

# Draft Worcestershire Local Nature Recovery Strategy

*Public Consultation: Guidance Note Number 6*  
*Summer 2025*



Nature recovery through  
Biodiversity Net Gain

## Introduction

### Purpose of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS)

LNRSs set out agreed local priorities for nature’s recovery and are a tool to help us make decisions and target resources to achieve this. They suggest Potential Measures for on-the-ground action to create and enhance habitat and recover populations of species. Some Potential Measures are suggested for specific locations and are shown on the accompanying [Local Habitat Map](#). Other Potential Measures can be delivered anywhere within Worcestershire to benefit nature.

- ➡ **The Local Nature Recovery Strategy sets out *what* the priority habitats, species and environmental issues are for Worcestershire.**
- ➡ **The Local Nature Recovery Strategy suggests *where* the biggest gains for nature can be delivered if the suggested ‘Potential Measures’ are carried out.**

### Why do we need a Local Nature Recovery Strategy?

Great Britain is one of the most nature-depleted countries in the world. Habitats and species are under huge pressure from threats including development, intensive land management, pollution, invasive species, pests and disease, and climate change. Nature needs collective, concerted action from us to help it recover.

### Legal mandate

LNRSs were introduced by the Environment Act 2021 and 48 strategies will be in place across England from 2025.

### National context

LNRSs are key to the delivery of legally binding targets within the Environment Act, and targets and objectives within Government’s Environmental Improvement Plan for England. They will form the core of England’s Nature Recovery Network and help identify where and how we can effectively protect 30% of our land and seas for nature by 2030.



View a [Quick Guide](#) to the content of the written strategy and the Local Habitat Map  
View the [Glossary of LNRS terminology](#)

**The Public Consultation on the draft LNRS closes at 5pm on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> September 2025.**

Contact the LNRS team:

- [lnrs@worcestershire.gov.uk](mailto:lnrs@worcestershire.gov.uk)
- [www.worcestershire.gov.uk/lnrs](http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/lnrs)

Sign up for ‘Environmental Policy’ updates (including LNRS) on Worcestershire County Council’s [Planning Consultation Database](#)





# Nature recovery through Biodiversity Net Gain

Using the LNRS and Local Habitat Map to support nature recovery decision-making

## Introduction to Biodiversity Net Gain

[Biodiversity Net Gain](#) (BNG) is mandatory under the Environment Act 2021 for most development requiring planning permission. It seeks to ensure that wildlife habitats are left in a measurably better state than they were prior to the development commencing. Development that falls within scope of the legislation must deliver a minimum of 10% uplift in biodiversity value, measured against the habitats that were present before development commences.

## Role of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy in relation to BNG

Local Nature Recovery Strategies have a statutory role to spatially guide the delivery of BNG. Once published, a relevant LNRS must be the only document which is used to assign High Strategic Significance in BNG calculations. To receive the Strategic Significance uplift, the BNG habitat creation or enhancement must be consistent with the Potential Measure suggested for that location on the LNRS [Local Habitat Map](#).

### Further resources:

- Explanation of Strategic Significance application in the [Statutory Biodiversity Metric User Guide](#)
- Defra Blog on [Incorporating Local Nature Recovery Strategies when planning for Biodiversity Net Gain](#)

Applying the High Strategic Significance factor within Biodiversity Net Gain calculations provides an uplift of 15% when calculating the value of Biodiversity Units.

## How the Local Habitat Map is designed to help you

- **Developers/Agents:** You should use the Local Habitat Map to decide what BNG habitat creation or enhancement to carry out in a particular location. This could be for on-site or off-site BNG. Look to see what Potential Measures are suggested for the land where BNG is required OR use the Local Habitat Map to make decisions about where offsetting is located.
- **Landowners and Habitat Bank operators:** You should use the Local Habitat Map to either plan or create/enhance in advance the habitats that you want to offer as marketable Biodiversity Units via a Habitat Bank.
- **Developers/Agents and Local Authority Planning Officers:** The Local Habitat Map includes UKHab codes within the Potential Measure attributes. Click on the map to generate a pop-up box showing Potential Measures mapped in that location. The UKHab codes will be listed along with the Potential Measure description. The intention is to make clear what BNG habitats are considered consistent with the delivery of each mapped Potential Measure.

Explore the [Local Habitat Map webtool](#).

## Take part in the LNRS consultation

We would particularly like feedback on:

- The usefulness of the inclusion of UKHab codes against each Potential Measure description
- The general clarity and functionality of the Local Habitat Map
- If the Local Habitat Map makes it easy for you to find information and make decisions relating to mandatory BNG and/or voluntary measures to enhance nature

# Taking part in the LNRS Public Consultation

The Draft Worcestershire Local Nature Recovery Strategy is now available for Public Consultation. The LNRS comprises a written strategy document and a Local Habitat Map (LHM) webtool.

View a quick guide to the content of the written strategy and the Local Habitat Map.

## Time and Place

- The consultation launched on **4<sup>th</sup> August 2025** and will close at **5pm on 26<sup>th</sup> September 2025**.
- All of the consultation documents and supporting resources can be accessed from the [LNRS Consultation Homepage](#) on the Worcestershire County Council website.

## Consultation Questionnaire

You can respond to the consultation by completing a questionnaire, which you can find on the [LNRS Consultation Homepage](#).

You can tell us:

- How well the strategy conveys the purpose of LNRS and the state of nature in Worcestershire.
- Whether you agree with the habitat and species priorities proposed for Worcestershire and how important each priority is to you.
- If you want to propose changes to the wording of suggested Potential Measures, propose additional Potential Measures, or make changes to where mapped Potential Measures are located.
- How easy it was to use the Local Habitat Map and find the information you were looking for.
- About any nature recovery activity already happening on your land or in your community.

## Commenting on mapped Potential Measures

Some Potential Measures are mapped to specific locations. You can comment on whether the right measures have been mapped in the right places by using the [Local Habitat Map](#) webtool. The LHM webpage has a written and a video guide on how to use the map.

**Once the LNRS is published the Local Habitat Map cannot be amended until the Secretary of State instructs a review in 3-10 years time.**

## Find the most relevant content

This consultation guidance note is for people needing information on **Biodiversity Net Gain**. Guidance notes have also been published for the following audiences on the [LNRS guidance and information webpage](#):



**Nature recovery on sites already of importance for biodiversity** (for example Sites of Special Scientific Interest and Local Wildlife Sites)



**Nature recovery on land owned by public or statutory bodies and non-farming businesses** (for example road and rail corridors, industrial and retail parks, NHS estate, HMP estate)



**Nature recovery at home and in gardens**



**Nature recovery within communities or in schools**



**Nature recovery for owners and managers of farmland**

[LNRS Consultation Homepage](#)

[Local Habitat Map homepage](#)

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