



Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin Local Nature Recovery Strategy

Upper Onny Wildlife Group
February 2025



Nature Recovery Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin

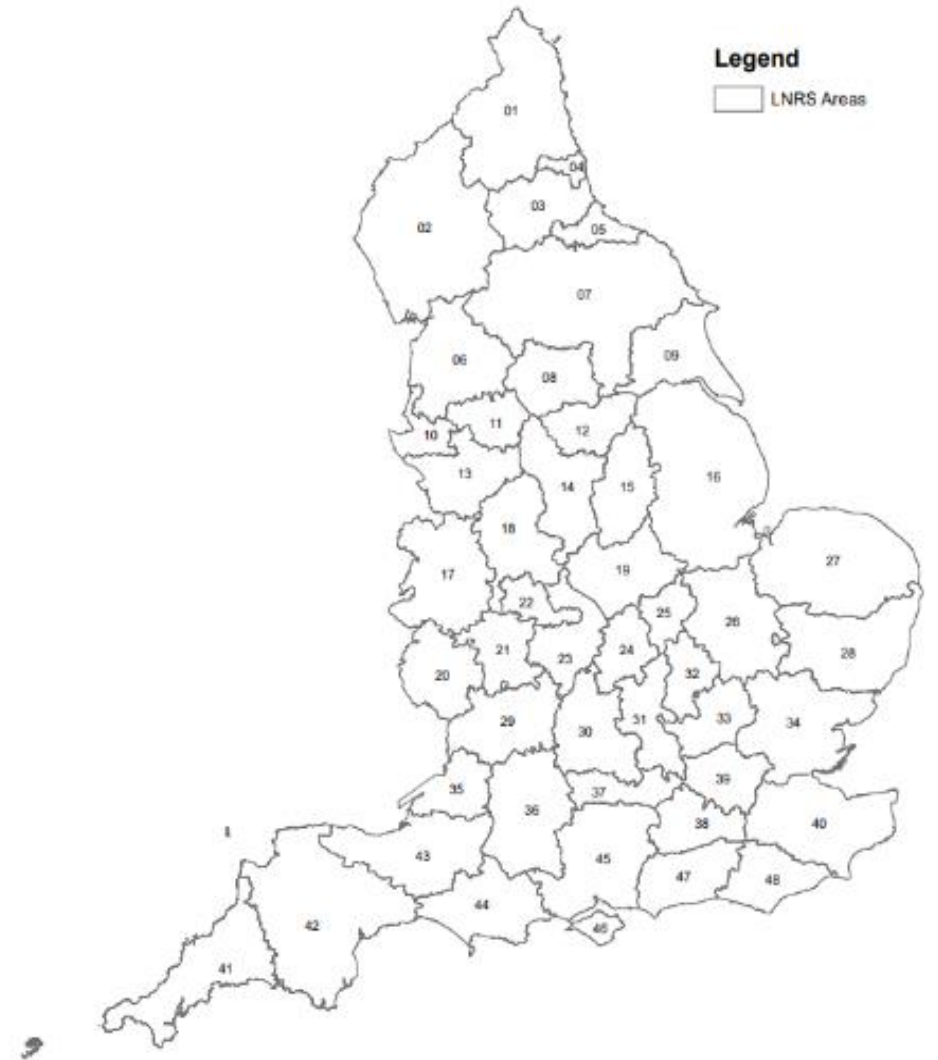


Steering Group Members



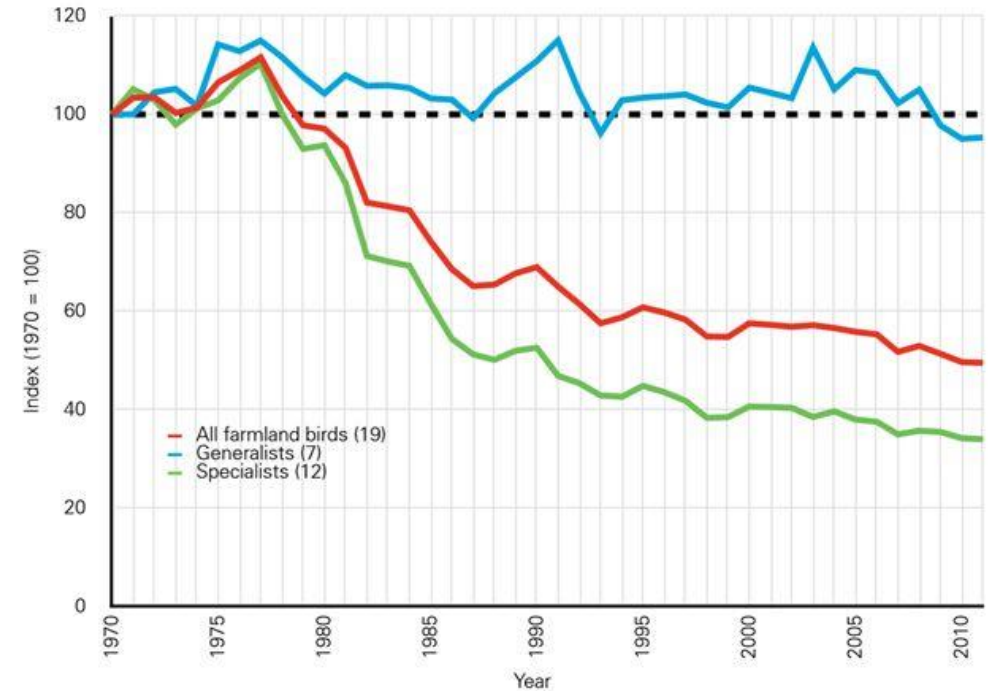
LNRS context

- The UK is ‘one of the most nature-depleted countries on Earth.’ Declines continue across most species groups, while habitats continue to be fragmented and often in poor condition.
- In spite of increasing recognition of the biodiversity crisis, and improved understanding of what action is required, investment and action remain below levels required to allow nature to recover.
- The Government has made a range of legally-binding commitments with the intention of addressing these declines and Local Nature Recovery Strategies are part of that work.
- This Strategy is one of 48 across England. Strategies meet at administrative boundaries, with maps being broadly compatible at the edges, with no gaps and no overlaps.
- This Strategy covers Shropshire and Telford and Wrekin.



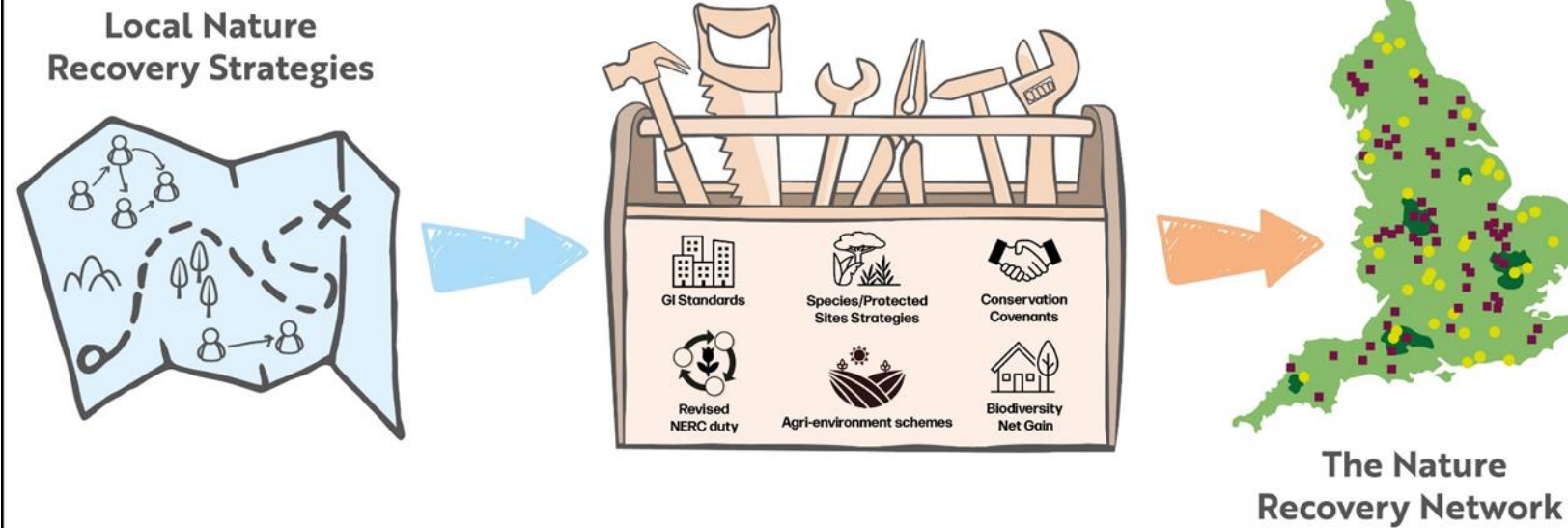
Why the need for LNRS?

- It's a legal statutory requirement of the Environment Act 2021
- Public bodies, inc. T&PCs, now have an enhanced duty to maintain and enhance biodiversity
- Reverse current trends
- Fragmented habitats
- Faltering ecosystem functions; flooding, drought, soil health, carbon capture etc
- Additional benefits such as health and wellbeing, tourism
- Upswell of interest and activity
- Bring all stakeholders together
- Align action to county priorities
- Potential to target funds (Biodiversity Net Gain, landscape recovery, funding bids)
- Provide guidance for landowners and others interested in nature recovery



Source: UK State of Nature Report 2023

Nature Recovery Network



Plan > Deliver > Connect

A single, growing national network of improved, wildlife-rich places which will benefit people and wildlife



Principles

- Better - Improve the quality of our existing habitats and ensure managed appropriately
- Bigger - Increase the size of our most valuable and important habitat sites, extend and buffer
- More – Establish new, nature-rich sites
- Joined up - Enhance connections between sites by improving the quality of the land that exists between, creating new physical corridors, and establishing ‘stepping stones’
- Nature-based solutions - Work with nature and use natural processes to tackle some of the socio-economic challenges our county faces, maximising the benefits of nature recovery
- Land management and land use - Increase the number land managers using nature friendly land use practices

Adapted from what has become known as *Lawton Principles* following the [Making Space for Nature Report](#) written by Sir John Lawton



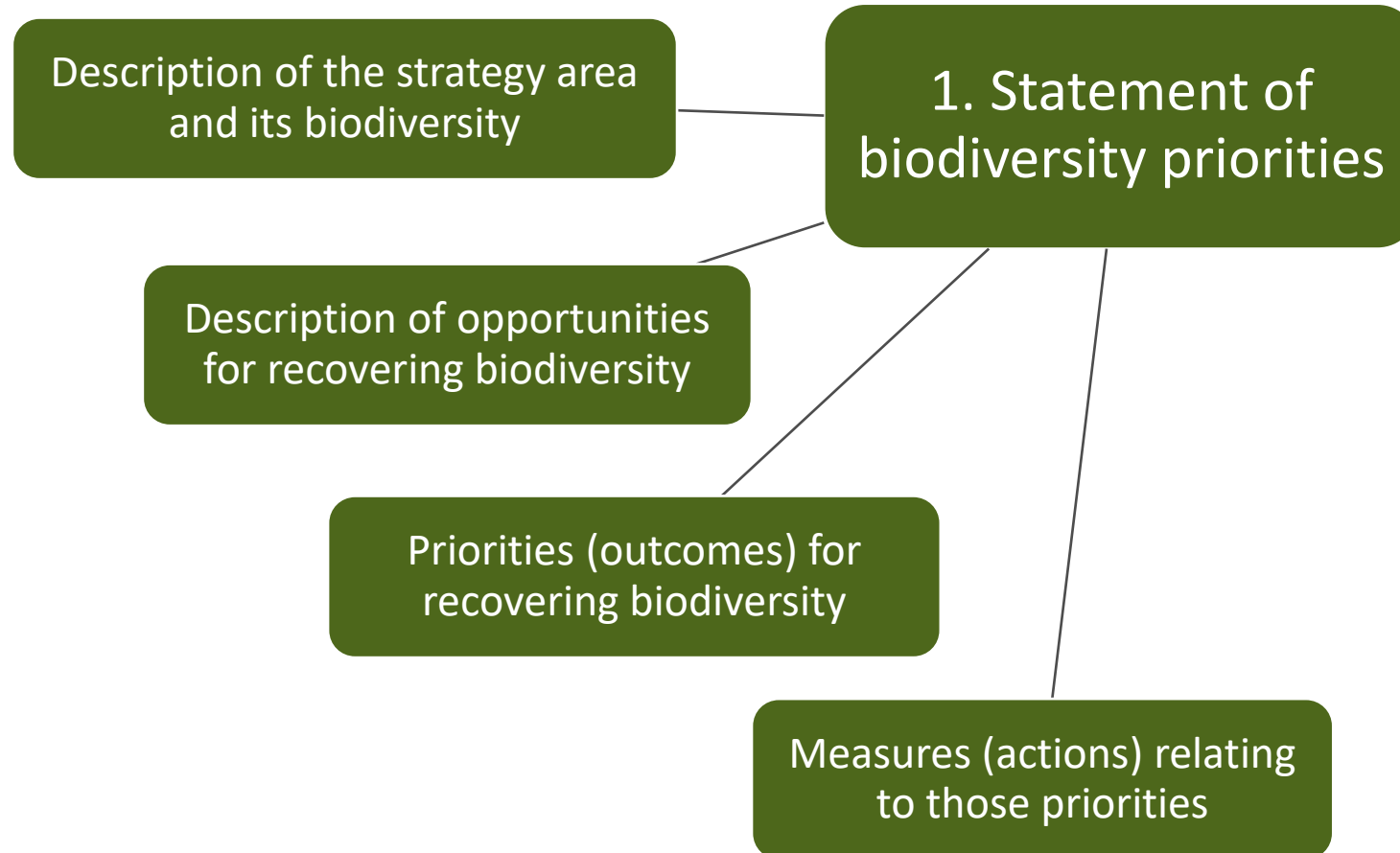
What is the LNRS?

- LNRS are produced by a Responsible Authority in partnership with a large range of environmental and community stakeholders.
- Shropshire Council is the Responsible Authority for the LNRS for Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin.
- Telford & Wrekin Council and Natural England are Supporting Authorities within the process.
- Purpose is to focus funds and resources for action for nature

1. Statement of Biodiversity Priorities

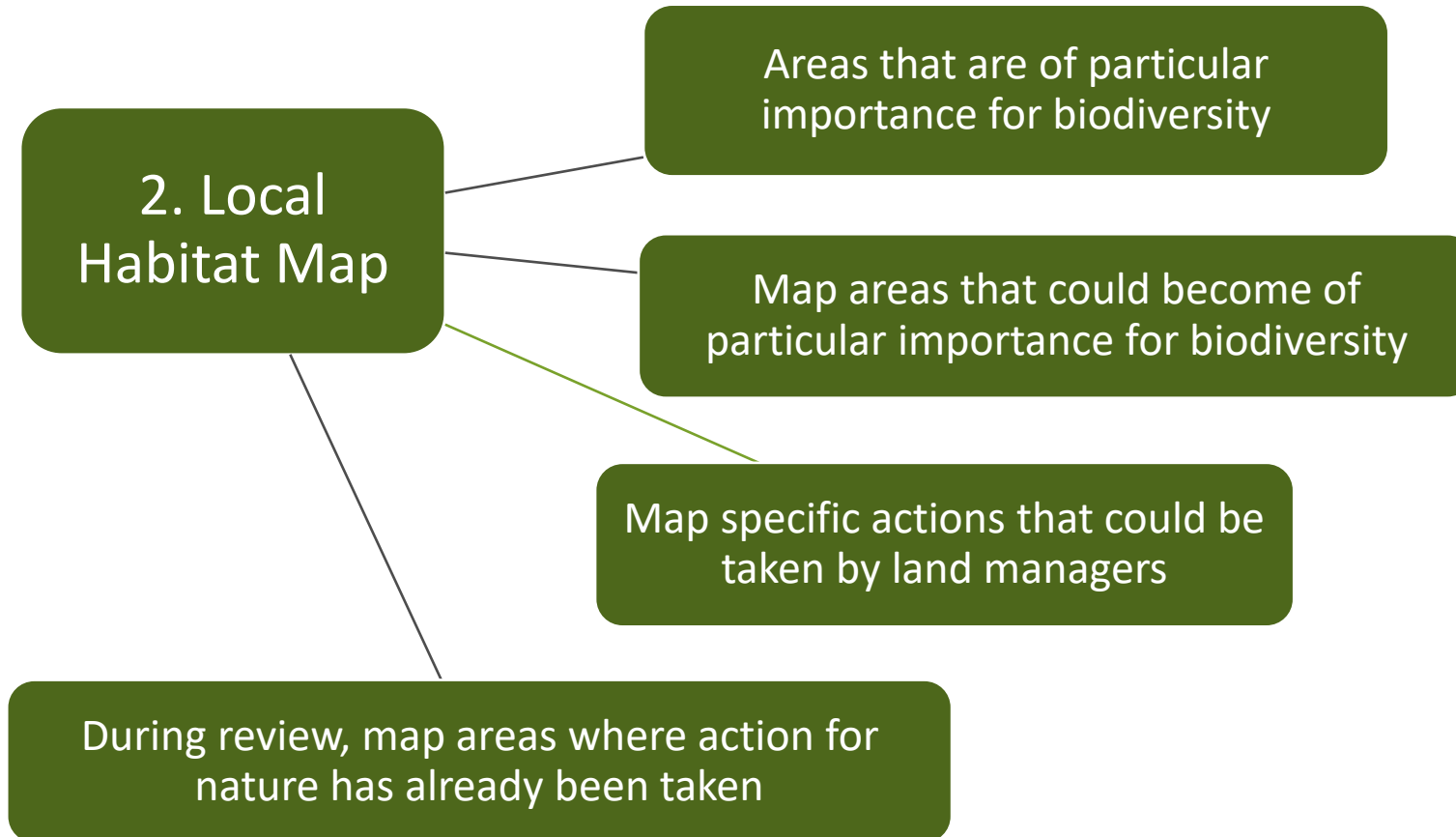
2. Local Habitat Map

Statement of biodiversity priorities





Local Habitat Map



What the LNRS isn't

A plan telling anyone what they need to or should do on their land

It isn't going to provide funding for action directly, but will influence allocation of some funds in future

It's not a plan for climate change, water quality or flood mitigation but will contribute positively and the plan must consider wider environmental objectives.

Starting from scratch. It will draw on the decades of data, reports, plans, initiatives and the wealth of knowledge people hold.

Who the LNRS is for

The LNRS is intended as a tool for anyone interested or invested in nature recovery including:

- Landowners and land managers (vast majority of Shrops & TW is privately owned)
- Local Authorities
- Conservation organisations and charities
- Town and parish councils
- Businesses
- Members of the public



Timescales

- Input sought on draft map and priorities via events in January 2025
- Draft strategy by March 2025
- Natural England, Telford & Wrekin and Shropshire Council approvals
- Public consultation in June 2025
- Consultation events
- Incorporation of feedback
- Adopted strategy in Autumn 2025
- Delivery, monitoring and review

How will the LNRS be delivered

- Must be a clear ask, keep it focused
- Stakeholders must feel the strategy is relevant and appropriate
- Funds: Biodiversity Net Gain, agri-environment schemes, lottery projects, philanthropic, corporate
- Sharing of case studies, learning and best practice
- Alignment with county and cross border projects and initiatives e.g. Severn Valley Water Management Scheme, Marches Environmental Investment Platform
- Multiple uses for each land parcel: Land is finite – food, energy, infrastructure, buildings
- Increasing awareness of issues, potential solutions, knowledge base, connection with the natural environment. Green doesn't mean biodiverse

Preliminary LNRS Map – work in progress:



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Designated Sites = brown

The pale green areas show;

- priority places where nature recovery actions would be most effective
- places with potentially higher habitat value

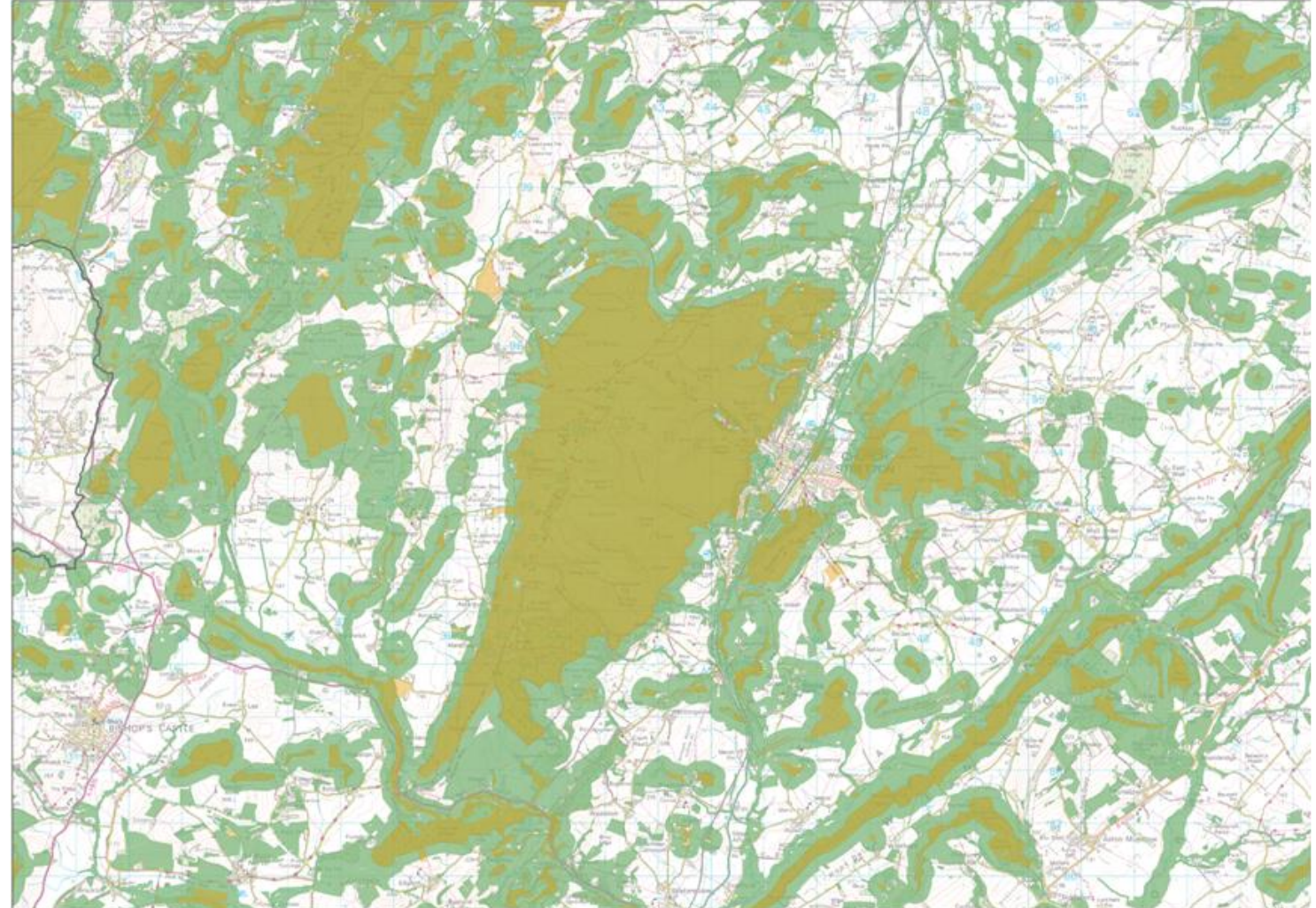
Map based on the preliminary mapping (using Oxford University mapping system)

Refinement needed

Feedback will amend the maps

Example map gives an indication of what LNRS mapping may look like

Grade 1 and Grade 2 agricultural land is screened out of the map





Mapping process (next steps)

- The map so far shows where action for nature would have most impact according to the data could happen
- We want to reflect the relevant actions that are already happening, or planned, across Shropshire. What actions do you want to be included in the map to reflect activity your involved in?
- Is there corporate land that is being considered for Biodiversity Net Gain? It should be in the LNRS map
- Can be include wide highways verges to target a specific cutting regime?
- Do we want to include aspects of the PROW network which can be corridors? Wider links into active travel and accessible greenspace?
- The map will be online and you will be able to interrogate it and provide feedback on a land parcel basis

Species in the LNRS

Survey work carried out by Community Wildlife Groups like yourselves is hugely valuable and is being fed into the strategy via county species recorders.

More information is available on the Shropshire & Telford & Wrekin LNRS website – current long list of species can be viewed there

Species are an important consideration within the LNRS. There is a task and finish group working on this aspect involving many of the county species recorders and we are grateful for their support and input.

Defra has set some clear [guidelines](#) that we must adhere to. In summary the process is to develop a longlist of species at risk, then to develop a shortlist. The shortlist is different from other shortlists that have gone before, as they are not meant as flagship species or ones that might be representative of different habitats or geographies, instead shortlist species are those which will not benefit from the broad habitat actions within the LNRS (making more habitats, making bigger habitats and making them more joined up). Shortlist species require bespoke actions to address their decline. They may be shortlisted as individual species and also as assemblages of species for which the same actions would be beneficial.

Draft Priorities



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Grouped by habitat:

- Wetlands
 - Woodlands
 - Trees, hedgerows and connecting features
 - Heathlands
 - Grasslands
 - Open habitats and habitat mosaics
 - Farmed land
 - Urban / built environment
 - Also developing cross cutting priorities such as ‘access to nature’ and ‘education’
- Draft set of priorities developed with steering group and partners
 - Shortlisting criteria used to score the priorities
 - By the end of the process, the scoring will mean that some suggested priorities will be discarded so that the LNRS is focused, reasonable, deliverable and achievable.

Upper Onny Farmers Group – nature recovery examples



The group aims to farm & produce food alongside nature, working to aid nature's recovery

- Natural flood management techniques – as recently seen on Countryfile!
- Hedgerows – planting & restoration – links to CPRE Hedgerow Heroes Project
- Wood pasture planting
- Creating & restoring hay meadows and species rich grasslands
- Increasing habitat connectivity

Implementing rotational grazing systems- improving soil health, reducing artificial inputs, move towards more traditional livestock breeds



More information can be found on the Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin LNRS website

[Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin Local Nature Recovery Strategy | Shropshire Council](#)

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Email Lynn if you would like to be added to the mailing list to receive updates on the LNRS