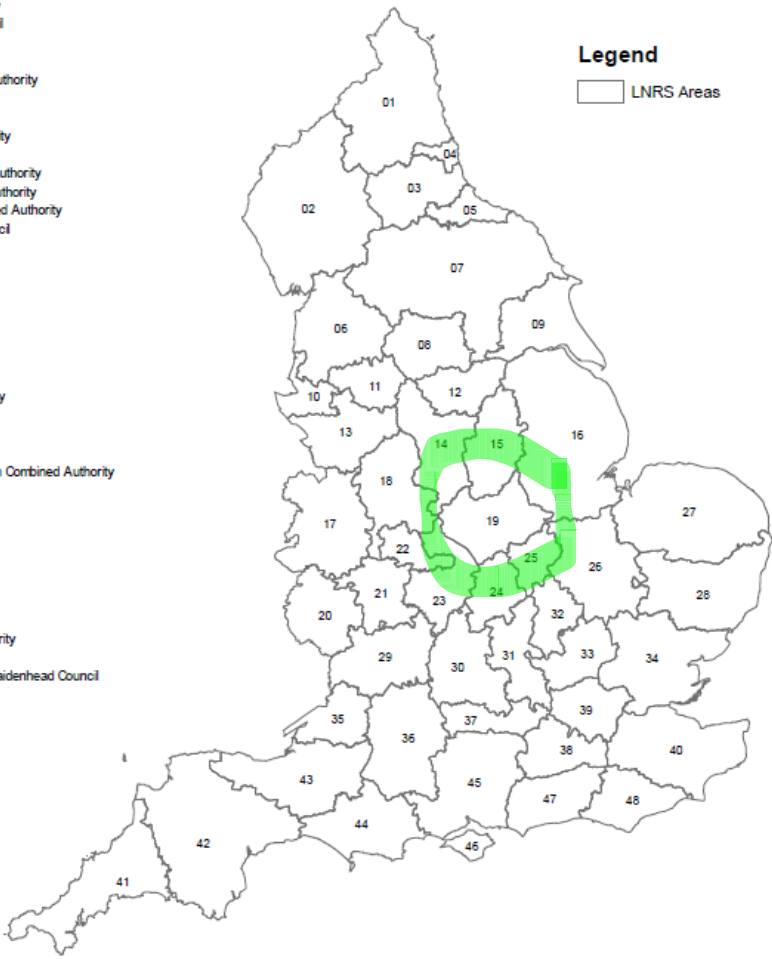


National picture

48 LNRs will cover the whole of England.

Map of local nature recovery strategy (LNRS) areas and responsible authorities

LNRS ID	LNRS name	Responsible authority
01	North of Tyne	North of Tyne Combined Authority
02	Cumbria	Westmorland and Furness Council
03	County Durham	Durham County Council
04	South of Tyne and Wear	Gateshead Council
05	Tees Valley	Tees Valley Mayoral Combined Authority
06	Lancashire	Lancashire County Council
07	North Yorkshire and York	North Yorkshire Council
08	West Yorkshire	West Yorkshire Combined Authority
09	Hull and East Yorkshire	East Riding of Yorkshire Council
10	Liverpool City Region	Liverpool City Region Combined Authority
11	Greater Manchester	Greater Manchester Combined Authority
12	South Yorkshire	South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority
13	Cheshire	Cheshire West and Chester Council
14	Derbyshire	Derbyshire County Council
15	Nottinghamshire and Nottingham	Nottinghamshire County Council
16	Greater Lincolnshire	Lincolnshire County Council
17	Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin	Shropshire County Council
18	Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent	Staffordshire County Council
19	Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland	Leicestershire County Council
20	Herefordshire	Herefordshire Council
21	Worcestershire	Worcestershire County Council
22	West Midlands	West Midlands Combined Authority
23	Warwickshire	Warwickshire County Council
24	West Northamptonshire	West Northamptonshire Council
25	North Northamptonshire	North Northamptonshire Council
26	Cambridgeshire and Peterborough	Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority
27	Norfolk	Norfolk County Council
28	Suffolk	Suffolk County Council
29	Gloucestershire	Gloucestershire County Council
30	Oxfordshire	Oxfordshire County Council
31	Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes	Buckinghamshire Council
32	Bedfordshire	Central Bedfordshire Council
33	Hertfordshire	Hertfordshire County Council
34	Greater Essex	Essex County Council
35	West of England	West of England Combined Authority
36	Wiltshire and Swindon	Wiltshire Council
37	Berkshire	Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead Council
38	Surrey	Surrey County Council
39	Greater London	Greater London Authority
40	Kent and Medway	Kent County Council
41	Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly	Cornwall Council
42	Devon	Devon County Council
43	Somerset	Somerset Council
44	Dorset	Dorset Council
45	Hampshire	Hampshire County Council
46	Isle of Wight	Isle of Wight Council
47	West Sussex	West Sussex County Council
48	East Sussex and Brighton & Hove	East Sussex County Council



Responsible authority



- ❑ The Council was appointed by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) as the 'responsible authority' for the LNRS that will cover Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland.
- ❑ The Council received new burdens funding to fulfil this role - **£337,741** over 2023-24 – 2024-25.
- ❑ Unspent funding of £145,018 has been carried forward into 2025-26.
- ❑ The Council is awaiting the details of the 2025-26 new burdens funding grant.
- ❑ The LNRS Steering Group was established with representation from Leicestershire County Council, Leicester City Council and Rutland County Council, Natural England, the Environment Agency, the Forestry Commission, the National Forest Company and a representative on behalf of the district councils.



LNRS Development



- ❑ The Committee received a report on the LNRS and Responsible Authority Status on 2 June 2023.
- ❑ The Committee received a report on the draft LNRS on 22 January 2025, as part of the public consultation process.

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Partnership Working and Collaboration



Development of the LNRS

Prescribed Process:

KEY:

Primarily awareness raising
engagement

More involved engagement required

Primarily awareness raising
engagement



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Step 1:
Map the areas that are of particular importance for biodiversity, including national conservation sites, local nature reserves, local wildlife sites and irreplaceable habitats.

Step 2:
Map the areas where action for nature recovery has been taken when LNRSs are reviewed and republished (*not within current scope*).

Step 5:
Map the areas that could become of particular importance.

Local habitat map.

Step 3:
Describe the strategy area and its biodiversity, and its opportunities for recovery.

Step 4:
Agree the LNRS priorities and identify the potential measures.

Statement of biodiversity priorities.

Local Nature Recovery Strategy for Leicestershire,
Leicester City and Rutland.



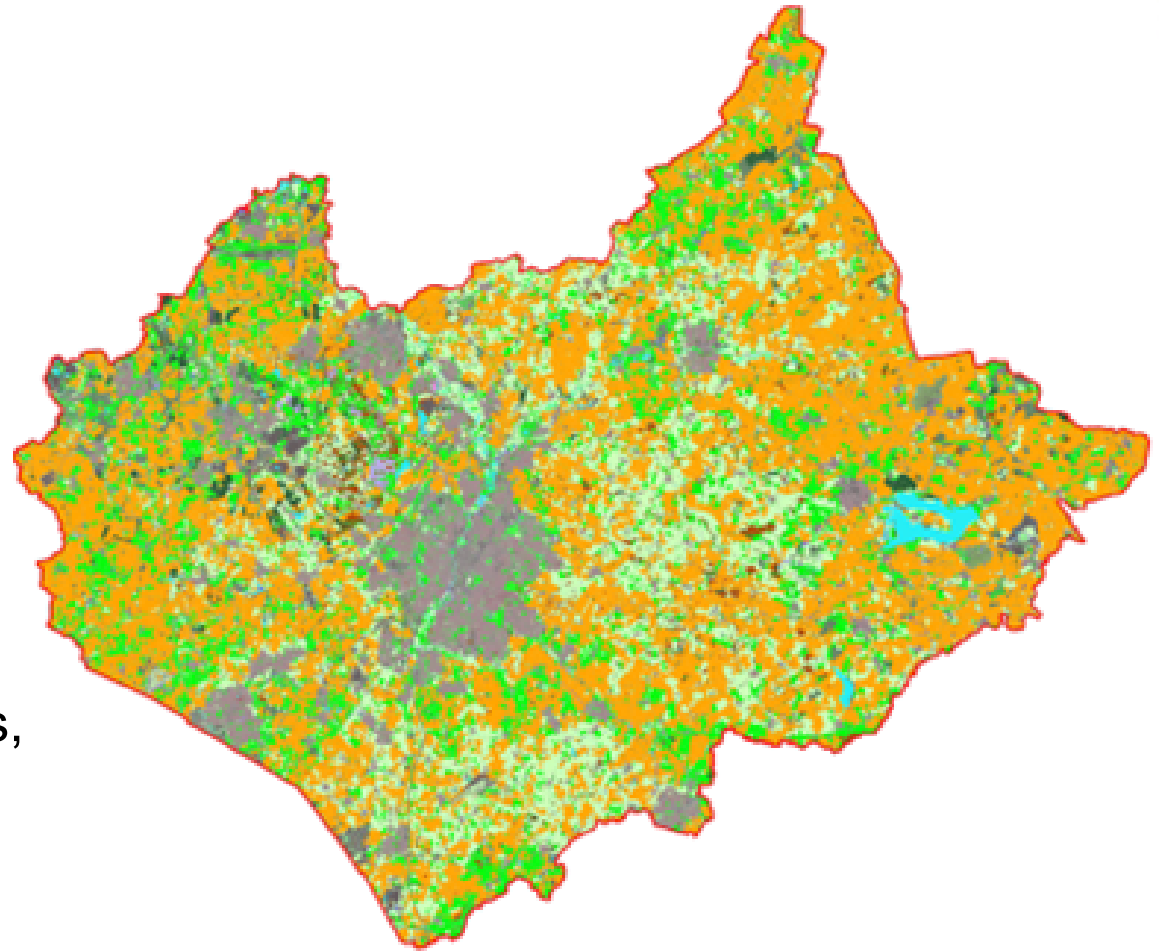
The Strategy Area



Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland is characterised by a mosaic of habitats.

The Core Habitat Types are:

- ☐ Mixed **Agricultural land**.
- ☐ **City** and **Urban** areas.
- ☐ **Woodland** and **Forest**.
- ☐ **Wetlands**: including rivers, canals, lakes, reservoirs, catchments, ponds.



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**Making Space
For Nature**
in Leicestershire,
Leicester & Rutland



Engagement Phase

(March – July 2024)



- ❑ Stakeholder briefings/workshops – Four farmer & landowner workshops (35 attendees) and 10 resident workshops (over 80 attendees).
- ❑ Stakeholder survey – 96 responses were received.
- ❑ Public survey – 1,077 responses were received.
- ❑ Interactive map – 516 comments were received.
- ❑ Supporting and Neighbouring Authorities – there are regular meetings and the sharing of content for comments.
- ❑ Over 100 existing strategies and plans were also reviewed.

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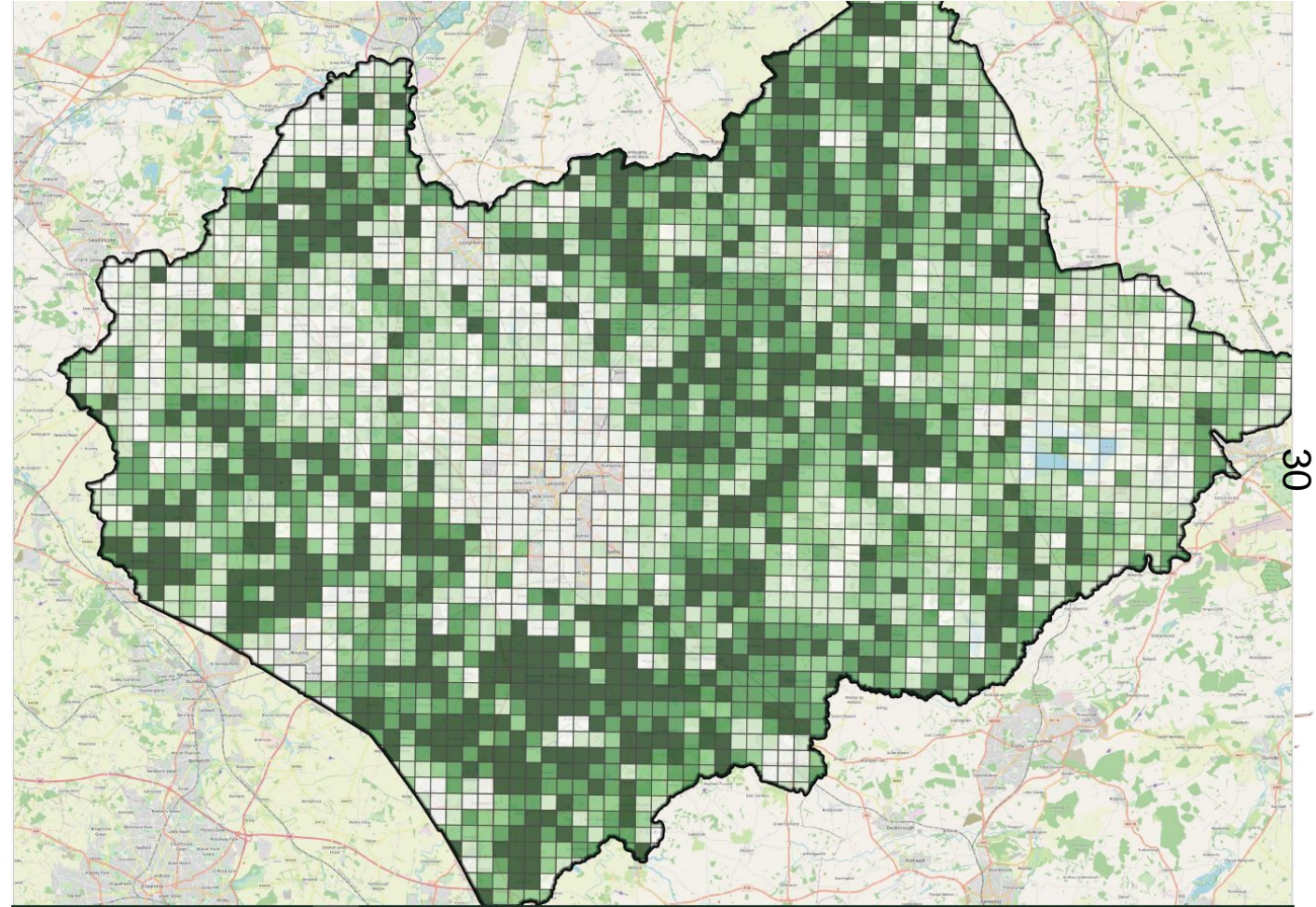


Data Layers and Modelling

The Data Working Group gathered hundreds of layers of data such as:

- ❑ Flood risk maps.
- ❑ Future areas for development.
- ❑ Agricultural land grade.
- ❑ Existing habitats – such as woodland and grassland.

There was also external support to undertake the opportunity modelling exercises.



Hedgerow Heatmap



Overview of the LNRS Contents



The key components of the LNRS are:

- ❑ The setting out of the overall **strategic aims** of the strategy.
- ❑ The **area description**, which describes the natural landscape and how people have shaped the landscape.
- ❑ An assessment of the current **state of nature** across the area, including a presentation in map form of the existing **areas of particular importance for biodiversity** (located on the supporting LNRS webpages).
- ❑ A presentation of the **key environmental considerations**, such as future pressures and wider environmental issues.

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Overview of the LNRS Contents



- ❑ A presentation, in map form, of the **areas that could become** of importance for biodiversity and the wider environment (located on the supporting LNRS webpages).
- ❑ The setting out of the main **biodiversity priorities and measures**, that will take place within the priority areas as well as the landscape scale (area wide) priorities and measures.
- ❑ The setting out of the key factors needed to support the **delivery** of the LNRS.
- ❑ A suite of **appendices** providing the supporting information and the technical detail.

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Biodiversity Priorities and Measures



The agreed set of priorities and measures for the key habitats are:

- ☐ Woodland.
- ☐ Freshwater.
- ☐ Grassland.
- ☐ Urban.
- ☐ Agricultural.
- ☐ Open Mosaic.
- ☐ Nature Networks (Green and Blue corridors).
- ☐ Geodiversity.

The Landscape priorities and measures:

- ☐ Priority Species (113) (Individual and Assemblages).
- ☐ Indicator Species (100).



Priorities and Measures



Landscape Scale Priorities and Measures – take place outside the priority areas (areas that could become important (ACB))

Priorities:

- a) Hedgerows.
- b) Roadside Verges.
- c) Invasive Non-Native Species and Pests.
- d) Landscape Woodland Management.
- e) Landscape Nature Friendly Farming.
- f) Landscape Grassland Management.
- g) Landscape Freshwater & Wetland Management.
- h) Landscape Flood Management and Natural Solutions.

Measures (examples):

- ☐ Planting new hedges.
- ☐ Wildflower margins.
- ☐ Reduced mowing.
- ☐ Invasive Non-Native Species management.
- ☐ Sustainable pest management.
- ☐ Improved woodland management.
- ☐ Reducing pesticide & chemical fertiliser use.
- ☐ Restoring degraded grasslands.
- ☐ Creating new ponds.
- ☐ Enhance riparian vegetation.
- ☐ Restore or create wetlands.

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Priority and Indicator Species



113 Priority Species:

- ❑ Individuals (30) and assemblages ((3) – 77 vascular plants & six lichen).
- ❑ Such as: Adder, Turtle Dove, White Clawed Crayfish, Dingy Skipper, and Brown Trout.

100 Indicator Species:

- ❑ Such as: Small Tortoiseshell Butterfly, Lesser Stag Beetle, and Glow-Worm.
- ❑ They are representative of habitats that are in good ecological health.
- ❑ They are easy to identify and have a broad appeal to citizen scientists and conservationists.
- ❑ It is hoped that the list will be adopted in future initiatives, helping to create a unified approach to monitoring the state of nature in Leicestershire, Leicester, and Rutland.

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Public Consultation



- ❑ It was an eight week public consultation exercise – 6 January - 28 February 2025.
- ❑ It included a provision of draft LNRS, a summary version and the associated Local Habitat Maps.
- ❑ The Consultation survey.
- ❑ Comments could also be added to an interactive map.
- ❑ There were 24 in person and online events – the Council engaged with over 360 people.
- ❑ It included newspaper and social media publicity.

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Public Consultation Results



- ❑ There were 386 completed surveys.
- ❑ There were six written submissions.
- ❑ There were over 1,600 comments received through the surveys, plus 307 comments via the interactive map.
- ❑ Most of the comments received were very positive and supportive.
- ❑ 97% of respondents agreeing with the strategic aims.
- ❑ Overall, the LNRS was very well received, which was likely due to the effort put in to involve partners, stakeholders and residents in the development of the draft LNRS and the thought put into the design, layout, style and tone of the document.

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Changes to the Draft LNRS



Of those comments that merited changes, most related to improving accuracy and clarity. The summary of the changes made included:

- ❑ The addition of two new paragraphs, one on the Jurassic Limestone area (page 64), which had been missed off the LNRS document, and one to pick up the need to consider species reintroduction projects in the future (page 79).
- ❑ The addition of measure codes in the LNRS document to make it easier to cross reference to the codes used in the Local Habitat Map (page 68-77).
- ❑ The rewording of nine paragraphs to make them clearer.
- ❑ The clarification of two statistics.
- ❑ One image change.

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Changes to the Draft LNRS



- ❑ The re-wording of three of the geodiversity measures to be consistent with the style of the other measures (page 77).
- ❑ The addition of one new measure in relation to Local Wildlife Sites, to the Green and Blue corridors priority as follows: 'Restore, enhance and manage Local Wildlife Sites to recognise their ecological value and strengthen their role as stepping stones across the wider ecological network' (page 76).

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In addition:

- ❑ Eight changes were made to the Local Habitat Maps, including the addition of a missing data layer and the improvement of the clarity of certain boundary lines.



The Final LNRS and Local Habitat Map



❑ The final LNRS:

[Final Local Nature Recovery Strategy](#)

❑ The Local Habitat Map:

<https://llrlnrs.github.io/Local-Habitat-Map/#9/52.6850/-1.0095>

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Consultation / Approval timeline



- ❑ The final LNRS was presented to a Natural England Panel on 22 April – they approved the LNRS to go forward for publication.
- ❑ The final LNRS was issued to the supporting authorities on 23 April 2025.
- ❑ The supporting authorities have 28 days to raise a formal objection – no objections were received.
- ❑ It is also going through the individual approval processes of the supporting authorities and the DEFRA bodies.
- ❑ The final LNRS will be presented to the Cabinet on 17 June and to the Full Council on 2 July.
- ❑ The approved final LNRS will then be sent to Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs to be agreed, before it can be formally published.

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Launch Event



8 July 2025

Brooksby Hall, Melton Mowbray

10am-1pm



Delivering the LNRS



- ☐ Leveraging Partnerships.
- ☐ Importance of farmers in supporting biodiversity.
- ☐ Individual action.
- ☐ Securing funding and resources from the Government.
- ☐ Sharing knowledge and creating capacity.

Next Steps:

- ☐ Developing suitable delivery governance structures.
- ☐ Developing the Delivery Plan.
- ☐ Developing the Monitoring and Reporting Framework.
- ☐ Developing training and capacity building.
- ☐ Undertaking partnership engagement.

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