

# **Lancashire Local Nature Recovery Strategy**

**Report of Public Consultation  
&  
Strategy Amendments**

November 2025

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## Acknowledgements

Lancashire County Council would like to thank all individuals, organisations, supporting authorities and government bodies that have provided feedback on the LNRS.

## Executive Summary

Lancashire County Council is the responsible authority for the preparation of the Lancashire Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS), which includes Blackburn with Darwen and Blackpool. Local Nature Recovery Strategies were introduced by the Environment Act 2021. Their main purpose is to identify locations to create or improve habitat most likely to provide the greatest benefit for nature and the wider environment.

The Strategy has been developed following the statutory and non-statutory guidance provided by DEFRA and Natural England. It is made up of a statement of biodiversity priorities and a local habitat map.

All Local Nature Recovery Strategies must go through a public consultation and the results of the consultation must be published. The Lancashire LNRS was the subject of a public consultation which closed on 3rd August 2025. This report presents the public consultation process, key outcomes of the consultation and subsequent amendments to the strategy.

The consultation was hosted on the Lancashire County Council website. The consultation sought to:

- establish the diversity of respondents.
- gauge levels of support for the core components of the LNRS, including its vision and aims, proposed uses, priorities, measures, species focus, Local Habitat Map, universal priorities and supporting actions.
- identify the need for amendments to the strategy and Local Habitat Map.
- Gather general opinions on the strategy via open comments boxes.

During the consultation, responses were monitored and groups with a low response rate were targeted with a range of promotional techniques to reach a wide audience. A total of 457 responses were received.

A structured agreement classification was used to determine the proportion of people who tend to agree or strongly agree with each question. Responses submitted via the open comment boxes were individually reviewed and analysed.

The most represented groups among respondents included:

- individual members of the public (85.6%).
- Residents of Lancaster City Council local authority area (9%).
- Female (61.2%).
- Aged between 45 and 64 years (42.30%).
- White (90.9%).
- Christian (40.90%).

Over 85% of respondents agreed that:

- The vision and aims of the LNRS are clear.

- It is clear what the LNRS is trying to achieve.
- It is clear how the LNRS can be used.
- It is clear what the LNRS priorities are seeking to achieve.
- It is clear what Potential Measures could be taken to achieve the LNRS priorities.
- The list of target species is appropriate.
- It is clear what the BHS priority and measures are seeking to achieve.
- It is clear what the Local Habitat Map is and how it can be used.
- It is clear what the universal priorities are seeking to achieve.
- It is clear what the supporting actions are seeking to achieve.

There has been no indication of major objections to the LNRS or Local Habitat Map.

The feedback received included comments that:

- support and endorse the LNRS and/or Local Habitat Map.
- warrant review of the LNRS and/or Local Habitat Map.
- relate to engagement and delivery of the LNRS.
- relate to wider issues and context.

Many supportive comments were made, along with numerous suggestions on how the strategy could be improved, as well as comments on wider issues.

Recurring themes of feedback to open questions included:

- Strong Support for the Strategy's Vision and Clarity
- Feedback on Species and Habitat Prioritisation
- Need for Improved Engagement and Collaboration
- Calls for Practical and Targeted Action
- Concerns About Development and Planning Policy.

The feedback received has informed amendments to the strategy and the Local Habitat Map, which are summarised in Section 5 of this report. Agreement is being sought to make the planned amendments, which include additions/amendments to the:

- Introductory text and vision.
- Description of Lancashire and its biodiversity
- Pressures and opportunities for recovery
- Priorities and potential measures
- Supporting actions
- Appendices
- Mapped Areas of Particular Importance for Biodiversity
- Extent of mapped measures.

A number of comments received were outside of the scope of the LNRS and have not informed the planned changes to the strategy.

## 1. Introduction

### 1.1 The Local Nature Recovery Strategy

Lancashire County Council has been appointed as the responsible authority for the preparation of the Lancashire LNRS, which includes Blackburn with Darwen and Blackpool.

Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRS) were introduced by the Environment Act 2021 to drive nature's recovery and provide wider environmental improvements. Their main purpose is to identify locations to create or improve habitat most likely to provide the greatest benefit for nature and the wider environment. The procedure for the preparation, publication, review and republication of the local nature recovery strategy is set out in the local nature recovery strategy regulations. As the designated responsible authority, Lancashire County Council has led on the production of this LNRS.

The LNRS is a tool to identify opportunities for nature recovery, which can be used to target action and funding, it is not intended to be a delivery plan. Landowners of the areas mapped are not obliged to deliver the opportunities identified. They are simply opportunities within areas that could deliver the greatest gains in terms of nature's recovery, wider benefits for the environment and people, and the most investible opportunities for private investment in nature's recovery. The LNRS does not add levels of designation to land and therefore does not assign any level of protection or restrictions on land use. It also does not give permission to create habitat without necessary consultation and consents or without following appropriate existing statutory requirements, decision-making frameworks, and pre-existing procedures.

The Nature Recovery Strategy is made up of two main elements, a statement of biodiversity priorities and a local habitat map, that come together to set out how and where action can be taken to provide the greatest benefits for nature recovery.

The statement of biodiversity priorities includes:

- a description of the strategy area and its biodiversity,
- a description of the opportunities for recovering or enhancing biodiversity
- the priorities for recovering or enhancing biodiversity, considering the contribution that this can also make to other environmental benefits, and
- proposals for potential measures (or actions) to achieve those priorities.

The local habitat map provides a visual way for groups and individuals to understand the areas which are or could become of particular importance for biodiversity and where to target nature recovery action.

Wide engagement with the public, farmers, landowners, land managers and other key stakeholders, including habitat and species specialists has been carried out to ensure that the LNRS is collaborative, effective and deliverable, as well as evidence based. In March 2024 an online public engagement survey sought residents' views on nature

recovery to better understand what is important to our residents with regards to the natural environment, concerns for nature and aspirations for nature recovery. Independent facilitators experienced in working with farmers and land managers organised several workshops, webinars and drop in events to raise awareness of the LNRS and seek views and feedback that would help shape the priorities for Lancashire. Four 'People and Nature' workshops were held across Lancashire and were targeted at those working in health and education, the VCFSE (Voluntary, Community, Faith, Social Enterprise) sector and local community groups working on projects to achieve multiple outcomes for people and nature. Areas of good practice and opportunities for nature as well as what could be done better were considered.

A draft LNRS for Lancashire was subsequently prepared. An inclusive and collaborative approach was taken to co-produce the Strategy with a broad range of stakeholders. This includes all local authorities in the strategy area, public bodies (Environment Agency, Forestry Commission and Natural England), habitat and species experts from local environmental organisations and Lancaster University. Land managers (farmers, local authorities, education providers, the NHS, and utilities companies) and members of the public have shared their knowledge, experience and understanding of where nature recovery should be focused, and this information has fed into the production of the LNRS. The Strategy has been developed following the statutory and non-statutory guidance provided by DEFRA and Natural England, taking an evidence-based and locally led approach incorporating data, local expertise, and local opinion.

## **1.2 The Public Consultation**

All Local Nature Recovery Strategies must go through a public consultation and the results of the consultation must be published. The Lancashire LNRS is now at final draft stage and was the subject of a public consultation which closed on 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2025.

Key objectives of the consultation were to understand whether participants are clear about what the Local Nature Recovery Strategy entails, why it is important and also to seek views on the content.

This report presents the public consultation process, outcomes of the public consultation and subsequent amendments to the strategy in order to address the feedback received and to rectify any identified deficiencies of the draft strategy.

## 2. Public Consultation Process

### 2.1 Consultation Period

The consultation was open for six weeks from 23<sup>rd</sup> June to 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2025. It provided citizens, stakeholders, landowners, farmers and representatives of organisations, the opportunity to comment on the draft Local Nature Recovery Strategy.

### 2.2 Consultation Format

The consultation was hosted on the Lancashire County Council (LCC) website, which is the platform for information exchange, communication and engagement for the Local Nature Recovery Strategy development process. The page included an introduction to the LNRS and the consultation as well as the following items for review:

- [Lancashire Local Nature Recovery Strategy](#)
- [Lancashire LNRS Summary](#)
- [Lancashire's LNRS evidence and technical information](#)
- [Interactive Lancashire LNRS Local Habitat Map](#)
- [Glossary](#)
- [A summary video on the Lancashire LNRS](#)
- Link to the online survey

Each consultation question included a brief summary of the topic and, if appropriate, a link to the relevant section of the strategy document (see Appendix One).

Respondents were asked to provide demographic data and to specify the extent to which they agreed or disagreed with the following statements:

- The vision and aims of the LNRS are clear
- It is clear what the LNRS is trying to achieve
- It is clear how the LNRS can be used
- It is clear what the LNRS priorities are seeking to achieve
- It is clear what Potential Measures could be taken to achieve the LNRS priorities
- I agree with the list of 24 Target Species
- It is clear what the BHS priority and measures are seeking to achieve
- It is clear what the Local Habitat Map is and how it can be used
- It is clear what the Universal Priorities are seeking to achieve
- It is clear what the Supporting Actions are seeking to achieve.

There was also an opportunity to submit written comments on the above matters and to submit general comments about the strategy.

The questions consisted of a Likert scale question and then a free answer box below where answers could be expanded on. All Likert questions had the following response options:

- Strongly agree
- Tend to agree
- Tend to disagree

- Strongly disagree
- Don't know/not applicable

## 2.3 Publicity and promotion of the public consultation

The consultation was structured into three distinct sections. The first section (Questions 1–7) aimed to identify the type of respondent, their representative role, any prior involvement with the LNRS and previous participation in public engagement activities. These questions were designed to enable LCC to assess the diversity of respondents and ensure that individuals and groups with a broad range of interests had the opportunity to view and comment on the LNRS. Additionally, questions regarding prior engagement allowed LCC to monitor levels of ongoing involvement with the LNRS process.

The main body of the consultation (Questions 8–27) consisted of paired items: a Likert scale question followed by an open comment box. These questions sought feedback on the core components of the LNRS, including its vision and aims, proposed uses, priorities, measures, species focus, Local Habitat Map, universal priorities and supporting actions. This format enabled LCC to gauge levels of support based on agreement ratings and to identify areas where further clarification or revisions to the document may be necessary.

An additional question on the appropriateness of measures mapped on the Local Habitat Map was included. This question directed respondents to an interactive static map (Survey 123) on which pins could be dropped and further information provided to evidence where mapping was deemed inappropriate.

Question 28 provided an open-ended opportunity for respondents to comment on any additional aspects of the LNRS not covered in the preceding questions.

The final section (Questions 29–35) collected demographic information. These responses support LCC in understanding the profile of consultees, identifying response trends, and ensuring that the consultation process was inclusive and equitable.

### 2.3.1 Engagement and Targeting

Results from the public engagement survey in March 2024 were analysed to identify groups with a low response rate. Actions to target these groups were then included in the consultation communication plan.

The consultation communication plan outlines a comprehensive, multi-channel communication strategy to support the Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) consultation and engagement process. It includes updates, responsibilities, and deadlines for each communication activity.

Target Audiences:

- General Public
- Stakeholders
- Students
- Councils (District, Town & Parish)
- LCC Staff
- Underrepresented groups
- Businesses & developers
- National institutes
- Farmers, landowners, and managers (including foresters)
- Young people

### 2.3.2 Key Communication channels and tactics

1. Press & Public-Facing Materials:
  - News Release:
  - Poster: including QR code
2. Emails:
  - Stakeholders: Final document and consultation link shared.
  - Students: Tailored content for colleges/university forums.
  - Supporting Authority Councils (including District, Town & Parish): Materials shared with request for support.
  - Businesses & Developers: Awareness raised via direct contacts and networks.
  - Underrepresented Groups: Targeted outreach with offers to attend meetings.
  - National Institutes: Shared consultation details with planning and infrastructure bodies.
3. Internal Comms (LCC Staff):
  - C First Article
  - Team Lancashire FB
  - Staff News
  - Growth Environment Transport & Highways Newsletter:
  - Heads of Service: Consultation reminder and webinar.
4. Social Media:
  - Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn: Content drafted; ads and posts planned around launch.
  - Videos:
    - I. Promotional video introducing the LNRS and consultation
    - II. Short clip for young people, filmed at Lancashire Royal Agricultural Show.
5. Events & Webinars:
  - Lancashire Royal Agricultural Show: poster displayed at Forest of Bowland National Landscape stall.
  - Webinars (x6): For farmers, landowners, foresters, NFU and large estates – scheduled throughout July 2025.

- Youth Engagement: Presentation slides and posters shared for NW Youth Climate event.

During the consultation period, responses were monitored on a weekly basis through a review of the raw data. Underrepresented groups i.e. under 25s and residents of low response Supporting Authorities were then targeted with media adverts.

## 2.4 Methodology for Analysis of Responses

The questions were split into those with defined answers, open comment boxes and those with a Likert scale response.

To support consistent and interpretable analysis of Likert scale data, this report applies a structured agreement classification based on the combined percentage of those who tend to agree or strongly agree where: 0–20% is defined as poor agreement, 21–40% as limited agreement, 41–60% as neutral agreement 61–80% as moderate agreement, and 81–100% as strong agreement. These thresholds provide a clear framework for summarizing stakeholder responses, enabling meaningful comparisons across items and themes.

Responses submitted via the open comment boxes were individually reviewed and analysed by the consultation team. Each comment was read in full, categorised and summarised to extract information relevant to the Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS). The analysis focused on identifying expressions of support for the document, suggestions for amendments, and other pertinent observations. Key themes and wording from these responses have been synthesised and are discussed in the relevant sections of this report to inform the development and refinement of the LNRS.

The comments for each of the ten open comment questions were categorised into the following:

- Action
- N/A
- No action
- Omit
- Email – additional comments

### ***Comment categories***

#### **Action**

The comment was given consideration by the Responsible Authority with follow up actions outlined in Section 5.

#### **N/A**

No answer was provided for the corresponding Likert scale question and no comment in the comment box. It was therefore deemed that the respondent had declined to answer the question.

### No action

No action was required as the comment was one of the following:

- Lacked a clear action.
- A suggestion beyond the remit of the LNRS.

### Omit

A number of responses were test submissions carried out by the LNRS Team to review functionality following feedback from stakeholders, the public or the Public Bodies.

Or

The response was deemed irrelevant; it did not pertain to nature recovery considerations.

### Email – additional comments

The submission was accompanied by an email. The email was then reviewed through an additional comments' spreadsheet.

### Refer to relevant information

The response was one of the following:

- Suggestions for changes or inclusions that are already in the strategy.
- Misunderstanding of:
  - the purpose of the LNRS,
  - the intended role of Biodiversity Net Gain in future development (no net loss to biodiversity),
  - how the target species were identified and agreed,
  - the Lawton Principles,
  - the mapping of measures process,
  - the development of a nature recovery delivery plan,
  - the habitat measures benefiting threatened species that have been shortlisted into a habitat assemblage.

The relevant information can be found in one of the following documents:

- The main strategy document
- Local nature recovery strategy statutory guidance, Defra
- Evidence and Technical Information document
- The Environment Act 2021
- Biodiversity Net Gain guidelines
- Town and Country Planning legislation, policy and guidelines
- Biological Heritage Site guidelines.

### Review

Delivery related comments that will be considered during delivery planning.

### 3. Summary of Consultation Responses

Responses to the public consultation on Lancashire's LNRS are summarised in the sections below. A redacted version of the consultation responses can be found in the [Local Nature Recovery Strategy - Lancashire County Council](#) document list.

#### 3.1 How many responses were received?

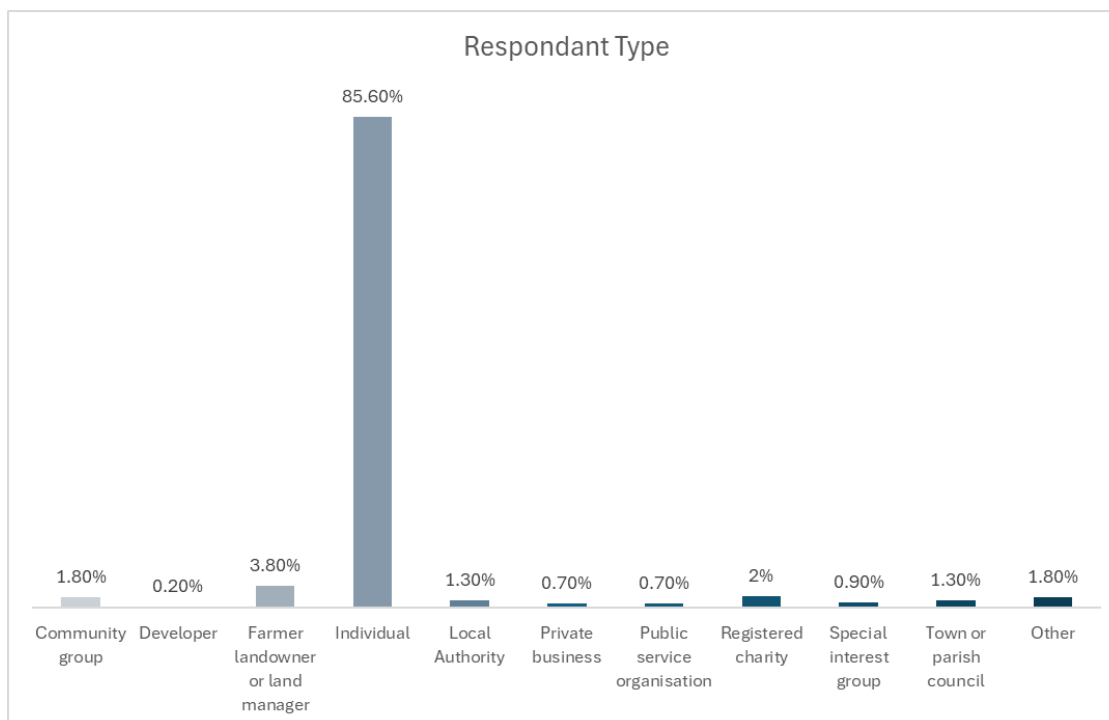
A total of 457 responses were received for the consultation (excluding those that did not relate to nature recovery).

#### 3.2 Who responded to the consultation?

Information on the type and demographic of the respondent is given below.

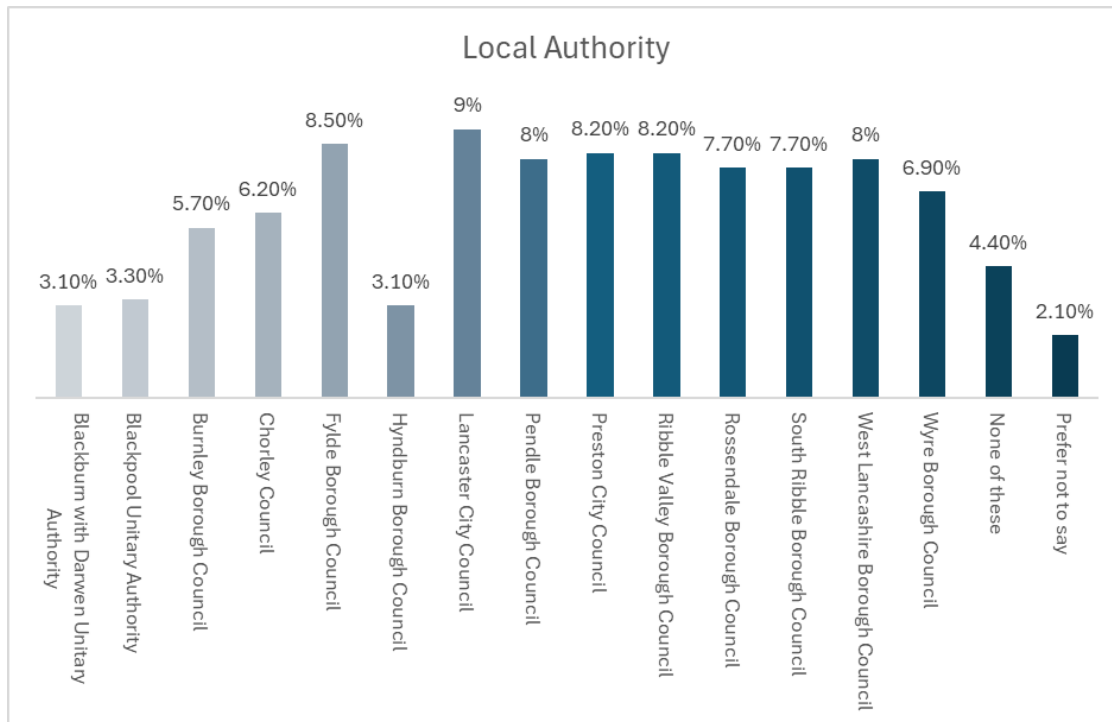
##### 3.2.1 Respondent Type

Of those who responded, the highest percentage were individuals (387, 85.6%) with the next highest group being farmers, landowners or land managers accounting for 3.8%. All other respondent groups made up less than 2% each.



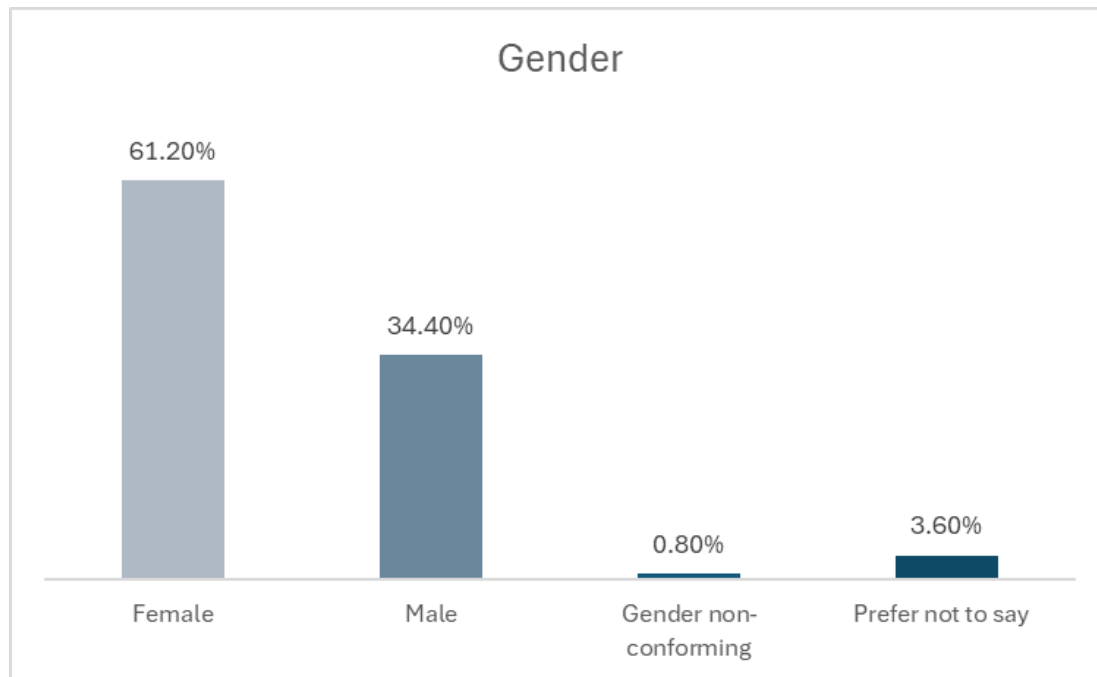
### 3.2.2 Local Authority Area

Thirty-five responses (9% of the total) were received from the Lancaster City Council local authority area. This exceeded the responses from any other local authority area. However, all districts had respondents making up at least 5% of the total responses with the exceptions of Hyndburn Borough Council, Blackpool and Blackburn with Darwen unitary authorities which each made up between 3.1 and 3.3%.



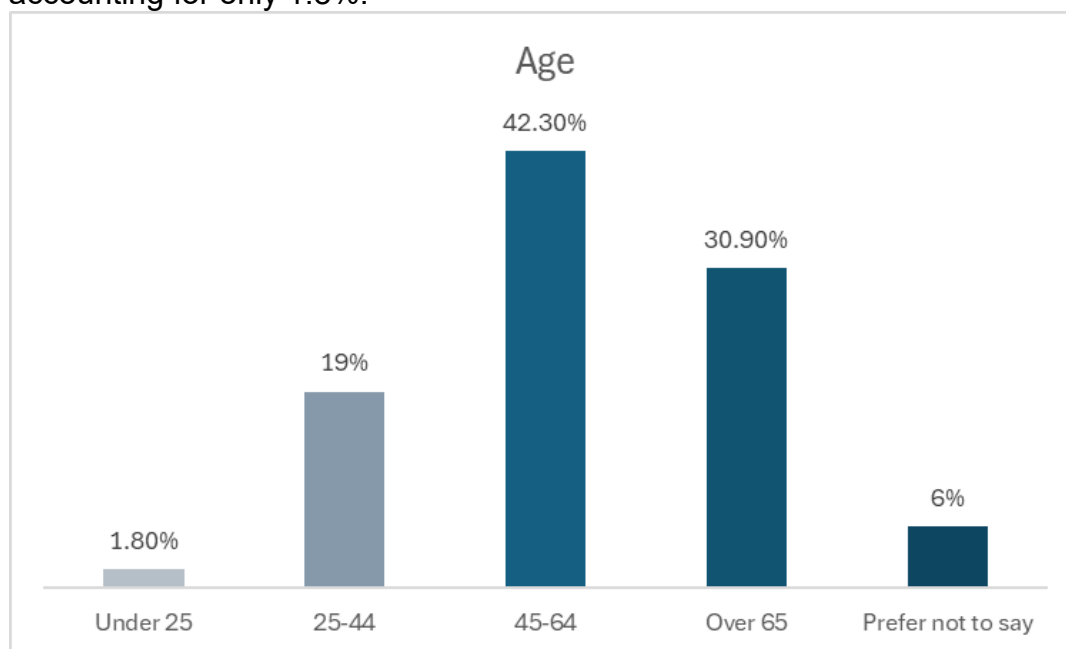
### 3.2.3 Gender

The majority of respondents identified as female (235, 61.2%) with 34% male, 0.8% gender non-conforming and 3.6% preferring not to say.



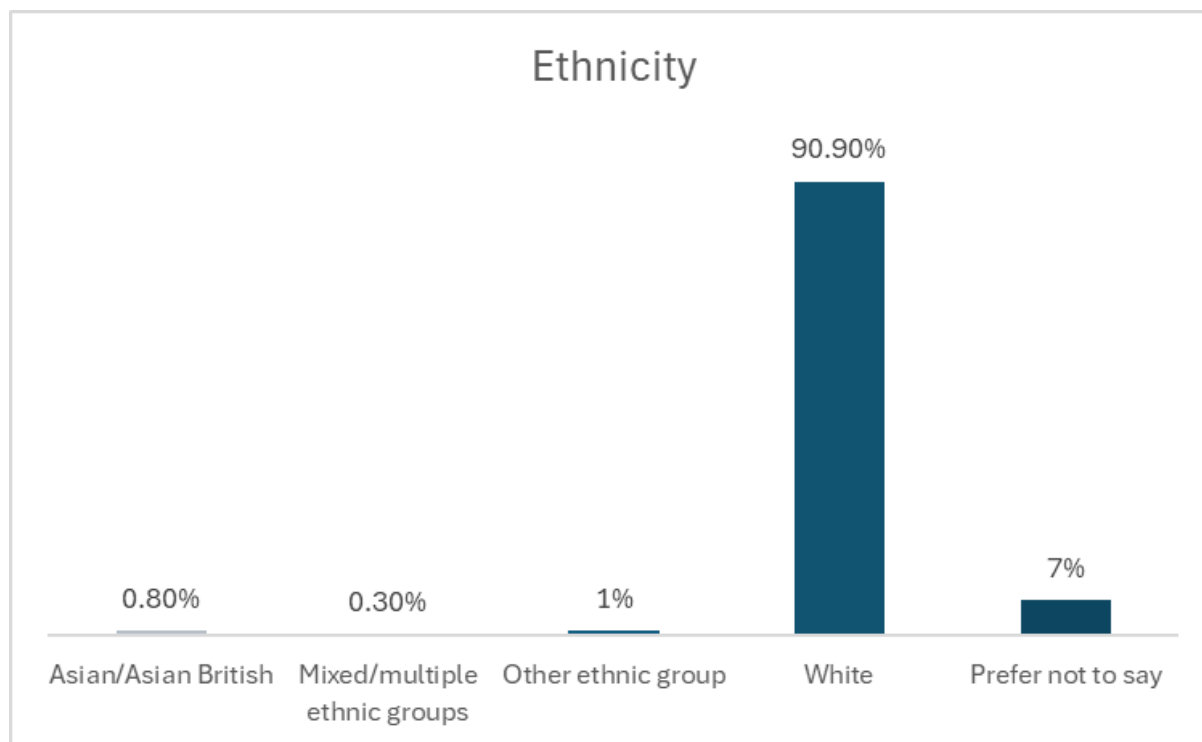
### 3.2.4 Age

More responses were received from people aged 45-64 than from any other age category (163, 42.30%). The least represented group was those under 25, accounting for only 1.8%.



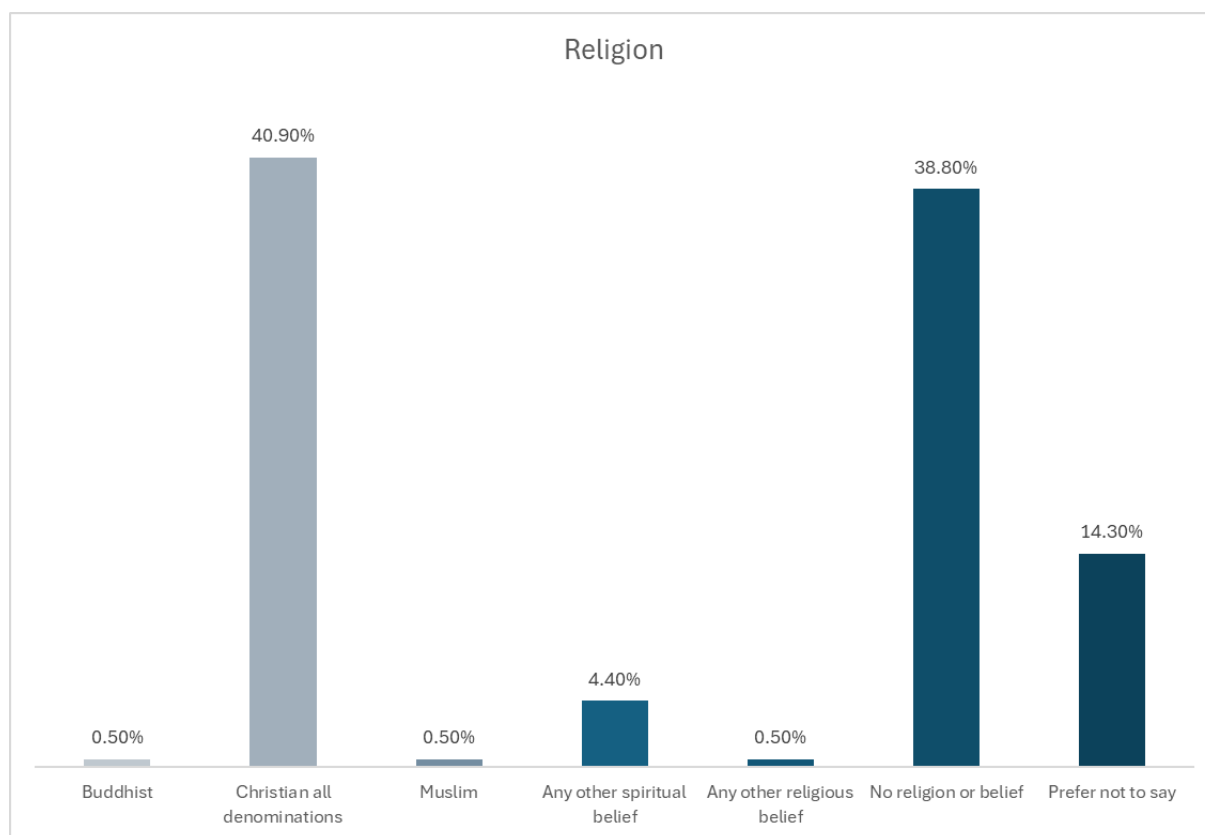
### 3.2.5 Ethnicity

With regard to ethnicity 90.9% (349) of respondents were white. A total of 7% of people preferred not to say and all other ethnicities accounted for no more than 1% of the total.



### 3.2.6 Religion

Those from a range of religions responded to the survey with Christians being the most represented group (157, 40.90%) closely followed by those with no religion or belief (149, 38.8%).



### 3.3 Responses to consultation questions

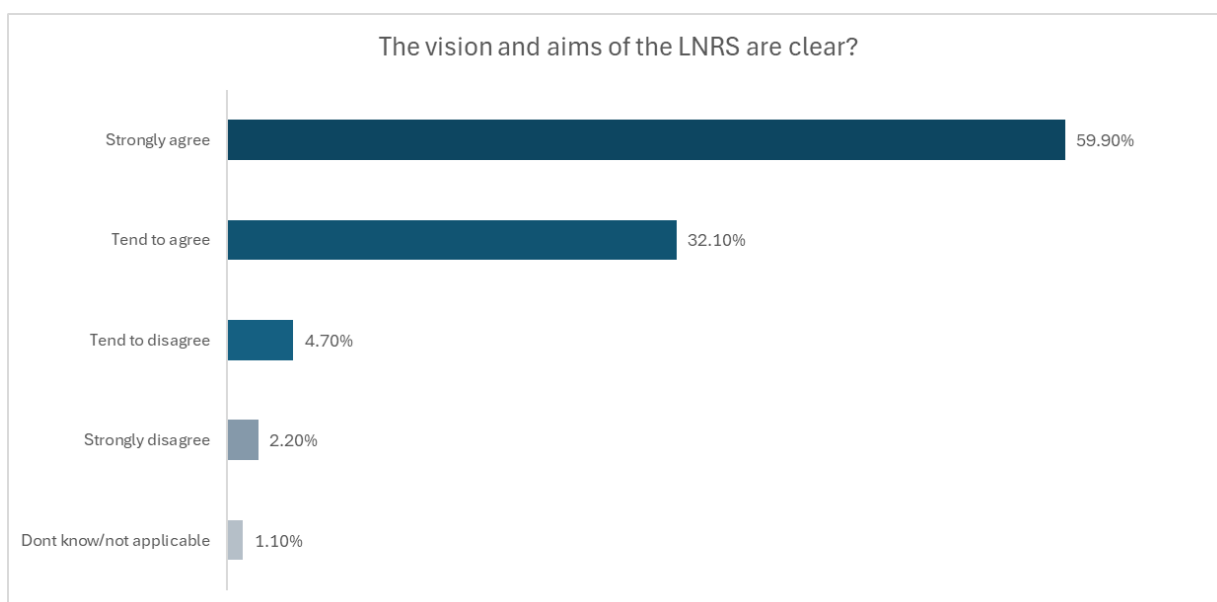
This section relates to questions 8 to 28 of the LNRS consultation. These questions are those which focus on the content within the LNRS itself.

In this section the responses to the Likert scale questions have been graphed and an overview of any written answers provided below.

#### 3.3.1 Vision and Aims of the LNRS

The first statement the respondents were asked to agree or disagree with was “***The vision and aims of the LNRS are clear***”.

In total over 90% of respondents agreed the vision and aims of the LNRS are clear, made up of 59.9% strongly agreeing and 32.10% tending to agree.



#### Feedback received supporting the vision and aims of the LNRS:

- Support for the development of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS), identifying it as “***Bold***”, “***Ambitious***” and “***Needed***”.
- Praise for the clear objectives and the emphasis on partnership working with existing networks.
- Improved access to green and blue spaces, particularly in relation to mental health benefits.
- Inclusion of species-focused actions, such as those relating to red squirrel conservation, including control of grey squirrel population.

#### Comments that warranted review of the LNRS Statement of Biodiversity Priorities and/or Local Habitat Map:

- A range of constructive suggestions aimed at strengthening the LNRS.
- Suggestions that the vision should place greater emphasis on enhancing existing nature.
- Alternative wording for the vision and aims of the strategy to better reflect conservation priorities.
- Encouragement for a bolder, more visionary approach, suggesting the LNRS could serve as an exemplar by engaging constructively with intensive farming and shooting sectors.
- An aim to prevent new developments from negatively impacting biodiversity.
- The need for clearer cross-boundary collaboration was highlighted and inclusion of a specific aim to address this was recommended.
- Improved clarity in the presentation of the visions and aims to ensure accessibility for non-specialist readers.
- A suggestion that “*building resilience to climate change*” should be elevated to a standalone aim.
- Confusion around the term “*blue space*”.
- A recurring misconception that the LNRS is for thriving species rather than those at risk.
- Addressing wildlife disturbance.
- The need for clearer communication.
- Incorporating educational objectives for the wider population.
- A desire to see stronger protections within the strategy.
- A need for reassurance that the LNRS would not impose mandatory changes on landowners or restrict development.
- Calls for the strategy to be shared more widely in accessible formats.

Feedback relating to engagement and delivery of the LNRS included:

- A keen interest from some respondents in contributing to the delivery of the strategy.
- Apprehension that increased public access to natural areas could lead to illegal activities.
- Ensuring the LNRS is adequately funded.
- Requests for more detail on delivery timelines and mechanisms.

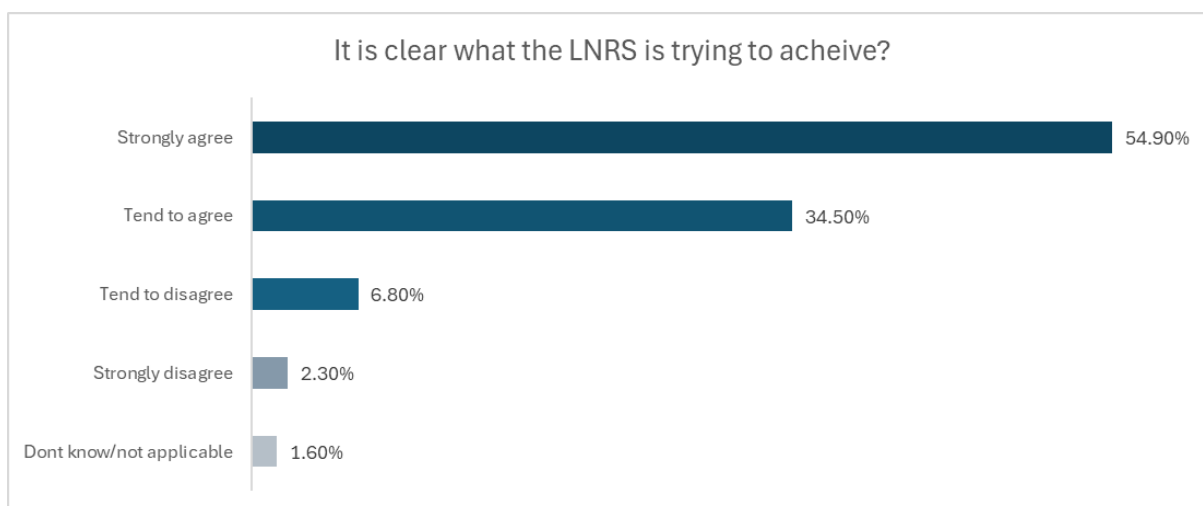
Comments on wider issues and context included:

- Overall concerns centred on the perceived threat of development to nature.
- Emphasis on the importance of tackling invasive species.

### 3.3.2 What the LNRS is trying to achieve

For the second question respondents were asked to agree or disagree with the following statement “***It is clear what the LNRS is trying to achieve***”.

A total of 89.40% of respondents agreed that it is clear what the LNRS is trying to achieve, made up of 54.90% strongly agreeing and 34.50% tending to agree.



Comments supporting and endorsing what the LNRS is trying to achieve, included:

- Strong support for the clear aims stated within the LNRS.
- Widely understood and welcomed aims of the LNRS.
- Praise for the overall clarity of the strategy.
- Appreciation of the focus on connectivity.
- Appreciation of the rationale for nature recovery.

Comments that warranted review of the LNRS Statement of Biodiversity Priorities and/or Local Habitat Map included:

- A range of practical suggestions to make it clearer what the LNRS is trying to achieve and to generally improve the LNRS.
- A desire for the LNRS to go further.
- Concerns around the strategy’s length, tone, and urgency.
- Calls for simpler language and visual aids.
- Misunderstandings about the purpose of the LNRS, with some respondents conflating it with planning decisions.
- The importance of recognising urban spaces, including gardens, as vital habitats.
- A desire to incorporate features like swift bricks in new buildings.
- Comments promoting the need for creation of more ponds.
- Support for enhancement of hedgerows.

Feedback relating to engagement and delivery of the LNRS included:

- Requests for more detail on how the strategy would be enforced.
- The lack of a clear delivery plan.
- The need to ensure that the LNRS is accompanied by a robust delivery plan to achieve its intended outcomes.
- Perceived vagueness around the strategy's implementation.
- The need to clarify the strategy's purpose regarding stakeholder roles and delivery mechanisms.
- A view that the LNRS is aspirational rather than actionable.
- Fears that the strategy could be used to justify further development, impacting local nature.
- Scepticism about the political will to support the strategy.
- Calls for a binding commitment to ensure implementation.
- Doubts around the powers available to protect natural habitats.
- A fear that increased public access could undermine conservation outcomes.
- Stated benefits of expanding initiatives such as "*No Mow May*" to larger areas and longer durations.
- Suggested improvement of farming subsidies to support wildlife.
- Stated importance of managing existing natural areas.

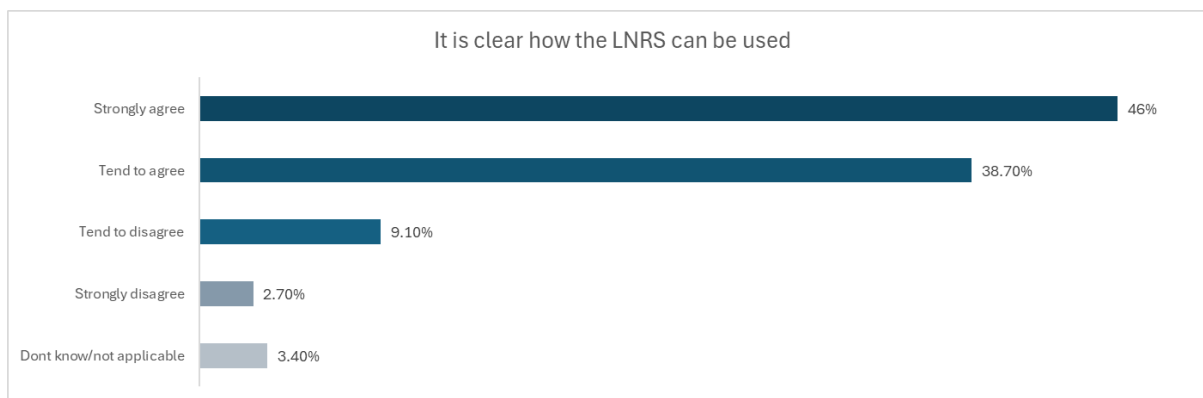
Comments on wider issues and context included:

- The impact of pesticides, fertilisers, and slurry on habitats,
- A call for targeted action against invasive species such as Giant Hogweed and Himalayan Balsam.
- Requests to improve planning policies to better support nature recovery.

### 3.3.3 How the LNRS can be used

The third question related to the clarity of the document, asking respondents to agree or disagree that “***It is clear how the LNRS can be used***”.

In total 84.7% of respondents agreed that it is clear how the LNRS can be used with 46% strongly agreeing and 38.70% tending to agree.



Supportive comments on how the LNRS can be used included the following themes:

- The strategy was welcomed as a clear and well-structured initiative
- Overall, the LNRS was viewed as being clear in how it can be used.
- There was support for the strategy's inclusive message that everyone can contribute.
- The strategy was recognised as a valuable evidence base, including its relevance to local planning and biodiversity net gain (BNG).
- The mapped sites were seen as useful for identifying strategic locations for off-site BNG contributions.
- The habitat map was praised as a practical tool for securing funding and guiding management work.
- Support was expressed for incorporating green infrastructure and natural processes into development design, with emphasis on the ecological importance of pollinators.

Comments that warranted review of the LNRS Statement of Biodiversity Priorities and/or Local Habitat Map included:

- Some specific concerns around stakeholder engagement.
- Requests for transparency around site selection and exclusion.
- Some found the mapping and measures to be unclear and/or difficult to navigate.
- Concerns were raised about the readability of certain materials (e.g. Figure 1).
- The current length of the document is seen as a barrier to understanding.

- Requests that missing projects and sites are accurately reflected in mapping outputs.
- Suggestions relating to restoration of hedgerows.
- Comments on discouragement of artificial lawns.
- Calls for discouragement of pesticide use.
- Calls to promote the ecological value of garden plants and trees.
- A call for the LNRS to support citizen science initiatives and environmental education, especially among young people.

Feedback relating to engagement and delivery of the LNRS included:

- Uncertainty around the legal status of the LNRS.
- Confidence in the strategy was lacking in some responses, particularly due to its perceived benefits to landowners, lack of binding authority, and vague delivery mechanisms.
- A lack of accessible guidance for residents on how to engage meaningfully.
- An absence of clear funding pathways.
- Scepticism about the credibility of ecological assessments and Biodiversity Net Gain reporting.
- Strong support for incentivising local authorities to manage road verges for biodiversity.
- Strong support for disseminating LNRS-related information through community channels, such as local nature recovery groups and social media platforms, to improve outreach and participation.
- Respondents recommend clearer and more frequent publicity to help communities understand and access the strategy, alongside practical examples of how individuals can contribute, particularly in their own gardens.
- Suggestions that summary sheets and area-specific action posters could improve clarity and engagement.
- The strategy would benefit from a centralised source of guidance tailored to diverse audiences, including those with varying financial means, abilities, and backgrounds.
- Stronger public involvement and clearer pathways for participation were seen as essential, with emphasis on linking the LNRS to funding opportunities and other nature protection initiatives.
- There is a desire for the LNRS to support strategic planning, including the development of nature delivery plans and the integration of habitat data and ground truthing.
- Comments that the weight of the LNRS in influencing policy and development decisions remains unclear.
- The strategy should identify responsible parties for implementation and delivery.
- Comments on the limited public benefit of tree planting on private land.

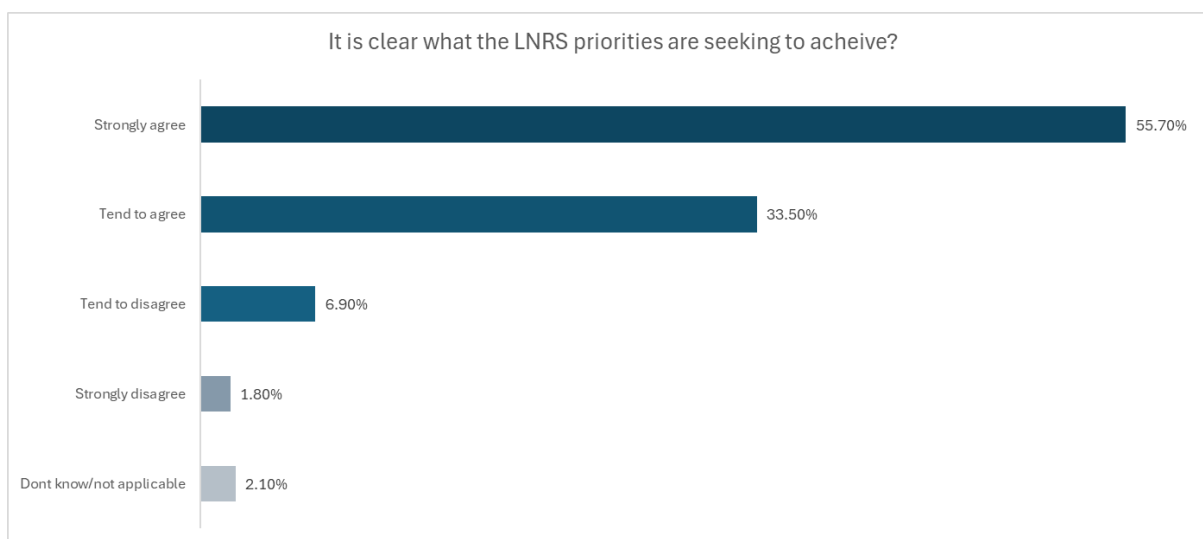
Comments on wider issues and context included:

- A view that all greenbelt land is valuable and should be protected without prioritisation.
- A call for additional statutory planning measures to better protect the countryside.

### 3.3.4 LNRS priorities

The fourth question in this section asked respondents to agree or disagree that “***It is clear what the LNRS priorities are seeking to achieve***”.

In total 89.2% of respondents agreed that it is clear what the LNRS priorities are seeking to achieve with 55.70% strongly agreeing and 33.50% tending to agree.



#### Comments supporting and endorsing LNRS Priorities included:

- Strong support for the Local Nature Recovery Strategy Priorities (LNRS),
- Agreement that the priorities are comprehensive.
- Support for the identified priorities and measures, noting that they accurately represent the county’s key habitat types.
- Support for the inclusion of diverse habitat types, including urban and infrastructure networks, floodplain meadows, and farmed grasslands, which are recognised for their ecological importance and contribution to ecosystem services such as flood mitigation, water purification, and carbon sequestration.
- The strategy’s emphasis on protecting peat and improving water quality was welcomed.
- Support for the recognition of rare and regionally significant habitats.
- Acknowledgement that the strategy is presented in a logical way.
- The strategy is praised for its clarity and ambition.

#### Comments that warranted review of the LNRS Statement of Biodiversity Priorities and/or Local Habitat Map included:

- Suggested removal of detailed National Character Area (NCA) content and linking to external resources, allowing greater focus on the seven broad habitat types.

- Opportunities to strengthen the Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) through improved recognition of connecting landscapes and urban habitats.
- Concerns about the practicality and clarity of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS), particularly in relation to its mapping outputs and prioritisation of habitats.
- Maps were described by some as difficult to navigate and unrealistic in terms of delivery, with uncertainty about which areas will be prioritised and over what timescale.
- There is a perceived lack of clarity around outcomes, which are seen as vague and not aligned with SMART principles.
- Concern that key habitats may be overlooked.
- Criticism that arable farmland has been omitted, given its importance to declining farmland bird species such as Grey Partridge, Corn Bunting, Yellowhammer, and Lapwing.
- The strategy's habitat lists were viewed as too general to guide meaningful action.
- Respondents emphasise the importance of ecological corridors, including hedgerows, road verges, gardens, driveways, and allotments, particularly in residential areas and new developments.
- Suggestions to promote biodiversity through better garden management and features such as swift bricks in new builds.
- The strategy would benefit from clearer definitions of habitat categories, particularly "*Urban & Infrastructure Networks*".
- Recommendations for stronger emphasis on threats from development and relaxed planning regulations.
- A call for the inclusion of disused quarries, wasteland, and rural villages, and for explicit mention of moorland and coastal experiences.
- National Trails and Public Rights of Way should be recognised for their role in connecting people with nature and serving as ecological corridors.
- Suggestions around enhancing waste management.
- Supporting bird populations through feeding.
- Expanding access to nature via bridleways.
- Animal-friendly crossings.

Feedback relating to engagement and delivery of the LNRS included:

- The need for adequate funding and concrete actions to realise LNRS goals.
- A desire to see the priorities translated into implementation, with mechanisms that ensure accountability and long-term impact.
- Concern that without clearer mechanisms for implementation, the LNRS may have limited influence.
- Recommendations for improved public engagement, including the creation of local groups and use of social media to share updates and opportunities.

Comments on wider issues and context included:

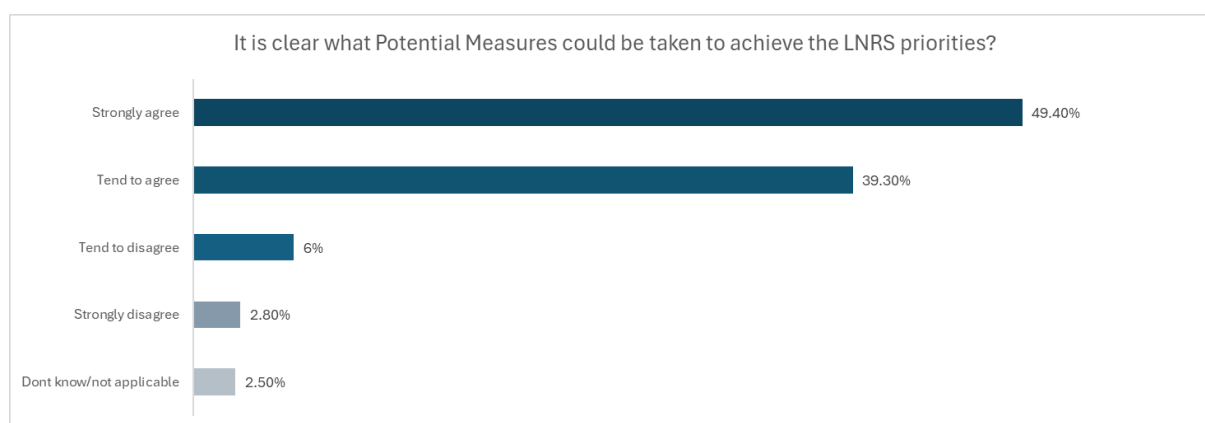
- Frustration over the loss of green space and private gardens to development.

- Concern about the loss of garden space to impermeable surfaces and artificial landscaping.
- Ongoing issues such as sewage and effluent discharges highlighted as major threats to rivers and coastlines.

### 3.3.5 Potential Measures

Question five asked respondents to agree or disagree on whether ***“It is clear what Potential Measures could be taken to achieve the LNRS priorities”***.

A total of 88.7% of respondents agreed with this statement. In total 49.4% strongly agreed and 39.3% tended to agree.



#### Feedback received in support of the Potential Measures included:

- Endorsement of the strategy’s clarity, structure, and relevance.
- Particular appreciation of the inclusion of educational initiatives aimed at fostering awareness of the natural world and its critical importance to humanity, as well as its intrinsic value.
- The approach to habitat management, such as reducing grass verge cutting to support wildflower growth, is also positively received.
- The documentation of Wetlands and Peatlands is noted as being especially well-executed.
- Positive feedback for clearly linking proposed measures to specific habitat groups and aligning them with broader nature recovery goals and national targets which will assist with Local Plan production.
- The presentation of potential measures is described as well laid out, with the use of tables making the content easy to understand and apply.

#### Comments that warranted review of the LNRS Statement of Biodiversity Priorities and/or Local Habitat Map included:

- A range of constructive suggestions aimed at improving both the clarity and effectiveness of the strategy.
- A call for a concise summary document to help distil key priorities by habitat type, making the information more accessible.
- The inclusion of invasive non-native species (INNS) as a pressure in urban habitats.
- The importance of catchment-scale approaches to INNS management.
- The installation of road signs to reduce roadkill incidents

- A call to preserve roadside trees.
- Encouraging nature-friendly garden practices among households.
- Strong support for increasing wildflower planting, reducing mowing regimes in parks and verges.
- Strong support for improving hedgerow management to support nesting birds.
- Concerns about land management practices affecting red-listed species such as lapwings.
- Location specific comments.
- Identified errors.

Feedback relating to engagement and delivery of the LNRS included:

- The need for better coordination across stakeholders,
- Involvement of the volunteer sector,
- The importance of ground-truthing restoration efforts,
- Education as a key tool for long-term success, particularly in engaging younger generations,
- A suggestion to better highlight the financial benefits of nature recovery.

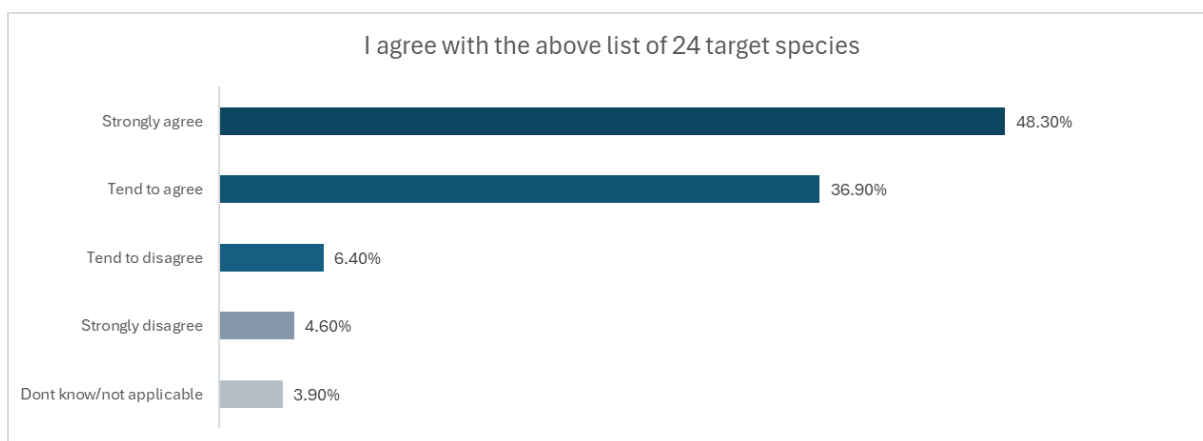
Comments on wider issues and context included:

- Concerns about the use of herbicides and pesticides, with recommendations for stricter regulation and public education on their impacts.
- The need to address pressures from wind farms on peatlands.
- Enhancing planning policies to mandate features like swift boxes in new housing developments.

### 3.3.6 Target Species

The sixth question asked respondents to agree or disagree with the following statement: **"I agree with the above list of 24 target species"**.

Of those asked a total of 85.2% respondents agreed with the list of target species. A total of 48.3% strongly agreed and 36.9% tended to agree.



#### Comments that support and endorse the LNRS Target Species included:

- The decision to create a focused list of priorities is praised for helping to avoid overwhelming the end user.
- Recognition of the robust process used to identify target species, particularly the use of Local Environmental Records Centre (LERC) data.
- The emphasis on helping native plants and animals thrive is seen as vital, with appreciation for the focus on those most in need of support.
- The inclusion of birds and a variety of plant species from different habitats is welcomed, as is the recognition of fungi-rich sites.
- The proposal to use eDNA surveys for grassland fungi prior to land-use changes is commended for its potential to identify ecologically important sites outside of their visible fruiting periods.

#### Comments that warranted review of the LNRS Statement of Biodiversity Priorities and/or Local Habitat Map included:

- A wide range of constructive suggestions aimed at strengthening the species selection and conservation strategy.
- There is a desire for clearer communication around the species selection process, with some misunderstanding the rationale behind the shortlist and habitat assemblage approach.
- There was disappointment that the list is limited to only 24 species.
- The feedback expresses concern over several omissions and choices within the species list.
- There was disappointment that reptiles are not included.

- A recurring theme of notable omissions, with many contributors advocating the inclusion of species such as hedgehogs, bats, amphibians (including great crested newts and natterjack toads), reptiles and a broader array of declining farmland and wetland birds like curlew, lapwing, snipe, and twite.
- Several respondents highlight the need to address species under threat from habitat loss, persecution, or human disturbance, particularly hen harriers, which are mentioned in relation to illegal killing.
- There is strong support for adding mammals such as otters, badgers, water voles, pine martens, roe deer, and red squirrels.
- Calls for greater attention to underrepresented groups such as fungi, lichens, invertebrates (including bees and dragonflies), and freshwater species like European eels and Arctic char.
- Suggestions to better protect nesting areas from recreational pressures.
- The presence of species such as black-headed gulls and lesser black-backed gulls is questioned, with some suggesting these birds may negatively impact biodiversity in areas like the Forest of Bowland.
- There is frustration that more rapidly declining species are not featured.
- The selection process from the longer list is not clearly explained.
- The issue of grey squirrel overpopulation is raised as a concern.
- Suggestions for adding visual aids such as species photos and improving formatting for clarity.

#### Frequently Mentioned Species:

- **Curlew** – mentioned **24 times**, widely regarded as a priority species due to its significant decline in Lancashire.
- **Hedgehog** – mentioned **16 times**, with concerns about habitat loss and absence from the list.
- **Lapwing** – mentioned **15 times**, cited as a key farmland bird in need of protection.
- **Bats** – mentioned **12 times**, with requests for inclusion in the mammals list.
- **Hen Harrier** – mentioned **6 times**, with strong concern over illegal persecution.
- **Swifts** – mentioned **5 times**, suggested for inclusion due to population decline.
- **European Eel** – mentioned **4 times**, highlighted as a species of concern.
- **Snipe** – mentioned **4 times**, as a declining wading bird.
- **Twite** – mentioned **4 times**, noted as nearly extinct in Lancashire.
- **Great Crested Newt** – mentioned **4 times**, with suggestions for habitat restoration.
- **Water Vole** – mentioned **4 times**, recommended for inclusion.
- **Red Squirrel** – mentioned **3 times**, with calls for grey squirrel control.
- **Badger** – mentioned **3 times**
- **Bittern** – mentioned **3 times**
- **Otter** – mentioned **3 times**
- **Toads** – mentioned **2 times**, including **Natterjack Toads** (mentioned **3 times**), with habitat restoration suggested.

- **Foxes** – mentioned **2 times**, both as a species of concern and in relation to predator control.
- **House Martin** – mentioned **2 times**
- **Pine Marten** – mentioned **2 times**
- **Starling, Willow Tit, Skylark, Jack Snipe, Owls** – mentioned **2 times**, suggested for inclusion.
- **Dragonflies and Bees** – mentioned **2 times**, suggested for inclusion.
- **Song Thrush, Swallow, Barn Owl, Pied Flycatcher, Goshawk, Osprey, Stock Dove, Woodcock, Linnet, Yellowhammer, Corn Bunting, Grey Partridge, Oystercatcher, Redshank, Golden Plover, Common Tern, Eider, Wildfowl (Wigeon, Pintail), Little Ringed Plover, Red Kite, Golden Eagle** – each mentioned **once** as birds of concern or omission.
- **Stoat, Beaver, Wild Boar, Roe Deer, Deer** – each mentioned **once** as mammals to be added.
- **Damselflies, Insects, White-letter Hairstreak, Isle of Man Cabbage, Purple Ramping Fumitory** – each mentioned **once** as invertebrates or plants to be included.
- **Reptiles and Amphibians** – including **Newts** and **Amphibians** – mentioned **twice** - **Sand Lizards, Smooth Snakes, Northern Pool Frogs** – each mentioned **once**, with a general call for a reptile list.
- **Fungi and Lichens** – **Fungi** mentioned **four** times and **Lichen** mentioned **once**, with suggestions to build local expertise and include fungi-rich sites like churchyards and pastures.
- **Bee Orchid** and **Wood Cranes Bill** - each mentioned **once**
- **Artic Char** - mentioned **once**

Feedback relating to engagement and delivery of the LNRS included:

- The importance of education
- Interest in linking conservation to broader benefits, including building local capacity for specialist ecological knowledge, particularly in under-resourced areas like mycology.

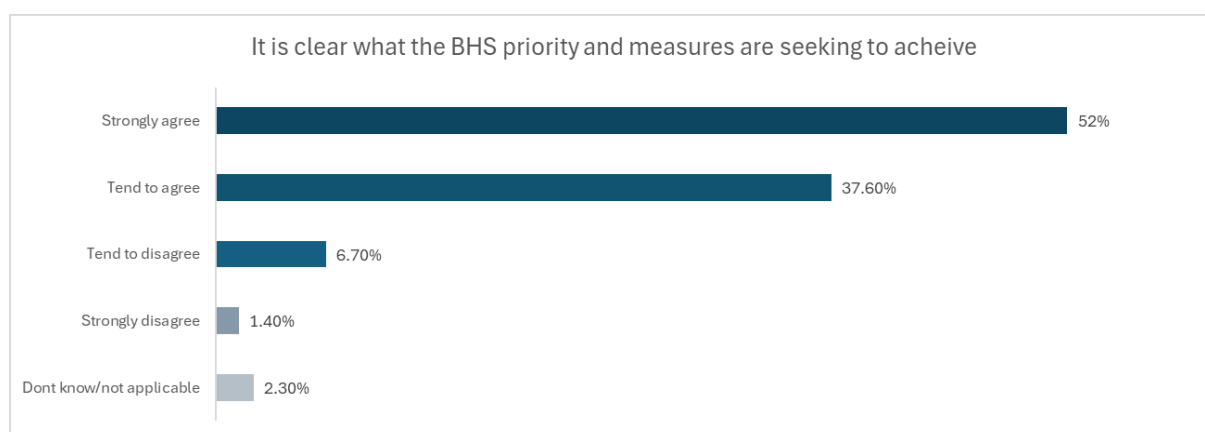
Comments on wider issues and context included:

- Concerns are raised about the impact of planning and development on wildlife.

### 3.3.7 BHS priority and measures

Question seven of this section asked respondents to agree or disagree with the statement that ***“It is clear what the BHS priority and measures are seeking to achieve”***.

A total of 89.6% of respondents agreed that it is clear what the BHS priority and measures are seeking to achieve. Of those, 52% strongly agreed and 37.6% tended to agree.



#### Comments that support and endorse the BHS Priority and Measures include:

- Strong support for the inclusion and prioritisation of Biological Heritage Sites (BHS) within the LNRS.
- Respondents appreciate that BHS sites are recognised as important areas for conservation, particularly as this recognition can help secure funding and support targeted management efforts.
- Praise for the Ecology Team’s work on Fungi-rich (CHEGD) grasslands, including site visits and tailored management advice, which is seen as a proactive and valuable approach.
- The concept of ‘critical natural capital’ being embedded in the LNRS is also positively received, with one respondent expressing particular enthusiasm for it.
- There is acknowledgement that BHS sites are complex and that generic habitat measures may risk damaging their unique features, reinforcing the importance of having specific priorities and tailored measures.
- Feedback has emphasised that management should focus on the features for which BHS sites were designated.
- Overall, the strategy’s focus on non-statutory wildlife sites is welcomed.
- Respondents support the inclusion of additional BHS on maps.
- The importance of ecological connectivity between BHS and other protected areas is highlighted.

#### Comments that warranted review of the LNRS Statement of Biodiversity Priorities and/or Local Habitat Map included:

- The phrase “*restore, enhance and maintain the ecological interest*” is criticised for being too subjective, as interpretations may vary significantly between developers and conservation professionals.
- There is some misunderstanding about what has been mapped, with some assuming it is all areas of natural biodiversity.
- There is concern that generic habitat measures may not align with the specific ecological features of BHS sites, and a recommendation for a clear hierarchy of priorities and consultation on site-specific proposals.
- More assertive language than “*ecological interest*” is suggested to convey significance.
- Suggestions include publishing qualifying features on habitat maps.
- There is also a request for clearer, more concise presentation of information, including visual examples of BHS sites, recreational impacts, and how the network is protected and managed.

Feedback relating to engagement and delivery of the LNRS included:

- A range of constructive suggestions aimed at improving the visibility, protection, and management of Biological Heritage Sites (BHS).
- There is a desire to see more nature introduced or restored in these locations, including species such as red squirrels, bees, and butterflies, and for more trees to be protected.
- Offering grants for BHS owners.
- Recognising Biodiversity net gain potential within BHS.
- Overall, there is a strong desire for better communication and more practical support for BHS conservation.

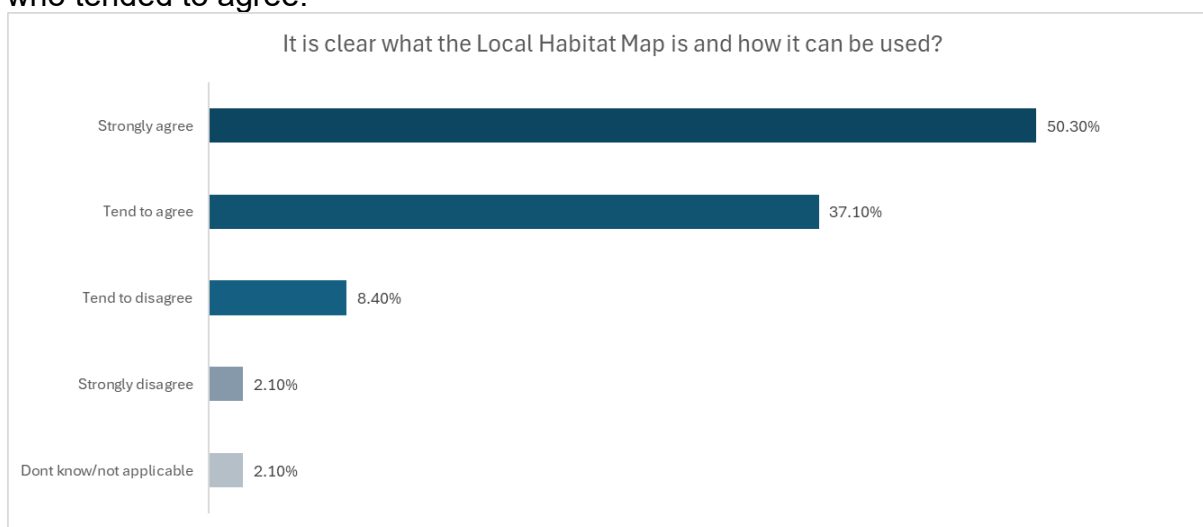
Comments on wider issues and context included:

- Several concerns about the protection and management of Biological Heritage Sites (BHS) within the current statutory and policy framework.
- Respondents advocate the expansion of protected areas.
- A concern was raised that the strategy does not address how to balance renewable energy development with habitat protection.
- There is a call for stronger safeguards beyond surveying, including compulsory management plans and practical advice for landowners.
- Respondents ask whether there are legal protections comparable to those for historical heritage sites, and whether BHS status carries weight in planning decisions.
- Clearer information on recreational use of BHS's.
- Suggestions for additional sites to be identified as BHS.
- Questions are raised about how BHS relate to other designations like SSSIs and Green Belt, and whether they apply to public or private land.

### 3.3.8 Local Habitat Map

For the eighth question respondents were asked to agree or disagree that ***“It is clear what the Local Habitat Map is and how it can be used”***.

Of the respondents, a total of 87.4% agreed that it is clear what the Local Habitat Map is and how it can be used. This included 50.3% who strongly agreed and 37.1% who tended to agree.



#### Comments that support and endorse the LNRS Local Habitat Map included:

- Strong support for the Local Habitat Map (LHM) and its role in guiding conservation efforts.
- Users describe the map as an easy-to-use resource, particularly for identifying both existing areas of ecological importance and those with potential for future enhancement.
- There is appreciation for the clarity of the guidance provided and for the map's usefulness in supporting wildlife corridors and strategic habitat connectivity.
- The visual presentation and level of detail are praised, with one comment noting that the map *“looks great”* and contains a wealth of information.
- The link between the Statement of Biodiversity Priorities (SoBP) and the story map is highlighted as an effective way to summarise the approach taken.
- Overall, the habitat map is viewed as an excellent tool for conservation planning, with particular value in helping teams target their work and understand how new areas can be connected to existing ecological networks.

#### Comments that warranted consideration of amendments to the LNRS and Local Habitat Map:

- Constructive feedback highlights several opportunities to improve the clarity, functionality, and delivery of the Local Habitat Map and associated strategy.
- Suggested additions, deletions and amendments to the Local Habitat Map.

- Some concerns are raised about the accuracy, usability, and potential implications of the habitat mapping and strategy.
- Respondents feel the tool requires further refinement and consultation, citing inaccuracies and omissions, particularly the exclusion of arable farmland, which is considered vital for declining species such as grey partridge, corn bunting, yellowhammer, and breeding lapwing.
- Usability issues are raised, including difficulty navigating the map, unclear colour coding.
- Mapping suggestions include focusing woodland creation opportunities around river valleys, steep slopes, and areas with bracken, rather than upland peatlands where peatland restoration would be more appropriate.
- There is a recommendation to incorporate groundwater levels and topography into the mapping to better inform land management decisions.
- Users request clearer explanations of what it means for an area to be categorised as “*important*” or “*could become important*,” and how this affects planning or conservation.
- The map interface is described as complex, with overlapping data layers and immovable data boxes that obstruct navigation. Suggestions include simplified guidance, search functionality by polygon number, and more detailed site information when clicking on areas.
- There is interest in producing more detailed urban maps and enabling community contributions, such as uploading species photos or recording successful conservation actions, which could be visualised as a new map layer.
- Concerns are raised about public access assumptions, with a need to clarify that many mapped areas are private property.
- Questions are asked about whether inclusion on the map confers legal protection.
- Questions are asked regarding and how the strategy will practically support habitat connectivity.
- Visual clarity is another issue, with confusion over shading in places.

Feedback relating to engagement and delivery of the LNRS included:

- The main challenge noted is the need to engage and convince landowners to support these efforts.
- Limited guidance on what actions should be taken and by whom.
- There is a call for swift action and better coordination with neighbouring authorities, alongside a desire to see more nature introduced in certain areas, including species such as red squirrels, bees, and butterflies.
- Practical delivery ideas include clearing blocked ditches to improve local ecosystems and adding images of issues like ash dieback.

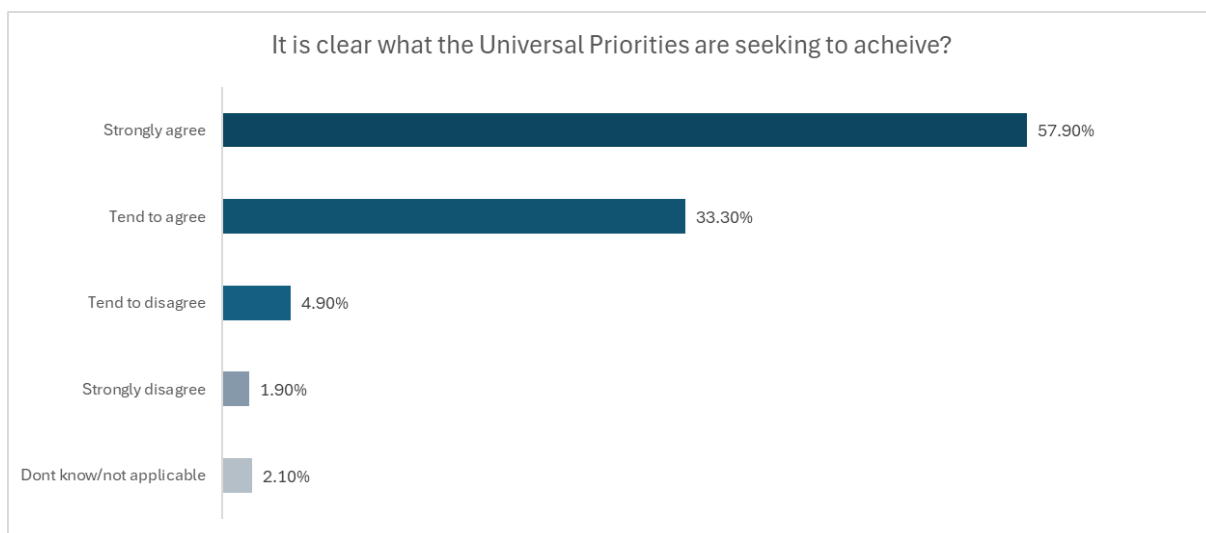
Comments on wider issues and context included:

- There is unease that the strategy could become an additional layer of control over land use, placing pressure on farmers and landowners without offering financial return.
- Some fear the map may be used to justify inappropriate development in areas lacking formal designation.
- Concerns about transparency and intent are noted, with assertions that areas have been deliberately excluded to enable future development.
- One respondent expresses distrust in the data and the motives behind the strategy.

### 3.3.9 Universal Priorities

Question nine asked respondents to agree or disagree that ***“It is clear what the Universal Priorities are seeking to achieve”***.

In total 91.2% of respondents did agree that it is clear what the universal priorities are seeking to achieve. This included 57.9% who strongly agreed and 33.3% who tended to agree.



Comments that support and endorse the Universal Priorities of the LNRS covered the following themes:

- The feedback expresses support for the universal priorities identified in the LNRS, particularly those that apply across all habitat types.
- Priorities such as managing access to nature, controlling nutrient enrichment, sediment deposition, pollution, and biosecurity are seen as nationally important and justified due to their relevance across multiple habitats.
- There is clear endorsement for the control of invasive non-native species (INNS), including grey squirrels and Himalayan balsam, with specific support for environmentally sensitive and organic approaches.
- Support for a strategic approach to balancing recreational pressures and nature recovery.
- The importance of educating children about nature and conservation is highlighted as a key long-term priority.

Comments that warranted review of the LNRS Statement of Biodiversity Priorities and/or Local Habitat Map included:

- Constructive feedback highlighting a range of practical and policy-related suggestions aimed at improving environmental protection, public awareness, and responsible land use.

- Recognition of year-round recreational pressures, not just during nesting seasons.
- Feedback highlights concerns about gaps in the strategy, particularly around habitat protection, pollution, and enforcement.
- A criticism is that the strategy fails to address the destruction of habitats.
- Avoidance of key habitat loss as a universal priority.
- Concerns include the absence of references to pesticides such as glyphosate and runoff from NPK fertilizers, both of which are seen as harmful to biodiversity.
- Suggested action to tackle the build-up and impact of nutrients on sensitive plant and fungi species.
- Water pollution is another major concern, with emphasis on storm drain monitoring, prosecution of polluters, and expanding the pollution priority to include agriculture and litter.
- Inclusion of air, noise, light, and road runoff pollution in the strategy.
- One respondent highlighted that the document fails to engage with some issues, the most concerning being housing and anthropogenic pollution from motor vehicles.
- Respondents suggest that the strategy should better integrate human and ecological needs, for example by timing recreational events around nesting seasons.
- Ensuring the experience of National Trail users is not worsened, but improved.
- There is criticism of the strategy's presentation, described as overly complex and confusing.

#### Comments relating to delivery of the LNRS

- Respondents highlight the need to expand agri-environmental schemes to reverse the decline of farmland birds.
- A recurring theme is the need for better management of recreational impacts, particularly from off-lead dogs, which are seen as a major threat to wildlife.
- Suggestions include enforcing dogs-on-leads policies and increasing education for dog walkers to minimise environmental damage.
- There is support for public awareness campaigns around littering, pollution, and responsible household practices, such as avoiding slug pellets and improper disposal of bleach and fats.
- Support for deer population control, with potential benefits like local venison supply.
- Call for clearer communication, and more detailed, locally relevant actions to support nature recovery and responsible land use.

#### Comments on wider issues and context included:

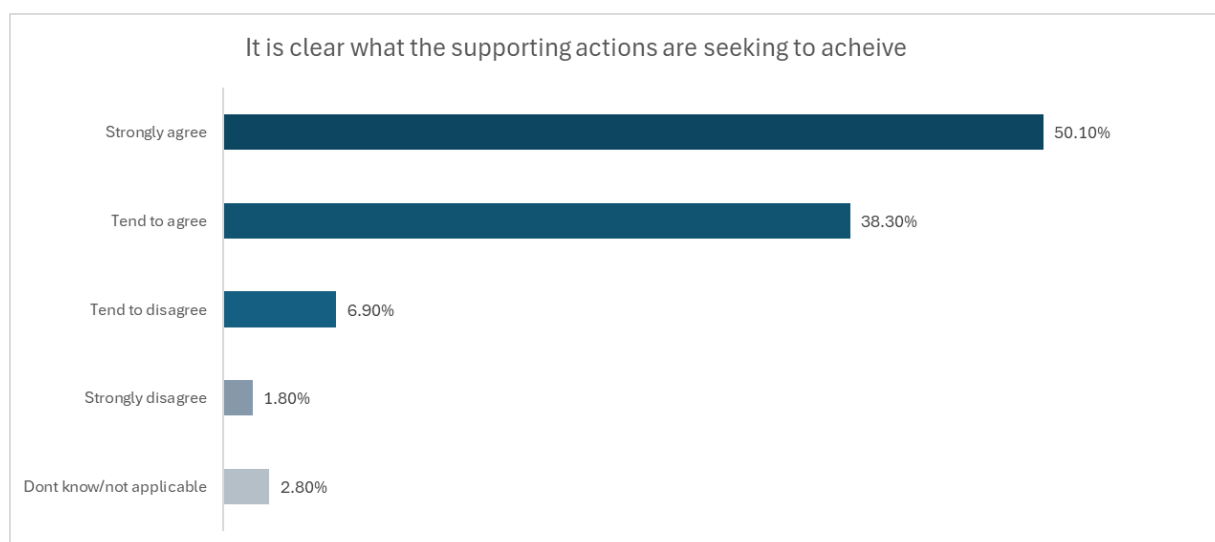
- Frustration over combined sewage overflow releases, with calls for greater accountability and recognition of watercourse pollution as a high priority.

- Respondents express concern that runoff from highways, often containing contaminants, is not being adequately addressed through legislation.
- There are assertions relating to incompatibilities between estate shooting management and conservation goals.
- Respondents call for greater protection of greenbelt land and limits on housing development in sensitive areas.
- There are calls for landowners to be held accountable, including through fines if they allow invasive species to spread.
- Suggested increased fines for environmental damage and fly-tipping.
- Calls for stronger enforcement

### 3.3.10 Supporting Actions

The tenth question asked respondents whether they agreed or disagreed with the statement that ***“It is clear what the Supporting Actions are seeking to achieve”***.

Of the respondents, a total of 88.4% agreed that it is clear what the supporting actions are seeking to achieve. This included 50.1% who strongly agreed and 38.3% who tended to agree.



#### Feedback that supports and endorses the Supporting Actions of the LNRS included:

- Strong support for the initiative, particularly in areas like public education and environmental strategy.
- The respondents valued the use of robust evidence and support the creation of a central repository for data.
- Respondents highlight the importance of reducing pollution and nutrient enrichment, seeing this as a chance to build capacity in environmental sciences and create employment opportunities.
- There is appreciation of the emphasis on engagement and collaboration, which is seen as essential for tapping into local knowledge and ensuring cost-effective delivery.

#### Comments that warranted review of the LNRS Statement of Biodiversity Priorities and/or Local Habitat Map included:

- Constructive feedback offering a range of practical suggestions aimed at strengthening the project's impact and clarity.
- Proposals to add public support generation as a formal action.
- Some language is ambiguous and needs clarification.
- It should be made easier for residents to identify relevant actions they can take.

Feedback relating to engagement and delivery of the LNRS included:

- Respondents express a clear willingness to stay involved and support increased funding to help move the project forward.
- A perceived lack of community involvement.
- A feeling that collaboration with local charities and NGOs is missing, and that local voices, particularly those raising concerns about biodiversity loss, are not being heard.
- Respondents recommend involving local groups in ground-truthing and delivery, using social media and schools for education, and including supportive politicians and decision-makers more explicitly.
- Concerns raised about underfunding for essential maintenance and equipment on nature reserves.
- Urgency of action across engagement, collaboration, policies, legislation, funding and finance, suggesting that while data is largely in place, the focus should now shift to implementation.
- There is a request for clearer plans on how biodiversity baselines will be established and how engagement with developers and landowners will be handled.
- Location specific comments.

Comments on wider issues and context included:

- Concern over certain developments.
- Respondents are unhappy with the approval of development on green belt land and the construction of wind farms on moorland, suggesting these actions conflict with environmental priorities.

### 3.3.11 Open Question

In response to the open question inviting general comments on the LNRS, feedback was received across the following key themes:

#### Strong Support for the Strategy's Vision and Clarity

Respondents overwhelmingly agree that the Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) is clear in its aims, priorities, and potential measures. The strategy is described as bold, ambitious, and well-structured, with particular praise for its focus on connectivity, mental health benefits, and inclusive messaging. However, some feel it remains aspirational without a clear delivery plan or enforceability.

#### Feedback on Species and Habitat Prioritisation

While the target species list is generally supported, many respondents feel it omits key species such as hedgehogs, bats, amphibians, and farmland birds. There are calls for clearer rationale behind species selection and stronger protection for habitats like arable farmland, urban green spaces, and Biological Heritage Sites (BHS). Mapping tools are praised but need refinement for usability and accuracy.

#### Need for Improved Engagement and Collaboration

Engagement with local communities, charities, and NGOs is seen as essential but currently lacking. Respondents call for clearer pathways for public involvement, better communication, and more accessible materials. Suggestions include using social media, schools, and local groups to raise awareness and support implementation.

#### Calls for Practical and Targeted Action

There is a strong desire for the LNRS to move beyond strategy into action. Respondents recommend year-round species monitoring (e.g. Lapwing), improved habitat management, and better coordination across stakeholders. There is also support for educational initiatives, citizen science, and incentives for nature-friendly practices in urban and rural areas.

#### Concerns About Development and Planning Policy

There is significant concern about the impact of housing and infrastructure developments on green belt land and biodiversity. Respondents express scepticism about Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) measures and fear that planning reforms may weaken environmental protections. Specific grievances include wind farm proposals and perceived misuse of the strategy to justify development.

#### Feedback that supports the LNRS included:

- Strong support for a variety of potential measures.
- Gratitude and thanks for the strategy.
- Strong support for delivery and hopes that funding will support implementation.
- Strong hopes for the future on the back of the strategy.
- Recognition for the evidenced-based approach to development and the main strategy document.

Examples of supportive comments received include:

*"The Strategy provides the first document which truly puts nature first, identifying important habitats and species and the measures that should be put in place to strengthen their future. It recognises the challenges that nature faces but also the many opportunities that the County has for nature recovery and the wider benefits that its recovery can play, for example in relation to health benefits, carbon capture and climate change, water and air quality improvements and flood management".*

*"Your LNRS contains a number of exciting measures that could help enable nature's recovery".*

*"...the Strategy provides a consistent basis for identifying priorities across the County..."*

*"...it caters for everyone, including local authorities, landowners, environmental organisations, businesses, community groups and residents to target action and inform future policies and plans".*

*"The explanation of ecological networks and their role in the Strategy is well explained".*

*"It is clear that this has been a tremendous mapping and information gathering exercise..."*

*"We recognise the huge amount of effort that has gone into gathering the baseline data and local knowledge needed to identify the priority species and habitats to include in the LNRS, the areas of particular importance for biodiversity, and the measures that can help enable nature's recovery".*

*"This Local Habitat Map provides an excellent start for Lancashire's nature recovery..."*

*"...an excellent piece of work".*

*"We commend you on a clear and focussed LNRS".*

*"We welcome the recognition of the fundamental importance of Lancashire's Biological Heritage Sites to the identification of core areas for delivery of Lancashire's nature recovery network and that these sites are often complex internally and in their wider context and require bespoke advice and measures for their continued survival, recovery, extension, resilience and (re)connection to form a coherent and ecologically dynamic and functional landscape".*

*"I think it is a fantastic initiative."*

*"I strongly support efforts by the council and ambitions to protect and restore biodiversity in the county."*

*"I think the strategy is great and extremely robust."*

*"I am extremely pleased that the work done on this appears to be so thorough. Thank you for the foresight in producing this, and the commitment that is shown for the future of our environment. I wish you continued success and strength to persevere. This work is vitally important."*

*"I am very pleased that this is happening and thank you for putting together this information and survey. Good luck!"*

*"This is an important Strategy and I whole heartedly support it."*

*"I fully support this strategy and I am very happy to see something being done to support nature and wildlife in Lancashire."*

*"I would just like to thank you for all the hard work that has gone into this report and for the efforts you are making to protect wildlife habitats and areas for us all to enjoy. it is much needed and much appreciated!"*

*"I think it is very important to protect our biodiversity and nature and so I am happy with this Local Nature Recovery Strategy and hope that it will help to secure funding for projects that will help to protect our biodiversity in the longer term".*

*"Such important work for our lovely county - thank you".*

*"I totally agree with this LNRS, our environment needs preserving and helping."*

*"Looks fantastic!"*

*"We would particularly like to commend you on the detailed process you ran to analyse available evidence, guidance, and other expert input. It is also excellent to see this process transparently set out (in evidence and technical information section), in particular the consulted stakeholders by thematic area, as well as the internal governance processes – it reflects a vast amount of work."*

*"This is a great achievement, well done!"*

*"The draft LNRS is a welcomed evidence base document for the state of nature in Lancashire and the identification of local nature recovery opportunities. The strategy, once adopted, will enable the environmental pillar of sustainable development to be adequately considered during the preparation of local and neighbourhood plans as well as during the decision-making process on planning applications."*

*"I personally think it's a great foundation and one that really does need to be built upon."*

Comments that warranted review of the LNRS Statement of Biodiversity Priorities and/or Local Habitat Map included:

- Additional site suggestions for mapped measures.
- Evidence to support a change in mapped measures.
- The addition of a political engagement strategy in the Supporting Actions.
- Request to address a barrier to understanding resulting from acronym use.
- Litter removal measure request.
- Expansion of stakeholders in landowner engagement strategy Supporting Action.
- Request for consideration of a Functionally-Linked Land dataset for wader measures mapping.

Feedback relating to engagement and delivery of the LNRS included:

- Desire to collaborate on development of a delivery plan and be involved in delivery.
- Desire for councils to deliver the measures.
- Request to strengthen farming networks and involve farmers, landowners and managers in delivery.
- Improving community understanding and pride through education and engagement.
- Recommendation to develop a nature recovery toolkit.
- Suggestion for more local community actions and measures that can be carried out in the garden.

Comments on wider issues and context included:

- Concern over certain developments.

## 4. Interpretation of Feedback

The information gathered on who responded to the public consultation, presented in Section 3.2 (above), highlights significant differences in response rates from different demographic groups. This information will inform engagement strategies as outlined within the LNRS Supporting Actions, during the delivery phase.

The responses presented in Section 3.3 (above) showed strong support on all Likert scale question responses. Very strong support was received for the vision and aims and the Universal Priorities both receiving over 90% of the responses in either strongly agree or tend to agree.

**Table 1: Structured agreement percentages for responses.**

| Question                                                               | Agreement % | Disagreement % |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|----------------|
| The vision and aims of the LNRS are clear.                             | 92          | 6.9            |
| It is clear what the Universal Priorities are seeking to achieve.      | 91.2        | 6.8            |
| It is clear what the BHS priority and measures are seeking to achieve. | 89.6        | 8.1            |
| It is clear what the LNRS is trying to achieve.                        | 89.4        | 9.1            |
| It is clear what the LNRS priorities are seeking to achieve.           | 89.2        | 8.7            |
| It is clear what Potential Measures could be taken to achieve.         | 88.7        | 8.8            |
| It is clear what the Supporting Actions are seeking to achieve.        | 88.4        | 8.7            |
| It is clear what the Local Habitat Map is and how it can be used.      | 87.4        | 10.5           |
| I agree with the above list of twenty-four target species.             | 85.2        | 11             |
| It is clear how the LNRS can be used.                                  | 84.7        | 11.8           |

There is wide support for the LNRS and there has been no indication of major objections to the LNRS Statement of Biodiversity Priorities or Local Habitat Map. However, a number of comments received warranted review and amendment of the Statement of Biodiversity Priorities and/or Local Habitat Map.

Key amendments to the LNRS in order to address the feedback received are shown in Section 5 of this report.

## 5. Amendments to the LNRS

### 5.1 Amendments to the Statement of Biodiversity Priorities

Table 2 below identifies amendments to the Statement of Biodiversity Priorities to address key issues arising from the public consultation exercise.

| Table 2: Amendments to Statement of Biodiversity Priorities                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                      |
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| Amendments                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Reason                                                                                                                                                                               |
| <b>The vision for nature recovery</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <p>Aims of the LNRS amended to read:<br/> <b>This Strategy provides a shared vision for collaborative nature recovery action to protect, enhance and connect our rich natural environment and biodiversity to benefit all Lancashire residents and visitors. It aims to:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Halt and reverse local biodiversity loss and support thriving species populations to move more freely through the landscape.</b></li> <li>• Conserve natural resources and build resilience to climate change.</li> <li>• Provide wider <b>environmental and societal benefits</b> for the people of Lancashire.</li> </ul> | <p>To emphasise collaborative nature recovery action.</p> <p>To address the reversal of biodiversity loss.</p> <p>To acknowledge wider benefits.</p> <p>Grammatical corrections.</p> |

- Reinvigorate existing partnerships and establish new ones to deliver nature recovery in the places and spaces that need it most on a landscape-scale.

### Why we need a Local Nature Recovery Strategy

Benefits to the economy:  
Timber production added

To acknowledge benefits of timber production other than construction materials

### Who the LNRS is for and how to use it

Text added to acknowledge nature recovery opportunities outside of mapped opportunity areas:  
*"The LNRS is not a delivery plan but can be used to understand how and where action could be taken to help nature recover. It identifies the opportunities for nature recovery action in locations likely to provide the greatest benefit. **However, this does not preclude nature recovery action in other locations**".*  
(Similar clause added to Section 3 – Local Habitat Map).

To avoid landowners being deterred from carrying out measures that support delivery of the priorities in any suitable areas.

Residents section expanded as follows:  
*"Residents can use the LNRS to find out what they can do to support nature recovery **and achieve co-benefits for health, wellbeing and access to nature**. Private gardens, yards, balconies and communal spaces are particularly important for habitat connectivity, helping species move between areas".*

To highlight co-benefits of nature recovery for Lancashire's residents.

### Description of Lancashire and its biodiversity

Morecambe Bay Limestones

To encompass all impacts on limestone pavement.

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| Text amended:<br>Some limestone pavements have been heavily damaged by historic impacts and non-native invasive species.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                             |
| <u>Morecambe Bay Limestones</u><br>Text added on Leighton Moss SPA:<br><i>"The site also supports breeding marsh harrier (a feature of the Ramsar designation)".</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Important feature of Leighton Moss Ramsar site.                                                                                             |
| <u>Morecambe Bay Limestones</u><br>Text added:<br><i>"Hawes Water (SSSI) is situated in the centre of Arnside &amp; Silverdale AONB. It comprises a complex of limestone habitats including a nationally important example of a marl lake. It is the only marl lake in Lancashire and one of only a small number in the north of England".</i>                                                                                         | To highlight the presence of a nationally important habitat.                                                                                |
| <u>Morecambe Bay Limestones</u><br>Text added:<br><i>"Hazel dormice are also present in suitable habitat within the Arnside and Silverdale area".</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | To acknowledge the presence of Hazel Dormouse.                                                                                              |
| <u>Bowland Fells</u><br>Revised Text:<br><i>"Gisburn Forest, adjacent to Stocks Reservoir, is one of the largest examples of its kind in Lancashire. It supports small but locally important populations of crossbill, black grouse, nightjar and goshawk. The wider area, including Stocks Reservoir is important for wintering wildfowl and breeding birds such as red breasted merganser, black-headed gull and ringed plover".</i> | For clarity. To distinguish between ecological interest of Gisburn Forest and other habitats in the wider area, including Stocks Reservoir. |

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| <u>Bowland Fringe and Pendle Hill</u><br>Extended text:<br>Calf Hill & Cragg Woods SAC to the north of the Forest of Bowland is designated for its old sessile oak woods on the north- and south-facing slopes of a valley on millstone grit.<br><b>This is one of the most extensive stands of upland oakwood and valley alder woodland in Lancashire.</b> | To emphasise the importance of Calf Hill & Cragg Woods SAC and its habitats.                              |
| <b>Areas of Particular Importance for Biodiversity in Lancashire</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                           |
| <u>National Conservation Sites:</u><br>Added cross reference to new Appendix 3                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | To provide list of SSSIs in Lancashire                                                                    |
| <u>Table 1: Coverage of broad habitat types in Lancashire</u><br>Subheading amended:<br><b>Approximate</b> area and percentage coverage of total county area calculated using the Local Habitat Map                                                                                                                                                         | Habitat areas and coverage are approximate                                                                |
| <b>Pressures on Lancashire's biodiversity</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                           |
| Additional text:<br><i>" Related impacts on species include, for example, habitat loss, changes to species distribution, physical stress, transmission of disease and disruption to migration, hibernation, reproduction, food chains and ecosystems".</i>                                                                                                  | To acknowledge the ongoing effects of climate change on species.                                          |
| Added cross reference to pressures and opportunities tables.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | To direct readers to related information specific to each habitat type and associated species assemblage. |
| <b>Opportunities for recovery or enhancement</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                           |
| Added cross reference to pressures and opportunities tables.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | To direct readers to related information specific to each habitat type and associated species assemblage. |
| Additional text:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | To make reference to the Woodland Carbon Code.                                                            |

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| <p><i>"Stacking this funding with private investment through offers such as the Peatland Carbon Code standard, <b>Woodland Carbon Code</b> or Water Industry National Environment Improvement Programme (WINEP) funding can help realise the potential".</i></p> <p><i>"Identifying and creating Suitable Alternative Natural Green Spaces (SANGs) within more localised urban settings <b>and, where appropriate, along active travel routes such as National Trails, public rights of way and canals</b>, to provide access to good quality green space..."</i></p> | <p>To acknowledge opportunities for access to nature including along National Trails, PRoW Network, Canal network where appropriate.</p>                  |
| <p><b>Priorities and Potential Measures – what we need to do</b></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                           |
| <p>Added cross reference to tables of priorities, potential measures, and associated benefits.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | <p>To direct readers to related information specific to each habitat type and associated species assemblage.</p>                                          |
| <p><b>Pressures and Opportunities Tables</b></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                           |
| <p>Text added to tables highlighting opportunities for habitat creation and enhancement providing access to nature and Suitable Alternative Natural Green Spaces, where appropriate, along National Trails, public rights of way, canals and other active travel routes</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | <p>To acknowledge opportunities associated with National Trails and other active travel routes and opportunities for co-benefits of access to nature.</p> |
| <p><b>Aquatic and Wetland</b></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                           |
| <p>Text added to introductory section:<br/> <i>"The Lancashire LNRS aims to achieve:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>• An enhanced river, stream and watercourse network and associated floodplains.</i></li> </ul> </p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | <p>Brief explanation of what the LNRS is trying to achieve, reflecting the priorities for the broad habitat.</p>                                          |

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Natural river processes restored, with habitats connected along watercourses and between their floodplains.</i></li> <li>• <i>A restored and connected healthy freshwater and wetland landscape.</i></li> <li>• <i>Catchments resilient to water quantity extremes".</i></li> </ul>                                                    |                                                                                                                  |
| <p>Note added to Table 5 - Aquatic and wetland priorities, potential measures, and associated benefits:<br/> <i>"(N.B. Measures relating to watercourses are not necessarily intended to apply to the canal network and may not be appropriate within canals unless explicitly stated and/or shown on the Local Habitat Map) ".</i></p>                                            | <p>To guard against implementation of inappropriate measures within the canal network.</p>                       |
| <p>Additional Benefits added to Aquatic and Wetland Priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contribution to delivery of River Basin Management Plans.</li> <li>• Reduced erosion.</li> <li>• Access to nature, where appropriate, along transport corridors and active travel routes such as National Trails, public rights of way and canal towpaths.</li> </ul> | <p>Co-benefits of aquatic and wetland priorities and measures.</p>                                               |
| <b>Coastal and estuarine</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                  |
| <p>Text added to introductory section:<br/> <i>"The Lancashire LNRS aims to achieve:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Coastal habitats connected with wider ecosystems particularly transitional habitats.</i></li> </ul>                                                                                                                                       | <p>Brief explanation of what the LNRS is trying to achieve, reflecting the priorities for the broad habitat.</p> |

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Naturally functioning coastal systems with dynamic processes forming embryonic and transitional habitats.</i></li> <li>• <i>Expanded, enhanced and preserved coastal and estuarine habitat important to Lancashire".</i></li> </ul>                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <p>Additional pressure on coastal and estuarine habitats added:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sea-level rise and erosion.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                 | To acknowledge habitat loss and coastal squeeze as a result of sea level rise.                                                                                                                     |
| <p>Measure C1.2 re-phrased:<br/> <i>"Remove barriers, such as small weirs, culverts and other riverbed modifications (or create passages through/around them) to improve connectivity for species dispersal, prioritising barriers within main rivers at, or close to the tidal limit".</i></p>     | For clarity.                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| <p>Measure C1.3 expanded as follows:<br/> <i>"Create and enhance habitat corridors <b>and stepping stone habitats</b> to support species migration including connectivity between coastal and freshwater ecosystems e.g. saltmarsh, estuaries, intertidal pools, floodplain grazing marsh".</i></p> | Stepping stone habitats added to include additional areas of habitat that will help wildlife to move between isolated fragments of habitat.                                                        |
| <p>Priority C2<br/> Reference to natterjack reintroductions removed.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Now addressed under Supporting Actions - Data and evidence - <i>"Gather data and evidence and undertake further research to inform consideration of future species reintroduction strategies".</i> |
| <p>Measure C2.4 expanded as follows:<br/> <i>"Manage and enhance sand dune habitats for example through sand patching and vegetation management to maintain a structurally varied habitat. <b>On sites identified as BHS, also follow Measure B1.1</b>".</i></p>                                    | To enable mapping of measure C2.4 on sand dunes (irreplaceable habitat) within BHS whilst safeguarding the BHS.                                                                                    |
| <p>Measure C3.1 amended as follows:</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Extended to include wildfowl and feeding habitat                                                                                                                                                   |

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| <p><i>" Create and enhance undisturbed coastal:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>• high tide feeding and roosting habitat for wildfowl.</i></li> <li><i>• nesting sites and high tide feeding and roosting habitat for wading birds."</i></li> </ul>                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                      |
| <p>Measure C3.4 re-phrased as follows:<br/> <i>" Creation of coastal habitats (such as brackish reedbeds, coastal grasslands and wetlands), to buffer and expand coastal and estuarine habitats, allowing for habitat expansion with sea level rise and reconnection of low-lying reclaimed and frequently flooded agricultural land to coastal and transitional habitats".</i></p> | <p>To incorporate buffering and expansion of coastal and estuarine habitats, allowing for habitat expansion with sea level rise.</p> |
| <p>Additional benefits of coastal and estuarine priorities added:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduced erosion.</li> <li>• Access to nature and Suitable Alternative Natural Green Spaces along King Charles III Coastal Path and the associated coastal margin.</li> <li>• Habitat adaptation to sea level rise.</li> </ul>                                        | <p>Co-benefits of coastal priorities and measures.</p>                                                                               |
| <b>Grassland</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                      |
| <p>Additional text added to introductory section:<br/> <i>"The Lancashire LNRS aims to achieve:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>• Ecologically important grasslands preserved and managed for biodiversity.</i></li> <li><i>• A connected network of biodiverse grassland habitats.</i></li> </ul>                                                                | <p>Brief explanation of what the LNRS is trying to achieve, reflecting the priorities for the broad habitat.</p>                     |

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Sustainably managed agricultural land with maximised biodiversity value, generating wider environmental benefits".</i></li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                |
| <p>Measure G1.3 amended as follows:<br/> <i>"Secure appropriate conservation management of known fungi-rich grasslands, including (for example) preserving undisturbed soils with no cultivation, no nutrient inputs, maintaining suitable sward heights to allow fruiting and restricting scrub/tree encroachment. <b>On sites identified as BHS, also follow Measure B1.1".</b></i></p> | <p>New BHSs identified for fungi-rich grasslands.</p> <p>To enable mapping of measure G1.3 within BHS whilst safeguarding the BHS.</p>         |
| <p>Measure G3.2 expanded as follows:<br/> <i>"- Appropriately manage for arable species assemblages such as <b>habitat for nesting birds including ground nesting species</b>, buffer strips, beetle banks, conservation headlands, overwintering feeding habitat, overwinter stubble and field corners."</i></p>                                                                         | <p>To include habitat for nesting birds, including ground nesting species.</p>                                                                 |
| <p>Measure G3.3 expanded as follows:<br/> <i>"Create habitat <b>within arable land and other farmed landscapes</b> such as tree planting in field corners, individual trees, agro-forestry, field ponds, <b>habitats and features to support nesting birds (including ground nesting species)</b> and buffer habitats adjacent to watercourses and aquatic habitats"</i>.</p>             | <p>To highlight that the habitat type includes arable land.</p> <p>To include habitat for nesting birds, including ground nesting species.</p> |
| <p>Added species benefits of Priority G3:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lapwing</li> <li>• Yellow hammer</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | <p>Shortlisted species benefiting from grassland/agricultural land priorities.</p>                                                             |

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| Additional benefit of Priority G2 added:<br><i>"Access to nature along transport corridors and active travel routes such as National Trails, public rights of way and canal towpaths".</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | To acknowledge opportunities and benefits along all types of grass verges.                                                                                               |
| <b>Peatland</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Additional text added to introductory section:<br><i>"The Lancashire LNRS aims to achieve:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>• Sustainable land use of lowland peat soils, creating a mosaic of peatland habitats that support a variety of species.</i></li> <li><i>• Lowland peatlands connected at a landscape-scale and their supporting habitats restored.</i></li> <li><i>• Active growing lowland peatlands, supporting rich biodiversity.</i></li> <li><i>• Functioning upland peatlands forming peat at a landscape-scale.</i></li> <li><i>• A mosaic of upland peatland, non-peatland and connecting transitional habitats in the uplands, supporting a variety of species.</i></li> <li><i>• Sustainable land use and management of upland peat soils".</i></li> </ul> | Brief explanation of what the LNRS is trying to achieve, reflecting the priorities for the broad habitat.                                                                |
| P1.1 amended:<br><i>"Wetter farming - where it leads to peat formation or transition to restoration for example <b>sustainable</b> Sphagnum farming, Typha growing and carbon farming".</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Error correction. Willow crops moved from P1.1 to P1.2 in line with advice from peatland specialists.<br><br>'Sustainable' added to guard against unsustainable methods. |
| P1.2 amended:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Error correction. Willow crops moved from P1.1 to P1.2 in line with advice from peatland specialists.                                                                    |

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| <i>"Productive agriculture on wet or rewetted peaty soils (including short rotation willow coppice) to buffer and enhance habitats adjacent to peatland habitats".</i>                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                  |
| Priority P2 revised: Lowland peatlands connected at a landscape-scale and their supporting habitats restored.                                                                                                                                                                           | To remove repetition of P3 priorities and measures.                                                              |
| Measure P2.1 revised:<br><i>"Restore and enhance lowland peatland and wetland habitats to improve habitat connectivity, for example lagg, fen and lowland heathland".</i>                                                                                                               | To remove repetition of measures within Priority P3.                                                             |
| Measure P2.3 amended to read: <i>"Create corridors and steppingstones of lowland peatland <b>habitats</b> and other wetland habitats in between fragmented lowland raised bog and associated habitats for example wet woodland, reedbeds and wet heath".</i>                            | Correction. Peatland cannot be created.                                                                          |
| Measure P3.1 amended as follows:<br><i>"Re-establish and restore lowland peatland habitats (such as lowland raised bog) on deep peat and in other locations with the potential to return to active peat-forming bogs. <b>On sites identified as BHS, also follow Measure B1.1</b>".</i> | To enable mapping of measure P3.1 on irreplaceable peatland habitats within BHS whilst safeguarding the BHS.     |
| Measure P3.2 amended as follows:<br><i>" Create transitional buffering habitats adjoining lowland peatlands to support their restoration and hydrology, for example lagg, fen and wet woodland ".</i>                                                                                   | To remove repetition of measure under Priority P2                                                                |
| Measure P4.5 amended as follows:<br><i>" Maintain and enhance existing blanket bog through appropriate management <b>to achieve good/favourable ecological condition</b>. On sites identified as BHS, also follow Measure B1.1".</i>                                                    | To improve landowner engagement.<br><br>To clarify overall goal to achieve good/favourable ecological condition. |

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|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | <p>To take account of a broad range of site conditions and management options.</p> <p>Removed restrictions that are a matter for statutory licensing body.</p> <p>To enable mapping of measure P4.5 within BHS whilst safeguarding the BHS.</p> |
| <p>Measure P5.1 Amended as follows:<br/> <i>"Management to maintain and enhance upland peatland species and habitat diversity through, for example:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>• Alterations to site hydrology, burning, grazing and nutrient inputs,</i></li> <li><i>• Managing encroachment of bracken and other vegetation,</i></li> <li><i>• Adjustments to game management and predator control regimes agreed in collaboration with local landowners, managers and shoots".</i></li> </ul> | <p>To promote engagement with landowners/managers.</p> <p>To clarify goals of habitat management alterations.</p> <p>To take account of a broad range of site conditions and management options.</p>                                            |
| <p>Additional benefit of peatland priorities added:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduced erosion.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | <p>Co-benefit of peatland measure with benefits for other habitats.</p>                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <b>Rocky Habitats</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <p>Additional text added to introductory section:<br/> The Lancashire LNRS aims to achieve:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Limestone pavement habitats with high biodiversity value.</li> <li>• Rocky outcrops and features with high biodiversity value (including outcrops, cliff faces, ledges, crevices, seepages, scree and boulders).</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                    | <p>Brief explanation of what the LNRS is trying to achieve, reflecting the priorities for the broad habitat.</p>                                                                                                                                |

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maximised biodiversity value of geological features, rocky habitats and artificial habitats arising from past industry and development.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                |
| <p>Measure R1.1 amended as follows:<br/> <i>"Suitable management of limestone pavements and associated ecologically valuable habitats e.g. open limestone pavement, limestone grassland, upland mixed ash woods, yew woodland, juniper scrub and bryophyte and lichen communities. <b>On sites identified as BHS, also follow Measure B1.1</b>".</i></p>                                                             | <p>To enable mapping of measure R1.1 on limestone pavement (irreplaceable habitat) within BHS whilst safeguarding the BHS.</p> |
| <p>Additional species identified as benefiting from Priority R1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hazel dormouse.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | <p>Species occurs in the vicinity of Arnside and Silverdale AONB</p>                                                           |
| <p>Measure R3.1 amended as follows: <i>"Maintain and enhance existing biodiversity value of geological features, rocky habitats and artificial habitats arising from past industry and development, including quarries, <b>mineral extraction sites</b>, disused railways, open mosaic on previously developed land and spoil heaps (hushings) for example, by appropriate management for the habitat type".</i></p> | <p>To include all types of mineral sites.</p>                                                                                  |
| <p>Measure R3.2 amended as follows:<br/> <i>"Create and maintain locally appropriate habitats on rock <b>and mineral substrates</b> arising from past industry and development in suitable locations beneficial to habitat connectivity for example by creating new habitat to support shortlisted species".</i></p>                                                                                                 | <p>To include all types of mineral sites.</p>                                                                                  |
| <p><b>Wooded Habitats and Trees</b></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                |

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| <p>Additional text added to introductory section:<br/> <i>"The Lancashire LNRS aims to achieve:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>• Maximised biodiversity value of existing wooded habitats.</i></li> <li><i>• Woodland and wooded habitats expanded and connected with biodiverse woodland creation and tree cover in appropriate locations on a landscape scale".</i></li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | <p>Brief explanation of what the LNRS is trying to achieve, reflecting the priorities for the broad habitat.</p>                                                                                                                              |
| <p>Pollution (including air pollution) identified as an additional pressure on wooded habitats and trees.</p> <p>Lichens added as an affected species group.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | <p>To acknowledge pollution impacts on woodlands, including the impacts of air pollution on lichens.</p>                                                                                                                                      |
| <p>Additional woodland opportunities identified:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Restoration of plantation ancient woodland sites.</li> <li>Restructuring and diversifying productive plantations to increase and manage biodiversity alongside timber production and other benefits such as recreation.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | <p>To highlight ancient woodland restoration opportunities.</p> <p>To highlight opportunities for nature recovery and access to nature within productive plantations.</p>                                                                     |
| <p>Measure W1.1 amended as follows:<br/> <i>" Restore natural processes and enhance the biodiversity value of existing wooded habitats, prioritising ancient and long-established woodlands, temperate rainforest, Plantations on Ancient Woodland Sites (PAWS) and wet woodland.</i></p> <p><b><i>Incorporate appropriate habitat enhancements for notable species known to be present or with high potential to colonise (such as feeding and breeding birds, small mammals, invertebrates and ground flora etc), for example:</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b><i>• For dormice, consider retaining standard trees (especially oak), undertaking rotational coppicing</i></b></li> </ul> | <p>To provide enhancements for notable species, such as hazel dormouse, where present or likely to colonise.</p> <p>To enable mapping of measure W1.1 on ancient woodland (irreplaceable habitat) within BHS whilst safeguarding the BHS.</p> |

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| <p><b><i>of hazel, where appropriate, to promote a dense shrub layer and structural complexity, and adjust the timing of management work to avoid nesting and hibernation.</i></b></p> <p><b><i>On sites identified as BHS, also follow Measure B1.1."</i></b></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                  |
| <p>Measure W1.2 amended as follows:<br/> <i>"Enhance the biodiversity value of broadleaved, mixed and coniferous plantation woodland, including:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>• Diversification of structure, age and species composition,</i></li> <li><i>• Increasing the proportion of native species,</i></li> <li><i>• Retaining permanent areas of broadleaved woodland,</i></li> <li><i>• Creation of open habitats such as rides, glades and transitional woodland edge habitats, through selective felling, coppicing and ride management to increase the extent, diversity and connectivity of understory in woodlands and limit over-shading.</i></li> <li><i>• Increasing standing and fallen dead wood (where safe to do so).</i></li> <li><i>• Inoculating habitats with appropriate native species from suitable agreed donor sites.</i></li> <li><i>• Incorporate appropriate habitat enhancements for notable species known to be present or with high potential to colonise (such as feeding and breeding birds, small mammals, invertebrates and ground flora etc), for example:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>○ For dormice, consider retaining standard trees (especially oak), undertaking rotational coppicing of hazel, where appropriate, to promote a dense shrub layer and structural complexity, and adjust the timing of management work to avoid nesting and hibernation".</i></li> </ul> </li> </ul> | <p>To provide enhancements for notable species, such as hazel dormouse, where present or likely to colonise.</p> |
| <p>Safety caveat added to measures W1.2 and W1.8 to reiterate safety requirements in relation to dead wood.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | <p>Public safety</p>                                                                                             |

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| <p>Measure W1.10 extended as follows:</p> <p><i>" Enhance the biodiversity value of hedgerows for example:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>• Bring hedgerows into lifecycle management including periodic rejuvenation.</i></li> <li><i>• <b>Promote hedgerow management that routinely benefits wildlife such as incremental trimming, longer trimming rotations and other management to benefit species including feeding and breeding birds, small mammals, invertebrates and ground flora.</b></i></li> <li><i>• Lay or coppice hedgerows which have passed their peak maturity to encourage dense base regrowth and ensure another lifecycle."</i></li> </ul> | <p>To highlight potential enhancements for various species groups, such as birds.</p>               |
| <p>Additional text added to wider benefits of Priority W2:</p> <p><i>"Access to nature along transport corridors and active travel routes such as National Trails, public rights of way and canal towpaths".</i></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | <p>To acknowledge opportunities and benefits along all types of wooded verges.</p>                  |
| <p>Additional benefits of woodland priorities added:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduced erosion.</li> <li>• Access to nature along transport corridors and active travel routes such as National Trails, public rights of way and canal towpaths.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                     |
| <p><b>Urban Habitats (Including Infrastructure Networks)</b></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                     |
| <p>Additional Text added to introductory section:</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | <p>To acknowledge the biodiversity importance of habitats along travel and transport corridors.</p> |

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| <p><i>"The most important habitats in the urban group are the biodiverse open spaces within towns, cities and urban areas <b>and along transport and travel routes</b>".</i></p> <p><i>"The Lancashire LNRS aims to achieve:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>• Suitable habitats and features created and maintained to support thriving populations of urban species important to Lancashire.</i></li> <li><i>• Maximised biodiversity value of new and existing urban environments and infrastructure networks.</i></li> <li><i>• Increased connectivity of habitats through and between urban landscapes.</i></li> <li><i>• Biodiverse, publicly accessible spaces and routes".</i></li> </ul> | <p>Brief explanation of what the LNRS is trying to achieve, reflecting the priorities for the broad habitat.</p> |
| <p>Additional pressure on Urban habitats identified:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Invasive species</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | <p>To acknowledge the impact of invasive species on urban biodiversity.</p>                                      |
| <p>Examples added to Measure U2.1:</p> <p><i>"Promote the naturalisation of watercourses including the establishment of buffer habitats (<b>such as grasslands, wetlands and reedbeds</b>) in the urban environment".</i></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | <p>To identify potentially appropriate habitat types.</p>                                                        |
| <p>Measure U2.6 expanded as follows:</p> <p><i>"Habitat creation and enhancement through appropriate management within urban parks, public open space, gardens, allotments, historic parks and gardens, burial grounds, cemeteries, churchyards and other religious memorial sites; for example, trees and woodland, <b>hedgerows</b>, grasslands, aquatic and wetland habitats (<b>as appropriate for the location, site conditions, existing ecological interest, land uses and historical importance</b>)".</i></p>                                                                                                                                                                                              | <p>To include opportunities for urban hedgerow creation.</p> <p>To protect existing importance of sites.</p>     |

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| Measure U3.4 expanded as follows:<br><i>"Create and enhance habitats to buffer the canal network for example, trees and woodland, grasslands, aquatic and wetland habitats (as appropriate for the location, site conditions and structural integrity of the canal)".</i>                                                                                                                                                                                      | To safeguard structural integrity of canal.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Measure U4.1 amended as follows:<br><i>"Habitat creation, enhancement and management within public open space and, where appropriate, along active travel routes (such as National Trails, public rights of way, canals and other routes), for example trees and woodland, grasslands, aquatic and wetland habitats appropriate for the location and conditions of the site".</i>                                                                              | To acknowledge the contribution of active travel routes including National Trails, public rights of way, canals and other routes to connectivity, green infrastructure and co-benefits.                                                                                                                             |
| Additional benefits of Urban priorities identified: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Access to nature along transport corridors and active travel routes such as National Trails, public rights of way and canal towpaths.</li> <li>• Reduced erosion.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                      | <p>To acknowledge the contribution of active travel routes including National Trails, public rights of way, canals and other routes to connectivity, green infrastructure and co-benefits.</p> <p>To acknowledge contribution of urban habitats towards erosion reduction.</p>                                      |
| <b>Biological Heritage Sites</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| <p>Revision to introductory text:<br/><i>"The BHS measures have not been applied to Provisional BHS. However, Provisional BHS are likely to be identified as areas of particular importance for biodiversity within future iterations of the LNRS".</i></p> <p><i>"Maintaining and enhancing Lancashire's most important non-statutory wildlife sites is central to ongoing and future nature recovery action in Lancashire. The Priority and Measures</i></p> | <p>Provisional BHS identified in the draft LNRS are now formally identified as BHS and included within Areas of Particular Importance for Biodiversity.</p> <p>To emphasise that Biological Heritage Sites are the most important areas for biodiversity within Lancashire, outside of legally protected sites.</p> |

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| seek to encourage only those interventions which would restore, enhance and maintain the ecological <b>importance</b> of these sites and are informed by available information and advice".                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>Target Species</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| Addition to introductory text:<br><i>"The methods used to shortlist species and to select the list of target species are described within the Lancashire LNRS Evidence Technical Information supporting document"</i> .                                                                                                   | To direct readers to information on species selection criteria.                                                                                                                       |
| High brown fritillary butterfly (HBF):<br>Additional sites added:<br>Designated feature of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gait Barrows SSSI</li> <li>• Hawes Water SSSI</li> <li>• <b>Thrang End and Yealand Hall Allotment SSSI</b></li> <li>• Thrang Wood SSSI</li> <li>• <b>Warton Crag SSSI</b></li> </ul> | High brown fritillary butterfly is a designated feature of Warton Crag SSSI and Thrang End & Yealand Hall Allotment SSSI.                                                             |
| Measures DoB1, HBF 1 and PBF1 extended to include coppice rotation management.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Benefits to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Duke of Burgundy butterfly</li> <li>• High brown fritillary butterfly</li> <li>• Pearl-bordered Fritillary butterfly</li> </ul> |
| Measure LM1 amended as follows:<br><i>"Work with land managers to establish management practices at existing and potential sites to improve open, well-connected habitats and promote the larval food plant blue moor-grass"</i> .                                                                                        | Less prescriptive to allow for a broad range of site conditions and management options.                                                                                               |

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| <p>Measure RWA4 amended as follows:<br/> <i>"Develop and implement red wood ant conservation measures in the vicinity of key populations in collaboration with local landowners, managers and shoots, including:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Habitat enhancement</i></li> <li>• <i>Pheasant management"</i>.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                          | <p>To promote engagement with landowners/managers.</p> <p>Less prescriptive to allow for a broad range of site conditions and management options.</p> |
| <p><b>Universal Priorities</b></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                       |
| <p>Reference numbers added to Universal Priorities and Measures:</p> <p><b>UP1</b> - Access to nature is provided whilst minimising recreational impacts on sensitive sites, habitats and species populations.</p> <p><b>UP2</b> - Nutrient enrichment, sediment deposition and pollution are minimised.</p> <p><b>UP3</b> - Biosecurity and control of invasive species</p>                                                                                                                                                                             | <p>For ease of reference.</p>                                                                                                                         |
| <p>Revisions to Measure UP1.1:<br/> <i>"Produce and implement recreation management plans for sensitive sites and habitats to minimise <b>detrimental</b> disturbance and other impacts including (for example):</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Undisturbed public access exclusion zones around sensitive habitats and species populations,</i></li> <li>• <i>Seasonal access restrictions to protect breeding birds, important wintering bird populations, <b>hibernating animals</b> and other sensitive species,</i></li> </ul> | <p>To focus on disturbance likely to cause detrimental impacts.</p> <p>To safeguard hibernating animals.</p>                                          |

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Designated access routes,</i></li> <li>• <i>Interpretation materials,</i></li> <li>• <i>Visual screens,</i></li> <li>• <i>Prevention and control of damaging activities,</i></li> <li>• <i>Requirements for dogs to be on leads,</i></li> <li>• <i>Public Spaces Protection Orders and bylaws,</i></li> <li>• <i>Rangers and enforcement officers".</i></li> </ul>                                                                                                             |                                                                         |
| <p>Addition to Measure UP1.2:<br/> <i>"Enhance existing recreational and public open spaces <b>as well as active travel routes</b>, to improve biodiversity, access and amenity value, to alleviate recreational pressure on sensitive sites and habitats".</i></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | To acknowledge opportunities along active travel routes.                |
| <p>Addition to Measure UP1.3:<br/> <i>"Establish new biodiverse multi-functional open spaces accessible to all for public recreation such as:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Sustainable forestry plantations</i></li> <li>• <b><i>Habitat creation, enhancement and new nature-rich open spaces along National Trails, public rights of way, canal towpaths and other active travel routes where appropriate.</i></b></li> <li>• <i>Other suitable alternative natural green spaces".</i></li> </ul> | To acknowledge opportunities along active travel routes.                |
| <p>Additional benefit of Priority UP1 added:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Access to nature along transport corridors and active travel routes such as National Trails, public rights of way and canal towpaths where appropriate.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | To acknowledge benefits of access to nature along active travel routes. |
| Addition to Measure UP2.1:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | To address pollution risks.                                             |

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| <p><i>"Establish buffer zones of appropriate semi-natural habitat separating agricultural operations from watercourses, water bodies, wetlands and other habitats sensitive to nutrient enrichment <b>and pollution</b>".</i></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                      |
| <p>New Measure added – UP2.2:<br/> <i>"Establish buffer zones of appropriate semi-natural habitat separating sources of surface water run-off from watercourses, water bodies, wetlands and other habitats sensitive to nutrient enrichment and pollution".</i></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | <p>Identified potential measure relevant to urban areas, industrial sites and transport network.</p> |
| <p>Addition to Measure UP2.4:<br/> <i>"Install new and improved infrastructure to:</i><br/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>• minimise the risk of pollution input to rivers and waterbodies from all sources (such as sewage, industrial pollution, <b>surface water run-off</b>, domestic sources etc).</i></li> <li><i>• minimise the risk of nutrient input to watercourses, water bodies, wetlands and other habitats sensitive to nutrient enrichment".</i></li> </ul> </p> | <p>Surface water run-off identified as pollution risk.</p>                                           |
| <p>Addition to Measure UP2.5:<br/> <i>"Employ measures to prevent soil erosion and silt run-off during industrial, construction, forestry, agricultural <b>and land management operations</b>".</i></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | <p>To capture a broad range of land management operations.</p>                                       |
| <p>Additions to UP2.6:<br/> <i>"Reduce or eliminate nutrient inputs as part of landscaping, habitat management, gardening and land management operations".</i></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | <p>To capture a broad range of land management operations.</p>                                       |

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| <p>Additions to UP2.8:<br/> <i>"Reduce or eliminate use of herbicides, insecticides or other pesticides during landscaping, habitat management, gardening and land management operations".</i></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | <p>To capture a broad range of land management operations.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <p>UP2.11 added:<br/> <i>"Litter removal from habitats and open spaces".</i></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | <p>To address the impacts of litter on wildlife.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| <p>UP3.6 rephrased:<br/> <i>"Avoid the introduction or spread of non-native species during habitat creation and enhancement works (also see compliance)".</i></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | <p>For clarity and avoidance of ambiguity.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <p>Additions/amendments to UP3.1:<br/> <b>"Control and eradication of invasive species within:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Sensitive/important habitats and sites,</i></li> <li>• <i>Coastal habitats</i></li> <li>• <b>Catchments</b>, <i>watercourses and floodplains</i></li> <li>• <i>Transport and infrastructure corridors.</i></li> </ul> <p><b>(including consideration of species listed in Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981)".</b></p>                                 | <p>To acknowledge that eradication of invasive species is not always possible.</p> <p>To capture the importance of catchment scale management of invasive species.</p> <p>To highlight invasive species with related statutory requirements.</p>                                                       |
| <p><b>Supporting Actions</b></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| <p><u>Data, evidence and strategies to inform nature recovery actions and the next iteration of the LNRS</u></p> <p>Additions and amendments to supporting actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Research, develop and produce</b> a State of Nature report for Lancashire which will inform future monitoring of habitats and species to assess trends and condition.</li> <li>• Develop and maintain a Lancashire Habitat Inventory as an accessible repository for historic and up-to-date</li> </ul> | <p>To reflect anticipated delivery obligations.</p> <p>To include research requirements.</p> <p>To safeguard, habitats in Lancashire that are effectively irreplaceable and/or habitats that would be technically very difficult, or take a very significant time to restore, recreate or replace.</p> |

habitat information to fill current and future data, evidence, and monitoring needs **(including agreeing, defining, listing and mapping habitats in Lancashire that are effectively irreplaceable and/or habitats that would be technically very difficult, or take a very significant time to restore, recreate or replace).**

- Develop a Species Data Strategy for Lancashire to direct a collaborative and consistent approach to the collection, collation **and application** of species observation data, supporting and growing biological recording networks to address existing and emerging data, monitoring and evidence needs.
- Develop and implement evidence-based, landscape scale strategies with co-benefits for natural flood-risk management and nature recovery.
- Evidence based forward planning for predicted sea level rise to inform future iterations of the LNRS.
- Gather data and evidence and undertake further research to inform consideration of appropriate wet woodland creation on wasted peat and unrestorable agricultural soils on former peatland sites.
- Identify strategic nature recovery projects.
- Collect, collate and disseminate data and evidence to inform LNRS delivery plans.
- Monitor and report on delivery of LNRS priorities and measures.
- Gather data and evidence and undertake further research to inform future iterations of the LNRS.
- Gather data and evidence and undertake further research to inform consideration of additional target

To identify locations with co-benefits of nature recovery and flood risk management.

To include the application of data to address evidence needs.

To meet data and evidence needs of delivery plans.

To address evidence gaps to inform wet woodland creation on wasted peat and agricultural soils on former peatland sites.

To inform future iterations of the LNRS (including consideration of additional target species).

To inform consideration of species re-introductions within future iterations of the LNRS.

To take account of predicted sea-level rise within future iterations of the LNRS.

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| <p>species within future iterations of the LNRS (taking account of feedback on the first iteration of the LNRS).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gather data and evidence and undertake further research to inform consideration of future species reintroduction strategies.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <p><u>Engagement, collaboration <b>and support</b> to promote nature recovery:</u></p> <p>Additions and amendments to supporting actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• "<i>support</i>" added to overarching action.</li> <li>• Make the Lancashire LNRS available in multiple accessible formats.</li> <li>• Direct potential users to guidance on how to contribute to nature recovery action.</li> <li>• Develop and implement a strategy <b>to engage the public, residents and communities (including political leaders) in nature recovery action.</b></li> <li>• Develop and implement a landowner <b>and land manager</b> engagement strategy for nature recovery.</li> <li>• Develop and implement a strategy for engagement with charities, non-governmental organisations and research institutions.</li> <li>• Develop and implement a strategy for engagement and collaboration with Lead Local Flood Authorities.</li> <li>• Cross boundary collaboration on nature recovery action.</li> <li>• Support the development and preparation of nature recovery delivery plans.</li> </ul> | <p>To enable everyone to access the LNRS and contribute to nature recovery action.</p> <p>To engage with all sectors of society.</p> <p>To engage with land managers.</p> <p>To engage with all sectors.</p> <p>To seek co-benefits for nature recovery and natural flood-risk management.</p> <p>To enable coordinated action in collaboration with neighbouring Local Nature Recovery Strategies.</p> <p>To enable successful delivery plans.</p> <p>To encourage all nature recovery actions.</p> <p>To engage with under-represented groups in LNRS processes.</p> <p>To reflect anticipated delivery obligations.</p> |

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support and encourage nature recovery action within and beyond the mapped opportunity areas.</li> <li>• Engage with demographic groups under-represented in LNRS development and consultation processes.</li> <li>• Support local partnerships to use the LNRS.</li> <li>• Facilitate development of strategic nature recovery projects.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <p><u>Policies that support nature recovery</u></p> <p>Additional Action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>"Embed the LNRS into local decision making".</i></li> </ul> <p>Additions and amendments to supporting actions:</p> <p><i>"Establish development plans and policies that support LNRS delivery, giving consideration to the following recommendations:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b><i>Maximising habitat creation and soft landscaping within new developments, considering restrictions on the use of artificial grass.</i></b></li> <li>• <b><i>Requirements for controlling all sources of pollution, such as air, noise, light, chemical, nutrient enrichment and sediment deposition".</i></b></li> <li>• <b><i>Control of surface water run-off to avoid impacts on sensitive habitats.</i></b></li> <li>• <b><i>Natural flood-risk management incorporating co-benefits for nature recovery.</i></b></li> <li>• <b><i>Planting and safeguarding street trees and highway trees.</i></b></li> </ul> | <p>To reflect anticipated delivery obligations.</p> <p>To include consideration of policies with implications for nature recovery relating to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• road-kill avoidance,</li> <li>• flood-risk management,</li> <li>• pollution control,</li> <li>• Urban biodiversity,</li> <li>• Habitat connectivity.</li> </ul> |

- **Management of roadside verges for biodiversity.**
- **Requirements for safe wildlife crossings and road signs to reduce roadkill.**

### Local Habitat Map (Introductory Text)

#### Additional Text added:

*"Further information on the mapping process is provided in the Evidence and Technical Information document, **along with information on additional steps taken, constraints applied, and datasets used to map measures beyond the described methodology in Appendix 13 of the Evidence and Supporting Information document**".*

*"When viewing the map please remember:*

- *Much of the mapped land is in private ownership".*

To direct readers to information on mapping methods.

To highlight that much of the mapped land is private.

### Delivery

#### Revised text:

*"The LNRS is a tool to identify opportunities for nature recovery, which can be used to target action and funding. **The LNRS is not intended to be a delivery plan. However, the LNRS can be used to inform delivery plans for nature recovery**".*

#### Additional text:

*"Delivery of the LNRS will include the following four key functions:*

- *Building delivery partnerships,*
- *Embedding the LNRS into local decision making,*
- *Identifying and facilitating strategic projects,*

To highlight that the LNRS can inform nature recovery delivery plans.

To reflect anticipated delivery obligations.

- *Monitoring and reporting on delivery of LNRS priorities".*

## Glossary

### Additions:

- Ancient tree
- Belmont series
- Catchment
- Limestone Grassland
- Lowland Peatland
- Priority Habitat
- Upland Peatland
- Watercourse

To enable understanding of technical terms.

Added list of acronyms

To enable understanding

## Appendices

Appendix Two disclaimer added.

To clarify the compliance responsibilities rest with those planning and implementing measures.

Amendments to Appendix Two (Compliance with **current** legislation, policy and best practice standards):

'**Current**' added to Appendix heading.

Added: "***Ensure compliance with the requirements of the latest version relevant legislation, policy, and best practice standards***".

Preventing the spread of invasive species, including those listed in:

Additional clauses for:

- Landowner consent,
- Preventing the spread of invasive species,
- Ensuring appropriate application of measures,
- Statutory compliance
- Public protection,
- Hazard assessment,
- Ground stability,
- compatibility with existing rights, agreements and obligations,

- Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).
- **The Invasive Alien Species (Enforcement and Permitting) Order 2019.**

Prior acquisition of all relevant and necessary permissions, consents, assent, exemptions, permits, licences etc, including those issued by statutory consenting bodies such as Natural England, Environment Agency, Forestry Commission and Local Planning Authorities, **for example:**

- **Landowner permissions and consents required for site access and proposed works.**
- **Planning permission and/or other consents required for change of land use.**
- **Protected species mitigation licences,**
- **SSSI Assent or Consent,**
- **Water abstraction or impounding licences,**
- **Fish pass approval,**
- **Ordinary Watercourse Consent,**
- **Felling licences,**

Compliance with statutory health, safety **and public protection** requirements.

**Compatibility with existing rights, agreements and obligations.**

Appropriate baseline ecological assessments (**such as UKHab**) of all habitats and species groups that may be affected.

**Soil assessments, peat depth assessments** and hydrological assessments where appropriate.

- Access routes and navigation rights,
- Consultees,
- Example statutory body guidance/standards,
- Survey standards,
- Habitat targets,
- Heritage assets, Scheduled Monuments, historic designed landscapes, historic environment and landscape character.
- Protection of property and infrastructure,
- Flood-risk and pollution prevention.

Amendments to take account of updates to requirements.

Other necessary assessments as required, such as **hazard assessments, land stability assessments**, etc.

Undertake appropriate consultation, giving consideration to consultation with:

- Statutory environmental protection and nature conservation bodies (**such as Natural England, Environment Agency, Forestry Commission, Marine Management Organisation and Historic England**).
- Authorities/organisations responsible for transport infrastructure, **routes and navigation rights** that may be affected.

Follow **current versions of** recognised best practice guidance and standards wherever relevant and available, including **policies and associated** guidance from statutory nature conservation and environmental protection bodies, such as Natural England, Environment Agency, Forestry Commission, **Marine Management Organisation and Historic England**, for example:

- **Natural England Information Notes,**
- **UK Forestry Standard,**
- **Decision support framework for peatland protection, the establishment of new woodland and re-establishment of existing woodland on peatland in England, (DEFRA, Forestry Commission and Natural England, July 2023),**  
[https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/66bb1a6aab418ab05559366a/July\\_2023\\_Ddecision\\_support frame](https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/66bb1a6aab418ab05559366a/July_2023_Ddecision_support_framework.pdf)

[work for peatland protection V4.pdf&data=05|02|john.jones@lancashire.gov.uk|6a46a5eae8224db63f4108ddeef37970|9f683e26d8b946099ec4e1a36e4bb4d2|0|638929451830800087|Unknown|TWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOilwLjAuMDAwMCIsIAiOiJXaW4zMilSkFOljoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ==|0||&sdata=CFxFxuXOFBn+E105TJ65QI9SIPRnBsHPimT/CVpuZKA=&reserved=0](#)

- **Guidance - When to convert woods and forests to open habitat: operations note 68 Updated 15 October 2024**  
**When to convert woods and forests to open habitat: operations note 68 - GOV.UK**
- **National standards for sustainable drainage systems (SuDS):**  
**<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-standards-for-sustainable-drainage-systems/national-standards-for-sustainable-drainage-systems-suds>**
- **Other Government wildlife and habitat conservation guidance.**

**Aim to contribute to habitat targets discussed in Natural England Technical Information Note TIN219.**

Seek to deliver wider environmental benefits, such as recreational and health benefits, reduced flood risk, improved air and water quality, carbon capture, **opportunities to reinforce local landscape character**, etc.

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                               |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p><b>Avoid detrimental impacts on:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Scheduled Monuments,</b></li> <li>• <b>historic designed landscapes,</b></li> <li>• <b>historic landscape character,</b></li> <li>• <b>historically important features,</b></li> <li>• <b>heritage assets and their setting,</b></li> <li>• <b>archaeological remains,</b></li> <li>• <b>the historic environment.</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Avoid detrimental impacts on infrastructure/other property and its structural integrity.</b></p> <p><b>Avoid increased flood risk, flood events, detrimental erosion, sediment deposition and pollution.</b></p> |                                                                               |
| Appendix 3 added                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | List of SSSIs in Lancashire                                                   |
| Appendix 4 added                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | To illustrate Carbon storage and sequestration by habitat                     |
| <b>General amendments</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                               |
| Removed reference to green and blue spaces from the main body of the text. Replaced with nature-rich open spaces.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Avoidance of jargon to improve understanding following public feedback.       |
| Minor adjustments to text.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | For clarity, emphasis or avoidance of ambiguity.                              |
| Errors corrected.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Typing, grammatical, numerical, presentation and technical errors identified. |
| Examples and further details added                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | For information/clarity                                                       |

|                          |                                      |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Amendments to end notes. | Completion, corrections and clarity. |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|

## 5.2 Amendments to the Local Habitat Map

Table 3 below identifies planned amendments to the Local Habitat Map to address key issues arising from the public consultation exercise.

| Table 3: Amendments to Local Habitat Map                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Amendments                                                         | Reason                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <b>Areas of Particular Importance for Biodiversity</b>             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Updates to Areas of Particular Importance for Biodiversity         | <p>To ensure mapped Areas of Particular Importance for Biodiversity are up-to date prior to publication, taking account of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Omissions identified by consultees,</li> <li>• New sites identified/designated,</li> <li>• Amendments to the boundaries of designated sites.</li> <li>• Biological Heritage Sites boundaries have been updated, including additions, deletions and boundary amendments.</li> </ul> |
| Locations added to Areas of Particular Importance for Biodiversity | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gib Hill, Peel Park, The Coppice and Woodnook Vale added as a Local Nature Reserves,</li> <li>• Brookside Restoration initiative, Standhill and Ferngore extended the boundary of the DWS.</li> <li>• Additional fen habitats.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                          |
| <b>Mapped Measures</b>                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Areas removed from mapped measures                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Requests by landowners, land managers and Steering Group members for mapped measures to be removed due to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ongoing or completed developments,</li> <li>• Perceived conflicts with development plans,</li> <li>• Perceived conflicts with operational land and/or existing rights and obligations.</li> <li>• Incorrect Local Nature Reserve mapping at Middleton in Lancaster City District.</li> </ul> |
| Areas added to mapped measures.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Requests within the consultation feedback for extension of mapped measures, where consistent with mapping methodology, including (for example): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lawson wetland</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Mapping anomalies corrected                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Mapping anomalies identified during the public consultation.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Alignment with neighbouring LNRS                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Removed conflicting Red Squirrel measures with neighbouring RA from the southern section of the M58.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>Aquatic and wetland</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Mapping anomalies corrected                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Mapping anomalies identified during the public consultation.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| <b>Coastal and Estuarine</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Mapped Measure C2.4 ( <i>Manage and enhance sand dune habitats....</i> ) within sand dunes overlapping Biological Heritage Sites.                                                                                                                                                           | To enable mapping of measures on irreplaceable habitat parcels within BHS.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| Mapped Measure C3.1 ( <i>Create and enhance undisturbed coastal: high tide feeding and roosting habitat for wildfowl, nesting sites and high tide feeding and roosting habitat for wading birds .....</i> ) on functionally linked land, where consistent with mapping of coastal measures. | To support species populations associated with international sites, by including land functionally linked to Special Protection Areas, where consistent with mapping of coastal measures, including (for example): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Condor Pools</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                              |
| Mapping anomalies corrected                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Mapping anomalies identified during the public consultation.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| <b>Grasslands</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |

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|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Amendments to mapping of Measure G1.1 ( <i>Create and maintain conditions to allow thriving, resilient and dynamic populations of waders...</i> ).                                                                                   | To include land functionally linked to Special Protection Areas, where this coincides with grassland network mapping.     |
| Mapped Measure G1.3 ( <i>Secure appropriate conservation management of known fungi-rich grasslands...</i> ).                                                                                                                         | Additional fungi-rich grasslands identified.                                                                              |
| Mapped Measure G1.3 ( <i>Secure appropriate conservation management of known fungi-rich grasslands...</i> ) overlapping Biological Heritage Sites.                                                                                   | To enable mapping of measures on habitat parcels within BHS                                                               |
| Mapping anomalies corrected                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Mapping anomalies identified during the public consultation.                                                              |
| <b>Peatlands</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                           |
| Mapped Measure P1.1 ( <i>Wetter farming - where it leads to peat formation or transition to restoration for example Sphagnum farming, Typha growing, willow crop and carbon farming</i> ) buffering Winmarleigh moss on peaty soils. | New Peat map released with additional areas and Winmarleigh moss is an important site, identified in public consultation. |
| Mapped Measure P3.1 ( <i>Re-establish and restore lowland peatland habitats .....</i> ) overlapping Biological Heritage Sites.                                                                                                       | To enable mapping of measures on irreplaceable habitat parcels within BHS                                                 |
| Mapped Measure P4.5 ( <i>Maintain and enhance existing blanket bog.....</i> ) overlapping Biological Heritage Sites.                                                                                                                 | To enable mapping of measures on irreplaceable habitat parcels within BHS                                                 |
| Mapping anomalies corrected                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Mapping anomalies identified during the public consultation.                                                              |
| <b>Rocky Habitats</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                           |
| Mapped Measure R1.1 ( <i>Suitable management of limestone pavements and associated ecologically valuable habitats.....</i> ) overlapping Biological Heritage Sites.                                                                  | To enable mapping of measures on irreplaceable habitat parcels within BHS.                                                |
| Mapping anomalies corrected                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Mapping anomalies identified during the public consultation.                                                              |
| <b>Wooded Habitats and Trees</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                           |

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                             |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Mapped Measure W1.1 ( <i>Restore natural processes and enhance the biodiversity value of existing wooded habitats, prioritising ancient and long-established woodlands.....</i> ) within ancient woodland overlapping Biological Heritage Sites.                                       | To enable mapping of measures on irreplaceable habitat parcels within BHS                                                   |
| Additional buffer zones removed from planting measures.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | To protect sensitive features including <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Infrastructure (such as canals)</li> </ul> |
| Mapping anomalies corrected                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Mapping anomalies identified during the public consultation.                                                                |
| <b>Urban and Infrastructure Networks</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                             |
| Areas added to Mapped Measure U4.3 ( <i>Restoration and enhancement of existing Local Nature Reserves, Country Parks and District Wildlife Sites....</i> ) Gib Hill, Peel Park, The Coppice, Woodnook Vale added and Brookside Restoration initiative, Standhill and Ferngore extended | Mapped on a relevant Area of Particular Importance for Biodiversity.                                                        |
| Mapping anomalies corrected                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Mapping anomalies identified during the public consultation.                                                                |
| <b>Species</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                             |
| Mapping anomalies corrected                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Mapping anomalies identified during the public consultation.                                                                |
| Amendments to mapping of Atlantic salmon measure AS1.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | To remove areas not relevant to the measure, including lower river catchments and urban areas.                              |
| Mapping adjustments to safeguard red squirrel populations                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Removed conflicting Red Squirrel measures (RS1 and RS2) with neighbouring RA from the southern section of the M58.          |
| Amendments to HH measures                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Woodland removed from the West Pennine Moors polygon                                                                        |

### 5.3 Other Matters

Not all of the comments received have resulted in amendments to the strategy. Examples of these include:

- Comments outside of the scope of the consultation.
- Comments that don't relate to the core purpose of the LNRS (to identify locations to create or improve habitat most likely to provide the greatest benefit for nature and the wider environment).
- Comments that don't give a clear indication of how the strategy can be improved.
- Political comments.
- Matters relating to national policy or legislation.
- Matters more appropriately addressed through the Town and Country Planning System.
- Suggestions more appropriately addressed through designated site identification systems.
- Suggested additions to the mapped measures that are not consistent with applied methodology. The LNRS is not intended to identify all potential opportunities, only the best opportunities based on the agreed modelling.
- Suggested additions to Target Species that are not consistent with applied approach (such as species that would benefit from the habitat measures without bespoke action).
- Issues that can be addressed through the Supporting Actions Identified within the strategy.
- Comments relating to strategy delivery and associated resources.
- Suggestions that warrant consideration within future iterations of the LNRS following necessary collection and analysis of data and evidence.