CABINET
21 OCTOBER 2025

OXFORDSHIRE'S LOCAL NATURE RECOVERY STRATEGY (LNRS)

Report by the Director of Environment & Highways

RECOMMENDATION

1. **Cabinet is RECOMMENDED to**

    (a) Approve the adoption of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS)
    (b) Support the County Council's commitment to deliver, monitor, and review the LNRS in future (post-adoption) in partnership with local people and organisations.

Executive Summary

2. Oxfordshire's LNRS vision is clear: 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. To achieve the vision, the strategy contains:

    (a) a narrative description of biodiversity in Oxfordshire,

    (b) a set of actions that need to be delivered to benefit both species and habitats in Oxfordshire,

    (c) a map that pinpoints key locations where many of these actions could be delivered during the delivery phase.

3. A number of changes have been made to the LNRS following a successful public consultation.

4. This report invites Cabinet to adopt Oxfordshire's Local Nature Recovery Strategy. Adoption would enable the strategy to be formally launched and shared with local people and organisations to build on existing work for nature and help to shape future actions for nature recovery in Oxfordshire. Launching and delivering this strategy would directly contribute to the national effort by the UK Government to deliver the 25 Year Environment Plan and meet the aims of the Environment Act 2021. The 25 Year Environment Plan was published by the government in 2018 and set out the government's goals for improving the environment within a generation, and leaving it in a better state. It details how government will work with communities and businesses to do this.

Context and background

5.   England is widely considered to be one of the most nature-depleted countries in the world. Following historic and ongoing declines, countries across the world have, on average, only 75% of their biodiversity remaining since recording began. The UK ranks in the bottom 10% of countries meaning that it is among the world's most nature depleted countries. According to the State of Nature 2023 report [1], nearly one in six UK species are at risk of extinction and since 1970, England has experienced a 32% decline in species numbers.

6.   This decline in biodiversity is primarily due to habitat loss and fragmentation where human land use has competed with nature (including intensive agriculture and development). The State of Nature report recognises the need for a different approach, one that enables people and nature to live well together. The government expects that LNRSs will be the tool to facilitate this new approach.

7.   Government has made legally binding commitments to end biodiversity declines and for nature to recover. This is important both for nature's own sake and for all the things that people rely on nature for, such as clean water, food production, and an environment that is more resilient to a changing climate. However, for nature to recover, targeted, co-ordinated and collaborative action will be required.

8.   The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs appointed 48 Responsible Authorities to lead the preparation of an LNRS for their local area. Together, once adopted, these 48 strategy areas will cover the whole of England with no gaps or overlaps. Each adopted LNRS will state locally agreed biodiversity priorities as well as a map showing the proposed priority locations where nature recovery actions could particularly benefit wildlife and people.

9.   The Defra Secretary of State decided which geographical area each strategy would cover and appointed a 'responsible authority' to lead its preparation, publication, review and republication.

10.   On 30 June 2023, Oxfordshire County Council was appointed as a Responsible Authority under section 105 of the Environment Act 2021 [2] to prepare and publish a Local Nature Recovery Strategy for Oxfordshire.

11.   The main purpose of the strategies is to identify locations to create or improve habitat most likely to provide the greatest benefit for nature and the wider environment. The strategies do not force the owners and managers of the land identified to make any changes. Instead, the government is encouraging action through, for example, opportunities for funding and investment.

12.   Oxfordshire's LNRS vision is clear: 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.

13.   To achieve the vision, the strategy (see Annex 1) contains

(a)   a narrative description of biodiversity in Oxfordshire,

(b)   a set of actions that need to be delivered to benefit species and habitats in Oxfordshire,

(c)   a map to pinpoint key locations where some of these actions could be taken during the delivery phase.

14.   The strategy shows that 6.5% of Oxfordshire is already particularly important to biodiversity and needs enhancing and maintaining. However, this is low compared to the national average and the areas within this 6.5% are fragmented and undermanaged. The strategy suggests nature recovery actions over select areas in the county that could create a connected and resilient network of nature covering 40% of Oxfordshire.

15.   The Environment Act 2021 sets out the expectation that LNRSs will record and monitor nature recovery actions in the local area and that LNRSs will be reviewed and republished by the Responsible Authority "from time to time" at a point decided by the Secretary of State, expected to be every 3 – 10 years after the publication of this first LNRS.

16.   This Council recognises that the health of our natural environment is fundamental to the health and wellbeing of people and communities within the county. Protecting and enhancing biodiversity is not just important for nature itself but also for the benefits and resilience this can bring for people, communities, businesses, and the wider economy.

Preparing the Local Nature Recovery Strategy.

17.   Since August 2023, Oxfordshire County Council has worked in partnership with a range of nature recovery organisations, local authorities, and local people to prepare a collaboratively-created set of priorities that would, if delivered, recover nature and biodiversity in Oxfordshire. The strategy has not been created in isolation.

18.   To produce a mapped nature recovery network in the county, expert advice and guidance was procured early in the strategy development. This ensured that the process was scientific, stakeholder-focused, and followed a well-evidenced methodology that could be transparent and repeatable. The LNRS worked closely with a Professor in Conservation Science who is the Director of the Durrell Institute of Conservation and Ecology (DICE [3]) to create a mapped nature recovery network for Oxfordshire that prioritised the best locations for nature recovery actions. The LNRS followed a methodology called 'Systematic Conservation Planning' [4] to do this. Systematic Conservation Planning is a well-established, internationally-used set of steps focused on democratic processes, engagement, and evidence to produce large-scale, map-based conservation plans.

19.   Over 60 different datasets were fed into our prioritisation process to produce the map tool, and the full list can be seen (in Annex 4). Some of the datasets that were used to produce the LNRS mapping included:

(a)   Previous spatial strategies for local nature recovery such as the Conservation Target Areas and the draft Nature Recovery Network.
(b)   The latest soil data from Cranfield University
(c)   Agricultural Land Classification data about the best and most versatile agricultural land
(d)   Flood zone areas
(e)   Important Freshwater Areas, Freshwater Habitats Trust
(f)   Natural England Priority Habitat Inventory
(g)   Parish and local nature recovery group maps
(h)   Archaeological site data
(i)   Comments from the public consultation and prior LNRS surveys

Consultation

20.   The health of our natural environment is fundamental to the health and wellbeing of people and communities within the county. Protecting and enhancing biodiversity is not just important for the environment itself but also for the benefits and resilience it can bring for people, communities, businesses, and the wider economy. It was therefore considered important to engage as widely as possible throughout the preparation of the LNRS to ensure that the strategy holds relevance and benefits both for nature and for as many people as possible.

21.   After being appointed to prepare the LNRS on 30 June 2023 the Council and LNRS partnership set up a range of working groups and a steering group made up of over 140 people from a range of organisations to influence decision-making. Most groups met monthly (see organogram in Annex 3). One group focused on consultation and engagement and produced an engagement plan in late 2023.

22.   In 2024 (February – June 2024) the LNRS held 14 workshops, 2 online surveys, and further public webinars inviting a range of audiences to help shape the priorities, actions, species, and locations prioritised in the strategy. Events were tailored for audiences including farmers, landowners, minerals operators, parish councils, nature recovery groups, businesses, councillors, nature recovery professionals, school children in Oxfordshire, and local residents. This information contributed towards the creation of the draft version of the strategy which was prepared in 2024 and shared back to the public for oversight in October 2024 through a public consultation.

23.   The public consultation was held online from 18 October 2024 – 01 December 2024 and the LNRS partnership attended and hosted around 50 meetings and events to invite local people and organisations to comment on the draft strategy. This attracted particularly strong engagement with over 2,000

responses to the consultation on the draft strategy containing over 5,000 individual comments.

24. The consultation closed in December and the Leverhulme Centre for Nature Recovery began analysing the data and preparing a report that was ready in early 2025. This report was shared publicly online and contained all the comments that were received during the consultation and a summary of the themes and requests for change.

25. From early 2025 – July 2025 changes were made to the draft LNRS based on the consultation responses and an adjusted final version of the LNRS was prepared. To see which changes were made in order to finalise the LNRS, a report can be found (in Annex 2). A high-level summary of the changes made after consultation requests include:

    (a) Shortening and restructuring the Description of Strategy Area document making the vision and principles of the strategy clearer with images of the mapping and a description of the upcoming delivery phase. A section was also added to emphasize the benefits of nature and how the wellbeing of people and nature relate to each other.

    (b) Priorities about improving water quality and prioritising connectivity were added to the Statement of Biodiversity Priorities. The section on urban biodiversity was also expanded adding more specific suggestions of actions that the LNRS asks people to take in villages, towns, and cities across Oxfordshire. There are 83 actions to be taken across urban areas, agricultural land, rivers, freshwater habitats, grassland, woodlands, orchards, fens, and more.

    (c) Nineteen species were added to the Species Priorities List and two were removed based on consultation responses and further discussions. 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 help people target their actions towards known species locations.

    (d) Using consultation comments, maps, and data from local people, organisations, and neighbouring counties, the Local Habitat Map mapped network was improved and expanded to strengthen connectivity and align with local projects and knowledge. The final mapped network rose from 36% of Oxfordshire to 40% (see image below) including more urban wildlife corridors, habitats in urban parts of Oxfordshire, and the full range of Oxfordshire's Conservation Target Areas [5]. Alongside habitat creation and enhancement actions, actions for species were also added to the map to help focus these towards priority locations.

26. The proposed changes made by the LNRS reflect a genuine and comprehensive process of stakeholder engagement and consultation which demonstrate a commitment to producing a locally informed, accessible

strategy for nature recovery in Oxfordshire. The final version of the LNRS (in Annex 1) 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. This is the first document of its kind for Oxfordshire and it is expected that as the organisation, partners, and government guidance mature further in this space that subsequent updates to the LNRS itself and the data sets it is built on will continue to improve and enhance with time through the review stages.

Implications of adopting the strategy

27.   This report asks the Council through its Cabinet to approve the adoption and publication of this final version of Oxfordshire's Local Nature Recovery Strategy.

28.   Adopting and approving this strategy will formalise the actions recommended within it as an agreed blueprint and vision that organisations and people across the county can work on and deliver together.

29.   By approving the strategy, organisations and people across Oxfordshire will be able to start using the priorities, actions, priority species, and mapped locations in their project planning. Publishing the strategy is expected to enable projects to attract more funding and investment if local projects can demonstrate that they would deliver LNRS priorities and actions.

30.   There are a great range of delivery partners expected to support the delivery of the LNRS including individuals at home or school, community and parish nature recovery groups, farmers and landowners working together in clusters or across catchments, local government, organisations, businesses, utilities companies, and developers. A range of User Guides have been produced as part of this work to enable different end-users to access and make use of the strategy. The LNRS also expects to continue its process of engagement into the delivery phase to support delivery partners to implement the LNRS and to report on actions they have taken.

31.   LNRSs, once adopted, are expected to be used to target nature recovery actions towards the mapped locations. This includes opportunities to focus the delivery of 'Biodiversity Net Gain' habitat banks. Such habitat banks are expected to attract and receive payments from developers who need to comply with their duties to enhance the environment. The LNRS helps to co-ordinate the delivery of these actions and payments towards strategically significant areas, which would help to contribute towards a joined-up vision for a network of nature in the county.

32.   The published LNRS is expected to influence planning decisions and planning policy. Where the LNRS has mapped nature recovery actions onto certain parcels of land, planners are required to "have regard to" the LNRS when making decisions. However, the strategy itself does not prevent landowners from using the land for other purposes and does not force the owners and managers of the land identified to make any changes. Instead, the government

is encouraging action through, for example, opportunities for funding and investment.

33. Additionally, the LNRS has made it clear that the strategy's mapped recommendations can help to inform decision making but do not offer a way to bypass the necessary permissions and site assessments. It has been made clear that all sites still need 'on-the-ground' assessments, including conversations with the relevant authorities and nature recovery professionals to ensure that any actions taken are suitable given the most up-to-date conditions of any site.

Corporate Policies and Priorities

34. The LNRS offers a blueprint for the creation of a connected, resilient, network of nature throughout Oxfordshire. If adopted and delivered, this would achieve a great range of wider benefits for local people and would significantly contribute towards 4 of the Council's 9 priorities, with further opportunities to benefit a further 4 priorities.
    (a) **Priority 1, 'Put action to address the climate emergency at the heart of our work'**. The adoption and delivery of this LNRS would significantly build up the local natural environment, enabling the county to be more resilient to storms, flooding, extreme heat and other changing weather patterns. The creation of such a significant network of habitats would not only act as a vast carbon sink (to sequester huge amounts of carbon), but would also offer wetland habitats that would provide flood relief to the county, and create a joined up network that wildlife could move through in order to survive as weather patterns change.

    (b) **Priorities 2, 3, and 6; 'Tackle inequalities in Oxfordshire', 'Prioritise the health and wellbeing of residents', and 'Preserve and improve access to nature and green spaces'.** The LNRS uses recently published work [6] by researchers at the Environmental Change Institute to identify which parts of the county are experiencing both socio-economic deprivation and poor provision of accessible green spaces. By adopting and publishing the LNRS, the strategy helps bring attention to the need for further action in these 16 priority neighbourhoods to reduce inequalities, enhance access to green space, and bring the health and wellbeing benefits of nature closer to people in Oxfordshire.

    (c) **Priorities 4, 5, 7, and 9** (can be viewed here [7]). Adopting the LNRS enables a great range of projects to align their projects with the LNRS recommendations to deliver multiple benefits. For example, sustainable active travel projects, green social prescribing projects, and flood relief projects are some of the projects that can be aligned with the LNRS and if they focus on enhancing the environment, they could improve the sustainability of healthcare options, create environmentally positive projects for children to deliver in schools, and bring more opportunities for investment and funding for local businesses and partners who want to deliver environment benefits.

Financial Implications

35. The table below summarises the total spend to prepare the project and the grant that has been allocated to the LNRS to 'transition into delivery'.

Funding Source	Amount	Purpose	Timeframe
Defra (LNRS Preparation section 31 Grant already used)	£270,000	Strategy creation, staffing, public consultation events, data acquisition, mapping tools	Jul 2023 - Jul 2025
Defra (LNRS Transition to Delivery Grant)	£135,000	Staffing, partnership coordination, prepare a project pipeline, monitoring, data collection	Nov 2025 - Nov 2026

36. This grant is expected to cover a 12-month period between November 2025 – November 2026 to support this Responsible Authority to transition from strategy creation into delivery of the strategy. The financial management of this grant would sit with the LNRS Project Manager. The LNRS does not expect to use the grant for any capital expenditure. Expenditure would be revenue based only.

37. After November 2026, it is anticipated that Defra would provide additional funding for any costs associated with the additional burdens of creating, publishing, monitoring, reviewing, and republishing LNRSs. If no further funding is provided by Defra the current Project Manager would no longer be funded to continue beyond November 2026. If the Council wished to contract a Project Manager for a longer period or permanently then this could reduce risks associated with waiting for funding. However, there are no anticipated additional costs to the Council if funding stops other than the loss of benefits from the project.

38. By investing in the creation and delivery of the LNRS, the strategy has identified areas to achieve 'nature-based solutions' in Oxfordshire. If spaces for nature can be enhanced and created in a manner that achieves multiple objectives for both people and wildlife, the Council could unlock significant cost savings across services including (but not limited to); health, wellbeing, climate change adaptation, healthy place shaping, active travel, and flood risk management. Supporting and embedding the LNRS within Council operations would simultaneously deliver a range of additional benefits for the environment as well as improving the quality of life for local people in Oxfordshire.

39.   The strategy also offers opportunity for land-owning organisations to benefit financially from the delivery of Biodiversity Net Gain nature recovery actions if their habitat banks deliver nature recovery actions in the locations mapped by the LNRS.

Comments checked by:

Matthew Kocak, Management Accountant,
Matthew.Kocak@Oxfordshire.gov.uk (Finance)

Legal Implications

40.   The requirement for authorities in England to prepare and publish Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRS) was introduced under the Environment Act 2021 [2]. LNRSs are a mechanism introduced to help achieve national environmental targets by creating spatial plans to highlight areas that need targeted environmental improvement. These strategies will play a crucial role in enabling local actions for nature recovery as well as guiding the delivery of Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG), helping the government meets its national environmental targets whilst also producing a wide range of benefits for local communities.

41.   The LNRS regulations (The Environment (Local Nature Recovery Strategies) (Procedure) Regulations 2023 [8]) set out the procedures to be followed in the preparation and publication, and review and republication of local nature recovery strategies. Regard should also be had to the LNRS statutory guidance [9]. The legislation does not mandate any specific actions from landowners. Instead, it is envisaged that the LNRS will be delivered through collaborative efforts from a range of people and organisations, supported by current and future funding and investment opportunities.

42.   Under Section 102 of the Environment Act 2021, public authorities are obligated to conserve and enhance biodiversity, and in turn, have regard to the relevant local nature strategies, particularly when making planning policies.

43.   Having been appointed as a Responsible Authority, the Environment Act 2021 requires Oxfordshire County Council to prepare and publish a local nature recovery strategy which must include (a) a statement of biodiversity priorities, and (b) a local habitat map for the whole strategy area or two or more local habitat maps which together cover the whole strategy area. The Act gives details of what should be included in each of (a) and (b).

44.   The Regulations also include a requirement on all Responsible Authorities to take reasonable steps to involve all supporting authorities in the preparation of the local nature recovery strategy including receiving their approval to consult on the previous draft version of the strategy. This LNRS has the following supporting authorities (SAs); Cherwell District Council, Oxford City Council, South Oxfordshire District Council, Vale of White Horse District Council, West Oxfordshire District Council, and Natural England.

45. Since late 2023, all of the SAs have all been closely involved in the project's decision-making at LNRS Steering Groups, and at a specific SA LNRS working group to ensure monthly, regular updates are shared with each and all the SAs. The SAs have received copies of the draft LNRS and of this more recent final LNRS to invite them to endorse or object to the LNRS.

46. Once adopted and published by the Responsible Authority, the Council will have complied with its legal responsibilities to prepare and publish a local nature recovery strategy.

47. There will be an ongoing responsibility for the Responsible Authority to keep the strategy up-to-date and relevant into the future as part of a review and republication process. Regulation 20 requires the Secretary of State to give notice to Responsible Authorities of the need to review and republish their local nature recovery strategies. The first such notice must be given no earlier than 3 years and no later than 10 years after the LNRS Regulations come into force and subsequent notices must be given at intervals of no less than 3 and no greater than 10 years.

Comments checked by:

Jennifer Crouch, Head of Law (Environmental)
jennifer.crouch@oxfordshire.gov.uk (Legal)

Staff Implications

48. There are no additional staff resource implications in adopting the LNRS and the commitments within.

49. To note that the Council currently has an LNRS Project Manager contracted in post until November 2026. This post is funded through a DEFRA grant to begin the delivery of the LNRS. Existing council resources will be used to oversee delivery through third parties that will by managed through and with Oxfordshire's Local Nature Partnership. It is assumed that any further legal obligations beyond those already required of Responsible Authorities, or extending beyond that date would be subject to further funding from DEFRA.

Equality & Inclusion Implications

50. An Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA) was completed in December 2023 and has been updated in August 2025 (see Annex 6). This was checked and guided by Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Lead in the Public Affairs, Policy and Partnerships team. They endorsed the EIA and it has since been signed off by the Head of Countryside and Waste on 5th August 2025.

Sustainability Implications

51.   A Climate Impact Assessment (CIA) was completed in December 2023 and has been updated in August 2025. The Climate Team's Carbon Analyst has since signed this CIA off on 5th August 2025, confirming that it has been completed to standard (see Annex 5).

Risk Management

52.   Throughout the strategy's development, a range of risks were identified and proactively addressed using a risk register, including:
(a)   Potential limitations in resources and time required to produce the strategy.
(b)   The possibility that Supporting Authorities might object to publishing the draft or launching the final strategy.
(c)   The risk of raising public expectations that the Council will fund delivery actions across Oxfordshire, or that the strategy could prevent development—neither of which the LNRS can do.
(d)   Concerns that local groups may not wish to share data with the LNRS or support the strategy.

53.   To manage these risks, the LNRS refined its communications to ensure clarity and avoid misunderstandings. Stakeholders, including residents, were directly asked if they supported the strategy, and the response from the groups who were consulted was overwhelmingly positive. Regular check-ins throughout the project helped ensure progress remained on track within the available resources and timeframe. Notably, among all 48 LNRSs being developed in England, this LNRS has consistently reached milestones and satisfied requirements outlined by Natural England and Defra ahead of given timelines. We expect to be one of the first 10 strategies to be published in England.

54.   Looking ahead to the delivery phase, the Council may face new risks, such as:
(a)   With national expectations for LNRSs during delivery still unclear, establishing a delivery framework may take time to navigate, risking public frustration over perceived delays. However, because all LNRSs nationwide face the same uncertainty, Oxfordshire is unlikely to attract particular negative attention. To mitigate the risk, this LNRS is already working with Oxfordshire's Local Nature Partnership and partner organisations to proactively discuss delivery options, target setting, and will maintain transparent communication about the situation regarding national guidance
(b)   The statutory requirement to monitor local nature recovery actions means the LNRS will need to create a self-reporting tool for local people and organisations that maps out where action has been taken. There is a risk of low uptake with self-reporting tools which could hamper monitoring and misrepresent action levels. Previous attempts at such tools in Oxfordshire have struggled with engagement and were eventually discontinued. However, the LNRS has shown that it can use spatial data and produce innovative mapping tool. This is expected to inspire confidence that local actions could be recorded on a user-

friendly tool and that data will be used, displayed, and reported on. The LNRS may also offer additional incentives in future to those who self-report, such as the chance to have land included in future versions of the strategy which could attract funding towards their projects and this may further encourage participation.

(c)   Once the strategy is published, there is a risk that the public may mistakenly view the LNRS as a means to 'protect' land from development. However, there is no legal power within the LNRS itself to protect any land from any other land use (such as development). The LNRS also has no power to require that landowners or land managers comply with any of the mapped actions. The strategy's messaging helps to clarify this and mitigate this risk. However, planners are required to have regard to the LNRS and are expected to use information from the LNRS as part of their evidence-base when making planning decisions. Exactly how future planning policy is worded could affect the scale of this risk and could put landowners off from engaging with the strategy in future.

(d)   Following adoption, insufficient support or investment could slow or impede strategy delivery. Delays would likely perpetuate historical declines in biodiversity, worsening local environments, causing further species loss, and eroding the benefits of a healthy natural environment—such as clean water, safe public spaces, better air quality, cooler urban areas, and reduced flooding.

The consequences of not prioritising nature recovery extend beyond nature itself—they affect people and businesses as well. Oxfordshire could see increased risks such as a worsening of physical and mental health conditions, greater pressures on health and community services, fewer outdoor recreational opportunities, reduced skills, independence, and resilience among young people, less reliable local food production, hotter urban environments (especially for vulnerable populations), more frequent and severe flooding and drought, escalating insurance costs, diminished quality of life, and a loss of sense of place.

Concluding remarks

55.   Failing to adopt and deliver the LNRS is expected to mean that authorities, organisations, communities, and farmers will likely need greater financial resources to maintain health, wellbeing, food production, the needs of young people, air quality, flood prevention, and resilience against extreme weather such as storms and drought. Prioritising nature recovery is essential to safeguarding these vital benefits for Oxfordshire's future.

Paul Fermer,
Director of Environment and Highways

Annex:

Annex 1: The final version of the LNRS
    a. The Description of Strategy Area
    b. The Statement of Biodiversity Priorities
    c. The Species Priorities List
    d. The online Local Habitat Map which can viewed here: [LNRS Final App](#) (please allow a minute for this to load when viewing for the first time, or zoom into an area to view more detail). Image below.
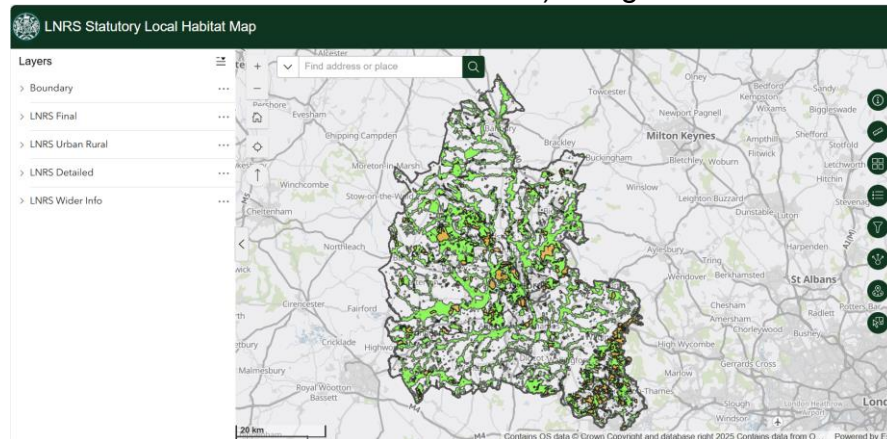
Annex 2: a report that summarises the main changes made to the LNRS as a result of the consultation. This summary also shows where you can find more details about further changes made if you wish to.

Annex 3: The organogram diagram of groups involved in the LNRS decision making showing membership and frequency of meetings.

Annex 4: a table showing the 60+ datasets that were used to inform the production of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy Local Habitat Map.

Annex 5: A copy of the Climate Impact Assessment for the LNRS.

Annex 6: A copy of the Equalities Impact Assessment for the LNRS.

Background papers:

The following list provides the full web address of all links used within the document:

[1] The State of Nature 2023 report: https://stateofnature.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/TP25999-State-of-Nature-main-report_2023_FULL-DOC-v12.pdf

[2] The Environment Act legislation https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2021/30/part/6/crossheading/local-nature-recovery-strategies

[3] Durrell Institute of Conservation and Ecology (DICE) https://www.kent.ac.uk/anthropology-conservation/people/557/smith-bob

[4] Systematic Conservation Planning, a paper explaining the process: https://www.sciencedirect.com/topics/earth-and-planetary-sciences/systematic-conservation-planning

[5] Oxfordshire's Conservation Target Areas, further information: https://www.wildoxfordshire.org.uk/oxfordshires-nature/conservation-target-areas

[6] The LNRS uses recently published work by researchers at the Environmental Change Institute to identify which parts of the county are experiencing both socio-economic deprivation and poor provision of accessible green spaces: https://www.eci.ox.ac.uk/news/boosting-oxfordshires-green-space-deprived-neighbourhoods

[7] A link to Oxfordshire County Council's Strategic Plan and priorities: https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/council/our-vision

[8] The Environment Act Regulations (2023): https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2023/341/made

[9] The LNRS statutory guidance document published early in the LNRS process: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/local-nature-recovery-strategy-what-to-include

[10] The link to the pre-publication LNRS web map viewer. The data shown here, if approved for publication, will be published formally online on the 12th November 2025: https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/ea43e0bc07c044ef8ca4b16803c5e59c

Other Documents:

The Statutory guidance for Responsible Authorities explains in detail what these the LNRS should contain and how it should be prepared and published.

The Environment Act (2021) section 104 and 105 describing the preparation and requirements of Local Nature Recovery Strategies can be found here.

Contact Officer:

Chloe Edwards, Local Nature Recovery Strategy Project Manager, chloe.edwards@oxfordshire.gov.uk

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