

Thriving with Nature

A local plan for nature recovery across Derbyshire

Consultation Draft – Statement of Biodiversity Priorities

6 January 2025

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Section 1: Introduction and Background

- 1.1 What is a Local Nature Recovery Strategy?**
- 1.2 Who is it for?**
- 1.3 Development of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy**
- 1.4 Core principles of the Strategy**

Section 2: Preparing the Strategy

- 2.1 Establishing a Spatial Framework**

Section 3: State of Nature and Spatial Description

- 3.1 State of Nature in Derbyshire**
- 3.2 Derbyshire's Natural Capital**
- 3.3 Climate Change Context**
- 3.4 Nature and opportunities for nature recovery within Derbyshire's National Character Areas**
- 3.5 Dark and South-West Peaks**
 - i. Land-use Mapping, Habitats and Species**
 - ii. Key Sites for Nature**
 - iii. Natural Capital and Key Ecosystem Services Provided by Nature**
 - iv. Land-use pressures, constraints and other factors affecting nature**
 - v. Description of potential opportunities for nature recovery in the Dark and South-West Peak**
- 3.6 White Peak**
 - i. Land-use Mapping, Habitats and Species**
 - ii. Key Sites for Nature**
 - iii. Natural Capital and Key Ecosystem Services Provided by Nature**
 - iv. Land-use pressures, constraints and other factors affecting nature**
 - v. Description of potential opportunities for nature recovery in the White Peak**

3.7 Derbyshire Peak Fringe and Lower Derwent

- i. Land-use Mapping, Habitats and Species**
- ii. Key Sites for Nature**
- iii. Natural Capital and Key Ecosystem Services Provided by Nature**
- iv. Land-use pressures, constraints and other factors affecting nature**
- v. Description of potential opportunities for nature recovery in the Dark and South-West Peak**

3.8 Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire and Yorkshire Coalfield

- i. Land-use Mapping, Habitats and Species**
- ii. Key Sites for Nature**
- iii. Natural Capital and Key Ecosystem Services Provided by Nature**
- iv. Land-use pressures, constraints and other factors affecting nature**
- v. Description of potential opportunities for nature recovery in the Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire and Yorkshire Coalfield**

3.9 Southern Magnesian Limestone

- i. Land-use Mapping, Habitats and Species**
- ii. Key Sites for Nature**
- iii. Natural Capital and Key Ecosystem Services Provided by Nature**
- iv. Land-use pressures, constraints and other factors affecting nature**
- v. Description of potential opportunities for nature recovery in the Southern Magnesian Limestone**

3.10 Needwood and South Derbyshire Claylands

- i. Land-use Mapping, Habitats and Species**
- ii. Key Sites for Nature**
- iii. Natural Capital and Key Ecosystem Services Provided by Nature**
- iv. Land-use pressures, constraints and other factors affecting nature**
- v. Description of potential opportunities for nature recovery in the Needwood and South Derbyshire Claylands**

3.11 Trent Valley Washlands

- i. Land-use Mapping, Habitats and Species**
- ii. Key Sites for Nature**
- iii. Natural Capital and Key Ecosystem Services Provided by Nature**

- iv. Land-use pressures, constraints and other factors affecting nature
- v. Description of potential opportunities for nature recovery in the Trent Valley Washlands

3.12 Melbourne Parklands

- i. Land-use Mapping, Habitats and Species
- ii. Key Sites for Nature
- iii. Natural Capital and Key Ecosystem Services Provided by Nature
- iv. Land-use pressures, constraints and other factors affecting nature
- v. Description of potential opportunities for nature recovery in the Melbourne Parklands

3.13 Leicestershire and South Derbyshire Coalfield

- i. Land-use Mapping, Habitats and Species
- ii. Key Sites for Nature
- iii. Natural Capital and Key Ecosystem Services Provided by Nature
- iv. Land-use pressures, constraints and other factors affecting nature
- v. Description of potential opportunities for nature recovery in the Leicestershire & South Derbyshire Coalfield

3.14 Mease/Sence Lowlands

- i. Land-use Mapping, Habitats and Species
- ii. Key Sites for Nature
- iii. Natural Capital and Key Ecosystem Services Provided by Nature
- iv. Land-use pressures, constraints and other factors affecting nature
- v. Description of potential opportunities for nature recovery in the Mease/Sence Lowlands

3.15 The Urban Environment

3.15.1 Derby City

- i. Key Sites for Nature
- ii. Natural Capital and Key Ecosystem Services Provided by Nature
- iii. Land use pressures, constraints and other factors affecting nature recovery
- iv. Description of potential opportunities for nature recovery in Derby City

3.15.2 Other Urban Areas

- i. Description of potential opportunities for nature recovery in other urban areas

3.15.3 Highway and Transport Infrastructure

i. Description of potential opportunities for nature recovery across the transport and highway network

Section 4: Priorities (Outcomes) and Measures (Actions)

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Section 1: Introduction and Background to the Local Nature Recovery Strategy

1.1 Why do we need a plan for nature recovery?

England is widely considered to be one of the most nature-depleted countries in the world following historic and ongoing declines in biodiversity. Government remains committed to end these declines and for nature to recover. This is important for nature's own sake and for all the things that we rely on nature for, like clean water and food production. For nature to recover, targeted, co-ordinated, and collaborative action will be required.

It is proposed that this will be achieved through a framework of Local Nature Recovery Strategies that will agree priorities for nature recovery and propose actions in the locations where it would make a particular contribution to achieving those priorities. This Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) sets out a long-term vision to work towards a resilient network for nature across Derbyshire (the county), by connecting and enhancing wild spaces so that people and nature can thrive.

1.2 What is a Local Nature Recovery Strategy?

The Environment Act 2022 introduced a new statutory requirement for each 'Responsible Authority' to produce a locally led Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) and plan for its area, which will combine nationally to create a Nature Recovery Network. Derbyshire County Council (the council), as a 'Responsible Authority', has worked with

partners, wider stakeholders, and local communities to develop a LNRS for Derbyshire.

This Local Nature Recovery Strategy will describe opportunities and priorities for Derbyshire (including that part of the Peak District National Park that falls within the county and Derby) to help nature recover. Through the mapping of actions (measures) and identifying 'Areas that could become of importance for biodiversity', it shows where we can protect and enhance the best, and create and restore the rest, whilst conserving and improving the character and quality of Derbyshire's diverse landscapes that are so integral to the county's economy and social wellbeing.

1.3 Who is it for and how should it be used?

Simply put the LNRS will be for everyone - we can all act for nature and play a part in local nature recovery. This LNRS should be used to understand how and where action should be taken to help nature recover across Derbyshire and help guide the actions that will bring about that recovery. This will include:

- Directing public bodies on their enhanced duty for nature recovery.
- Guiding farmers and land managers in habitat management and creation decisions.
- Directing the nature recovery component of the new Environmental Land Management Schemes (ELMS).

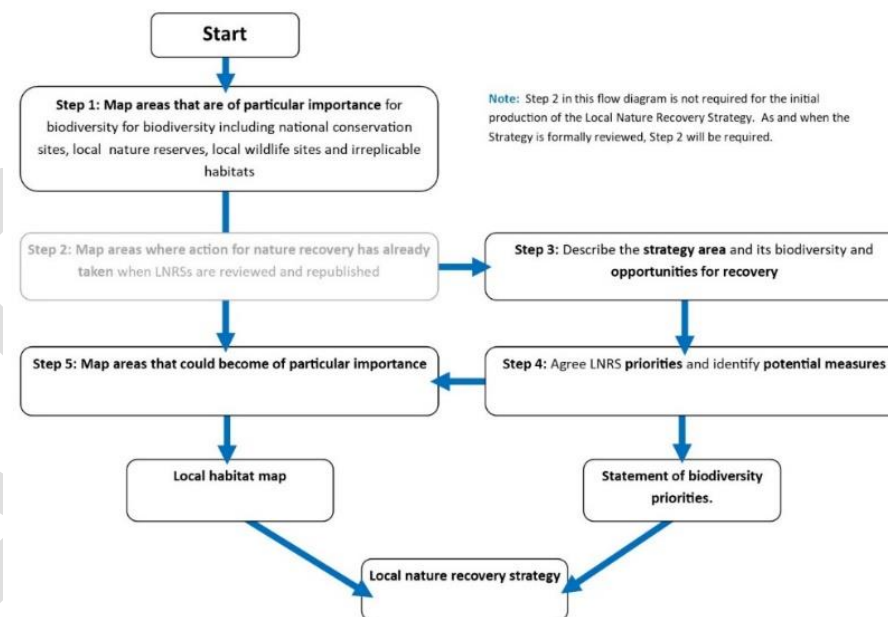
- Directing developers and planning authorities on plan making and decision taking that will benefit nature, particularly through the provisions for Biodiversity Net Gain.
- Guide communities and businesses to take appropriate action for nature.

Nature recovery is about enhancing and protecting our best nature-rich sites and creating and restoring new sites where there is opportunity. This can have a range of ecological, economic, and social benefits.

1.4 What does this Local Nature Recovery Strategy contain?

The government has produced Regulations (The Environment (Local Nature Recovery Strategies) (Procedure) Regulations 2023¹) which set out the process that must be followed in preparing an LNRS and has published further statutory guidance² which provides greater detail about what the information that an LNRS must contain.

The broad approach to preparing a Local Nature Recovery Strategy is summarised below:



- Step 1 has involved the collection of information about key ‘areas of particular importance for biodiversity’ – existing designated sites recognised as important for biodiversity, and areas of important habitat types.
- Step 2 is the mapping of areas in which nature recovery has already happened, and as such this step will be compiled when the LNRS is reviewed and republished.

¹ <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2023/341/made>

² https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/6421a4bdf97a8001379ecf1/Local_nature_recovery_strategy_statutory_guidance.pdf

- Step 3 is the description of the strategy area, its biodiversity, and the identification of the opportunities for nature recovery.
- Step 4 is the production of a list of priorities and the measures (actions) required to deliver these priorities.
- Step 5 has mapped those areas that should become the focus for nature recovery within the strategy area.

Collectively these key steps constitute the Local Nature Recovery Strategy.

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