

Draft Worcestershire Local Nature Recovery Strategy

Public Consultation: Guidance Note Number 2

Summer 2025



Nature recovery on sites
already of importance for
biodiversity

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 on sites already of importance for biodiversity

(for example Sites of Special Scientific Interest and Local Wildlife Sites)

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

Worcestershire's existing nature network

Within the LNRS sites that have a statutory or non-statutory designation for nature conservation are known as 'Areas of Particular Importance for Biodiversity' or APIBs. These sites form the core of the county's existing nature network. The boundaries of all of Worcestershire's APIBs must appear on the LNRS Local Habitat Map by law. In Worcestershire, APIBs include:

Statutory sites designated under EU and/or UK law

- Special Areas of Conservation
- Sites of Special Scientific Interest
- National Nature Reserves
- Local Nature Reserves
- Irreplaceable Habitat (in Worcestershire: ancient semi-natural woodland; plantations on ancient woodland sites; wood pasture and parkland; ancient trees and veteran trees; lowland fen)

Non-statutory sites identified locally as being of at least county-level importance for wildlife

- Local Wildlife Sites and Local Geological Sites
- Roadside Verge Nature Reserves
- Grassland Inventory Sites

Potential Measures and sites already of importance for biodiversity

The LNRS contains suggested Potential Measures: actions to recover nature. Some are mapped on the Local Habitat Map to show where they could achieve the biggest gains for nature. Some are non-mapped and would be beneficial for nature anywhere in Worcestershire.

Potential Measures cannot duplicate or contradict management plan objectives for statutory sites or Natural England's Views About Management published in relation to statutory sites. For further information refer to [Government guidance on managing Sites of Special Scientific Interest](#). In practice this means there are very few Potential Measures mapped to sites with statutory designations, whereas all sites with non-statutory designations **do** have Potential Measures suggested for them.

The 'Right to Remove' Potential Measures from the Local Habitat Map

The Local Habitat Map identifies where the best gains for nature can be delivered, based on the potential to create or enhance habitats or recover populations of species. Potential Measures suggested by the LNRS are **entirely voluntary** and they **do not** impose any additional restrictions on how you manage the land. However, you can request that any mapped Potential Measures on the land are removed. Please contact the LNRS team on lnrs@worcestershire.gov.uk to discuss this. If the land is an APIB, the site boundary will still be shown on the map but any mapped Potential Measures in this location will be removed.

Take part in the LNRS consultation

Explore the [Local Habitat Map](#) to see if there are any mapped Potential Measures suggested for the land you own or manage.

We would particularly like feedback on:

- Whether existing Potential Measures are mapped in the right places
- If any entirely new Potential Measures are needed
- If you think the Local Habitat Map will be a useful tool to help guide decision-making on nature recovery on your land
- If the design of the Local Habitat Map makes it easy to navigate and find the information needed

[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 owners or managers of **sites already of importance for biodiversity**. Guidance notes have also been published for the following audiences on the [LNRS guidance and information webpage](#):



Nature recovery for owners and managers of farmland



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 through Biodiversity Net Gain

[LNRS Consultation Homepage](#)

[Local Habitat Map homepage](#)

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