

Draft Worcestershire Local Nature Recovery Strategy

Public Consultation: Guidance Note Number 5

Summer 2025



Nature recovery at home
and in gardens

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](#)



Worcestershire County Council is the
Responsible Authority for the Worcestershire LNRS





Nature recovery at home and in gardens

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

The importance of gardens and built-up areas for nature

Gardens, green spaces and buildings are vitally important places for wildlife. How we manage these spaces can make a big difference to how species survive and thrive within our cities, towns and villages. Adding features to your home such as a pond, a 'hedgehog highway' gap in your fence, nest boxes for birds or bats, or an insect hotel, can help ensure that wildlife can travel around to find the food it needs, a mate, a place to hibernate and a place to breed. Removing direct threats and pressures on wildlife is also important. Some of the best things we can do include stopping the use of chemicals such as pesticides and slug pellets, adding a little water into our gardens, and leaving part (or all!) of our garden a bit untidier.

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

The LNRS recognises that it will be impractical to deliver many of the Potential Measures that have been mapped at a strategic (county) scale within the confines of a private home or garden. There are some exceptions, which include:

- **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 42:** Buffer and enhance habitat connectivity around and between non-statutory nature conservation sites
- **Potential Measure 46:** Reduce the impacts of artificial light at night on wildlife within the built environment.

The LNRS also includes non-mapped Potential Measures which can be delivered anywhere in Worcestershire: many of these are suitable for homes and gardens. Examples include:

- **Potential Measure 6:** Create wildlife ponds in low-density pond areas.
- **Potential Measure 16:** Create new hedgerows.
- **Potential Measure 18:** Increase numbers of hedgerow trees.

Even if you have a very small area of outdoor space, there is plenty you can do to support nature recovery by caring for your home and garden in a more wildlife-friendly way. In addition, some of the species proposed as priorities for the Worcestershire LNRS depend on homes and gardens in our towns and villages to find habitat in which they can safely forage for food and breed, such as:

- **Hedgehog:** non-mapped **Potential Measure 54**
- **House Martin and Swift:** non-mapped **Potential Measure 59**
- **Cave and Building Bats:** non-mapped **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 homes and gardens – is there 'something for everyone'?
- Is there anything you are doing at home, or within your community, that we could use as a case study to help and inspire other people to take action?

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 in their **home or garden**. 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 within communities or in schools



Nature recovery for owners and managers of farmland

[LNRS Consultation Homepage](#)

[Local Habitat Map homepage](#)

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