



Nottinghamshire & Nottingham  
**Local Nature  
Recovery Strategy**



# Summary



working in partnership



**Nottingham**  
City Council

# Nature Leaves Notts a Voicemail

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Nottingham City of Literature

Ay up you, how you been?  
It's been a while, just checking in.  
How's work, school, the family  
It gets busy, to be, doesn't it?

Perhaps you don't remember me,  
I've tried to catch your eye before,  
I tap the windows with my branches  
when you catch the 44,

I've left a message in the leaves  
of all your morning cups of tea,  
but now I finally have your ear  
I hope you'll sense my urgency.

You see, old friend, I called  
because I'm feeling pretty rotten.  
I've come down with this fever,  
and I feel a bit forgotten, so

I wondered if you wouldn't mind  
calling on me from time to time?  
Here are some ways to reach me  
if you ever fancy stopping by:





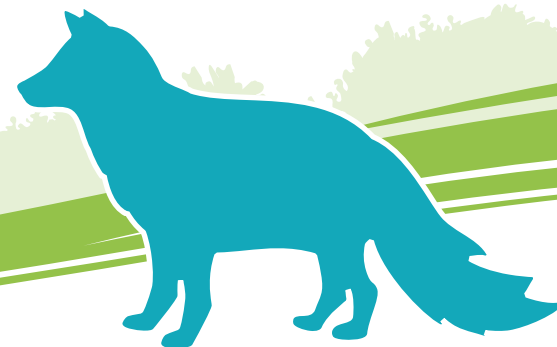
You can find me in the limestone that you carve your lions from.  
*Press your palm against my muzzle; I promise I won't bite.*

Watch the fox, how she swaggers from The Meadows to the meadow.  
*Greet the beaver drifting down the Trent on boats of Sherwood pine.*

Look down, peel back a petal, where a bee sleeps in a wildflower.  
*Place a seed under his pillow, he will show you how to bloom.*

Now look up, notice the swifts, how they're reclaiming the sky.  
*Every time you step outside, you step into your living room.*

So, wherever you may be,  
From Major Oak to Lady Bay,  
come and find me in the wild, my friend,  
*I'm just a call away.*





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# 1. What is a Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS)?

**Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRSs)** are a new, England-wide system of spatial strategies established by the Environment Act 2021. The main purpose of these strategies is to:

- Help reverse the ongoing decline of nature in England
- Establish priorities for nature recovery
- Identify locations to create or improve habitat where this is most likely to provide the greatest benefit for nature and the wider environment

As one of 48 LNRSs across England, the Nottinghamshire and Nottingham LNRS will form part of the UK Government's **Nature Recovery Network**, which seeks to address biodiversity loss, climate change, and public health and well-being on a national scale. The LNRS will also inform the delivery of mandatory **Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG)** in applications for development and help to guide local planning policy for nature recovery.





## 2. Why is the LNRS needed?

We are in a global biodiversity crisis, and biodiversity is declining faster than ever before. The good news is that in many cases we know what we need to do to halt and reverse the declines of nature.

The purpose of the LNRS is to identify actions and locations where focussed, evidence-based and properly resourced activity should be prioritised at a local level, to continue to drive the recovery of nature.

Using local knowledge to extend, improve, and join up existing important habitats, the LNRS acknowledges what is already here in Nottinghamshire (key areas such as Sherwood Forest Ancient Woodland, the Trent Valley and Sherwood Heathland), as well as identifying the creation of new areas that may become important for biodiversity in the future. The LNRS is designed to integrate with existing plans and strategies to create a joined-up approach to nature recovery.



### 3. How has the LNRS been developed and who was involved?

The LNRS guidance and regulations require identified **Responsible Authorities** to work together with partners when preparing their strategy, so that it provides a single vision for nature recovery that all parties have been able to contribute to. Nottinghamshire County Council is the Responsible Authority covering the boundaries of the county of Nottinghamshire including the City of Nottingham. It has worked closely with a wide variety of stakeholders including farmers and landowners, government bodies, environmental and conservation organisations and local groups.

There are also identified **Supporting Authorities** which includes the seven District and Borough Councils (Ashfield, Bassetlaw, Broxtowe, Gedling, Mansfield, Newark & Sherwood, Rushcliffe), Nottingham City Council, East Midlands Combined County Authority and Natural England who have helped to develop the strategy.

The Local Nature Recovery Strategy has been put together by consulting experts and non-experts alike. A public consultation on the draft strategy was held in summer 2025 to allow opportunity for wider feedback, and the comments submitted were used to help develop the final version of the strategy.



## 4. Who will use the LNRS?

The LNRS will be used by all sectors to inform nature recovery efforts, from large scale projects covering a wide area to activity on a single site.

### **Planners and developers should use the LNRS to:**

- Provide essential evidence for local plans, helping to identify where nature recovery efforts should be prioritised, and ensuring that planning decisions support local biodiversity goals and contribute to the broader Nature Recovery Network
- Guide developers when choosing the location of off-site Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG)
- Inform decisions on planning applications

### **Farmers, landowners and land managers can use the LNRS to:**

- Help make decisions about habitat creation and improvement on their land
- LNRS may also have an impact on how government environmental schemes are applied to land

### **Public and environmental organisations should use the LNRS to:**

- Guide policies and decisions
- Direct investments
- Prioritise funding to deliver maximum benefits to nature recovery

### **Residents, local groups and communities**

always have a part to play in nature recovery and can use the LNRS to find out which community efforts will have the most impact, and where.



# 5. How to use the LNRS

There are two main components that make up the LNRS: a written document called the 'Statement of Biodiversity Priorities' and an online map called the 'Local Habitat Map'.

## Statement of Biodiversity Priorities

The Statement of Biodiversity Priorities covers the following:

- Section 1 - An **introduction** to the LNRS containing background information on the strategy, an ecological description of the strategy area, brief report on the state of nature, the purpose of the LNRS, how it has been prepared, and plans for future review
- Section 2 - Instructions on **how to use the LNRS**, with information on different user groups, links to other plans and strategies, BNG and farming schemes, as well as links to wider environmental benefits
- Section 3 - A **description of the strategy area** looking at Nottinghamshire's National Character Areas, geology, topography, hydrology, historic environment, climate, habitats and species of importance, and protected areas
- Section 4 - Anticipated **pressures** on nature in Nottinghamshire broken down by habitat, species and wider environmental issues, as well as broadly identified **opportunities** for nature recovery

- Section 5 - The **Priorities and Potential Measures** for the LNRS, broken down by habitat type and species. This section is the most important as it explains the key actions we would like to see carried out for nature recovery in the county.
- Section 6 - Information on the mapping of measures and the Local Habitat Map, which explains **Areas of Particular Importance for Biodiversity** (APIBs), **Mapped Measures** and **Areas that Could Become of Particular Importance for Biodiversity** (ACBs), and how measures have been mapped. This section also addresses feasibility and constraints during the mapping stage

## The Local Habitat Map

The Local Habitat Map online shows the areas that have been identified as being the most important for nature recovery in the region, including existing APIBs (national conservation sites, nature reserves, local wildlife sites etc) and proposed ACBs. The map should be used in conjunction with the written statement, to identify which Priorities and Potential Measures identified in the LNRS apply to which locations.



## What's important?

### For the purpose of the LNRS:

- **Priorities** are “the end result that the strategy is seeking to achieve”; in most cases these are relevant to habitats, or species. Priorities generally do not include site-level locations, and should reflect local circumstances, including the most important issues to local people and organisations
- **Potential Measures** are “specific practical actions to achieve the priorities”; they are suggested activities that benefit a particular habitat or species or provide wider environmental benefits, and help to deliver the agreed priorities

The Priorities and Potential Measures identified in the LNRS have been informed by the **Lawton Principles**, which consider that to aid nature recovery, we need to:

- Make habitats bigger - **Bigger**
- Improve the quality of existing habitats - **Better**
- Create more habitats - **More**
- Connect habitats together – **Joined Up**

Priorities and Potential Measures have been categorised into habitat types, and there are separate measures for species included in the LNRS, as well as some ‘overarching’ or general measures which cover a range of habitats. The main habitats are:

- Woodland
- Watercourses
- Wetland
- Heathland
- Grassland
- Farmland
- Urban and Post-Industrial



## Some of the Key Proposals in the LNRS

### Woodland

- Opportunities to establish new areas of native broad-leaved woodland through several landscape-scale locations identified for woodland creation, particularly in Sherwood Forest, Greenwood Community Forest area and Mercia Mudwoods
- Introduce active woodland management to existing sites
- Specialist management for ancient and veteran trees
- Establish new wet woodlands along watercourses

### Watercourses

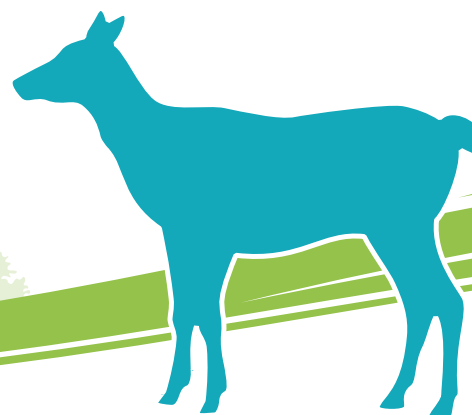
- Opportunities for natural flood management across multiple catchments to reduce flood risk through habitat creation
- River restoration and re-naturalisation of channels to allow natural processes
- Removal or modify barriers to fish passage
- Manage canals to ensure they retain water

### Wetland

- Significant opportunities for wetland creation as a result of restoration of minerals workings in the Trent, Idle and Erewash Valleys
- Reconnect rivers with their floodplains
- Creation of floodplain grazing marsh to benefit wildfowl and other species
- Restore and create ponds in the wider countryside

### Heathland

- Opportunities for heathland and wood-pasture creation in the Sherwood Forest area, to enhance and increase the existing habitat
- Increase connectivity between existing fragmented heathland habitat
- Use grazing animals to help long term management
- Restoration of colliery pit tips for heathland



## Grassland

- Grassland creation and enhancement particularly on the western fringes of the county, on the calcareous grassland on the magnesian limestone
- Improved management of existing grassland to increase species diversity
- Relax mowing regimes on grassland in public open space
- Grassland creation as part of quarry restoration

## Farmland

- Opportunities for habitat creation within the farmed landscape, including field margins, hedgerows, ditches and traditional orchards
- Adopt regenerative agriculture approaches to benefit soil health, reduce pesticide/fertiliser use and improve water and air quality
- Expand agroforestry for food production and wildlife habitat
- Plant new diverse, native hedgerow trees

## Urban and Post-Industrial

- Wildlife friendly habitat management of publicly owned space including relaxing mowing regimes, establishing wildflower garden, planting native trees and shrubs and creating ponds.
- Making space for birds, bats and hedgehogs within built development
- Manage open mosaic habitat on former industrial sites or disused railways to reset succession
- Encourage Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems which manage surface water and provide new habitat

## Species

- Proposals for 16 different species that have been identified as of significant importance for action
- Reintroduction of species such as beaver and adder
- Safeguard and enhance habitats for White-clawed Crayfish, Water Vole and Grizzled Skipper
- Expand distribution of Hazel Dormouse in north Notts and Autumn Crocus around Nottingham city

## 6. Delivery of the LNRS

While the LNRS can be used by anyone to identify the best areas for nature recovery, one of the key uses of the strategy is to inform the delivery of mandatory **Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG)**.

BNG is a significant new approach to development, which aims to ensure that biodiversity is left in a measurably better condition after development has occurred. Ideally the existing biodiversity will stay on the site and will be improved. If this is not possible, new habitats must be created elsewhere, and an important purpose of the LNRS is to help to influence the location of BNG that is delivered at off-site locations.

It is also expected that the LNRS will help to guide future government funding for farmers, to help direct resources to areas where they provide the best opportunities for nature recovery projects.

### The LNRS will help to deliver the following:

- 1. Biodiversity enhancement:** delivering the creation and restoration of habitats to support a diverse range of species, at locations where such actions will have the greatest benefit, helping to achieve local and national targets
- 2. Sustainable land management and resource production:** encouraging sustainable land use practices and resource production that benefit both the environment and local economy
- 3. Climate resilience:** mitigating and adapting to the impacts of climate change, including flooding, building the resilience of our natural landscapes and the habitats and species which define them
- 4. Access and enjoyment:** improving access to natural spaces for residents, especially around the places where people live, promoting physical and mental well-being through nature-based activities
- 5. Community engagement:** fostering a stronger connection between people and nature by promoting community involvement in conservation efforts and providing educational opportunities





## 7. Monitoring and Review of the LNRS

The government has indicated that all LNRSs will be reviewed and updated every 3-10 years. Nottinghamshire County Council and its partners will therefore be required to monitor the impact of the LNRS in the county, and review what action has been taken that delivers the strategy. As a result, Nottinghamshire County Council will identify any new strategic priorities over time, taking account of progress made in nature recovery and changes in the local area as they take place.

**For more information about the LNRS please visit**

[notts.nature.recovery.co.uk](https://notts.nature.recovery.co.uk)





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