

Draft Worcestershire Local Nature Recovery Strategy

Public Consultation: Guidance Note Number 4
Summer 2025



Nature recovery within
communities or in schools

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 26th
September 2025.**

Contact the LNRS team:

- lnrs@worcestershire.gov.uk
- www.worcestershire.gov.uk/lnrs

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





Nature recovery within communities and in schools

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

Thinking about nature recovery at a bigger scale

Green spaces within our communities, such as playing fields, churchyards, local nature areas, and linear corridors such as streams and road verges, are vitally important for wildlife. Within the built environment habitats hospitable to wildlife can easily become fragmented, leaving some species unable to travel between sites to find food, shelter, and safe places to breed and over-winter. Thinking about nature recovery at a community or parish-scale means opportunities can be sought to connect or reconnect some of these green spaces and natural habitats. It's an ideal opportunity to engage multiple individuals and groups in a community-wide project, and to seek expert advice and support from wildlife organisations.

How you can contribute to delivery of the LNRS and support nature recovery

The LNRS suggests a number of mapped and non-mapped Potential Measures that, depending on the existing habitats and availability of green space within your community, could be delivered at this scale, including:

- [Potential Measure 2](#): Create riparian buffer zones
- [Potential Measure 6](#): Create wildlife ponds in low-density pond areas
- [Potential Measure 12](#): Plant new woodland and trees outside woodland
- [Potential Measure 13](#): Enhance condition of existing woodlands for wildlife
- [Potential Measure 16](#): Create new hedgerows
- [Potential Measure 17](#): Enhance condition of hedgerows
- [Potential Measure 18](#): Increase numbers of hedgerow trees.
- [Potential Measure 25](#): Enhance wildlife value of newly created and younger orchards
- [Potential Measure 27](#): Create new orchards
- [Potential Measure 28](#): Plant hedgerow fruit trees
- [Potential Measure 38](#): Increase the extent, connectedness and quality of wildlife habitats within the built environment
- [Potential Measure 39](#): Enhance community green spaces for wildlife
- [Potential Measure 45](#): Reduce levels of artificial light at night in the countryside
- [Potential Measure 46](#): Reduce the impacts of artificial light at night on wildlife within the built environment
- [Potential Measure 47](#): Enhance the biodiversity value of all road verges

In addition, some of the species proposed as priorities for the Worcestershire LNRS depend on green spaces in our towns and villages, including our homes and gardens, to find habitat in which they can safely forage for food and breed, such as:

- **Hedgehog**: [Potential Measure 54](#)
- **House Martin and Swift**: [Potential Measure 59](#)
- **Cave and Building Bats**: [Potential Measure 61](#)

Take part in the LNRS consultation

To be a success, the LNRS needs widespread public support and people to champion it. If you respond to the consultation, we would particularly like feedback on:

- Whether you agree with the habitats and species proposed as priorities for Worcestershire
- Whether there are enough Potential Measures in the LNRS which are applicable to communities and schools – is there ‘something for everyone’?
- Is there anything you are already doing within your community or school, that we could use as a case study to help and inspire other people to take action?

LNRS Consultation
Homepage

Local Habitat Map
homepage



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 **4th August 2025** and will close at **5pm on 26th 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 wanting to deliver nature recovery within their **community or school**. 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 through Biodiversity Net Gain



Nature recovery at home and in gardens



Nature recovery for owners and managers of farmland

[LNRS Consultation Homepage](#)

[Local Habitat Map homepage](#)

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