



Devon Local Nature Partnership

Introduction to Local Nature Recovery Strategies

What are Local Nature Recovery Strategies?

- Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRS) are a new approach to provide spatial planning and set priorities to support nature at a local level in England.
- They are a requirement of the Environment Act 2021. Work is starting on their preparation during 2022.

Which areas will be covered by Local Nature Recovery Strategies?

- The whole of England will be covered by LNRSs with no gaps or overlaps.
- Defra will confirm the LNRS geographies after talking to local authorities.
- It is likely that the whole of Devon will be covered by a single LNRS, supplemented with more detailed 'nested' plans in specific areas.

What will they contain?

- The Environment Act 2021 specifies that they will include a 'statement of biodiversity priorities' and a 'local habitat map'.
- They will also provide a description of nature in the strategy area, giving an opportunity to update what we know about the state of nature and the benefits it provides us with.
- As well as setting out priorities for habitats and species, they will identify opportunities for enhancing the many benefits we gain from nature, such as scenic landscapes, lower flood risk, better water quality, storage of carbon, and personal health and wellbeing.

Who will prepare them?

- Defra will appoint 'responsible authorities' who will draw up the LNRSs in conjunction with other authorities.
- The Strategies will be collaboratively produced and involve engagement and involvement with a wide range of interested stakeholders.

What assistance will be provided?

- Defra will provide data and guidance to aid their preparation. This will include maps of habitats and protected sites.
- Natural England is appointing staff who will support and facilitate the creation of LNRS in each area. It will provide a range of spatial data through a national data portal.

How will LNRSs be used?

- They will map the locations and identify priorities where creating or improving habitat will achieve the greatest benefits.
- They will provide local planning authorities and developers with information to deliver Biodiversity Net Gain through the planning system.
- They will guide public and private investment in the countryside, including through the new Environmental Land Management Schemes.

What are we doing in Devon?

- Discussions are taking place between the three top tier authorities (Devon County Council, Plymouth City Council and Torbay Council) on how they will work together.
- A core team of staff have started to prepare a project plan and communications strategy, including identification of key stakeholders and engagement with interested groups.
- Work is underway on updating key evidence and mapping spatial data, for discussion with partners and wider stakeholders.

What happens next?

- Defra will confirm the geographies and responsible authorities for LNRS. Regulations will be approved by parliament and funding allocated. National guidance and data will be provided.
- It is anticipated that this initial planning will be completed by the end of 2022, allowing work on Devon's LNRS to continue during 2023.