

LOCAL NATURE RECOVERY STRATEGIES



WHAT ARE LOCAL NATURE RECOVERY STRATEGIES?

Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRS) are upcoming spatial plans mandated by the Environment Act in England. Their purpose is to identify important priorities and map out proposals for specific actions that will help to restore nature and provide broader environmental benefits in a particular local area supporting the national [Nature Recovery Network](#).

The Defra Secretary of State will determine the coverage of each Local Nature Recovery Strategy and choose a suitable [responsible authority](#); equipped with local knowledge and established democratic mandates (usually a local authority) to prepare it. Review and updates will be required every 3 to 10 years.

WHAT WILL BE INCLUDED IN LOCAL NATURE RECOVERY STRATEGIES?

The Government has published [statutory guidance](#) to explain the process and contents of Local Nature Recovery Strategies. Further guidance on how these strategies should be reflected in Local Plans, alongside related regulation and guidance on irreplaceable habitats, is still pending. The response indicates the Government intends for Local Nature Recovery Strategies to play a more significant role in the land use planning system than just supporting biodiversity net gain.

Key elements included within LNRS are:

A **statement of biodiversity priorities** for the strategy area, and —

- a description of the strategy area and its biodiversity,
- a description of the opportunities for recovering or enhancing biodiversity, in terms of habitats and species, in the strategy area,
- the priorities, in terms of habitats and species, for recovering or enhancing biodiversity (taking into account the contribution that recovering or enhancing biodiversity can also make to other environmental benefits), and
- proposals as to potential measures relating to those priorities.

A **local habitat map** for the whole strategy area or two or more local habitat maps which together cover the whole strategy area, identifying —

- National conservation sites in the strategy area,
- any local nature reserves in the strategy area provided under section 21 of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949, and
- other areas in the strategy area which in the opinion of the responsible authority —
 1. are, or could become, of particular importance for biodiversity, or
 2. are areas where the recovery or enhancement of biodiversity could make a particular contribution to other environmental benefits.

The Environment Act requires the UK Government to provide any relevant information it has, to help create effective LNRS. This includes detailed maps of habitats and national conservation sites, which will help prioritise the restoration and conservation of nature at a local level.

To encourage off-site enhancements in the areas of greatest benefit, the Biodiversity Metric suggests a **15% uplift** (increase) in units generated in the locations proposed by the Local Nature Recovery Strategy.

Habitat Maps

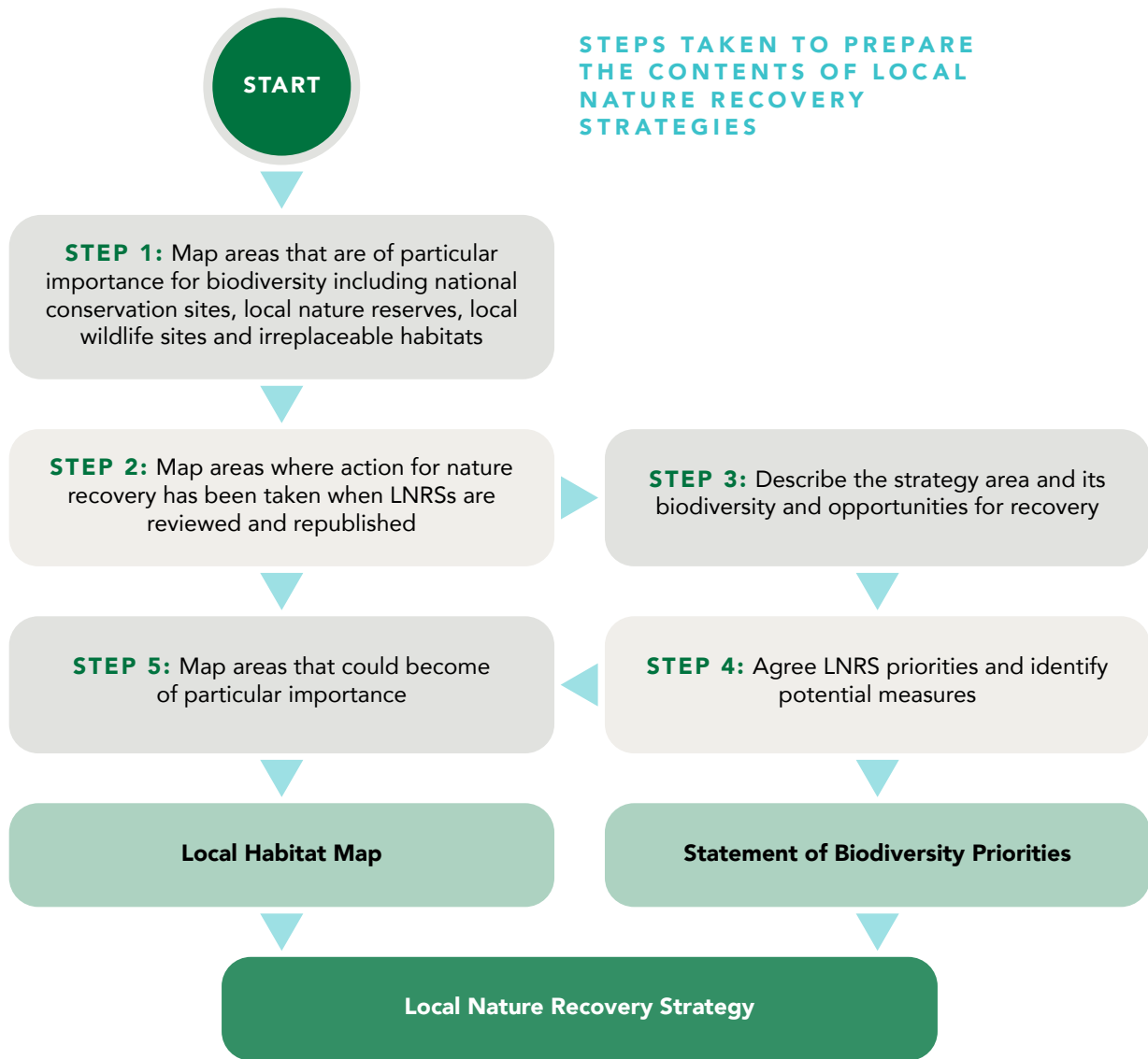
Local Nature Reserves are just one of the several different types of local wildlife sites. Government has stated that it intends that each **local habitat map** should identify all local wildlife sites within their area. As these sites go by different names and there is no standardised legal definition of them, there is not a specific requirement to identify them. Instead, they should be included under the wider requirement for the local habitat map to identify other areas of particular importance to biodiversity.

Links to achieving environmental net gain

(ENG): The Government's overall ambition is that LNRS will become the new focal point for a broad range of land use and management activity, also intended to support the delivery of wider environmental objectives. They will map opportunities for nature recovery and the use of nature-based solutions for wider environmental issues like flooding, climate change mitigation and adaptation, or poor water quality.

Examples: Defra funded five Local Nature Recovery Strategy [pilots](#) that ran from August 2020 to May 2021 that covered Cornwall, Cumbria, Buckinghamshire, Greater Manchester and Northumberland.

WHAT WILL BE INCLUDED IN LOCAL NATURE RECOVERY STRATEGIES? (CONTINUED)



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