

Our response to the public consultation.

Incorporating feedback to strengthen Oxfordshire's final Local Nature Recovery Strategy.

Introduction

The Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) contains agreed local priorities for nature recovery, proposed actions to deliver those priorities, and mapped priority areas where action to help nature would likely have the greatest impact for nature and for wider benefits.

A great number of partners, local people, and organisations contributed towards the LNRS to agree what should be included in the strategy. A draft version of this strategy was then put out to public consultation.

A public consultation was held from 18 October 2024 – 01 December 2024 and there were 2,143 responses via emails, online survey submissions, and comments that were pinned onto an interactive online map tool. In total the 2,143 responses contained over 5,000 individual comments from individuals, farmers, landowners, councils (parish, district, city, and county), local nature recovery groups, nature recovery professionals, businesses, residents, and more. 74% of respondents felt the draft strategy was a helpful set of priorities and actions to improve biodiversity in Oxfordshire but lots of positive suggestions for change were also made and many of these have now been incorporated to produce a more robust final strategy informed by local people and organisations.

Oxfordshire County Council was then able to further refine the strategy with support from a partnership of nature recovery organisations and authorities using this detailed input from the public consultation. Local people and organisations shared a range of information such as knowledge about particular areas of land, ongoing nature recovery work, particular species, and particular habitat actions. This approach was essential to ensuring the actions that are proposed in the strategy are both ambitious and feasible.

Thank you for your time and input to help shape this Local Nature Recovery Strategy.

The content of the previous, draft strategy (that was consulted on) can still be viewed [here](#) and the final version is now online here [a link will be added for November 12th].

This document summarises key changes made to the LNRS as a result of the public consultation. Many further detailed changes have been made which cannot all be described within this summary. The amendments improve clarity, accuracy, and usability, as well as building more local knowledge and nature recovery plans into the strategy with additional actions and priorities created where necessary.

The next page gives a one-page summary of the changes made to the strategy. The rest of the document then offers more detail for those who are interested.

One-page summary of the changes made to the final LNRS.

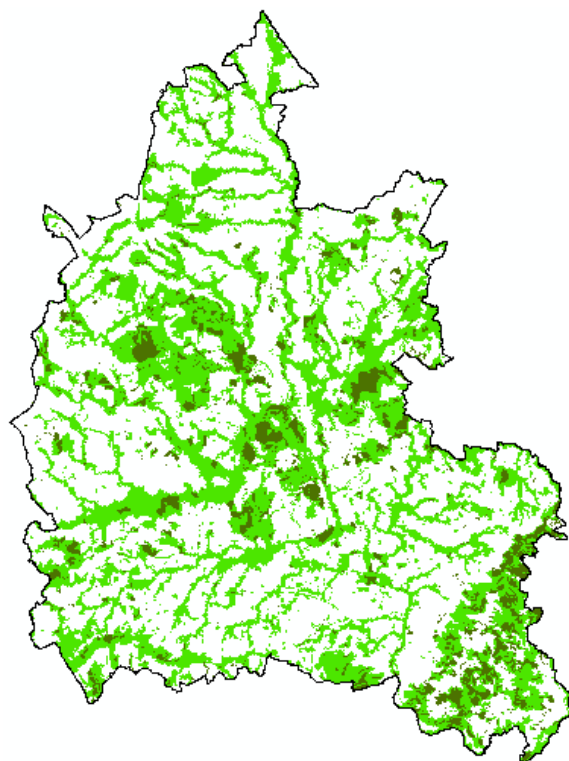
Description of Strategy Area – This document was shortened with greater emphasis placed on the vision of the strategy, additional principles, a picture of the mapped network, and a description of the upcoming delivery phase. This document then provides links to the actions that need to be taken for habitats and for species to achieve the LNRS and to the map showing where those actions need to be taken most.

Statement of Biodiversity Priorities – Some duplications on this list of priorities and habitat actions were reduced and priorities and actions were added for improving water quality, and increasing connectivity. The section on urban actions was expanded, and tweaks were made throughout the list based on information gathered through the consultation. The final list has 85 actions to take to achieve 40 biodiversity priorities in Oxfordshire.

Species Priorities List – 19 species were added to the list, 2 were removed. The final list recommends 63 actions to take for various target species in Oxfordshire. The list was restructured to group the species into broad categories such as 'Birds', 'Reptiles' and so on, and icons were added to help readers understand the type of environment where the action is needed such as 'Urban', 'Grassland', or 'Agricultural land'. Distribution maps were added to show where the species have been recorded in Oxfordshire to help people target their actions towards relevant locations.

Local Habitat Map – using consultation comments, maps, and data from local people, groups, organisations, and neighbouring counties, the mapped network was improved and expanded to strengthen connectivity and align with more local projects and knowledge. The final mapped network (see image below) rose from 36% of Oxfordshire to 40% including more urban wildlife corridors, habitat and species actions in urban areas, and the full range of Oxfordshire's [Conservation Target Areas](#). Alongside habitat creation and enhancement actions, actions for species were also added to the map to help focus priority locations for such work.

Conclusion - These changes reflect a genuine and comprehensive process of stakeholder engagement and demonstrate a commitment to producing a locally informed, accessible strategy for nature recovery in Oxfordshire that puts ecology first. This final LNRS now better serves both specialists and the wider community and is expected to next be reviewed and updated in 3 – 10 years at a time chosen by the Secretary of State. The team made as many changes as were possible with the resources and data available. In future, we expect that even more improvements could be made to the LNRS and we remain committed to improving and building in new data at the review stage.



Contents

To see further summaries about the changes made to each of the LNRS documents and the map in response to the consultation comments, please review the following sections.

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Summary of the requested changes and our response to the Description of Strategy Area document

Enhancements to Improve Length, Readability, and vision-setting.

Structure and Usability

You said	We did
Can page numbers be added to the 'Contents' page to improve navigation	Page numbers were added to the Contents page to improve navigation.
Respondents requested a clearer vision of the strategy and asked for principles to be added. "The Strategy needs a vision statement of where we want to get to; and a list of principles and measurable action on how we are going to get there"	There is now a page that brings together the LNRS vision in a clear vision statement with 3 principles that will be used to guide the delivery of the LNRS. This aims to clarify the strategy's intent and is followed by information about which actions need to be delivered and where they need to be delivered to achieve the vision.
A number of respondents asked for an improved structure and to separate the detail into Appendices to improve the accessibility of the strategy.	The structure of the strategy was improved to focus more on (1) where we are, (2) where we want to get to, (3) how we are going to get there structure.
"I would also like to see the section on pressures brought forward". Another said "climate change should be first in this section as it is an umbrella pressure that results in a range of other pressures"	The pressures section was moved higher up in the document to help describe the current state of biodiversity in Oxfordshire. Climate change is now the first pressure described.
"This is a very comprehensive and readable description of the Strategy Area. This is however a lengthy document " "This is a superb document written in an engaging style; but there is huge repetition " "I think the document is too long though again it contains a lot of useful information." "This is well written and structured. The focus on different types of restoration actions by NCA is a very nice link between different planning disciplines (landscape and ecology). The description of each NCA is clear and helps set the scene/describe the geographic context."	The document was significantly shortened (by approximately half) and the detail was separated out into Appendices to minimise repetition within the strategy document whilst keeping the information available.

Additionally, proofreading and editorial corrections were undertaken throughout the documents, including a more consistent use of punctuation, correcting repetition, clarifying figure captions, and correcting misspellings (e.g., "downland") and grammatical errors.

Requests for additional content

You said	We did
<p>There were requests for more information about Conservation Target Areas (CTAs) and other previous spatial strategies “I was disappointed that I could find no mention of CTAs. ...I thought that the draft Nature Recovery Network Plan, with its core, recovery and wider landscape zones, produced by TVERC was very informative and was wondering if there was anyway it could be incorporated into the LNR”</p>	<p>Both the Conservation Target Areas and the draft Nature Recovery Network (draft NRN) were foundational to the production of this LNRS and a page was added for each (CTAs and draft NRN) to explain their link to the creation of this LNRS.</p>
<p>“This is a great document, from which I learnt a huge amount about the county and local area. My main suggestion is that there is a lack of attention to urban areas in general.”</p> <p>“The framing from a people and nature perspective is crucial for the LNRS’s wider relevance and long-term sustainability. This should demonstrate an informed understanding of the links between human health, ecological health, and the climate crisis, which are complex and non-linear.”</p>	<p>A section on ‘people and nature’ was added to the document including a section about how the LNRS encourages action in urban areas of Oxfordshire. The relationship between human health, ecological health, and the climate crisis was brought out more clearly in this section.</p>
<p>“Please could we have SMART (specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, time-based) targets so that we know if there has been success? We also need metrics to succeed in creating ‘measurable’ targets”</p>	<p>This LNRS has worked closely with Oxfordshire’s Local Nature Partnership (OLNP) which includes a great number of organisations who support and deliver nature conservation work in Oxfordshire. The LNRS looked for opportunities to incorporate SMART targets into the strategy documents and began these discussions. Partners agreed that wider conversations needed to be had to be able to agree targets and that this should not be rushed. Since there are no current, widely agreed targets for Oxfordshire, the LNRS has approached the OLNLP and partners to invite them to agree SMART targets for Oxfordshire that the LNRS could potentially adopt during the delivery phase (after publishing the strategy document).</p> <p>Known national targets have been added to the delivery section of this strategy document.</p>
<p>“An illustrative map of the strategy area within this document would help understanding of the LNRS’s purpose.”</p> <p>“The summary needs to describe what the overall strategy looks like, with a focus on delivering a</p>	<p>Images of the mapping have been added to the strategy document to illustrate the vision for a connected network of nature in Oxfordshire. The information about the map</p>

connected network that links to other counties.” “In our opinion, the most fundamental question inherent to any LNRS is how much land we want to see being better managed for nature in the future (whether as dedicated space or nature, or multi-use space such as nature-friendly farmland).”	shows that 40% of Oxfordshire’s land is mapped for a nature recovery action (many of which are compatible with other land use such as agriculture).
“There is no mention at all of dogs and the damage they do to ground nesting birds and small mammals and amphibians.”	A section about dogs and cats was added to the ‘Pressures’ section in this document describing their impact on wildlife.

Support for the document

There were a range of comments generally supportive of the documents which helped us understand which information would be welcome to keep in the final version.

- “I welcome the reminders regarding the dire situation with loss of species. This should propel urgent, effective action to conserve and restore species and their associated habitats.”
- “This is a great document, from which I learnt a huge amount about the county and local area.”
- “There is a lot of positive potential for this strategy to be used by people who want to understand what approaches to apply or species they could also consider in their own situations”
- “The document is very well written and helpful”

More detail:

To see a full 27-page table of all the comments that were made on this Description of Strategy Area document, please see our website: [\[LINK to be added in November\]](#)

Summary of the proposed changes and our response to the Species Priorities List document

Enhancements to Improve Usefulness, Transparency, and Readability

You said	We did
<p>You asked for us to add or keep the following species on the list:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Meadow clary (<i>Salvia pratensis</i>) is missing from the draft Species Priorities List.” • “Meadow Clary” • “Trout” • “swifts and house martins” • “There are far fewer swifts” • “Natterer’s, Daubenton’s, and Brown Long-eared bats, which have all shown extreme variations in populations in Oxfordshire” • “grayling and brown trout population” • “Striped-lychnis moth” • “Farmland Birds - along with Skylark, other ground nesting species should be added, including Grey Partridge and Lapwing” • “Lapwing should be included in the breeding waders assemblage” • “Lapwing” • “I am not sure why owls are not included” • “Marsh Harrier” • “<i>Sium latifolium</i>, <i>Helosciadium repens</i>” (greater water parsnip, creeping marshwort) • “Creeping Marshwort or Fen Violet” • “dung beetles” • “reintroducing beavers” • “Desmoulin Whorl snail” • “good to see (black) poplar” 	<p>All these species were added (or retained) on our LNRS Species Priorities List. These species were reviewed by species experts and the LNRS groups and were felt to be consistent with the purpose of the list (individual species or groups of species that would be expected to significantly benefit from a known, specific recovery action that is separate/distinct from the actions already listed on the Statement of Biodiversity Priorities).</p> <p>In total, 19 species were added to the list.</p>
<p>Requests for other species to be added.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Badgers” • “You do not mention badgers?” • “Slow worms” • “Also Slow-Worm” • “Hawfinch, Woodcock and Cuckoo” • “Hawfinch” • “Lesser Spotted Woodpecker” • “water rail” • “wintering wildfowl” • “Bullfinch” • “Please could a longterm plan for introduction of Storks be included” • “apex predators such as wolves in the future” 	<p>These species were also submitted during the consultation for LNRS consideration. They were discussed and considered for addition but were not suitable at this point in time for addition to the Species Priorities List. Some common reasons included (1) insufficient evidence about the drivers of their decline (2) insufficient evidence about what action is needed to help that species recover (3) they haven’t had</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “roach” • “stickleback, bullheads as well as crayfish. The duck population has vanished... Should the red kite be culled?” • “Common Water Crowfoot” • “water crowsfoot” • “Maybe a short list of Ancient Woodland Indicator plants could be adopted as a measure of deer browsing pressure?” • “Glow-worms (<i>Lampyrus noctiluca</i>) - very local in South Oxfordshire” • “Rugged and Black Oil-beetles” • “Stag beetles” • “Pearl-bordered fritillary” • “Roman Snail” • “Hymenopterans (bees, wasps and ants)” • “<i>Pseudorhyssa alpestris</i>, a very rare, parasitic wasp recorded at Blenheim.” • “A Ruby-tailed wasp, <i>Chrysis gracillima</i>” • “Yellow-shouldered Nomad Bee, <i>Nomada ferruginata</i>” • “Wild Clary” • “Knapweed and Greater Broomrape” • “club tailed dragonfly” • “Lodden lilly” 	<p>and aren't expected to have a stronghold in this county, (4) the action they need is already one of the habitat actions listed in the Statement of Biodiversity Priorities, (5) there are other parts of the country that have more significant current populations and have more chance of successful population recovery. Some species were considered that could be added to this list in future but we need to better understand their populations, distribution, and recovery needs first.</p> <p>A link to a document containing more details about the species that were not added can be found at the end of this section.</p>
<p>Remove species “Whorled Solomon's-seal is garden escape in Oxfordshire.”</p>	<p>After the consultation, 2 species were removed from the list. Whorled Solomon's-seal and the Fly orchid. The fly orchid was removed because its action was felt to be a repetition of the general good practice management advised in the grassland and woodland sections of the Statement of Biodiversity Priorities.</p>
<p>“Blackthorn butterflies currently has a rural focus only (Otmoor). Over recent years Brown hairstreak has been recorded in various parts of Oxford and it's immediate surrounding countryside... Urban spaces are clearly significant for this species and there is scope for greater attention being given to monitoring the butterfly's presence and coordinated action to protect and encourage the blackthorn which is crucial to it thriving... Bats similarly are largely discussed in terms of rural woodland. This is certainly important for many at risk species but as the document mentions some bat species bats are also present in urban areas”</p>	<p>More information about the actions in urban areas was added for both blackthorn butterflies and bats.</p>
<p>Swifts - “It would be great to promote swift bricks with swift boxes being very much second best: the swifts use the same nest spots year on year and boxes are relatively</p>	<p>The swift text was updated</p>

short-lived, also the temperature is better regulated for nests within a building and they remain dry.”																							
Curlew – “The precious curlew pairs nesting in the upper Cherwell area (not all nests are in the river corridor) are in desperate need of a higher level project if they are to remain as a breeding species in this area; the fencing of the nests by volunteers is a real help but guaranteed appropriate management of the nesting fields along with predator control is a vital extra, not yet in place.” “Curlew – effective predator management is absent. For the species statement to appear to rely on nest fencing alone is a mistake.” There were also separate suggestions for change from the Curlew Recovery Project Lead.	The curlew text was updated.																						
“Adder and gamebird interaction is developing area for study, and it is important for the Authority to be evidenced and there is a lack of robust evidence on the impact of pheasant presence on adder populations. Some studies show no evidence of impact or interaction, and others indicate correlations of impact but tend to rely on author opinion to speculate on mechanisms to link a cause-and-effect relationship.”	This was reviewed and the LNRS group and Natural England agreed that the evidence is not yet clear enough to include statements about game birds in the adder recovery action.																						
“Breeding Waders – ‘Reduction of shooting any species considered to be Game species within this group.’ We recommend this action is updated to reflect support for sustainable harvest following best practice for research and conservation action”	<p>This was reviewed and the LNRS group investigated recent Snipe numbers in Oxfordshire which can be seen below. Since the recorded population has reached lows of 24 in 2024, the LNRS partnership supported all and any actions at this time to recover populations and prevent any further loss of Snipe in Oxfordshire. It is recognised that gamekeepers</p> <div data-bbox="970 1559 1406 2020" data-label="Figure"> <p>Common Snipe records in Oxfordshire between 1998 -2024</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>Records</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>1998</td><td>100</td></tr> <tr><td>2001</td><td>220</td></tr> <tr><td>2004</td><td>260</td></tr> <tr><td>2007</td><td>280</td></tr> <tr><td>2010</td><td>120</td></tr> <tr><td>2013</td><td>100</td></tr> <tr><td>2016</td><td>80</td></tr> <tr><td>2019</td><td>100</td></tr> <tr><td>2022</td><td>80</td></tr> <tr><td>2024</td><td>24</td></tr> </tbody> </table> </div>	Year	Records	1998	100	2001	220	2004	260	2007	280	2010	120	2013	100	2016	80	2019	100	2022	80	2024	24
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	and landowners have a significant role and opportunity to recover this species.
Further updates for some species text were suggested	Other text was adjusted based on information about Water Voles, Great Crested Newts, Turtle Dove, and other species.
"It would be great to have access to the areas where these priority species are , so we can focus in those areas eg: Barberry carpet moth – It says there is a population in West Oxon, but could be more defined. I know that this could be difficult as some species records are very sensitive."	Distribution maps have been created for all the species on the Species Priorities List to help indicate where these species have been recorded in the past. This may help to inform future work to help target which locations to support which species in Oxfordshire.
"Would it be possible to help emphasise where species can be helped in urban areas ? Hedgehogs, swifts and bats are obvious examples, but perhaps a set of icons of some kind (e.g. indicating water, urban, meadow, woodland) would help people identify visually where there are species they might be able to help? "	In addition to the distribution maps (described in the table row above), icons were also added to the table for each species or group of species to help readers understand the type of area where the actions may be most beneficial for that species.
"To improve the readability and organisation of the document, species could be grouped into broad taxonomic categories ."	Species were separated into broad groupings for the final list.
As with the priority list this list should be an appendix to a main document. Its obviously nice to see but to prsent it as one of the three main documents is really offputting to the layman.", "This document should be amalgamated into the single main LNRS and possibly in an Appendix."	Whilst this is a detailed list, the majority of consultation responses supported the list and there was appetite to keep it. We have taken steps to improve the usability of the document and this Species Priorities List has been kept as a separate part of the LNRS due to the importance of each of the species actions, their difference from the habitat actions, and the support for the list reported through the consultation. This is also

	consistent with the approach we have seen in a number of other LNRSs and was supported by Natural England.
<p>Some respondents asked why the LNRS Species Priority List only focused on some species and not all species?</p> <p>“If I understand correctly, an ecosystem needs the healthy co-existence of multiple species, not just a few “priorities”, and the “priorities” may depend on a broad range of species for their existence; that may not be identified as priorities. A strategy that targets overall improvement and diversity of ecosystems is likely to improve the population of priority species as a byproduct”</p>	<p>The LNRS supports the recovery of a huge range of thousands of species through its proposed creation of a connected, large, and enhanced network of habitats to support nature in Oxfordshire. However some species were likely to suffer if the LNRS only recommended broad improvements and this list was designed to pick those species out and identify what additional actions they would need. The LNRS supports broad habitat improvements through the Statement of Biodiversity Priorities, and specific additional actions needed for certain ‘at-risk’ species through the Species Priorities List. Both these lists have actions which are also mapped onto specific locations on the Local Habitat Map</p>

Other comments

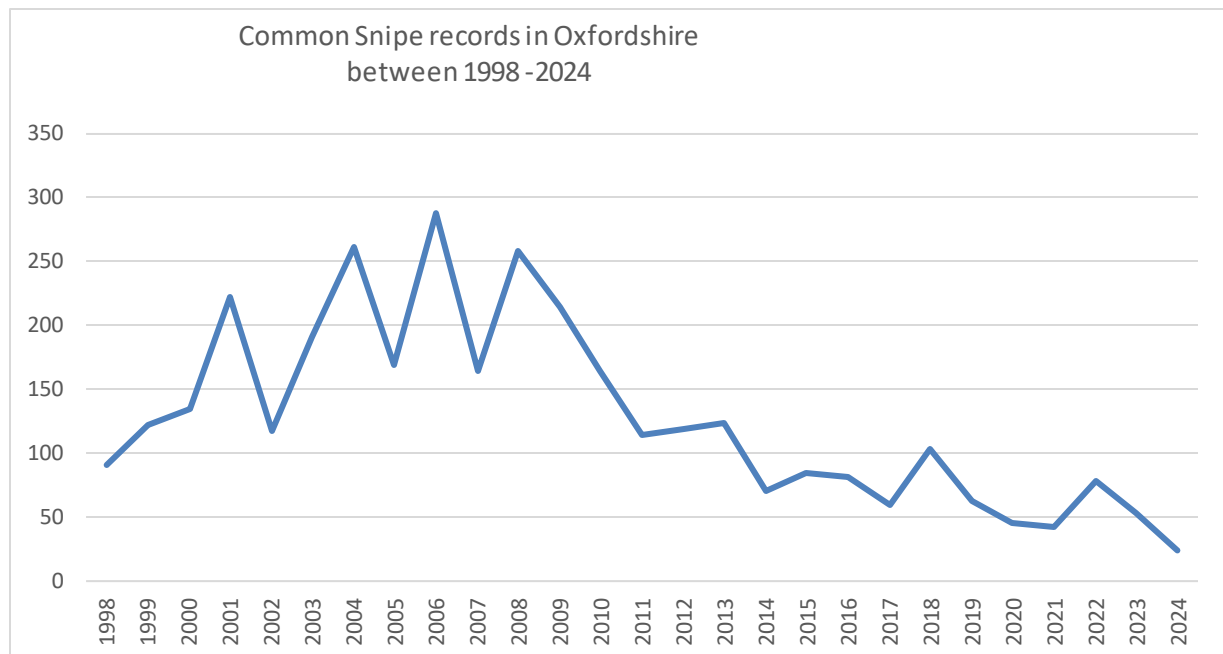
There were a range of other comments which helped us understand which information would be welcome to keep in the final version.

- “It is a fascinating document with much detail and interesting data.”
- “I think it would be good to have some complimentary work on being able to raise awareness of the priority species, encouraging general citizens to report sightings to help map the priority species”
- “Agree fully but also the focus should be on all helping all species everywhere to ensure the best possible habitat for wildlife. Doing this will help all including the priority species.”
- “A very impressive list of species that require safeguards and concrete, specific conservation measures. If effective, these will benefit wildlife more widely. Urgent action please and robust monitoring, enforcement.”
- “Again, this is a comprehensive and well researched list of species in the County. It provides good information on which the Strategy for Recovery could be based but it is not in itself a Strategy. It contributes to Part 1 of the Strategy”

More detail

- To see a full 20-page table of all the comments that were made on this Species Priorities List document, please see our website: [\[LINK to be added in November\]](#)

- To see information about how the list was made please see our website: [[LINK to be added in November](#)]
- To see the reasons for which species were added, please see our website: [[LINK to be added in November](#)]



Summary of proposed changes and our response to the Statement of Biodiversity Priorities document.

Key Adjustments and Revisions Based on Collected Feedback

Additions and clarifications

You said	We did
Connectivity – “The draft statement of biodiversity priorities is generally excellent, but given that the 3 main national priorities to protect the high biodiversity parts of the natural environment are to make them: "Bigger, Better, and Better Connected" it is the last priority which is poorly identified in the overall structure of the draft statement. Connectivity is mentioned only like an 'add-on' at the end of each section of the list dealing separately with grassland, woodland, rivers and farmland”	The draft had ‘connectivity’ as a measure in multiple sections throughout the document, but there was support to reduce repetition. In the final LNRS, we therefore created a single priority focused on achieving connectivity across all habitats in the county. The Final LNRS now has a single priority focused on connectivity.
“Wider environment - towns, cities and green spaces. This is a welcome section, but I feel it could be much expanded”	This section was expanded with additional measures based on the response to the consultation.
“We are broadly supportive of the content of the draft Statement of Biodiversity Priorities. However, to ensure overall sustainability of the strategy there needs to be greater clarity and more detail given to the ‘people and nature’ narrative. ”, “Could a priority action be included with a focus on human ecology/human stewardship”	Actions that focused on human stewardship was added alongside a number of new priorities to achieve in villages, towns, and cities.
“referencing the creation of sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) can be a valuable way to improve biodiversity while also contributing to flood reduction”	Sustainable draining systems were added as an action on the final LNRS list as an action that can be taken to support biodiversity and achieve wider benefits in urban areas.
“As street trees have particular management requirements, but particularly strong natural services benefits, could these be more explicitly mentioned? This is particularly pressing in the context of Climate Adaption.”	Street trees were more explicitly mentioned as an action near settlements in Oxfordshire to benefit people and biodiversity.
“Could this be added please, with an action focussed on supporting Oxfordshire allotments to make the most of their biodiversity assets?”	There is now an action specific to allotments and community growing spaces that growers can refer to and use when describing their contribution to biodiversity improvements in Oxfordshire.
“The broad approach to priorities for freshwater - in that it covers the full range of freshwater habitats - is	The draft LNRS had a range of freshwater habitat improvement

good.", "You need an action to "improve river water quality in Oxfordshire"	actions but there wasn't a specific priority to enhance water quality. A water quality improvement priority and measure was therefore added to the final LNRS.
"We would like a priority to include the need to significantly increase the amount of floodplain meadows in Oxfordshire and the river catchments it contains."	This priority and associated measures existed in the draft strategy and was kept in the final version.
"PM41: Is there scope for an additional PM relating to canal restoration , given the ongoing efforts to restore the Wilts and Berks Canal? Doesn't quite seem to be covered by any of the others in this section."	A canal specific measure was added to the final LNRS list.
"BASC has 3,000 members in Oxford, who manage species such as deer, woodpigeon, grey squirrel and mink, and manage habitats such as woodlands, hedgerows and wetlands. Sustainable shooting is an ally to the delivery of the Oxfordshire LNRS objectives because it is a financial and social driver for the investment in the improvement of habitat extent and condition and its associated ecosystem services. We encourage you in your documentation to note the benefits that shooting sports can bring to nature recovery."	There are a number of actions and measures in the LNRS that require the management of certain species such as deer, grey squirrels, and predator management for certain at-risk species. The LNRS endorses that BASC members and other conservation members can support nature recovery through such actions. Whilst shooting isn't specifically referred to in the LNRS, many specific delivery partners weren't mentioned individually. However, we do recognise that sustainable shooting will be a key partner during the delivery of the LNRS and we do identify game, shooting, and conservation partners as key delivery partners in the 'How to deliver the LNRS' section of the Description of Strategy Area document.

Text added, removed, adjusted and Biodiversity Net Gain UK Habs Codes and NVC classifications

When asked whether anything should be removed, other respondents offered a handful of duplications which the final LNRS has corrected to reduce this but no further suggestions of removals were made.

You said	We did
"We would like it to include which NVC and which UK Habs habitats apply to each measure. Either the words should align and/or the codes and habitat types should be listed to encourage appropriate actions in those locations to support BNG decisions. Whilst not all habitats would be created through BNG, these codes	For each 'create' or 'enhance' measure on the list, the relevant UK Habs Codes and NVC codes were added where possible to help illustrate the types of habitats that the action is trying to

may help clarify the habitats for other users. It is suggested that these codes not confuse the accessibility for a wide range of users.”	incentivise the creation or enhancement of.
“Needs to be shorter, more concise and manageable. Probably all important but too large as a guiding document. Most people will not read it.”	We intend to present the strategy online in a manner that allows the detail to be hidden with the headlines available for people to click into the detail – allowing people to more easily access the sections that are most relevant for them. We hope this helps.
“The Biodiversity Priorities and the Potential measures swap between the use of tenses . Some are written as a vision e.g. ‘there are more areas of scrub’, and some as an action ‘create or restore areas of lowland heath’ which appears confused. Wording them all consistently as an action or goal to be achieved would make it clearer for the wide variety of groups who may refer to the Strategy.”	This was addressed and resolved in the final version of the strategy.
“I am unclear as to how the list of priorities is to be used. I would expect that priority 1 would be the most important, Number, say, 22 much less important and 33 still less important. Whereas manifestly a lot of these can be carried out at the same time or some will be done sooner if specific pots of money enable them.”	The priorities are not listed in order but instead by habitat types and the type of area. For heathland there are two priorities, but for another habitat type there are more. It was not possible to identify single actions that are more or less important than others and the LNRS I expected to engage widely with a range of people and organisations across Oxfordshire which has also led to a range of diverse priorities to achieve in the county. It is understood that the partnership of organisations who helped to create the LNRS will also need to support local people to use and deliver the LNRS.
“How often will these documents be updated as details may change in very few years”	All LNRSs are expected to be asked to review and republish their strategies at a time chosen by the Secretary of State in the next 3- 10 years. The final LNRS therefore uses language that is flexible as far as possible to try and accommodate changes in best-practice in the coming years.

When asked whether anything should be removed, consultation respondents offered a handful of duplications which the final LNRS has corrected to reduce this but no further suggestions of removals were made.

Other comments about the Statement of Biodiversity Priorities

- “We strongly welcome the priorities and potential measures listed in the Statement of Biodiversity Priorities.”
- “BASC works with government agencies, arms-length bodies and partnerships like the Deer Initiative and the UK Squirrel Accord to share best practice and to develop more effective techniques and networks of people to improve management of deer and grey squirrel. We were particularly pleased to see some of the more detailed objectives.”
- “I didn’t spot any glaring omissions off the bat. It’s clearly laid out and not overly long and complex, which is super!”
- “The list of priorities and actions looks great, and I commend the team on putting this together”
- “Further I would suggest this needs to be an appendix to a main document - it is confusing to an outsider to get thrown into this extensive list without more guidance to its purpose.”
- “We wanted to comment positively on the way the document is written; we find it easy to navigate and really appreciate how this links into the wider ecosystem services/natural capital approach, as well as on biodiversity. As part of our asset standards, we seek to include natural capital assessments into our design.”

More detail

- To see a full 40-page table of all the comments that were made on this Statement of Biodiversity Priorities document, please see our website: [\[LINK\]](#)
- To see information about how the list was made please see our website: [\[LINK\]](#)

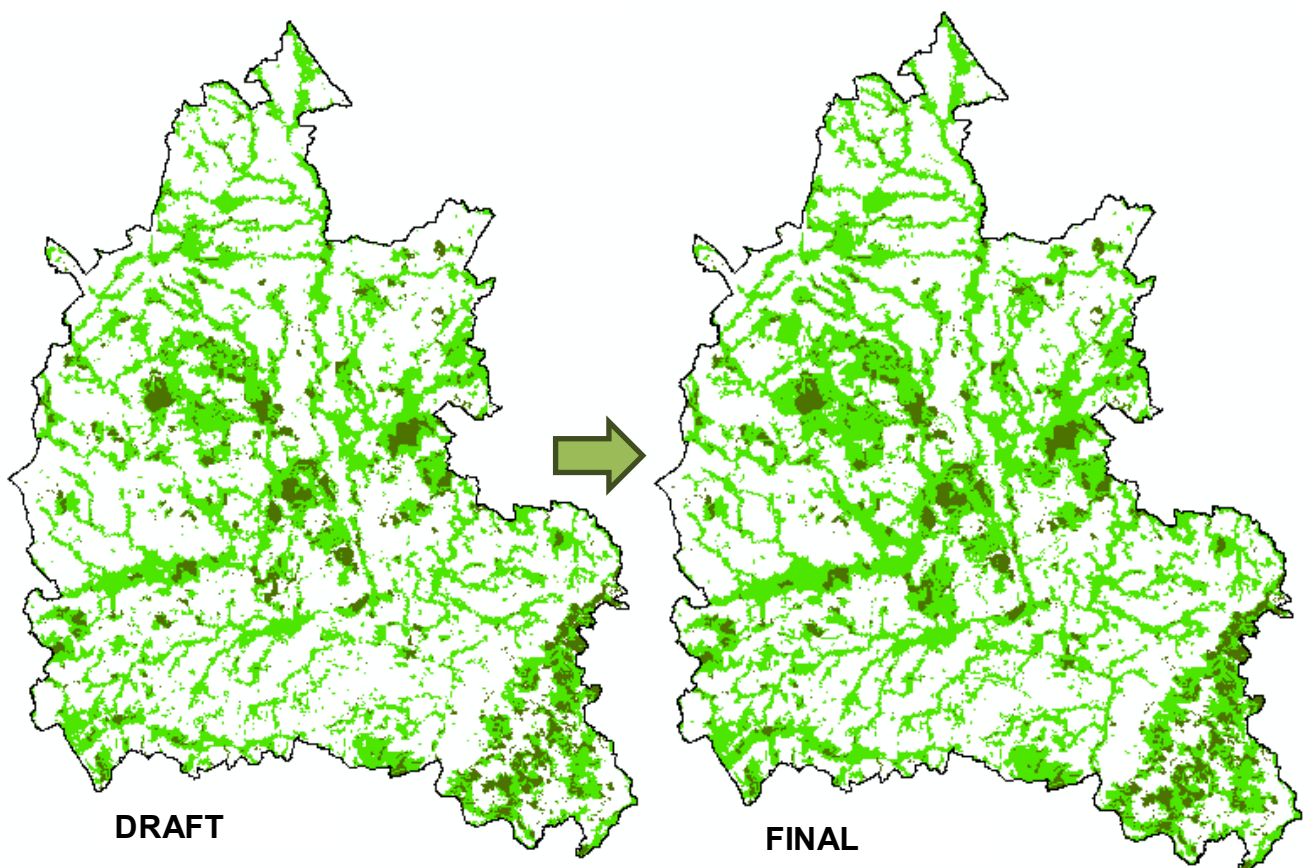
Summary of the changes made to the Local Habitat Map in response to stakeholder comments

Key Adjustments and Revisions Based on Collected Feedback

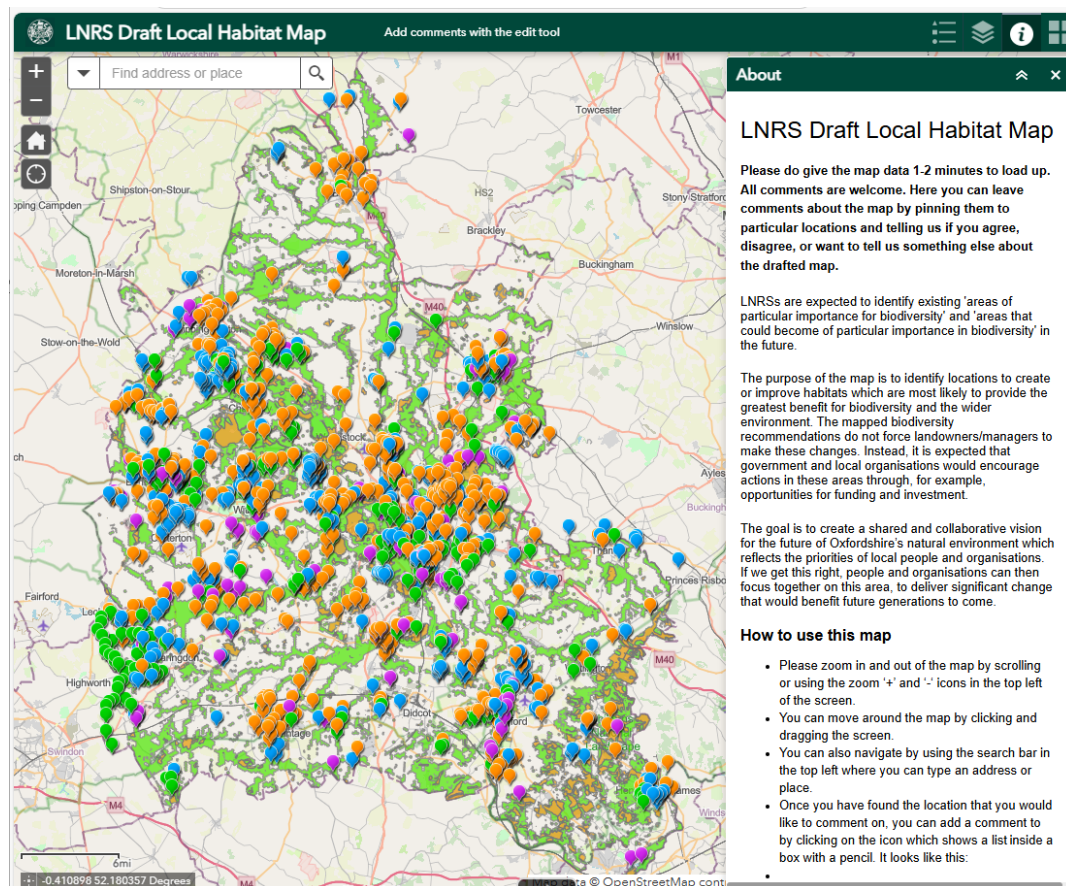
The Local Habitat Map, maps out locations where Oxfordshire could deliver actions for nature to achieve a well-connected, biodiversity-rich, network of nature that is resilient into the future, restored for the health and wellbeing of future generations, and for nature's own sake.

Through the consultation, the Local Habitat Map collected information from local people and organisations which was used to (1) modify the area mapped to add or remove areas as appropriate, (2) tailor actions to be more specific, (3) add mapped actions for species, and (4) further strengthen connectivity.

Below, left you can see the draft version of the LNRS network covering about 36% of Oxfordshire, Below, right you can see the final version of the LNRS network, now covering about 40% of the county.

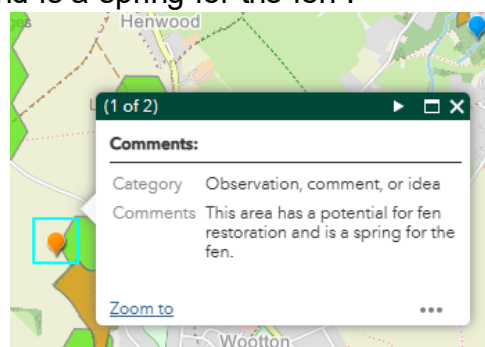


During the consultation, this LNRS received over 1,900 comments on the map shown on the image below (the balloon-shapes each indicate the placement of a comment by a respondent).



Comments contained a range of requests

- Most requests asked for an **additional area to be included** within the network. See an example below, that says "This area has a potential for fen restoration and is a spring for the fen".

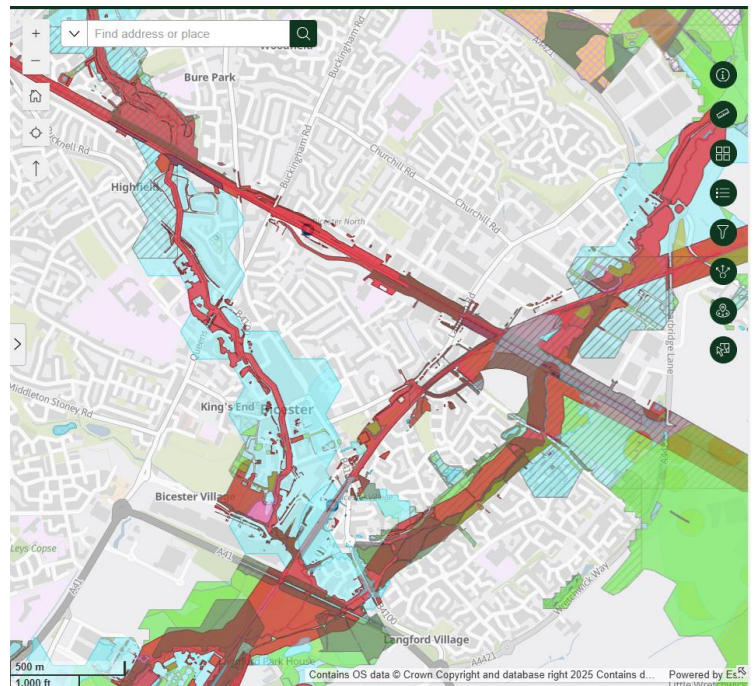
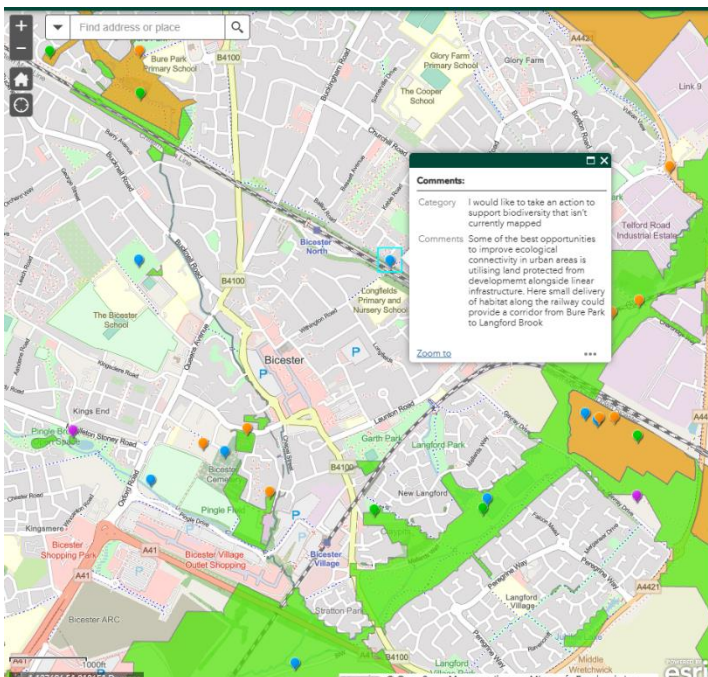


- Other requests included **changing the measure** from one thing to another. For example you said "This is Osney Cemetery. Action here should be creating a mosaic of habitats including trees, scrub and species rich grassland. This site has potential to be very interesting but need proper ecological management." This enabled the LNRS to change measures on sites such as religious grounds, allotments, and playing fields to ensure there were community-focused options to enhance biodiversity in such area in a manner that complemented the community-use of the space.

- Very few people asked for **land to be removed** from the mapping. Removals were only agreed to by the LNRS if:
 - o The site was mapped in error (for example, we had mapped onto an existing building or carpark)
 - o Or if the change would represent a minor adjustment to the boundary of the network and would therefore not negatively affect the overall network or connectivity of the network.
 - o Or if the LNRS group had reviewed the individual case and agreed to its removal based on relevant evidence.

Urban biodiversity

- There were a number of requests to improve the mapping to have more biodiversity actions along existing corridors in urban environments to produce and incentivise more green corridors in and around urban areas. Comments identified existing corridors in urban environments such as railway sidings, watercourses, and cycle 'greenways'. These were all included where they appeared within all urban areas in Oxfordshire. See an example below in Bicester where a respondent highlighted the value of including the spaces alongside railways as urban corridors for wildlife. You can see that this area wasn't included in the draft (below, left) but was added for our final version (below, right) in addition to a watercourse. This additional mapping focuses on creating connected corridors through urban environments to form part of a wider network of habitats.



- Some respondents asked why there were isolated hexagons or smaller areas included in the mapping that were further away from the main network. Typically these areas had been included because they contained existing rare or fragmented habitats such as ponds or orchards that are few and far between. This LNRS had then incentivised the creation of additional habitat around those features to try and bolster nature in those areas. However, there

were some isolated areas of mapping that didn't have particularly unusual or rare habitats and we therefore removed any instances of small patches of mapping. In the final map, isolated areas of mapping were only retained in the if they contained ecologically important and/or rare features in the county such as

- Existing ponds that need enhancing
- Existing fens that need enhancing
- Existing traditional orchards that need enhancing
- Existing ancient woodland that needs enhancing

Usability and Functionality

- In the final LNRS map we have also improved some of the functionality of the map tool. For example, the zoom is less sensitive, making it easier to zoom in and out of the map on computers and phones. Additional information was added to the loading page of the map to provide people with information about how to use the map viewer. A new feature was also added to enable viewers to draw around particular areas of interest to view, download, and export the LNRS actions (potential measures) that have been mapped within those areas. This should significantly improve the usability of the map data for those who are planning projects across Oxfordshire.

Other comments

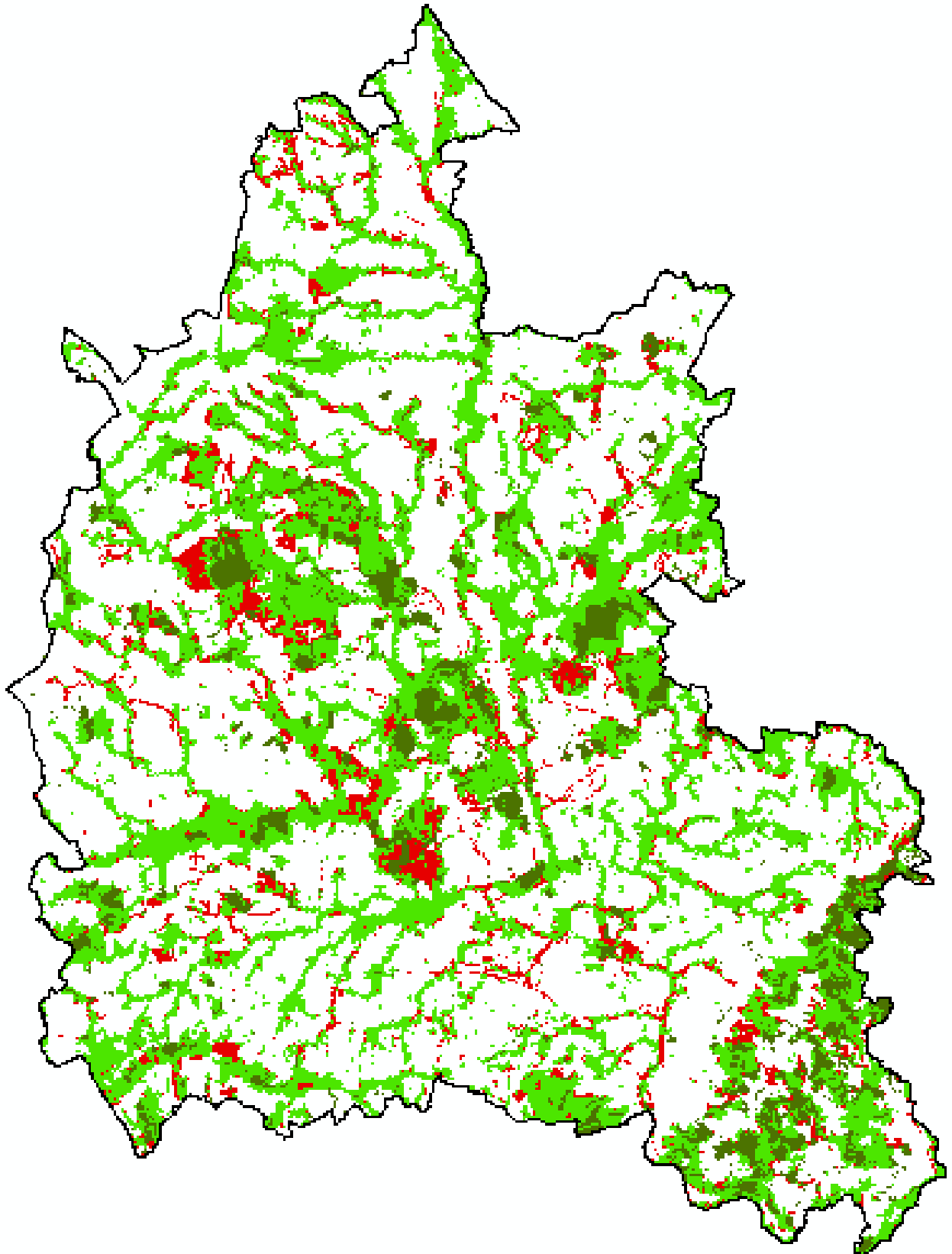
- “The Arcgis MAP is amazing.”

More detail

- To see a full 100-page table of all the comments that were made on this Local Habitat Map during the consultation, please see our website: [\[LINK to be added in November\]](#)
- To see information about how the map was made please see our website: [\[LINK to be added in November\]](#)

What changed?

In the image below, you can see which areas were added as a result of the consultation process. The draft map is shown in green. The areas that were added to the LNRS final map are shown in red. The total extent of the final LNRS map includes both the green and red areas.



The below images here show the location of the consultation comments. The black circles (bottom left) show where people placed comments on the LNRS draft map. The green area shows our earlier draft map. The red areas show the locations that were added to the LNRS map as a result of the consultation.

