

Local Nature Recovery Strategy Pilots

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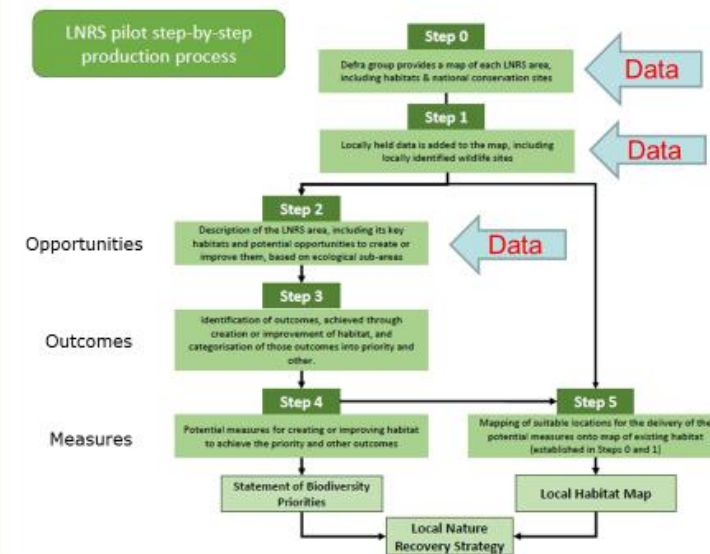
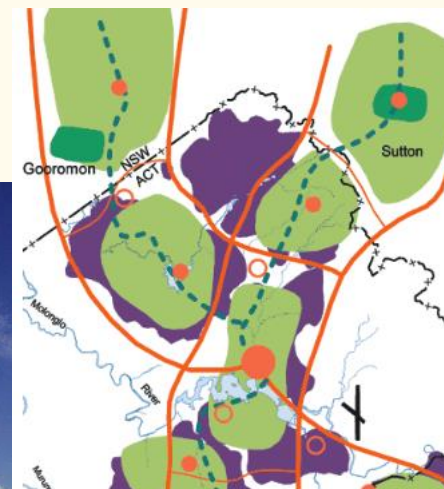


What are LNRs ? The key mechanism for mapping and planning local delivery of the Nature Recovery Network



Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRs) are a new system of spatial strategies for nature, covering the whole of England. Each strategy will, for the area that it covers:

- Map the most valuable existing habitat for nature;
- Map specific proposals for creating or improving habitat for nature and wider environment goals; and
- Agree priorities for nature's recovery.



1. Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRS) are being introduced in the Environment Bill. There will be discussions alongside Bill passage and after passage to agree what needs to be included in LNRS's and how far they will go towards Local Natural Capital Planning as referenced in the 25 YEP.
2. LNRS's will be the focus for place based spatial planning.

Bookmarks

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Defra UK ✓ @DefraGovUK · 20 Nov

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This week we've made progress on our #EnvironmentBill in Parliament, and our Local Nature Recovery Strategies are one step closer to being rolled out across England! 🌿

First launched in August, our five pilots are already kick-starting nature recovery 📌

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The boundaries and spatial prioritisation of LNRS's



- LNRSs will cover the whole of the country and split it into roughly 50 areas, often likely to be at county-level, and will determine priorities for both nature recovery and the use of nature-based solutions for wider environmental benefit through a locally led process.
- LNRS boundaries will be based on local government boundaries to enable close connection between LNRSs and the land use planning system.
- Roll-out of LNRSs will need to address those areas where their boundaries split NP and AONB boundaries e.g. potentially through the use of NCAs to help break each LNRS down into ecologically coherent sub-areas.

How does government intend LNRs be used?



- The actions in each LNR identified through a transparent, locally-led process that considers deliverability as well as desirability are non-binding. Hoped this will foster an open and constructive process
- The Environment Bill will also introduce a new requirement on all public bodies to have regard to any relevant LNRs,
- Local authorities and other public bodies designated by the Secretary of State will also have to report, at least every 5 years.
- Biodiversity net gain will provide a financial incentive for development to support the delivery of LNRs through the way biodiversity credits are calculated.
- LNRs will help direct money into local priorities for protection and enhancement, and speed up planning decisions
- The shared creation of each LNR will encourage all organisations and individuals interested in nature recovery in an area to work more effectively together to achieve agreed outcomes for nature.

LNRS & Environmental Land Management



- Defra are also looking at how LNRSs can be linked to funding sources such as the new Environmental Land Management scheme to further incentivise their delivery.
- While LNRSs will identify opportunities for habitat creation and improvement that will underpin the Nature Recovery Network and the use of nature-based solutions to address wider environmental issues, they are not in themselves a delivery mechanism.



Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) Pilots

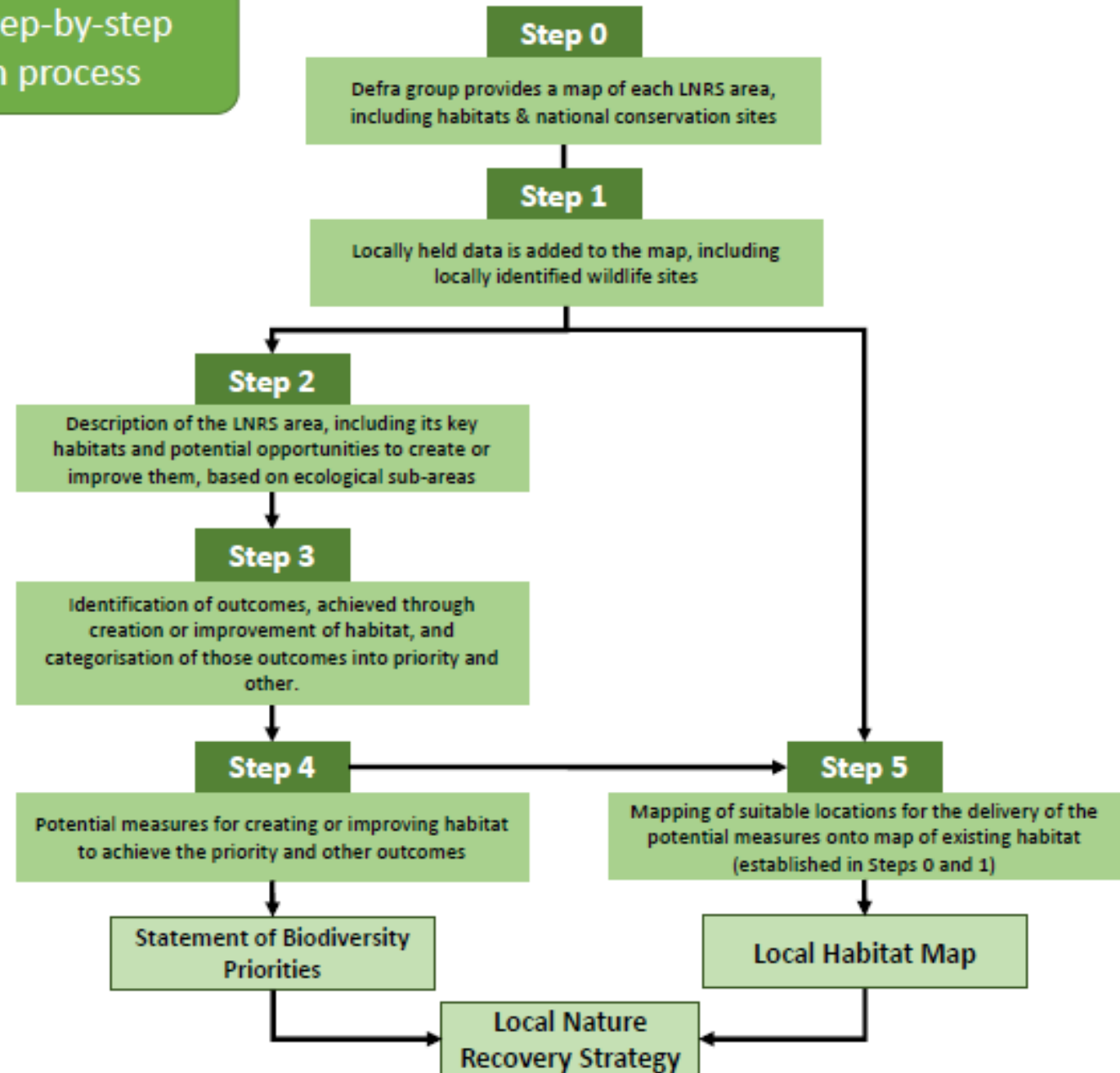


- **Natural England are leading on the delivery of LNRS pilots in 5 locations in England during 2020/21 to test the implementation of the clauses 95-99 of the Environment Bill and in doing so help inform the preparation for implementation of following Royal Assent. This will include statutory guidance.**
- **We are working closely with Defra's 25 YEP team to develop our understanding of how LNRSs should support net gain and wider policy areas including for example trees, peat, ELM, floods and ultimately the NRN.**
- **We are working closely with delivery partners and in particular Local Government through the 5 pilots to build understanding, capacity and engagement around LNRS implementation.**

3 x Pilot objectives

Objective 1 - Test the end-to-end process for LNRS preparation and publication and the supporting roles and responsibilities.

LNRS pilot step-by-step production process

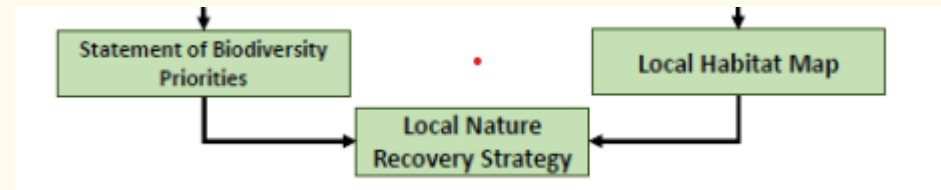


3 x Pilot objectives



Objective 2 – Produce prototype LNRs – exploring technical issues, resources, roles and responsibilities;

(The Statement of Biodiversity Priorities & the Local Habitat Map with proposed locations for delivering both the priority and other desired outcomes and measures)



Statement of Biodiversity Priorities



- a written statement for each strategy area, illustrated with photographs and high-level maps.

The Statement will include:

- •A description of **sub-areas** based on geology, topography and soil type, and **key habitats and species**.
- •A broad assessment of the **opportunity for linking, increasing or improving** the condition of each key habitat
- A description of the **wider environmental issues** for which the creation or improvement of habitats could help provide a nature-based solution (e.g. climate & flood mitigation).
- **The outcomes** –both for nature and the wider natural environment –that the LNRS is seeking to achieve
- **The potential measures** by which the creation or improvement of key habitats can deliver both priority and other desired outcomes (e.g. rotational coppicing of native woodland to provide nightingale habitat or ditch-blocking to re-wet degraded peat)

- identifies the existing distribution of different habitat types and the location of areas already important for biodiversity, overlaid by locations considered suitable for delivering the outcomes and measures identified in the Statement of Biodiversity Priorities. **The Map will include:**
- •Information from a “national habitat map” provided by Government which includes a base Ordnance Survey-type map, a **map of habitats** and the locations of **nationally-designated wildlife sites**.
- •The locations of **Local Nature Reserves**, other **Local Wildlife Sites** and **any other areas** that have been identified as being important for biodiversity.
- •**Proposed locations** for delivering both the priority and other desired **outcomes** and **measures**.

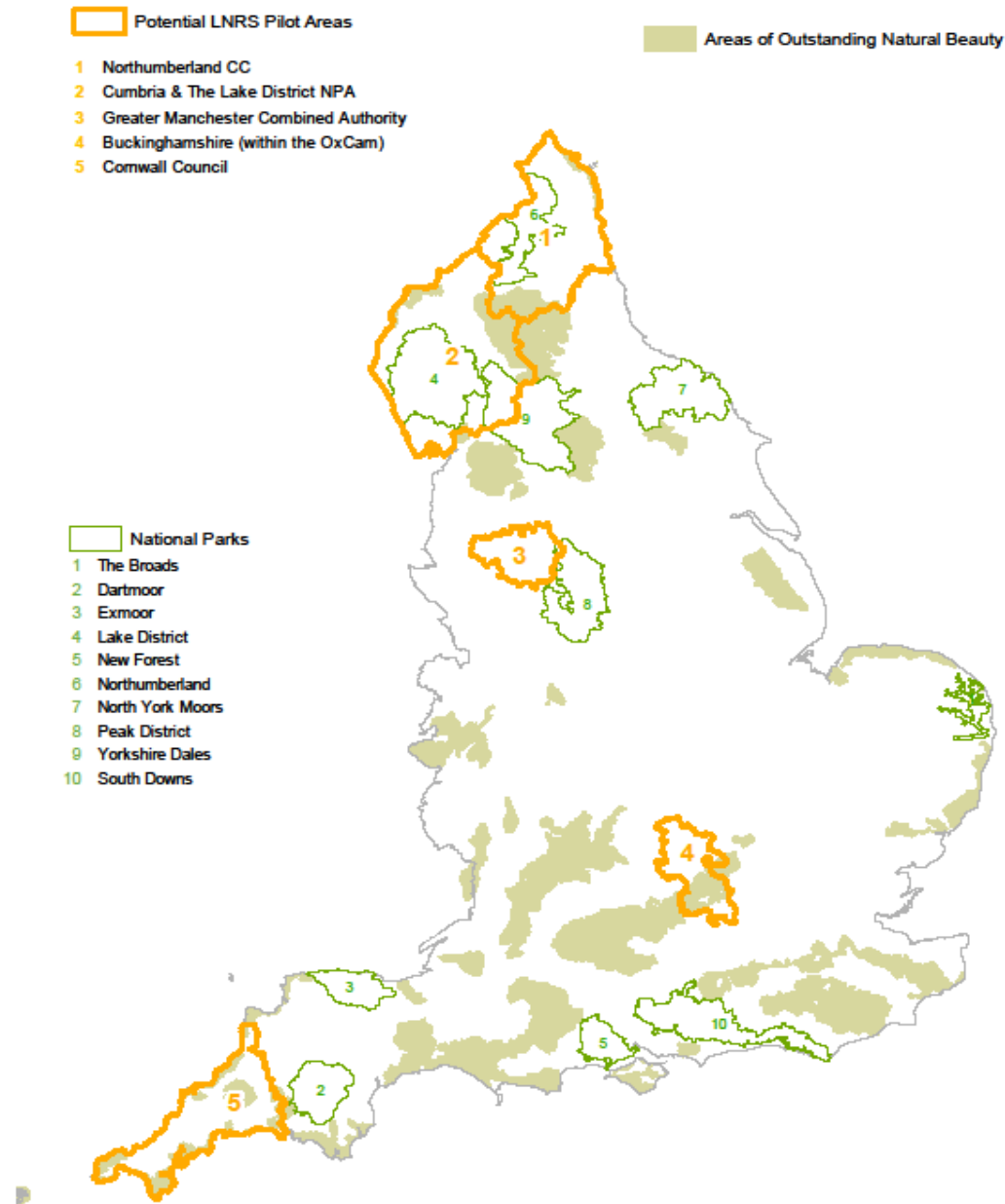


Objective 3 – Test how the prototype LNRS sits within the local context and, in particular, other local environmental spatial frameworks

- LNRSs are produced in the context of a variety of existing plans, strategies and other documents. The pilots should test how an LNRS might interact with these, reflecting existing plans in LNRS products, and using the LNRS to influence how other plans are created. In particular, how a relationship with new ELM spatial prioritisation could work.

Where are the Pilots?

- Buckinghamshire;
- Cornwall;
- Cumbria;
- Greater Manchester; and
- Northumberland



- A new process: working through the steps moving from technical evidence into collaboration and decision making with new partners
- The context: the decision making and planning context in which LNRS's sit
- Integration and agency: role of different organisations and how we work together successfully for nature recovery.

