

Biodiversity Duty

**The Natural Environment & Rural Communities Act
2006 (As amended)**

**Report of Biodiversity Actions
1st January 2024 to 31st December 2025**

**Lancashire County Council
February 2026**



1.0 Introduction

The Natural Environment & Rural Communities Act 2006 (as amended) requires public authorities (including local authorities) who operate in England to consider what they can do to conserve and enhance biodiversity, agree policies/objectives based on their consideration and act to deliver their policies and achieve their objectives. There is also a duty to publish Biodiversity Reports. The end date of the first reporting period should be no later than 1st January 2026. After this, the end date of each reporting period must be within 5 years of the end date of the previous reporting period.

The Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) intends to include references to local authority biodiversity reports within future reviews of the Environmental Improvement Plan.

This extended biodiversity duty for public authorities came into force on 1 January 2023. Government guidance on complying with the extended biodiversity duty was published on 17th May 2023:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/complying-with-the-biodiversity-duty>

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/reporting-your-biodiversity-duty-actions>

Lancashire County Council's first consideration of what action can be taken to conserve and enhance biodiversity was prepared in December 2023.

This report of Lancashire County Council's biodiversity actions is based on the objectives and actions stated within the first consideration and summarises biodiversity actions implemented by Lancashire County Council between 1st January 2024 and 31st December 2025.

The end date of the next reporting period will be no later than 31st December 2031.

1.0 Policies

Table 1 below includes objectives and actions relating to Internal policies and processes. In order to ensure alignment with Lancashire's Local Nature Recovery Strategy (Lancashire County Council, 2026), review of corporate policies, strategies, plans and processes was deferred until after final publication of the LNRS. Policies relevant to the biodiversity duty are considered as part of the Supporting Actions of Lancashire's Nature Recovery Strategy. This will enable adopted policies to be aligned with the Lancashire LNRS.

Development and adoption of policies aligned to the LNRS (see below) will be subject to consideration and appropriate political processes during the next biodiversity reporting period, taking account of local government reorganisation:

- *Embed the LNRS into local decision making.*



- *Establish development plans and policies that support LNRS delivery, giving consideration to the following recommendations:*
 - *Incorporating identified nature recovery opportunities, priorities and measures into new and emerging local plans.*
 - *Robust protection for:*
 - *Areas of particular importance for biodiversity identified on the local habitat map.*
 - *Lancashire's most important species (see Evidence and Technical Information document), in particular the 24 Lancashire LNRS Target Species requiring bespoke measures to support their recovery,*
 - *Habitats that are difficult or impossible to re-create (including a local list of habitats to be agreed),*
 - *Habitats with high carbon storage potential such as peatland and wooded habitats,*
 - *Trees, wooded habitats and associated root protection zones, including aged and veteran trees, ancient and long-established woodlands and temperate rainforest.*
 - *Restricting development (unless for biodiversity reasons) wherever possible on:*
 - *Floodplains,*
 - *Coastal habitats,*
 - *Upland and lowland peat.*
 - *Support for biodiversity enhancement measures within new developments, above and beyond mandatory and national policy requirements, such as:*
 - *Nesting and roosting opportunities within buildings and structures (such as swift bricks, bat roosting features, nest boxes etc),*
 - *Habitat creation on new buildings and structures,*
 - *Wildlife shelters,*
 - *Interconnecting habitats,*
 - *Biodiverse sustainable drainage systems.*
 - *Maximising habitat creation and soft landscaping within new developments, considering restrictions on the use of artificial grass.*
 - *Ecological restoration requirements following mineral extraction.*
 - *Requirements for controlling all sources of pollution, such as air, noise, light, chemical, nutrient enrichment and sediment deposition.*
 - *Control of surface water run-off to avoid impacts on sensitive habitats.*
 - *Appropriate treatment of water prior to discharge.*
 - *Natural flood-risk management incorporating co-benefits for nature recovery.*
 - *Planting and safeguarding street trees and highway trees.*
 - *Management of roadside verges for biodiversity.*
 - *Requirements for safe wildlife crossings and road signs to reduce roadkill.*
 - *Requirements for sensitive lighting.*
 - *New nature-rich open spaces accessible for public recreation.*

2.0 Objectives, Actions and proposed future actions

Table 1 (below) provides a summary of action taken by Lancashire County Council and proposed future actions to comply with the biodiversity duty. This is based on objectives and actions identified within Lancashire County Council's first consideration and summarises biodiversity actions implemented by Lancashire County Council between 1st January 2024 and 31st December 2025. These include



a number of pre-existing and ongoing actions that pre-date the extended biodiversity duty.

Completing and publishing the Lancashire Local Nature Recovery Strategy has been a major focus, challenge and key achievement for Lancashire County Council during this reporting period. The Lancashire LNRS will be an important mechanism for compliance with the biodiversity duty during subsequent reporting periods.

It should be noted that Lancashire County Council expects to undergo local government reorganisation within the next biodiversity reporting period. Policies, objectives and future actions will therefore need to be reviewed and revised alongside those of other authorities in scope for local government reorganisation in Lancashire.



Table 1: Summary of action taken by Lancashire County Council and proposed future actions to comply with the biodiversity duty.

Function	Objectives	Planned Actions	Progress	Proposed future actions
Planning and related functions				
Nature Recovery	Prepare Local Nature Recovery Strategy for Lancashire (Including Blackpool & Blackburn with Darwen).	Establish LCC as Lancashire Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) responsible authority	Complete.	See LNRS delivery below.
		Prepare Local Nature Recovery Strategy in accordance with: - LNRS Regulations - LNRS Guidelines - NE Species Conservation Strategies - NE Protected site strategies - Other relevant national goals and targets on biodiversity	LNRS complete. Pre-publication notice given 3 rd December 2025. Publication date 16 th January 2026	See LNRS delivery below.
	Local Nature Recovery Strategy Delivery	Input to national Nature Recovery Network		Provide LNRS data to DEFRA. See LNRS delivery below.
		Identify and pursue opportunities to contribute to delivery of the LNRS (including through facilitation of Biodiversity Net Gain, grant funded schemes, accessing BNG credit funding and supporting Local Nature Partnerships and other steering groups).	Preliminary research to inform delivery (awaiting DEFRA delivery advice).	LNRS delivery in accordance with DEFRA guidance, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building delivery partnerships, • Embedding the LNRS into local decision making,

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identifying and facilitating strategic projects, • Monitoring and reporting on delivery of LNRS priorities. <p>Take account of Protected Site and Species Conservation Strategies as part of LNRS delivery.</p>
	Engagement with nature partnerships	Consider opportunities to engage with nature partnerships to contribute to nature recovery.	<p>Extensive engagement with partners through preparation of the Lancashire LNRS and leading into the delivery phase, including, for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LNRS steering group • Core project team • Thematic Working Groups • Land manager liaison. <p>Lancashire Nature Partnership support.</p> <p>Participation on the 'UK Biodiversity Monitoring' steering group.</p>	Continue as per planned action in combination with LNRS delivery (above).

			<p>Participation in the UK Terrestrial Evidence Partnership of Partnerships (UKTEPoP).</p> <p>Participation in Great Crested Newt District Level Licensing Steering Group.</p> <p>Membership of Association of Local Government Ecologists.</p>	
Development Plans, Decisions, Consents and Approvals	Compliance with current statutes, policy and best practice	Ensure that development plans, planning policies, decisions, consents and approvals are, wherever necessary or appropriate, informed by ecology advice and data, to ensure that they take account of current statutes, policy and best practice guidance, including (but not restricted to) mandatory Biodiversity Net Gain and the Lancashire Local Nature Recovery Strategy.	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>For Biodiversity Net Gain Information see Section 3 below and Appendix 1.</p> <p>Development Control – ecology consultation responses: 2024: 38 2025: 44</p> <p>Ecology input to National Infrastructure planning: 1 scheme</p> <p>Ecology advice to Lead Local Flood Authority, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of ecology consultation trigger list. <p>Ecology advice on public rights of way (PRoW) diversions, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of ecology consultation trigger list. • Ecology advice on 18 PRoW diversions. 	<p>Continue as per planned action.</p> <p>Take account of Protected Site and Species Conservation Strategies.</p>

			<p>Ecology support for Minerals and Waste Local Plan.</p> <p>Ecology input to LCC responses to government consultations on legislation and policy e.g:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land-use consultation • NPPF amendments • BNG amendments • Planning & Infrastructure Bill. <p>In-house training and briefings for staff and political members on new and emerging policy and legislation with ecology/biodiversity implications e.g:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NERC Biodiversity Duty, • BNG, • Statutory Irreplaceable habitats, • LNRS, • Planning & Infrastructure Bill. 	
Non-Statutory Designated Wildlife Sites (Biological Heritage Sites)	Maintain and update BHS System	Regularly review and update the BHS Guidelines for Site Selection.	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Site selection guideline updates approved:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2024 - Fungi rich (CHEGD) grasslands guideline added. 	Continue as per planned action.
		Regularly review and revise supporting documents, processes and standards relating to management of the BHS system.	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>2024: Finalised the "Biological Heritage Sites Review Process"</p>	Continue as per planned action.

			and "Terms of Reference for the Biological Heritage Sites Steering Group, Review Panel and Secretariat" documents.	
		Undertake a rolling programme of site assessments of existing and potential BHSs.	Ongoing Site assessments completed 2024: 112 2025: 107	Continue as per planned action.
		Maintain an up-to-date register of BHSs	Ongoing Updates to register 2024: None 2025: 149 updates relating to 103 BHSs	Continue as per planned action.
	Influence activities and favourable management and enhancement of BHSs to support nature recovery.	Provide BHS owners/managers with nature conservation land management and species conservation advice to maintain and enhance the biodiversity interest of sites. Provide advice and signpost BHS owners/managers to sources of additional practical and financial support to enable positive management of sites.	Ongoing 2024: 73 sites 2025: 75 sites (Sites may have multiple owners).	Continue as per planned action.
		Provide advice internally and to outside organisations, the public, and other interested parties on activities affecting BHSs, to influence and advocate favourable management of BHSs.	Ongoing Consultation responses 2024: 34 2025: 32	Continue as per planned action.

			(minor/casual consultations not recorded).	
Corporate Functions				
Management of Land and Buildings	Consider opportunities for Nature Recovery	Consider opportunities across LCC estate (Countryside sites, Highway Asset, Landfill sites, surplus estate and all other land holdings and buildings) to conserve and enhance biodiversity including (but not restricted to) opportunities for Biodiversity Net Gain, habitat creation/enhancement and revision of management regimes to enhance biodiversity.	<p>BNG opportunities now considered for surplus estate alongside other options.</p> <p>Ecology input to woodland management plans and operations within LCC estate.</p> <p>Biodiversity enhancements of LCC countryside sites (80 site portfolio), where budget allows (including dynamic/opportunistic enhancements) for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retention of dead wood. • Wildflower grassland management. • Support for Lancaster Beekeepers in maintaining pollinator patches. • Supporting active conservation volunteer groups. • Safeguarding veteran trees. • Construction, installation and monitoring of bird boxes. • Maintain bird feeding stations. • Removal of invasive non-native species. 	<p>Continue as per planned action.</p> <p>Programme of management planning for existing woodland estate with resilience and biodiversity as principal objectives.</p> <p>Seek opportunities to contribute to LNRS delivery.</p> <p>Take account of Protected Site and Species Conservation Strategies.</p>

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of mowing and grazing licences to determine if modification and management prescriptions can benefit ground nesting birds. • Support for cotoneaster removal project at Warton Quarry NNR. • Support to Prospects (Hyndburn) to oversee the management & maintenance of 9 urban woodland sites. 	
	Appropriate management of designated sites	Ensure that rolling review of management plans on all designated sites managed by LCC is informed by specialist ecology advice to ensure compliance with latest statutory requirements and best practice guidance.	Ongoing 2025: BHS team advised on the management plan for Healey Nab BHS (LCC owned).	Continue as per planned action. Take account of Protected Site and Species Conservation Strategies.
	Ensure public realm agreements align with agreed biodiversity action	Review public realm agreements as required to ensure they take account of agreed biodiversity actions. (Includes, for example, previously agreed mowing regimes for roadside verges identified for biodiversity interest).		Continue as per planned action.
	Sustainable disposal of arisings	Explore options for sustainable uses for arisings from estate and asset management operations.	Quality timber sold for use in construction / furniture making.	Continue as per planned action.

			<p>Poor quality timber and woodchip sold for uses including biomass.</p> <p>Green waste composted at recycling facilities or within on-site composting areas.</p> <p>Deposit silt from dredging under EA waste exemption, eliminating the need for transportation or landfill.</p>	
Internal policies and processes	Ensure corporate policies, strategies and processes contribute to current biodiversity and nature recovery obligations, commitments and opportunities.	<p>Review corporate policies, strategies, plans and processes and revise as required to contribute to biodiversity obligations, commitments and opportunities including (but not restricted to):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Lancashire Local Nature Recovery Strategy and contributions to its delivery - Natural England protected site strategies - Natural England species conservation strategies - Biodiversity Net Gain delivery - Other opportunities to contribute to the extended biodiversity duty - Other relevant national goals and targets on biodiversity. 	Deferred until after final publication of LNRS	Continue as per planned action alongside LNRS supporting actions on policy, taking account of impending local government re-organisation.
	Confirm internal quality systems ensure compliance with current biodiversity	Ensure that periodic review of internal quality procedures/systems, wherever necessary or appropriate, is informed by specialist ecological advice, to ensure compliance with the latest	Ecology advice made available as required.	Continue as per planned action in combination with LNRS delivery.

	statutes, obligations and commitments.	statutes, policies, best practice guidelines and ongoing obligations.		
LCC Schemes, developments, permitted development works and maintenance regimes.	Compliance with current statutes, policy, best practice, legal requirements and other obligations.	Ensure that LCC Schemes including (but not restricted to) infrastructure schemes, Lead Local Flood Authority capital schemes, planning applications, permitted development works and maintenance regimes are informed by specialist ecology advice and data, wherever necessary or appropriate, to ensure that they take account of current statutes, policy and best practice guidance, including (but not restricted to) mandatory Biodiversity Net Gain and the emerging Local Nature Recovery Strategy.	Ongoing Ecology advice provided for LCC schemes and developments to enable compliance with relevant statutes, policies and best practice, including (for example): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highway infrastructure schemes. • School developments. • Levelling-up projects. • KCIII Coastal Path. 	Continue as per planned action.
		Monitor compliance with obligations and legal requirements, including (but not restricted to) planning conditions, legal agreements/obligations and licence requirements.	Ongoing Ecology monitoring of approved LCC developments to enable compliance with planning conditions, S106 agreements and licence requirements.	Continue as per planned action.
Wider Environment				
Habitat creation & enhancement	Increased woodland cover in Lancashire	Treescapes planting programme: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • rural woodland. • urban and peri-urban trees. 	Hectares of rural woodland created in planting season ending: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2024: 1.2 • 2025: 9.2 Urban and peri-urban trees planted during planting season ending: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2024: 4,857 	Continue to take advantage of sources of external funding to support tree planting, woodland creation and woodland management.

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2025: 31,765 	See also, LNRS delivery above.
Forest of Bowland National Landscape / AONB Partnership	Nature recovery in Forest of Bowland National Landscape	Finalise and implement Forest of Bowland AONB/National Landscape Nature Recovery Plan	Nature recovery Plan published	Implement Nature Recovery Plan in combination with Lancashire LNRS. Take account of Protected Site and Species Conservation Strategies.
		Hay Meadow/Species-rich grassland restoration	Hay meadow restoration on community sites (additional to FiPL below).	Continue as per planned action alongside FiPL and LNRS delivery.
		Farming in Protected Landscapes (FiPL) - Support landowners in delivering nature recovery	Detailed data reported separately to DEFRA. Includes (for example): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Natural flood risk management • Protecting water courses/water bodies. • Pond creation. • Carbon storage. • Soil health. • Tree planting/woodland creation. • Hedgerow planting and restoration. • Peatland restoration. • Wildlife-rich habitat creation, restoration and management. 	Continue as per planned action alongside LNRS delivery.

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wetland creation/restoration and management. • Favourable management of SSSIs • Management of invasive non-native species. • Recovery of threatened species. • Access and Education. • Volunteer engagement. • Nature friendly farming. • Wildlife boxes. <p><u>Summary info</u></p> <p>Financial year ending 2024:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total farmers participating: 197 • Total match funding: £9978.50 • Total projects supported: 65 • Total land supported (ha): 755.97 <p>Financial year ending 2025:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total farmers participating: 277 • Total match funding: £15,356.03 • Total projects supported: 100 • Total land supported (ha): 746.12 	
--	--	--	--	--

		Peatland Restoration	<p>2025:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Area of peatland restoration completed (Hectares): 185 • Additional area of peatland restoration commenced (Ha) 411. <p>Funded through Nature for Climate grants with contributions from United Utilities and larger estates.</p>	<p>Continue as per planned action in combination with LNRS delivery.</p> <p>Bid submitted for c. £1.6m to undertake restoration on a further 237ha peatland restoration in Bowland</p> <p>Bid in preparation of c. £1.2m to increase size of the peat team and associated undertakings</p>
Raising awareness	Raise awareness of biodiversity/nature conservation issues	Consider opportunities for nature conservation training/education/awareness.	<p>Extensive awareness raising through preparation of the Lancashire LNRS and leading into the delivery phase, including, for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LNRS steering group • Core project team • Thematic Working Groups • Land manager liaison • Public consultation • Promotions and publicity. 	Continue planned action in combination with LNRS delivery, including supporting actions for engagement and collaboration.

			<p>2025: Biological Heritage Sites team organised 3 full day grassland fungi training events attended by individuals from a wide range of organisations, land management advisers, land managers/owners and volunteer recorders.</p> <p>Collaboration with Wyre BC to develop and deliver the Wyre 2024 & 2025 Bioblitzs, including assisting in the admin of the iNaturalist project.</p> <p>Creating and administering the global City Nature Challenge recording entry for Lancashire (delivered 2025, in planning 2026).</p> <p>Development and subsequent updating of post-2020 online interactive atlas to support botanical recording/LERN</p> <p>Providing support to the creation of a Lancashire Wildlife Recorders Forum and associated annual conference.</p> <p>LERN was represented with an information stand at the Edge Hill University Green Fair, engaging attendees in biodiversity and conservation initiatives.</p>	
--	--	--	--	--

			<p>LERN presented the Hay Meadow West Pennine Moors connectivity project and the BHS team presented the CHEGD grassland fungi work at the Natural England Grassland Network Conference.</p>	
		<p>Consider opportunities to make biodiversity data publicly available.</p>	<p>Updates to Ancient Woodland Inventory.</p> <p>Direct engagement with the public in Lancashire through the iNaturalist recording platform (LERN and CHEGD projects (5,761 observers)).</p> <p>Maintaining presence of LERN datasets as publicly available on the National Biodiversity Network Atlas (NBN Atlas) and Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF).</p> <p>Agreement with <i>Tanyptera</i> Trust to share invertebrate data at high resolution in return for coordination of verification services.</p> <p>Working with individual naturalists and groups to support the publication of local species atlas' (e.g. 'Hoverflies of the Fylde, 2025') through data provision and technical support.</p>	<p>Continue planned action in combination with implementation of LNRS, including supporting actions for data and evidence.</p>

			<p>Development of new LERN Interactive map to highlight biodiversity datasets including BHS, LGS and Biodiversity verge spatial information.</p> <p>A Local Habitat Map has been developed to make LNRS spatial layers publicly accessible online, including Areas of Particular Importance for Biodiversity, Potential Measures, and Areas that Could Become of Particular Importance for Biodiversity.</p>	
Making space for wildlife	Supporting small local biodiversity projects	Delivery of the annual Parish and Town Council Biodiversity Small Grant Scheme to support local nature and biodiversity projects.	<p>All 205 Parish and Town Councils given the option to opt in to receive a grant of £300 for biodiversity projects.</p> <p><u>Number of Grants awarded</u> Financial year ending: 2024: 75 2025: 86</p>	To be superseded by LNRS delivery mechanisms (see above).
Data, Monitoring & Reporting				
Data Management	Maintain biodiversity evidence base to inform statutory compliance, policies, plans, strategies, projects, decisions,	Continuously update and maintain Lancashire Environmental Record Network (LERN) ecological records, including (but not restricted to) input of ecological data arising from local recorders, planning submissions, Biodiversity Net Gain schemes/habitat banks, BHS site assessments, LNRS process, LCC projects, Natural	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Records entered (include dataset updates).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2024: 826,994 • 2025: 582,709 <p>Local verification and validation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2024: 18,835 	Continue as per planned action in combination with delivery of LNRS and supporting actions.

	<p>enforcement, site designations, nature recovery, grant applications and biodiversity reporting.</p>	<p>England funded projects, activities of outside organisations, public etc,</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2025: 0 	
		<p>Rolling assessment and review of biodiversity evidence base to update biodiversity priorities for the County.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ancient Woodland Inventory update project for Lancashire delivered under contract to Natural England.</p> <p>Two-year Natural England funded project to improve knowledge of the significance, distribution and location of CHEGD fungi grassland assemblages across Lancashire, feeding into the Lancashire LNRS habitat map and the BHS system, and informing national CHEGD mapping database. Including engagement with and training of local naturalists, the collation of additional species information and research into innovative modelling techniques (Evidence report submitted to NE Evidence Portal).</p> <p>A derived local habitat map produced for the county based on the best available information across multiple data sources.</p> <p>Grassland connectivity modelling project to investigate the use of species data combined with spatial modelling techniques to improve</p>	<p>Continue as per planned action in combination with delivery of LNRS and supporting actions.</p>

			<p>targeting of nature recovery action to inform LNRS.</p> <p>Habitat suitability modelling was completed to produce the resistance rasters underpinning connectivity analysis for grasslands, woodlands and wetlands, providing an evidence base for identifying opportunities within the LNRS.</p> <p>Hay Meadows connectivity project in the West Pennine Moors, using species data to conduct habitat suitability modelling and connectivity analysis in order to identify priority areas for targeted hay meadow restoration.</p> <p>Preparation for Lancashire's State of Nature (SoN) Report, including a literature and evidence review and synthesis of other SoN reports, and lessons learned to build on. Identification and collation of currently available local records and data to report on some of the major trends in nature across our region for habitats and species. Identification of local data gaps and suitable alternative regional or national datasets.</p>	
--	--	--	---	--

	Provide access to biodiversity data/information	Make biodiversity data/information available to LCC, other LPAs, partner organisations, other organisations, the public and other stakeholders and interested parties to inform statutory compliance, policies, plans, strategies, projects, decisions, enforcement, site designations, nature recovery, grant applications and biodiversity reporting.	Ongoing Dissemination of updated BHS boundaries to District and Unitary authorities, National Landscapes, LWT and updated BHS information to landowners/managers. Data requests actioned 2024: 531 2025: 584	Continue as per planned action.
Monitoring	Monitor delivery of nature recovery activity	Adopt BNG Tracking software	Options under consideration.	Continue as per planned action.
		Record Nature Recovery Actions, including (for example) mapping of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Habitat creation/enhancement schemes. Habitat banks and other off-site BNG secured by legal agreement. Activity relevant to LNRS delivery or future iterations of the strategy. etc 	Approach under consideration	Continue as per planned action in combination with delivery of LNRS and supporting actions.
		Record Actions taken by LCC to meet NERC Biodiversity Duty	2024 and 2025 Actions recorded.	Record actions for 2026-2030
Reporting	Single data list reporting	Report annually on proportion of local sites in positive conservation management (SDL 160).	Reports submitted 2024 & 2025	Continue as per planned action.
	First Biodiversity Report	- Summary of action taken to comply with biodiversity duty - Plans to comply with biodiversity duty in next reporting period - Plans, objectives and actions	2024-25 report complete	See second biodiversity report below.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Consideration of other strategies - Future Actions - Action carried out to meet BNG Obligations - Details of BNG resulting from or expected to result from approved BNG Plans - Plans to meet BNG Obligations in next reporting period https://www.gov.uk/guidance/reporting-your-biodiversity-duty-actions		
	Second Biodiversity report (before 1 Jan 2031)	As above		Continue as per planned action.

3.0 Biodiversity Net Gain Information

Detailed biodiversity net gain information is provided in Appendix 1.

Actions Carried out to meet biodiversity net gain (BNG) Obligations

Summary of preparatory work 2024-25 (reported separately to DEFRA as BNG Grant evidence of spend):

- BNG PAS and Natural England Webinars.
- UKHAB 2.0 Field Course for LCC Ecologists.
- River Corridor / MoRPH Condition Assessment Training for LCC Ecologist.
- Research, Prepare & Deliver BNG Briefing for LCC Staff.
- Attendance of LCC staff at internal BNG briefings.
- Prepare BNG web page /admin systems/recording and filing systems.
- Production of Guidance: Options report for BNG land use and legal agreements.
- Preparation of options report for securing off-site BNG and associated legal agreements to inform decision making for County Council developments.
- Meetings – BNG Legal Agreement and Land Use Options to inform decision making.
- Production of Guidance: BNG Briefings for cabinet members.
- Develop calculator for BNG monitoring cost recovery
- Planning and Ecology staff input to BNG monitoring software development (DEF Mastergov).
- Planning Officer attendance at Minerals & Waste Planners BNG subgroup.
- Implementation of BNG - Provision of specialist advice.

Planning consent data summary:

- Total number of planning permissions granted that require biodiversity net gain in the reporting period: 9
- Total number of biodiversity gain plans approved in the reporting period: 2
- Total number of biodiversity gain plans approved in the reporting period securing BNG through on-site units only: 2

Biodiversity net gain resulting, or expected to result, from BNG plans approved by Lancashire County Council:

Net Change in biodiversity units:

- Habitat areas: 7.18
- Hedgerows and lines of trees: 0.17
- Watercourses: 0.03

No negative impact on irreplaceable habitats.

Habitat management and monitoring plans secured by planning condition/obligation as required.



Plans to meet Biodiversity Net Gain Obligations in the next reporting period

- Ensure that planning decisions, wherever necessary or appropriate, are informed by ecology advice and data, to ensure that they take account of current statutes, policy and best practice guidance, including (but not restricted to) mandatory Biodiversity Net Gain.
- Secure BNG obligations through planning conditions and Section 106 agreements.
- Monitoring and reporting of BNG delivery.
- Consider opportunities to support development of a local BNG market as part of LNRS delivery.



Appendix 1

Biodiversity Net Gain Information Spreadsheet

