Creating the list of proposed Biodiversity Priorities (habitats and environmental issues) for the Worcestershire LNRS

Related documents:

- **Biodiversity Priorities Assessment Matrix**
- **Creating the list of proposed Species Priorities for the Worcestershire LNRS**

Supporting information:

- **Potential Measures Storymap Collection**

STEP 1.

The first step in selecting the habitats and environmental issues that would be prioritised within the Worcestershire LNRS was the production of a longlist of potential Biodiversity Priorities. Species priorities were considered separately following a specific process set out within Defra guidance.

The longlist was compiled using:

- Responses to the LNRS Issues and Options Consultation in January/February 2024
- Workshops and meetings held with key partners and stakeholders between February and November 2024
- Information from existing environmental plans and strategies

176 suggestions were collated for inclusion within the longlist. Some potential priorities were suggested by more than one respondent, most noticeable in the repeated inclusion of specific habitat types within the list below. This duplication was deliberately retained within the longlist. The suggestions were grouped into categories for ease of analysis.

Biodiversity Priorities Longlist:

Development management and planning policy

1. Enforce green building standards/nature recovery principles in new development proposals.
2. Enforcing biodiversity net gain is delivered when habitat lost to development.
3. Increase protection of nature within planning system.
4. Prevent developers removing hedges and trees
5. Planning authorities not to allow 'infill' between developments or established residential properties.
6. Preservation of green spaces or 'gaps'.
7. A more positive and expeditious response to tree preservation order applications.
8. Closer scrutiny of the impact of planning decisions on the local environment e.g. flooding impacts that may arise downstream of a development.
9. Monitoring impact of development on environment and nature
10. Identify landscape-scale areas which should receive greater consideration for protection from development

Watercourse / wetland-related environmental issues

11. Elimination of sewage contamination of watercourses
12. Address causes of water pollution
13. Greater control of river pollution
14. Community engagement through information on the risks to the environment from miss connections, 3 p's , and waste water down surface water drains
15. Improve water quality monitoring to help early identification of risk
16. Flood defences
17. Natural Flood Management
18. Slow the flow water management measures: creation of wetland features, restoration of wet meadow; NFM
19. Improve surface water management through permeable surfaces, SUDS, water storage
20. Introducing wetlands or flood water run off areas
21. Species reintroduction (beavers for instance) to help with flood risk, water quality, carbon etc
22. Use of beaver dams to create wetlands and flood storage areas
23. Improve connectivity within watercourses by removing barriers for fish migration, improving floodplain connectivity and floodplain habitats, and restoring and enhancing wetland habitats
24. Restore connectivity within the riparian environment to promote species movement for resident and anadromous species and functional sediment transfer
25. Restoration of these riparian environments to simulate and kickstart natural process and function allowing the river to move
26. Provide environmental conditions to promote endangered species recovery through a healthy water environment.
27. Promote healthy bankside communities of aquatic and emergent vegetation, which are critical for spawning habitat for many coarse fish
28. Restore or create key spawning habitats within the riparian environment
29. Could strive to provide bathing water standard for recreational use
30. Provide food security and resilience to drought
31. Redraw hydrologically justified boundaries for important wetland sites, in particular SSSIs, to create a buffer zone of better management to improve water quality and improve condition status of the SSSI
32. INNS Management in riparian habitats for the reduction in spread and impact
33. Running water - ditches, streams, brooks, riverine corridors
34. Canals and rivers
35. Canals
36. Rivers and brooks with their floodplains
37. Rivers

Wildflower verges/verge management

38. Wildflower planting on verges
39. Wilding verges and roundabouts
40. More wildflower planting and less mowing on verges
41. More road verges managed sympathetically for wildlife as nature reserves

Litter and waste/pollution

42. Tackle fly tipping, especially of garden waste
43. Dog mess bins
44. Litter

45. More litter bins

Nature corridors and connectivity

46. Creation of natural highways for wildlife between areas of high importance
47. Developing new wildlife corridors
48. Small animal highways
49. Protecting wildlife corridors
50. Joining up and creating corridors between existing habitats
51. Create a network of connected landscapes to enable species movement within the landscape
52. Consider natural highways so that fairly unremarkable areas connect areas of very high importance
53. Linking habitats including woodlands, hedgerows, arable margins - linking to B-Lines
54. Sensitive/low level lighting schemes
55. Dark corridors

Reducing human disturbance/pressure

56. Creating secluded areas for nature recovery where public pressure is removed for sensitive species
57. Locations where public access to the countryside needs to be prioritised either to address a lack of access or to reduce pressure on nearby sensitive sites
58. Controlling irresponsible use of wildlife sites

Community engagement and community spaces

59. Involve the local volunteer sector to promote and deliver strategy - community wildlife groups etc
60. Involve local communities
61. Engaging new residents with wildlife and nature of local area
62. Engagement with local communities
63. Supporting community activity around wildlife awareness and action for wildlife
64. Educating the community (eg schools)
65. Promoting gardening for wildlife and communicating key messages on how to do this
66. Engagement with local councillors/politicians
67. Community orchards
68. Allotments
69. Allotments
70. Survey and map all open green spaces
71. Targeted campaigns on species

Trees, woodland and hedgerows

72. Tree planting
73. Trees
74. Urban tree planting
75. Importance of right tree in right place when considering trees/woodland as a priority
76. Plant specimen trees in planting schemes, not just whips
77. Restore nature-rich woodlands
78. Restoration and management of existing woodlands
79. Lowland mixed deciduous woodland
80. Ancient woodland
81. Lowland native broad-leaved woodland: new woodland creation, ancient semi-natural woodland

82. Restore 100% of PAWS woodlands
83. Expand woodland habitat
84. Increase the wildlife value of mixed woodlands
85. Creation/strengthening of woodland corridors
86. Floodplain, riparian and wet woodland
87. Wet woodland
88. Wet woodland
89. Creation/strengthening of riparian woodland corridors
90. Hedgerows
91. Hedgerows
92. Hedgerows
93. Hedgerow planting
94. Pre-enclosure hedges
95. Sympathetic management of hedges
96. Management and enhancement of existing hedgerows
97. Regarding supporting pollinators, the inclusion of the value of hedgerows and trees would also be of value. The promotion of providing a blossom sequence across the year is of significant benefit.
98. Agroforestry
99. Recognition of pressures on woodland
100. Give names to small woodlands
101. Support for woodlands to be managed productively, to benefit owners and wildlife

Habitats (other than trees, woodland and hedgerows)

102. Groundwater-fed fens
103. Groundwater dependent wetland habitats are just as high a priority as floodplain wetland habitats
104. MG4 grassland and other wet meadows
105. MG4 grassland
106. Promotion and restoration of connected floodplain meadows
107. Restoration of rivers and floodplain habitats should include the Carrant Brook which has a substantial quantity of flood meadow
108. Wet grassland / marsh
109. Species rich wet grassland (floodplain meadow) contributing to improving water quality and availability, as part of flood risk mitigation, and reduction of phosphorus
110. Coastal and floodplain grazing marsh
111. Reedbeds
112. Fen
113. Reedbed
114. Lowland meadow
115. Lowland meadow
116. Lowland meadow
117. Lowland meadows
118. Lowland neutral hay meadows
119. Species-rich neutral grassland
120. MG5 meadows and other species-rich grassland
121. Ponds
122. Ponds
123. Restoration of farm ponds
124. Farm ponds
125. Ponds and other water bodies

126. Eutrophic standing waters
127. Open water including worked out gravel pits
128. Wood pasture and parkland
129. Wood-pasture and parkland
130. Wood pasture and parkland
131. Veteran trees
132. Create, maintain and improve the condition of existing wood pasture and parkland
133. Safeguard present and future veteran trees outside woodland
134. More open grown trees (outside woodland) to enhance connectivity between sites rich in saproxylic fauna, particularly in countryside around Croome
135. Traditional orchard
136. Traditional orchard
137. Orchards
138. Restoration and creation of traditional orchard
139. Traditional orchards
140. Traditional orchards
141. Acid grassland
142. Species-rich acid grassland
143. Lowland dry acid grassland
144. Lowland heathland
145. Heathland
146. Upland heathland
147. Calcareous grassland
148. Calcareous grassland
149. Calcareous grassland
150. Limestone grassland and scrub
151. Arable field margins
152. Arable farmland where there are seedbanks for arable wildflowers
153. Farmland managed to support farmland birds and insects
154. Soils
155. Increase soil carbon to facilitate water storing capacity of the landscape
156. Reducing soil erosion and pollution are all key aims in lessening the impacts of agriculture on species such as Salmon at important times in the lifecycle
157. Open mosaic habitats on previously developed land
158. Redundant industrial sites and OMH that can be important for invertebrates
159. Inland rock outcrop and scree habitats
160. Scrub
161. Urban
162. Saline habitat
163. Wet and dry grasslands should be given equal priority to reflect their wider ecosystem services and ability to delivery climate mitigation, alongside nutrient filtering/removal
164. Improving existing habitats
165. No further loss of existing areas of semi-natural habitat

Other

166. Large scale rewilding project
167. Local Wildlife Sites
168. PROW repairs/improvements
169. Link delivery of agri-environment funding to LNRS
170. More detail on how delivery will happen

171. Opportunities for employment and training in the nature recovery sector
172. Protection and enhancement of historic environment and heritage assets
173. Support for the replacement/upgrading of farm infrastructure where this will positively impact on water quality or air quality etc
174. Ensure Local Geological Sites are recognised for their heritage and educational value
175. Support/incentives for landowners to maintain permissive access routes
176. Providing a blossom sequence across the year is of significant benefit

STEP 2.

A Task & Finish Group was convened to agree a set of criteria against which each potential priority on the longlist could be assessed and scored. A Biodiversity Priorities Assessment Matrix was compiled to enable the assessment and scoring process.

The first criteria in the matrix acted as a 'gatekeeper' question to scope-out any suggested priorities which were not within the legal scope of what LNRS's are required to do. The LNRS Statutory Guidance says that:

- Strategy priorities should be the species and habitats that the strategy will focus on supporting, and achievable improvements to the wider natural environment through their conservation and enhancement.

The following 29 suggestions were scoped-out from being potential priorities. Some of them have instead been added to other parts of the evidence base, for example the identification of threats and pressures on habitats and species (e.g. 2, 3, 9, 10), or the importance of 'co-benefits' to nature recovery such as activities that will lead to increased provision of access to nature or improving health and wellbeing (e.g. 11, 22).

1. Enforce protection of nature through the planning system, green building standards and mandatory contributions to nature recovery by development.
2. Prevent developers removing hedges and trees
3. Prevention of infill development to preserve green spaces within residential areas
4. A more positive and expeditious response to tree preservation order applications.
5. Monitoring and scrutiny of the impacts of planning decisions on local environment and nature.
6. Flood defences
7. Could strive to provide bathing water standard for recreational use
8. Provide food security and resilience to drought
9. Tackle littering and fly-tipping.
10. Reduce human pressure and disturbance on and irresponsible use of wildlife sites, redirecting public access to more appropriate areas where necessary.
11. Involve residents, local communities, schools and local volunteer groups in the delivery of the strategy and taking action for nature recovery.
12. Survey and map all open green spaces
13. Targeted campaigns on species
14. Agroforestry
15. Recognition of pressures on woodland
16. Gives names to small woodlands
17. Support for woodlands to be managed productively, to benefit owners and wildlife
18. Urban

19. Wet and dry grasslands should be given equal priority to reflect their wider ecosystem services and ability to delivery climate mitigation, alongside nutrient filtering/removal
20. Improving existing habitats
21. No further loss of existing areas of semi-natural habitat
22. PROW repairs/improvements
23. Link delivery of agri-environment funding to LNRS
24. More detail on how delivery will happen
25. Opportunities for employment and training in the nature recovery sector
26. Protection and enhancement of historic environment and heritage assets
27. Support for the replacement/upgrading of farm infrastructure where this will positively impact on water quality or air quality etc
28. Support/incentives for landowners to maintain permissive access routes
29. Engagement with local councillors/politicians

STEP 3.

The remaining 147 in-scope potential priorities were re-grouped and summarised for ease of further analysis. Removing the duplication in the list at this point by grouping similar enough potential priorities together gave a list of 33 potential priorities to be assessed against the criteria within the matrix.

Potential priorities assessed against the criteria	**How these suggestions were taken forward into a final list of proposed Biodiversity Priorities for the Worcestershire LNRS** *Note that individual proposed Biodiversity Priorities may be listed multiple times in this table as they directly relate to more than one of the suggestions received into the longlist.*
1. Improve monitoring of and take action to address causes of watercourse pollution arising from sewage contamination, household sewer misconnections, and disposal of wastewater into surface water drains.	Monitoring and taking action to address watercourse pollution from domestic sources is a statutory responsibility of Severn Trent Water and the Environment Agency and so is not within scope of the LNRS. However, there are habitat creation and enhancement measures that the LNRS could propose which will contribute towards reducing pollution entering watercourses and wetlands and improving the water quality within our rivers and streams. The following proposed Biodiversity Priority has been included within the draft LNRS: **Biodiversity Priority One**: Improve the quality of the water within Worcestershire's rivers and streams
2. Restore wetland and riparian habitats to improve connectivity between the watercourse and the floodplain, promote (desirable) species movement and migration within the water environment, provide spawning habitats for fish and to increase and support natural hydrological function.	Proposing measures to create or restore wetland habitats and/or measures to recover populations of priority species is directly within scope of the LNRS. The following proposed Biodiversity Priorities have been included within the draft LNRS: **Biodiversity Priority Two**: Improve the availability of water within Worcestershire's rivers and streams to improve condition of habitats and increase species' resilience to flood and drought events

	Biodiversity Priority Three: Improve the quality and extent of in-channel and riparian habitat for key species, for example shad, brown trout, eel, white-clawed crayfish and water vole **Biodiversity Priority Five:** Increase the number of ponds and the extent and connectivity of wetland and terrestrial habitat between ponds **Biodiversity Priority Six:** Improve the condition of ponds and the number of ponds that qualify for priority pond status **Biodiversity Priority Seven:** Increase the extent of wetland habitats under restoration and in good condition **Biodiversity Priority Eight:** Increase the extent of saline habitats under restoration and in good condition
3. Redraw hydrologically justified boundaries for important wetland sites, in particular SSSIs, to create a buffer zone of better management to improve water quality and improve condition status of the SSSI	Reviewing the boundaries of legally protected sites is a statutory responsibility of Natural England and so is not within scope of the LNRS. However, the LNRS can propose habitat creation and enhancement measures on hydrologically linked land surrounding such sites which would promote and incentivise positive land management change. This will improve the quality and the quantity of the water entering protected sites and support achieving an improvement in their condition status. The following proposed Biodiversity Priorities have been included within the draft LNRS: **Biodiversity Priority One**: Improve the quality of the water within Worcestershire's rivers and streams **Biodiversity Priority Two**: Improve the availability of water within Worcestershire's rivers and streams to improve condition of habitats and increase species' resilience to flood and drought events **Biodiversity Priority Four:** Improve the hydrological functioning and condition of groundwater-fed wetland sites

	Biodiversity Priority Seven: Increase the extent of wetland habitats under restoration and in good condition
4. Enhancement and management of in-channel and riparian habitat of rivers, streams, canals and other watercourses	Proposing measures to enhance in-channel and riparian habitat is directly within scope of the LNRS. The following proposed Biodiversity Priority has been included within the draft LNRS: **Biodiversity Priority Three**: Improve the quality and extent of in-channel and riparian habitat for key species, for example shad, brown trout, eel, white-clawed crayfish and water vole
5. Support for the establishment and wildlife-friendly management of community spaces such as orchards and allotments.	Proposing measures where the creation and enhancement of habitats within and close to the built environment will support increased access to nature and promote human health and wellbeing is directly within scope of the LNRS. The following proposed Biodiversity Priorities have been included within the draft LNRS: **Biodiversity Priority Nine:** Increase tree cover in the form of woodland and trees outside woodland, including hedgerow trees, orchards, riparian/wet woodland and urban tree canopy cover **Biodiversity Priority Forty:** Cities, towns and villages to be places richer in nature with a greater extent of connected, accessible greenspace within them **Biodiversity Priority Forty-One:** All built development to maximise the provision of wildlife-friendly features and corridors within their design
6. Creation, expansion, restoration and management of native woodland and woodland corridors.	Proposing measures to create and enhance woodland habitat and improve woodland connectivity is directly within scope of the LNRS. The following proposed Biodiversity Priorities have been included within the draft LNRS: **Biodiversity Priority Nine:** Increase tree cover in the form of woodland and trees outside woodland, including hedgerow trees, orchards, riparian/wet woodland and urban tree canopy cover **Biodiversity Priority Ten:** Improve the condition of ancient semi-natural woodlands and bring more PAWs woodlands into restorative management

	Biodiversity Priority Eleven: Increase the functional connectivity between woodlands at a landscape scale, to allow for species movement
7. Creation, restoration and management of hedgerows.	Proposing measures to create and enhance hedgerow habitat is directly within scope of the LNRS. The following proposed Biodiversity Priorities have been included within the draft LNRS: **Biodiversity Priority Twelve:** Increase the extent of hedgerow habitat to enhance their ability to function as linear corridors for wildlife **Biodiversity Priority Thirteen:** Increase the number of hedgerows in good condition for wildlife by managing them according to best practice guidelines **Biodiversity Priority Fourteen:** Improve shrub and ground flora diversity within hedgerows to enhance their function as a food source for wildlife throughout the year
8. Creation, enhancement and management of lowland meadow	Proposing measures to create and enhance lowland meadow habitat is directly within scope of the LNRS. The following proposed Biodiversity Priorities have been included within the draft LNRS: **Biodiversity Priority Twenty-Four:** Increase the extent of lowland meadow habitat under restoration and in good condition **Biodiversity Priority Twenty-Five:** Reduce fragmentation and increase the functional connectivity between areas of lowland meadow
9. Creation, enhancement and management of ponds and lakes	Proposing measures to create and enhance pond and lake habitats is directly within scope of the LNRS. The following proposed Biodiversity Priorities have been included within the draft LNRS: **Biodiversity Priority Five:** Increase the number of ponds and the extent and connectivity of wetland and terrestrial habitat between ponds **Biodiversity Priority Six:** Improve the condition of ponds and the number of ponds that qualify for priority pond status

	Biodiversity Priority Seven: Increase the extent of wetland habitats under restoration and in good condition
10. Creation, enhancement and management of wood pasture and parkland and protection of existing and future veteran trees	Proposing measures to create and enhance wood pasture and parkland habitat and to enhance the condition of existing and future veteran trees is directly within scope of the LNRS. The following proposed Biodiversity Priorities have been included within the draft LNRS: **Biodiversity Priority Fifteen:** Increase the extent of wood pasture and parkland habitat, including to buffer and connect sites of existing importance for biodiversity **Biodiversity Priority Sixteen:** Increase the number of ancient and veteran trees being sensitively managed to extend their lifespan **Biodiversity Priority Seventeen:** Increase the amount of standing and fallen deadwood available for wildlife within the wider countryside
11. Creation, enhancement and management of traditional orchard	Proposing measures to create and enhance traditional orchard habitat is directly within scope of the LNRS. The following proposed Biodiversity Priorities have been included within the draft LNRS: **Biodiversity Priority Nine:** Increase tree cover in the form of woodland and trees outside woodland, including hedgerow trees, orchards, riparian/wet woodland and urban tree canopy cover **Biodiversity Priority Nineteen:** Create more traditional orchard habitat **Biodiversity Priority Twenty:** Bring more existing traditional orchards into a programme of life-extending, restorative management
12. Creation, enhancement and management of acid grassland and lowland heathland	Proposing measures to create and enhance acid grassland and lowland heathland habitats is directly within scope of the LNRS. The following proposed Biodiversity Priorities have been included within the draft LNRS:

	Biodiversity Priority Twenty-Six: Increase the extent of acid grassland and heathland habitats under restoration and in good condition **Biodiversity Priority Twenty-Seven:** Reduce fragmentation and increase the functional connectivity between areas of acid grassland and heathland habitats
13. Creation, enhancement and management of calcareous grassland and scrub habitats	Proposing measures to create and enhance both calcareous grassland and scrub habitats is directly within scope of the LNRS. The following proposed Biodiversity Priorities have been included within the draft LNRS: **Biodiversity Priority Eighteen:** Increase the amount of well-managed scrub habitat **Biodiversity Priority Twenty-Eight:** Increase the extent of calcareous grassland habitat under restoration and in good condition **Biodiversity Priority Twenty-Nine:** Reduce fragmentation and increase the functional connectivity between areas of calcareous grassland
14. Creation, enhancement and management of arable farmland, field margins, headlands and set aside for farmland birds, insects and arable wildflowers	Proposing measures to create and enhance wildlife-friendly habitats within an arable landscape is directly within scope of the LNRS. The following proposed Biodiversity Priorities have been included within the draft LNRS: **Biodiversity Priority Thirty:** Increase the number of sites supporting diverse, well-managed populations of arable wildflowers **Biodiversity Priority Thirty-One:** Increase the abundance and diversity of pollinating insect species, birds and small mammals on farmland
15. Scrub	Proposing measures to create and enhance scrub habitat is directly within scope of the LNRS. Scrub should be considered as an important component of a habitat mosaic in its own right, as well as an ecotone between other habitat types. The following proposed Biodiversity Priority has been included within the draft LNRS: **Biodiversity Priority Eighteen:** Increase the amount of well-managed scrub habitat
16. Creation, expansion, restoration and management of wet woodland, riparian woodland and corridors.	Proposing measures to create and enhance wet woodland and riparian woodland habitat is directly within scope of the LNRS. The following proposed Biodiversity Priorities have been included within the draft LNRS:

	Biodiversity Priority Three: Improve the quality and extent of in-channel and riparian habitat for key species, for example shad, brown trout, eel, white-clawed crayfish and water vole **Biodiversity Priority Nine:** Increase tree cover in the form of woodland and trees outside woodland, including hedgerow trees, orchards, riparian/wet woodland and urban tree canopy cover
17. Creation, enhancement and management of floodplain meadow, fen, marsh, swamp and reedbed	Proposing measures to create and enhance floodplain meadow, fen, marsh, swamp and reedbed habitats is directly within scope of the LNRS. The following proposed Biodiversity Priorities have been included within the draft LNRS: **Biodiversity Priority Five:** Increase the number of ponds and the extent and connectivity of wetland and terrestrial habitat between ponds **Biodiversity Priority Seven:** Increase the extent of wetland habitats under restoration and in good condition **Biodiversity Priority Twenty-One:** Increase the extent of floodplain meadow habitat under restoration and in good condition **Biodiversity Priority Twenty-Two:** Reduce fragmentation and increase the functional connectivity between areas of floodplain meadow **Biodiversity Priority Twenty-Three:** Increase the extent of wet grassland habitat under restoration and in good condition
18. Better management and protection of soils to store water and carbon and reduce soil loss/erosion.	Healthy soil is fundamental to functioning ecosystems, and the restoration and protection of soil biodiversity is directly within scope of the LNRS. The following proposed Biodiversity Priorities have been included within the draft LNRS: **Biodiversity Priority Thirty-Seven:** Halt the loss of soils from agricultural land

	Biodiversity Priority Thirty-Eight: Improve organic matter, biodiversity, water retention capacity and carbon content within agricultural soils
19. Inland rock outcrop and scree habitats	Rock and scree exposures provide important early successional habitats and biological niches for plants and animals. The enhancement of these habitats is directly within scope of the LNRS. The following proposed Biodiversity Priority has been included within the draft LNRS: **Biodiversity Priority Thirty-Nine:** Increase the number of well managed geological exposures to provide early successional habitats important for a range of plant and invertebrate assemblages and nesting birds, as well as research and educational opportunities
20. Saline habitat	Proposing measures to create and enhance wetland habitats in specific areas where the groundwater is saline is directly within scope of the LNRS. There is a very small and geographically discrete amount of this habitat type within Worcestershire to which proposed measures were mapped. The following proposed Biodiversity Priority has been included within the draft LNRS: **Biodiversity Priority Eight:** Increase the extent of saline habitats under restoration and in good condition
21. Use natural flood management, the creation and restoration of wetland features, and sustainable drainage systems to manage water availability and reduce flood risk.	Promising measures that use nature-based solutions to solve problems such as flooding by creating and restoring natural habitats is directly within scope of the LNRS. The following proposed Biodiversity Priorities have been included within the draft LNRS: **Biodiversity Priority Five:** Increase the number of ponds and the extent and connectivity of wetland and terrestrial habitat between ponds **Biodiversity Priority Seven:** Increase the extent of wetland habitats under restoration and in good condition **Biodiversity Priority Nine:** Increase tree cover in the form of woodland and trees outside woodland, including hedgerow trees, orchards, riparian/wet woodland and urban tree canopy cover

	Biodiversity Priority Forty-One: All built development to maximise the provision of wildlife-friendly features and corridors within their design
22. Plant more trees, in the right place, including urban tree planting.	Proposing measure to plant trees and increase tree canopy cover is directly within scope of the LNRS. The following proposed Biodiversity Priorities have been included within the draft LNRS: **Biodiversity Priority Nine:** Increase tree cover in the form of woodland and trees outside woodland, including hedgerow trees, orchards, riparian/wet woodland and urban tree canopy cover **Biodiversity Priority Forty:** Cities, towns and villages to be places richer in nature with a greater extent of connected, accessible greenspace within them
23. INNS Management in riparian habitats for the reduction in spread and impact	Enhancing the condition of habitats may involve the eradication of Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS). Helping the recovery of populations of species may also involve the control or eradication of INNS. Individual plants and animals that may benefit from very specific measures for the control or eradication of INNS have been considered as part of the process of selecting LNRS Species Priorities. The following proposed Biodiversity Priorities have been included within the draft LNRS: **Biodiversity Priority Three**: Improve the quality and extent of in-channel and riparian habitat for key species, for example shad, brown trout, eel, white-clawed crayfish and water vole **Biodiversity Priority Seven:** Increase the extent of wetland habitats under restoration and in good condition
24. Providing a blossom sequence across the year is of significant benefit	Proposing measures for the creation and enhancement of habitats which can provide food sources for wildlife throughout the year is directly within scope of the LNRS. The following proposed Biodiversity Priorities have been included within the draft LNRS: **Biodiversity Priority Fourteen:** Improve shrub and ground flora diversity within hedgerows to enhance their function as a food source for wildlife throughout the year **Biodiversity Priority Nineteen:** Create more traditional orchard habitat

	Biodiversity Priority Twenty-Four: Increase the extent of lowland meadow habitat under restoration and in good condition **Biodiversity Priority Thirty-Five:** Increase the biodiversity value of road verges across Worcestershire **Biodiversity Priority Forty:** Cities, towns and villages to be places richer in nature with a greater extent of connected, accessible greenspace within them
25. Local Wildlife Sites	Local Wildlife Sites are already mapped as a critical component of Worcestershire's core nature network as 'Areas of Particular Importance for Biodiversity'. Proposing measures which will protect and enhance the habitats within designated Local Wildlife Sites is directly within scope of the LNRS. The following proposed Biodiversity Priorities have been included within the draft LNRS: **Biodiversity Priority Thirty-Two:** Increase the number of Local Sites that are in positive conservation management with habitats in good or recovering condition **Biodiversity Priority Thirty-Three:** Increase the number of core sites within the Worcestershire Nature Recovery Network which are being effectively conserved and managed for nature
26. Identify, create and manage linear corridors to provide connectivity for wildlife across the landscape linking priority habitats or protected sites.	Proposing measures in locations where habitat creation and enhancement will lead to increased connectivity between core sites and reduced fragmentation between patches of priority habitat is directly within scope of the LNRS. The following proposed Biodiversity Priorities have been included within the draft LNRS: **Biodiversity Priority Thirty-Four:** Reduce fragmentation and increase the functional connectivity between core sites within the Worcestershire Nature Recovery Network **Biodiversity Priority Thirty-Five:** Increase the biodiversity value of road verges across Worcestershire
27. Create and promote the use of dark or low-level/wildlife-friendly lighting corridors.	High levels of light pollution can negatively impact the way that species use natural habitats for movement, breeding and foraging. Enhancing a habitat for wildlife by

	reducing the impact of artificial light at night to allow populations of species to exert natural behaviours and recover their numbers or distribution is directly within scope of the LNRS. The following proposed Biodiversity Priority has been included within the draft LNRS: **Biodiversity Priority Thirty-six:** Reduce the harm to wildlife caused by artificial light at night
28. Manage road verges sympathetically to increase wildflowers and wildlife.	Proposing measures to increase the floristic value of road verges and enhance the habitat for wildlife is directly within scope of the LNRS. The network of road verges across Worcestershire is mapped as an existing dataset and Worcestershire's Roadside Verge Nature Reserves are already mapped as a critical component of Worcestershire's core nature network as 'Areas of Particular Importance for Biodiversity'. The following proposed Biodiversity Priority has been included within the draft LNRS: **Biodiversity Priority Thirty-Seven:** Increase the biodiversity value of road verges across Worcestershire
29. Use keystone species such as beaver to achieve habitat and environmental outcomes such as wetland creation, flood risk reduction, water quality improvement and carbon storage.	Proposing measures for habitat creation and enhancement which can lead to all of the environmental outcomes suggested here is directly within scope of the LNRS. The following proposed Biodiversity Priorities have been included within the draft LNRS: **Biodiversity Priority One**: Improve the quality of the water within Worcestershire's rivers and streams **Biodiversity Priority Two**: Improve the availability of water within Worcestershire's rivers and streams to improve condition of habitats and increase species' resilience to flood and drought events **Biodiversity Priority Three**: Improve the quality and extent of in-channel and riparian habitat for key species, for example shad, brown trout, eel, white-clawed crayfish and water vole **Biodiversity Priority Four:** Improve the hydrological functioning and condition of groundwater-fed wetland sites

	Biodiversity Priority Five: Increase the number of ponds and the extent and connectivity of wetland and terrestrial habitat between ponds **Biodiversity Priority Seven:** Increase the extent of wetland habitats under restoration and in good condition
30. Large scale rewilding project	The delivery of such an ambitious priority is dependent on large amounts of land being available and on the vision and commitment of landowners. The Local Habitat Map can be used to identify strategically important locations where such a project would contribute to strengthening the existing Nature Recovery Network, and to inform the selection of potential measures for the creation and enhancement of habitat to achieve the best gains for nature. The following proposed Biodiversity Priority has been included within the draft LNRS: **Biodiversity Priority Thirty-Four:** Reduce fragmentation and increase the functional connectivity between core sites within the Worcestershire Nature Recovery Network
31. Identification and management of open mosaic habitats on previously developed land	Open Mosaic Habitat is rarely recorded in Worcestershire. However, the identification and use of previously developed land for new development and the requirement for mandatory Biodiversity Net Gain is likely to provide some opportunity for the creation or enhancement of these types of habitat mosaics. The following proposed Biodiversity Priority has been included within the draft LNRS: **Biodiversity Priority Forty-Two:** The delivery of nature recovery is integral to both the strategic planning and design of new development and the development management process
32. Ensure Local Geological Sites are recognised for their heritage and educational value	Local Geological Sites are an important and valued component of Worcestershire's core nature network and are mapped as 'Areas of Particular Importance for Biodiversity'. Rock and scree exposures provide important early successional habitats and biological niches for plants and animals. The enhancement of these habitats is directly within scope of the LNRS. The following proposed Biodiversity Priorities have been included within the draft LNRS:

	Biodiversity Priority Thirty-Two: Increase the number of Local Sites that are in positive conservation management with habitats in good or recovering condition **Biodiversity Priority Thirty-Nine:** Increase the number of well managed geological exposures to provide early successional habitats important for a range of plant and invertebrate assemblages and nesting birds, as well as research and educational opportunities
33. Identify landscape-scale areas which should receive greater consideration for protection from development	Guidance is due to be published by Government on the relationship between the LNRS, the duty of planning authorities and public bodies to have regard to any published LNRS, and the local plan-making process which determines strategic allocations and policies for development. Prior to the publication of specific guidance, see: Complying with the biodiversity duty - GOV.UK National Planning Policy Framework (see paragraph 159) The following proposed Biodiversity Priority has been included within the draft LNRS: **Biodiversity Priority Forty-Two:** The delivery of nature recovery is integral to both the strategic planning and design of new development and the development management process