

Local Nature Recovery Strategy: Liverpool City Region

Frequently Asked Questions

Liverpool City Region Combined Authority is leading the preparation of a new Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) for the Liverpool City Region. The following document gives an overview of key questions related to the LNRS for any interested individuals or organisations.

Note: the information in this document is correct as of **January 2024** and may be subject to change as further guidance is released.

What is an LNRS?

Local nature recovery strategies are new strategies to support the restoration and enhancement of nature, produced on a regional level. The strategy will take an evidence-based approach, developed in collaboration with local stakeholders and providing an opportunity for the people of the LCR to have their say. The LNRS will act as a blueprint for protecting nature in the City Region, and will:

- Map our most valuable existing areas for nature,
- Agree priorities for reversing the decline in biodiversity,
- Map opportunities for nature recovery and wider environmental goals.

What will the LNRS include?

The LNRS will include an **opportunities map**, which will show the existing areas of valuable habitat and highlight opportunities to improve them or create new habitats. This map will be available for viewing by the public and will provide a guide to restoring nature across the City Region.

The LNRS will also include a **statement of biodiversity priorities**, which sets out the habitats and species which are key to each area and our plan to support nature recovery across the region. This will be based on expert advice as well as the key interests of local communities and land managers.

How will the LNRS deliver nature recovery?

Incoming legislation ([biodiversity net gain](#)) will require that developers and planners in the Liverpool City Region invest in protecting nature. Priority areas identified in the LNRS will play a role in guiding this investment, and it will also guide other forms of funding such as the Environmental Land Management Schemes.

Public authorities in the Liverpool City Region can also use the LNRS to guide future actions they take to protect nature. The Environment Act 2021 requires local planning authorities to “take account” of the LNRS both in respect to policy and development management decisions, and the Government is currently preparing further advice.

Who will use it?

The local nature recovery strategy can be used by everyone: planners, landowners, land managers, public authorities, investors, environmental organisations, community groups, the public, ecologists, to guide and join up decisions they take to protect nature.

What are the implications for land identified in the LNRS?

The LNRS does not give direct protection to land it identifies as an opportunity, nor does it prevent alternative use of the land. Instead, it highlights the areas with the best opportunities to expand, recover or join up nature. This will support the delivery of funding to protect nature, but landowners and land managers will be free to take advantage of these funding sources as they wish.

Where did they come from?

LNRS's were proposed in 2019 by the Government's 25-Year Environment Plan and made mandatory by the Environment Act 2021.

Why are they important?

The LNRS will be the main strategic plan for tackling the ecological emergency and reversing biodiversity declines within each area. New challenges, like climate change, are making it essential that public authorities and public funding work more closely with local communities and expert land managers to support biodiversity. The LNRS will guide this activity, linking local changemakers across England into a 'nature recovery network'.

What are the timescales for its development and implementation?

The Liverpool City Region's Local Nature Recovery Strategy will be developed over approximately 2 years. It will cover the following stages:

Step 0: Government provides a map of each Strategy area, including habitats and national conservation sites

Step 1: Locally held data is added to the map, including locally identified wildlife sites

Step 2: Description of the Strategy area, including its key habitats and potential opportunities to create or improve them

Step 3: Identification of outcomes, achieved through creation or improvement of habitat, and grouping of these into "priority" and "other"

Step 4: Potential measures for creating or improving habitat to achieve the priority and other outcomes

Step 5: Mapping of suitable locations for the delivery of the potential measures onto map of existing habitat (established in Steps 0 and 1)

How can the public contribute and inform the development of the strategy?

You will have two opportunities to contribute to the development of the strategy. Firstly, by having your say on nature recovery priorities and key habitats in their area, and then, by viewing and commenting on the final strategy draft before publication. Details of public consultations will be shared on our [website](#) and social media channels.

Who can you approach with questions?

Questions about the local nature recovery strategy can be directed to LNRS@liverpoolcityregion-ca.gov.uk

Links and more information

LNRS Statutory Regulations: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2023/341/made> LNRS

Statutory Guidance: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/local-nature-recoverystrategy-what-to-include>

A high-level overview of BNG:

https://naturalengland.blog.gov.uk/wpcontent/uploads/sites/183/2022/04/BNG-Brochure_Final_Compressed-002.pdf