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Sussex Nature Recovery

A collective blueprint for targeted action

LNRS for Sussex

Parish & Town Councils Briefing

26th February 2024

SussexNatureRecovery.org.uk

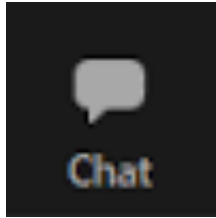


Agenda

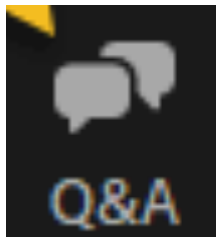
- Presentation
 - What LNRS are
 - Why they are needed
 - The process
 - What they'll do (and won't do)
 - Engagement approach
 - How to get involved
- Q&A



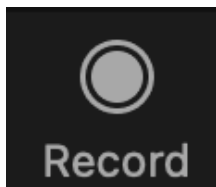
Housekeeping



- Use the chat to ask *technical* questions about the webinar e.g. if you can't see the slides or are struggling to hear the presenters



- Use the Q&A button to ask panellists questions about the LNRS which will be addressed during the Q&A session.
- Questions can be asked anonymously.
- You can see others' questions and can upweight them if you think they're important.



- A recording of this webinar will be uploaded to the website in the next few days.



What are Local Nature Recovery Strategies? (LNRS)

- Legal requirement
- England-wide
- Landscape scale
- Executed at the county level
- Collaboratively produced

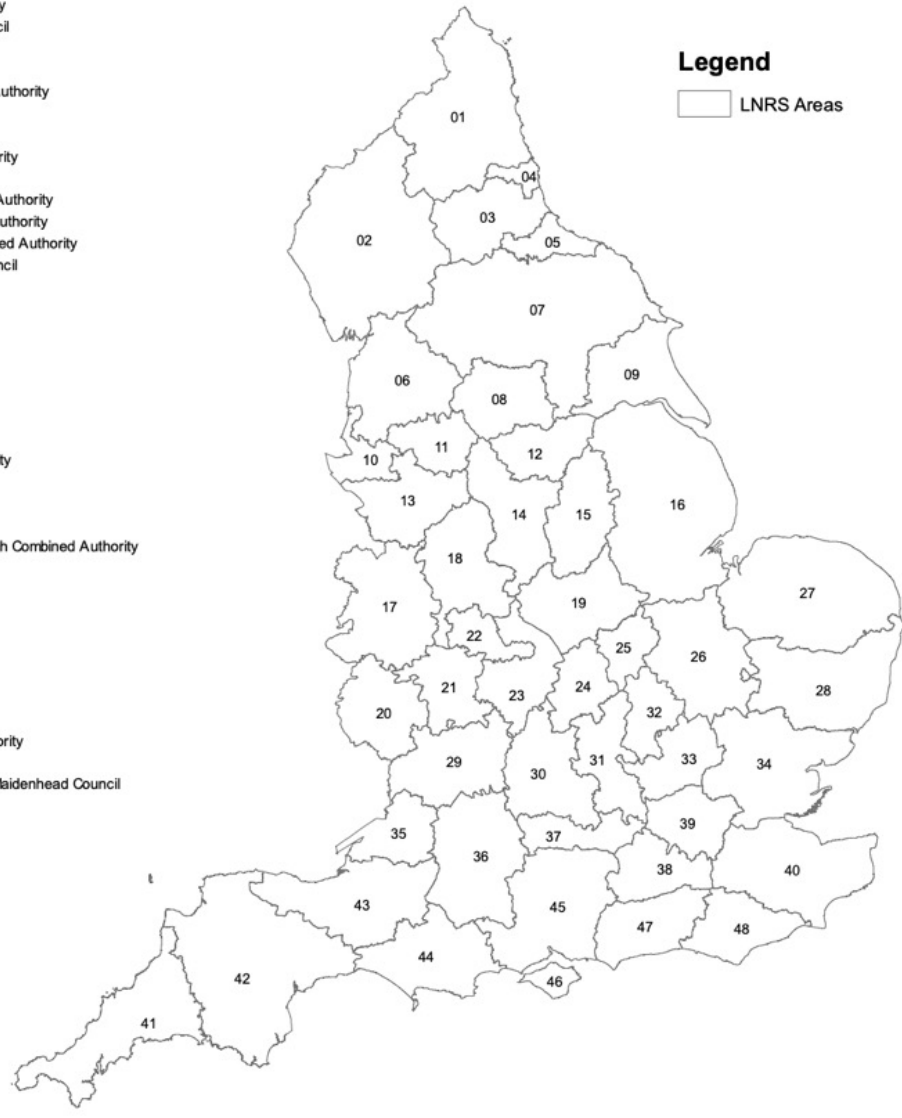
A new, statutory process to agree at the local level, the priorities and actions needed to drive nature's recovery and wider environmental benefits



48 strategies being developed across England

Responsible authority

North of Tyne Combined Authority
Westmorland and Furness Council
Durham County Council
Gateshead Council
Tees Valley Mayoral Combined Authority
Lancashire County Council
North Yorkshire Council
West Yorkshire Combined Authority
East Riding of Yorkshire Council
Liverpool City Region Combined Authority
Greater Manchester Combined Authority
South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority
Cheshire West and Chester Council
Derbyshire County Council
Nottinghamshire County Council
Lincolnshire County Council
Shropshire County Council
Staffordshire County Council
Leicestershire County Council
Herefordshire Council
Worcestershire County Council
West Midlands Combined Authority
Warwickshire County Council
West Northamptonshire Council
North Northamptonshire Council
Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority
Norfolk County Council
Suffolk County Council
Gloucestershire County Council
Oxfordshire County Council
Buckinghamshire Council
Central Bedfordshire Council
Hertfordshire County Council
Essex County Council
West of England Combined Authority
Wiltshire Council
Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead Council
Surrey County Council
Greater London Authority
Kent County Council
Cornwall Council
Devon County Council
Somerset Council
Dorset Council
Hampshire County Council
Isle of Wight Council
West Sussex County Council
East Sussex County Council



- Led by 'Responsible Authorities'
- Two LNRS will cover Sussex:
- East Sussex (incl Brighton & Hove)
 - West Sussex

When complete, they will join up with the 46 others to support the creation of a seamless, England-wide **Nature Recovery Network**



Who leads and supports LNRS development in Sussex?

- **Responsible Authorities:** WSCC and ESCC. While developing separate strategies, we share stakeholders and are working closely together under the banner of Sussex Nature Recovery
- **LNRS Board** (WSCC/ESCC/BHCC and Natural England): oversee this collaboration and spending on the budget.
- **Working Group:** representatives of key stakeholder groups and govt agencies. Provides input, guidance and 'work' on the strategies. Includes the Sussex Nature Partnership, Sussex Wildlife Trust, National Landscapes, Sussex IFCA, the NFU (National Farmers Union), CLA (Country Land and Business Association) and others.
- **Supporting Authorities Group:** representatives of all local planning authorities, South Downs National Park and Natural England. Provides input and ensures engagement throughout the process.
- **Neighbouring Authorities:** we work with Surrey, Hampshire and Kent to ensure alignment.
- **Technical Review Panel:** handpicked panel of experts who can peer review the baseline information.



Regulations & Guidance

- The Environment (Local Nature Recovery Strategies) (Procedure) Regulations 2023
- LNRS Statutory Guidance – what a LNRS should contain
- Non-statutory guidance:
 - Species recovery within LNRS
 - Engage the land management sector in LNRSs
 - Identifying and agreeing priorities and potential measures within LNRSs
 - Advice on governance and working with partners
 - National Environmental Objectives
- Expected guidance still to be published:
 - Irreplaceable habitats (some guidance published re BNG but consultation expected later this year)
 - Biodiversity net gain (draft SIs and guidance published)
 - Data standards advice,
 - Mapping of measures
 - Local Planning Authority guidance.



Why are they needed?

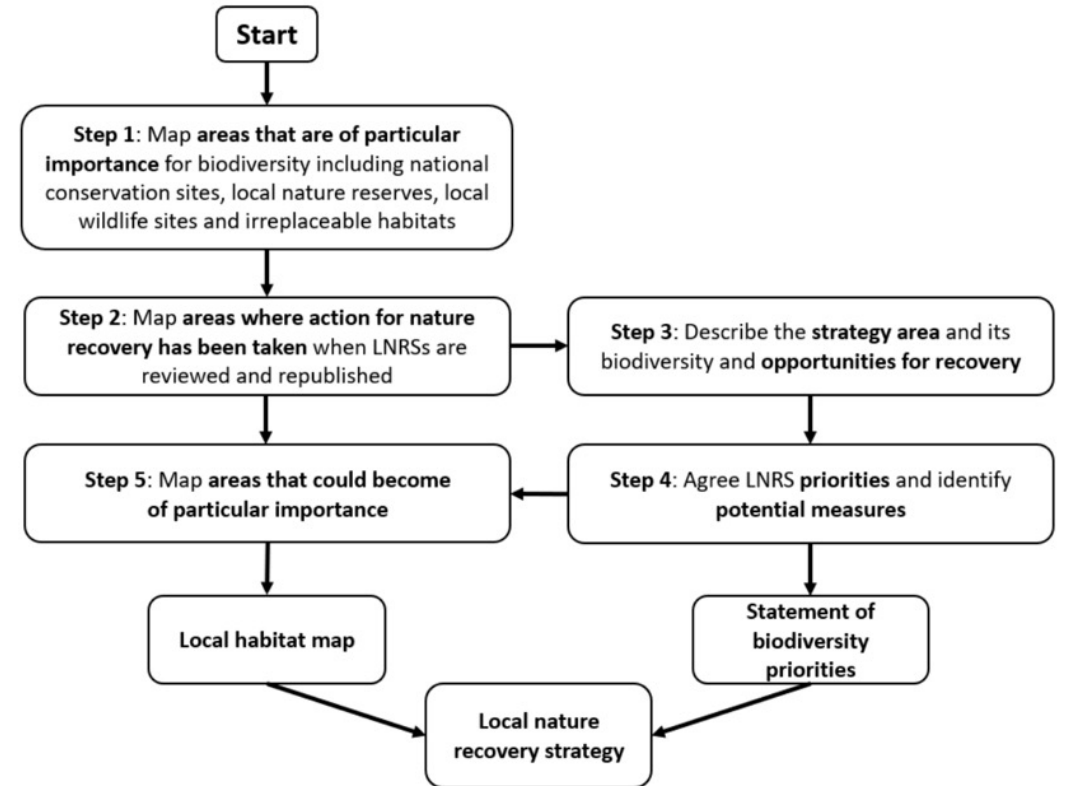


- 55% decline in farmland birds
- The UK is one of the most nature depleted countries in the world.
- Coordination needed at the local level: we need to work collaboratively together to identify and agree where and how to act.



LNRS Process

- Map existing valuable areas for nature
- Gather the environmental issues that are most important to local people
- Collaboratively agree the priorities for nature's recovery
- Map proposals for creating or improving habitats and species and for delivering wider environmental benefits
- Review every 3-10 years.



Step 1	Step 3		Step 4		Step 5	Step 6	
Map areas of particular importance	Develop description of area	Develop description of opportunities	Agree priorities (longlist & short list)	Identify potential measures	Map areas of potential importance	Final statement of biodiversity priorities	Final Local Habitat Map
Development of baseline evidence			Significant stakeholder engagement		Playback & write up		

Definitions

Priorities

The habitats and species the strategy will focus on supporting, based on ecological data and the views of local people, groups and organisations living and working in Sussex. *For example: increasing our populations of Starlings or connecting and enhancing existing ancient and native woodland*

Measures

Achievable actions that can be taken to help deliver the priorities and wider environmental benefits. *For example: planting a wildflower meadow to help pollinators, creating wetlands to reduce flood risk, improving urban ponds to provide vital freshwater habitats for dragonflies, or planting trees to create corridors between woodlands.*



Priorities longlist and identified measures will include those from published plans and strategies

Protected Landscapes

- Management plans
- Local plans
- Nature Recovery plans

Local Government

- Local Plans – and any relevant SPDs, TANs etc.
- Green Infrastructure Plans and Strategies
- Climate Change Plans/Strategies
- Biodiversity Action Plans
- Tree strategies
- Flood risk management plans

Water/catchment

- Water company business plans and environment strategies
- Catchment Management Plans

Other

- Shoreline management plans
- Marine plans

Also reviewing
Neighbourhood Plans
For Priorities and Local
Green Space designations



What LNRS will deliver

- Bigger, better, more joined up habitats and species
- Support for national targets such as 30 by 30

Ecosystem services:

- Health & Wellbeing
- Cleaner air
- Cleaner water
- Healthier, more resilient soils
- Flood prevention
- Carbon sequestration



What they'll do

**LNRS will help
direct future
effort & funding**

- **Biodiversity Net Gain:** will direct funding into areas that will deliver the greatest benefits to nature
- **ELMs:** role in guiding funding through the scheme to be defined by Defra
- **Local planning:** inform the planning process and public authorities' strengthened biodiversity duty
- **Nature-based Solutions:** inform their delivery which will help direct funding from private sector
- **Aid collaboration:** help the public, private and voluntary sectors work more effectively together for nature's recovery and focus collective effort
- **Targeting:** ensure the right things are done in the most effective areas.



What's in scope (and what's not)

- LNRS will bring forward opportunities to create or improve habitat and support species recovery in Sussex.
- They will capture deliverability and provide evidence to inform decisions.
- They aren't able to protect *more* spaces for nature in Sussex
 - Being mapped or otherwise identified in the strategy doesn't confer any new protections.
 - The LNRS cannot dictate how land is used or limit the choices land managers have on their land.
 - Measures put forward by landowners on their land are recommendations not obligations
 - But - they are a material consideration in the plan-making process.
- Narrow guidelines for what can be mapped:
 - Map 1: Existing areas of importance for biodiversity: *only* designated sites and irreplaceable habitats
 - Map 2: Areas that could become important: Can't use indiscriminate mapping, needs a broad understanding that a measure could be *achieved* in the next 5-8 years. This could be via e.g.
 - An existing project or plan to deliver it
 - A viable funding stream e.g. BNG
 - Where you are responsible for a green space which you own/manage or have the capacity to influence the management of

Target timescales

- Feb-April ➤ Baseline evidence finalised & reviewed including:
 - APIB + high level stats
 - Trends, threats & pressures
 - Review of plans, policies & strategies
 - Description of LNRS area and opportunities
- March – July ➤ Core stakeholder engagement to gather priorities and measures from local people, groups and organisations in Sussex
- Autumn ➤ Strategy write up
- Early 2025 ➤ Public Consultation
- Summer 2025 ➤ Strategies published



Engagement activities

- **For the public:**
 - New website: SussexNatureRecovery.org.uk
 - Public survey (key means to capture priorities)
 - Newsletter
 - County-level Webinars in May
 - Outreach for 'hard to reach' groups
- **For landowners and land managers:**
 - Webinar (November 2023)
 - Bespoke approach includes conversations to explore opportunities with groups of landowners and managers, facilitated by land-management experts
- **For those active in nature's recovery from community groups and Town & Parish Councils to NGOs**
 - Detailed survey
 - Briefings
 - Workshops
- **Plus: comms, events and PR**

The image shows a composite of three elements related to the Sussex Nature Recovery project. At the top is a circular screenshot of the website's header, featuring a navigation menu with 'Home', 'About', 'News', and 'Publications'. Below this is a large banner image of a kingfisher perched on a branch, with the text 'Sussex Nature Recovery' and 'A collective blueprint for targeted action'. To the right of the banner is a yellow box labeled 'Website'. Below the banner is a green section with text: 'East Sussex, West Sussex and Brighton & Hove are home to wondrous and iconic wildlife including internationally rare habitats and species. But the rest of the UK, nature in Sussex urgently needs help.' At the bottom right of this section is a yellow box labeled 'Facilitated conversations with landowners'. To the right of the green section is a screenshot of a public survey page. The survey page has a header with the Sussex Nature Recovery logo and 'Funded by UK Government'. The main text reads: 'Public survey - tell us your views! East & West Sussex and Brighton & Hove are home to wondrous and iconic wildlife, including internationally rare habitats and species. But like the rest of the UK, nature in Sussex urgently needs our help. Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRS) are a new, England-wide approach to do that, and everyone in Sussex can take part.' Below this is a photo of a field of bluebells. The survey questions are visible, starting with '1. Which part of Sussex do you live in? This tells us which LNRS your answers will be part of. There will be one LNRS for West Sussex and one for East Sussex and Brighton & Hove.' There are radio button options for 'East Sussex', 'West Sussex', 'Brighton & Hove', and 'None of the above'. A yellow box labeled 'Survey' is positioned at the bottom right of the survey page screenshot.

How do you get involved?

Parish & Town Councils play a very important role in the LNRS!

You are a gateway to your local community, to residents, groups and local landowners...

- Help promote the LNRS to your community; use your networks
- Take the [detailed survey](#) to tell us:
 - If you manage land you think could be better utilised for nature.
 - If your council has existing priorities or projects for particular habitats, species or places for nature.
 - If you're already working with community groups and others for nature's recovery.
 - If you have designated land in your Neighbourhood Plan.
- Attend other events, such as workshops etc (dates in due course).



Any Questions?



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