



Introduction to the Berkshire Local **Nature Recovery** Strategy

A presentation for the

**APSE Southern Region
Parks and Open Spaces
Seminar 2023**

Rosie Street

Berkshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy

Agenda

Section	Time
What are Local Nature Recovery Strategies?	15 minutes
Why recover nature in Berkshire?	5 minutes
State of LNRS and opportunities for you	5 minutes
Q&A	5 minutes

What is a Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS)?



Image: Natural England

Who is in the core LNRS team?

- West Berkshire Borough Council
- Reading Borough Council
- Wokingham Borough Council
- Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead
- Bracknell Forest Borough Council
- Slough Borough Council
- Natural England

Understanding the context for LNRS

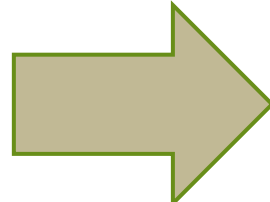
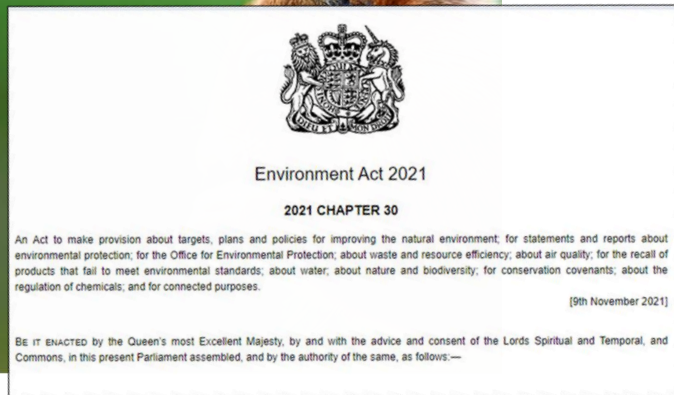
- ▶ England's biodiversity is declining*,
 - ▶ 13% of species are threatened with extinction
 - ▶ 36 plant species have become extinct
 - ▶ 35% species in England have seen their populations decrease
 - ▶ 31% species found in fewer places

▶ Climate change, some land management practices and development pressures have contributed to this decline

* % decline since 1970



Understanding the context for LNRS



Our apex goal
Goal 1:
Thriving plants and wildlife

Improving environmental quality



- Goal 2:** Clean air
- Goal 3:** Clean and plentiful water
- Goal 4:** Managing exposure to chemicals and pesticides

Improving our use of resources



- Goal 5:** Maximise our resources, minimise our waste
- Goal 6:** Using resources from nature sustainably

Improving our mitigation of climate change



- Goal 7:** Mitigating and adapting to climate change
- Goal 8:** Reduced risk of harm from environmental hazards

Improving our biosecurity

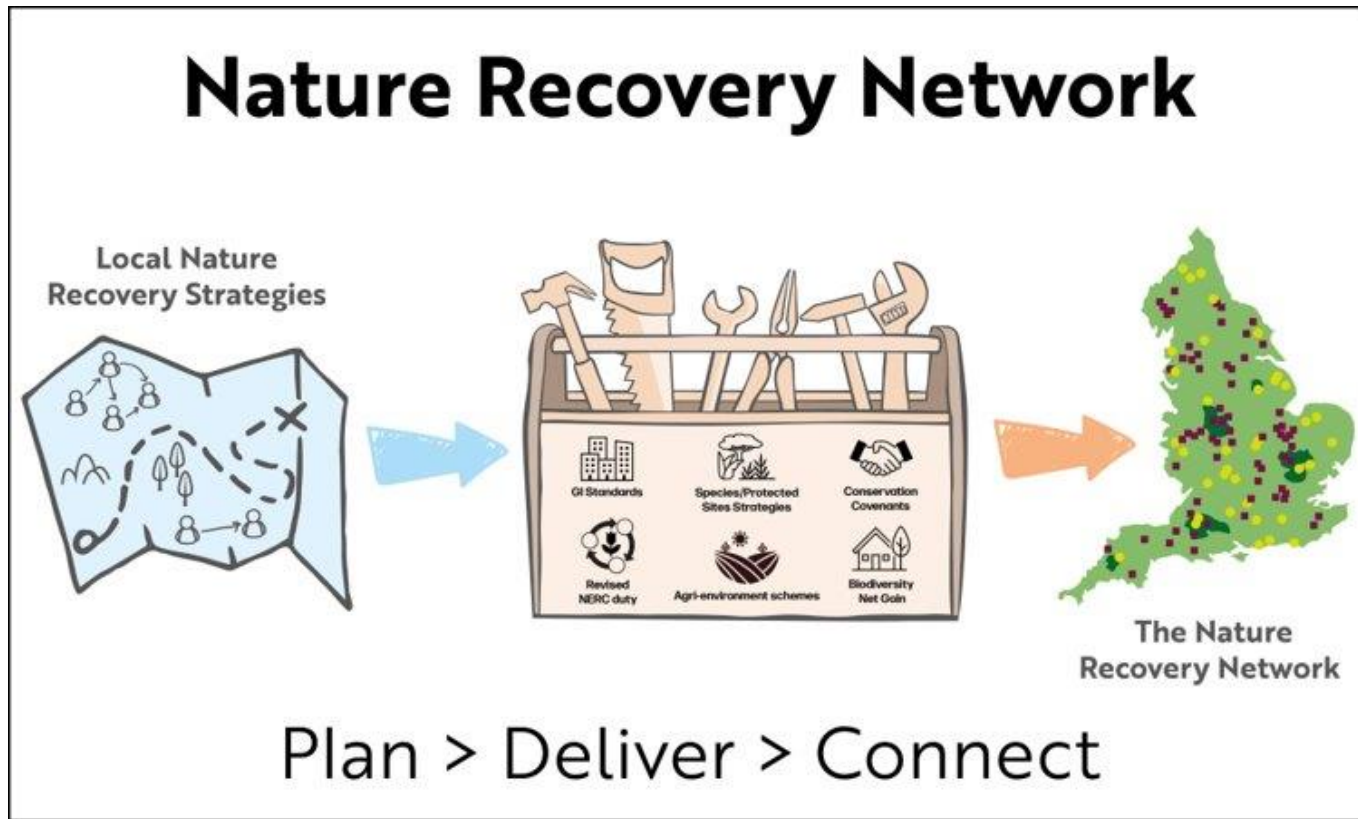


- Goal 9:** Enhancing biosecurity



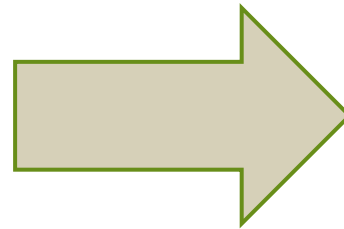
Goal 10: Enhanced beauty, heritage, and engagement with the natural environment

LNRS - part of the Nature Recovery Network



What is an LNRS?

A new, locally led, transparent and collaborative planning and decision-making tool for nature's recovery

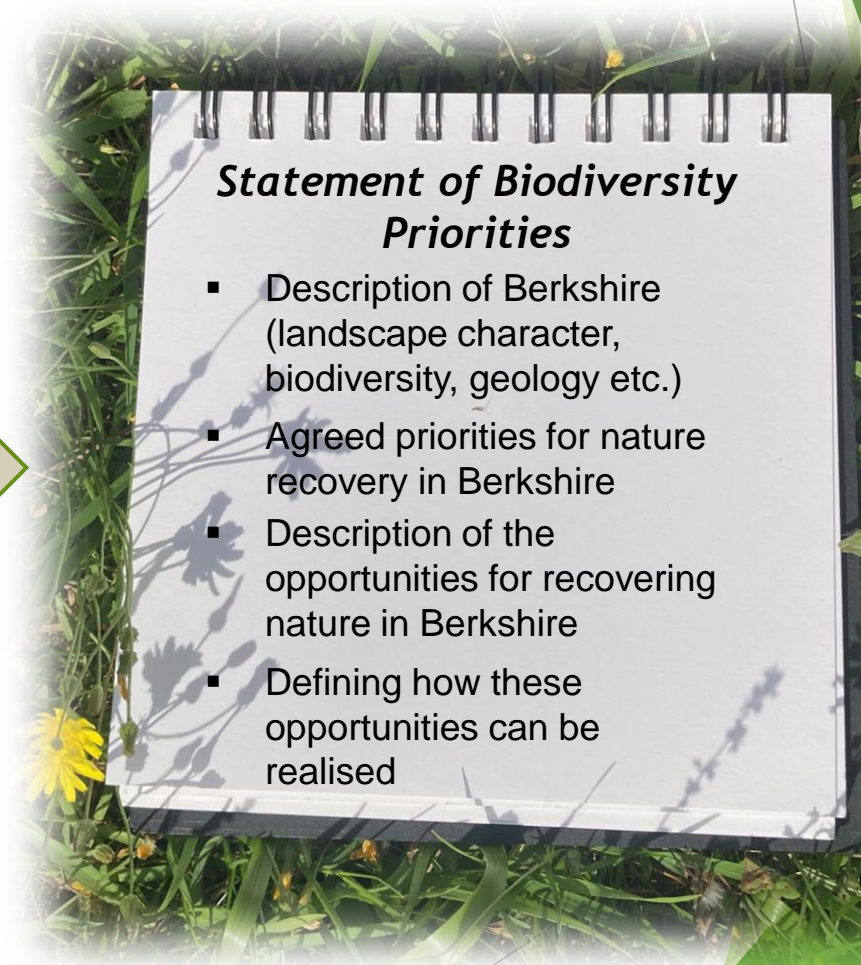


Local Nature Recovery Strategy

Statement of Biodiversity Priorities

Local Habitat Map

What is in an LNRS?



What is in an LNRS?

Local Nature Recovery Strategy

Statement of Biodiversity Priorities

Local Habitat Map



What is in the Local Habitat Map?

- A map layer that indicates where the existing wildlife-rich places are - the 'baseline habitat map'
- A map layer indicating where in Berkshire we can create new, bigger, better and more joined wildlife-rich places, or could contribute to other environmental co-benefits - the 'opportunities map'

Example LNRS output – the Cornwall LNRS Pilot

CORNWALL NATURE RECOVERY STRATEGY

OUR PRIORITY MEASURES & OUTCOMES

For the next five years the following will be our collective **priorities**. We have distinguished two measures for each priority: to **Enhance & Protect** existing high-value habitats in Zone 1; and to **Create & Restore** in priority opportunity areas in Zone 2, towards extending, defragmenting and connecting the network with corridors. (The method for prioritisation and zoning is described in Appendix 1.)

SHORT-TERM PRIORITIES:
WE WILL ENHANCE, PROTECT, CREATE & RESTORE...

WETLAND AND NATURALISED WATERCOURSES
A dynamic, healthy and more connected wetlands, floodplains, ponds & watercourses are naturally functioning, whilst supporting diverse species, flood resilient communities, and fulfilling their blue carbon potential – especially peatland.

WOODLAND AND ANCIENT WOODLAND
An increase in woodland cover which is well managed, more connected and linked by resilient corridors with the right tree in the right place, protected ancient sites, and all woodland types supporting a diverse community of species.

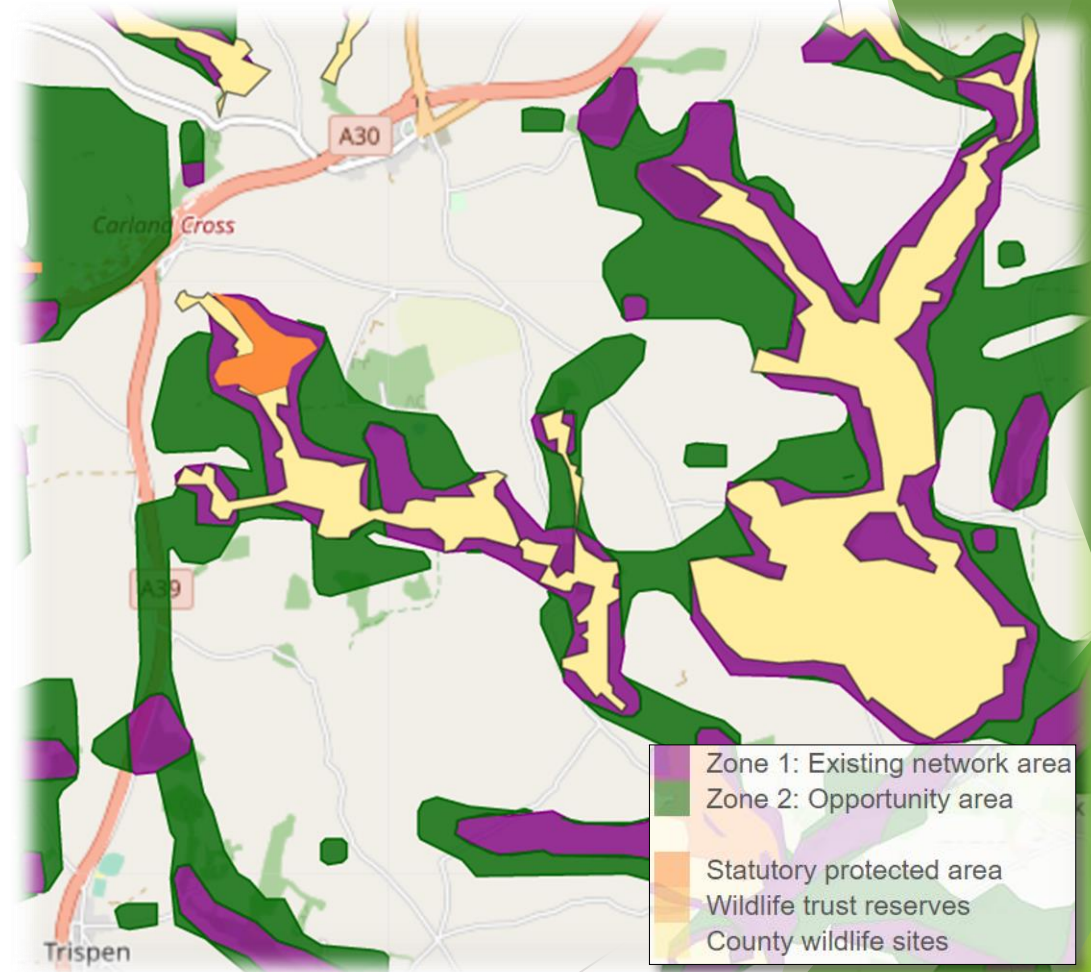
CORNISH HEDGES & EDGES
A wider, wilder and more joined up network of Cornish hedges and edges with enhanced canopy cover and uncultivated margins that is supporting diverse species to feed, breed and move.

HIGHER NATURE VALUE FARMLAND & WILDLIFE-RICH GRASSLAND
Less intensive, regenerative practices are enhancing habitats for increased biodiversity, climate resilience, and sustainable food production – including on non-marginal land. Wider and wilder margins are established, connecting wildflower-rich grasslands and pollen & seed-rich crops in a mosaic with other semi-natural habitats like scrub.

OUR COASTAL FRINGE
A continuous, buffered, nature-rich coastal corridor that joins up the coast to establish a climate resilient and adaptive coastal fringe of dynamic dunes, natural wetlands, and species-rich cliff-tops, slopes and intertidal habitats.

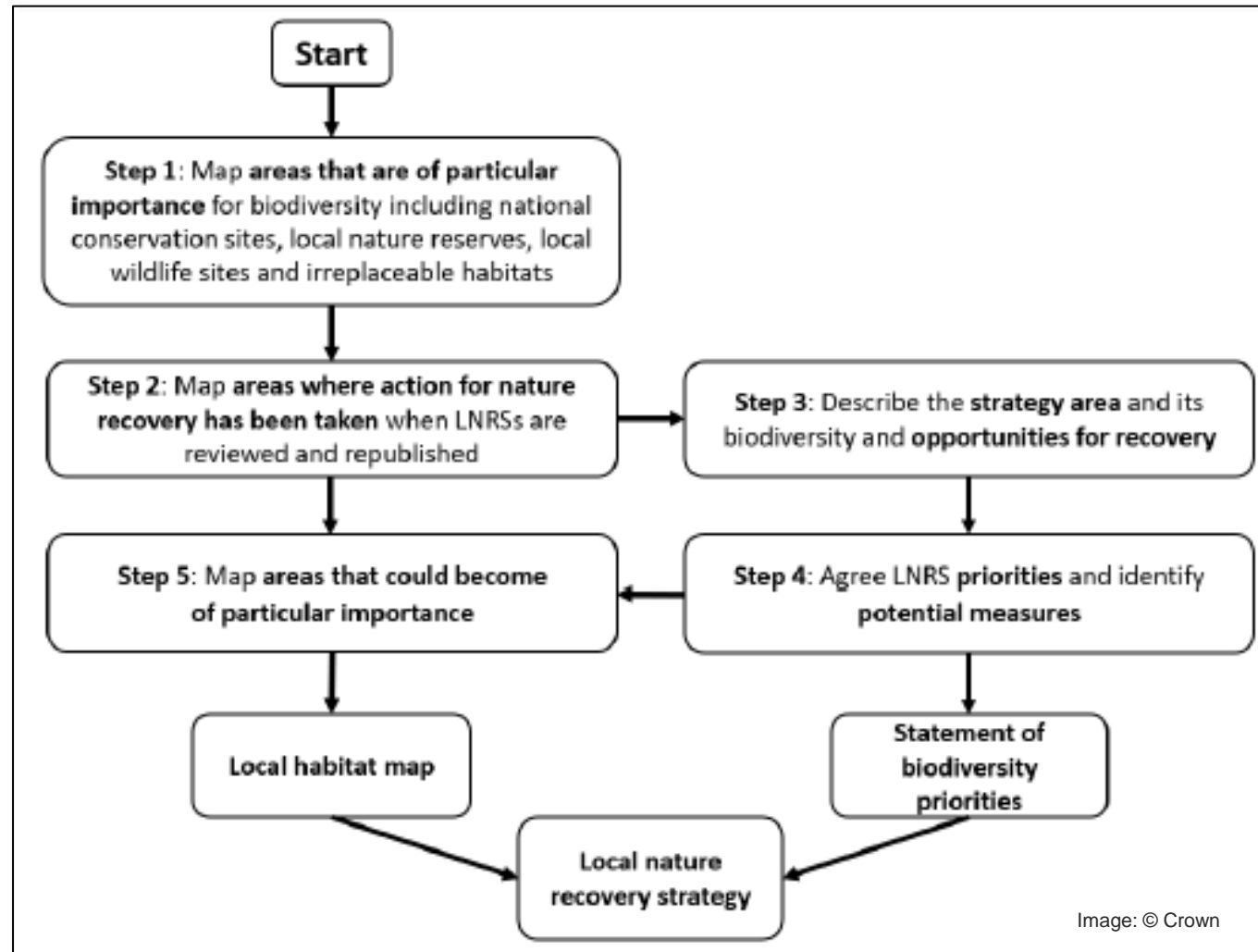
SOILS
Our soils are protected from erosion, compaction and loss by careful management and efficient use of crops and inputs – capturing and storing carbon, efficiently cleaning the air and water, and harbouring diverse fungi, bacteria & invertebrates.

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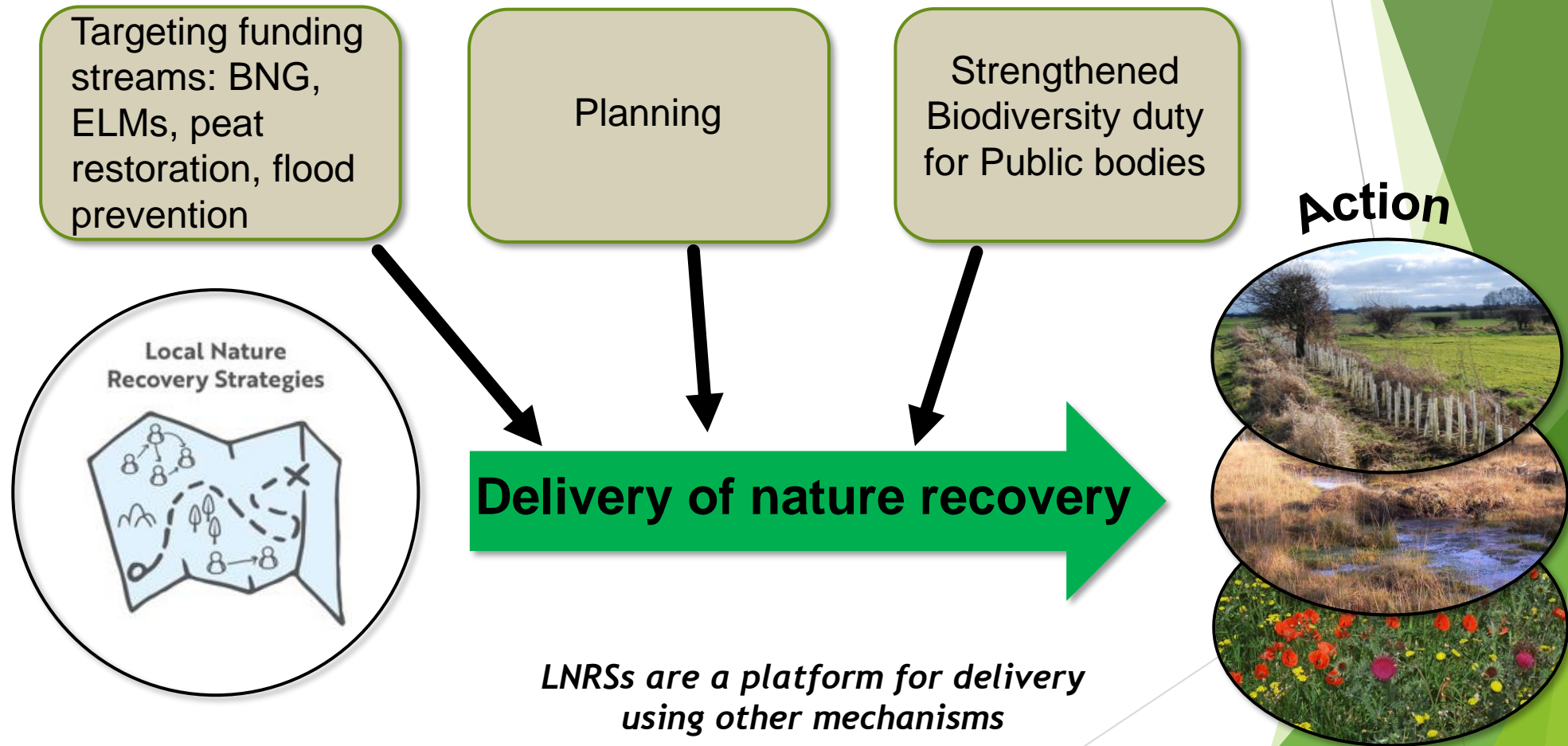


Images: Cornwall LNRS Pilot

The LNRS development process



How will the LNRS be used?



LNRSs are a platform for delivery using other mechanisms

Summary: what an LNRS will deliver!

- ▶ More, bigger, better and more joined up wildlife spaces for biodiversity to thrive
- ▶ Ecosystem services:
 - ▶ Health and well being
 - ▶ Cleaner air
 - ▶ Cleaner water
 - ▶ Healthier, more resilient soils
 - ▶ Flood prevention
 - ▶ Carbon sequestration

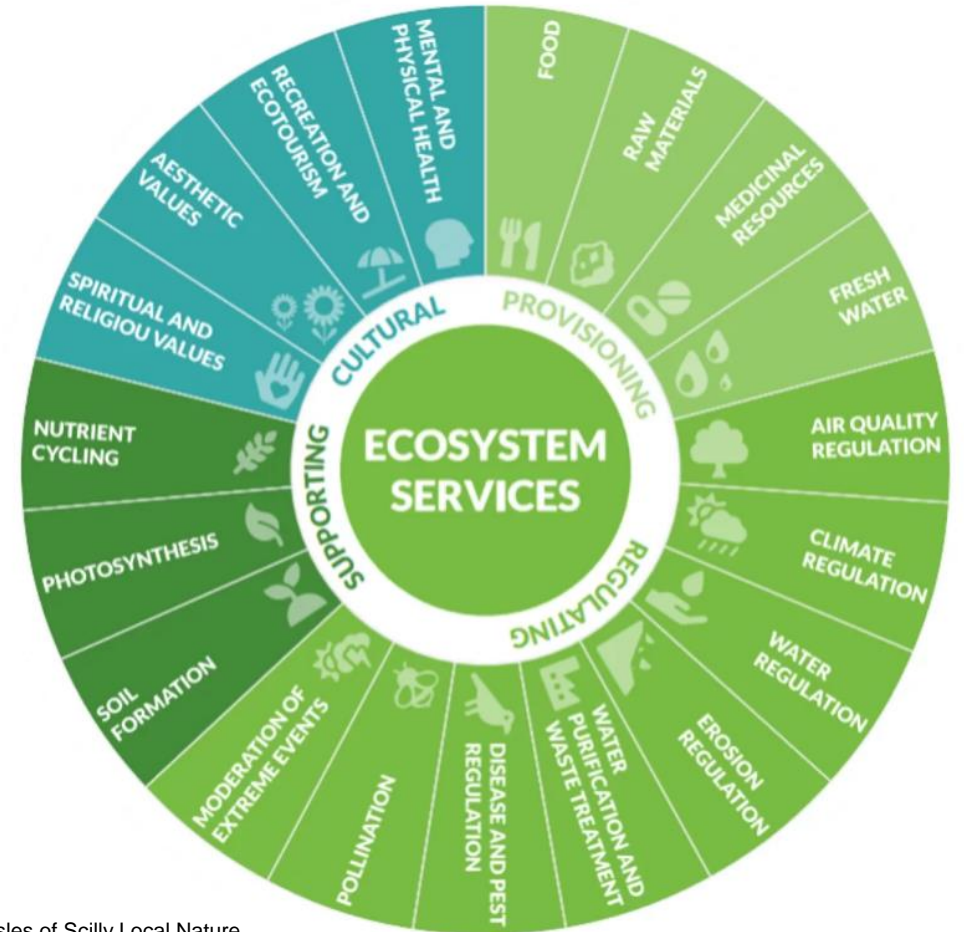


Image: Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Local Nature Partnership

The Berkshire Nature Recovery so far

- ▶ Governance structure
- ▶ Baseline of nature for Berkshire
- ▶ Species recovery longlist created#
- ▶ Prioritisation process decided
- ▶ Planning engagement strategy



Our Steering Group

- Berkshire Nature Partnership
- Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust
- Wokingham Borough council, representing Berkshire ecologists
- West Berkshire Council representing local authorities of Berkshire
- Natural England
- Environment Agency
- Forestry Commission
- NFU (National Farmers Union)
- The Crown Estate
- University of Reading, Head, Agri-Environment Group
- The Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead - Climate Change and Biodiversity Cabinet member

Mapping and Data Working Group	
Julie Gill/Sue Scott	Bracknell Forest Borough Planning Policy
Mark Worrington	Reading Borough Planning Policy
Howard Albertini	Slough Borough Planning Policy
Ian Bellinger	Wokingham Borough Planning Policy
Bryan Lyttle	West Berkshire Planning Policy
Dan Tritton	BBOWT - Senior Biodiversity and Planning Officer
Paul Temple	Application Administrator - GIS - RBWM
Rosie Lear	Bracknell Biodiversity Officer
Stuart Powling	West Berkshire GIS Officer
Steve Wilkes	Director, TVERC
Corinna Woodall	North Wessex Downs AONB
Professor Bob Smith	University of Kent (DICE)
Potential members	
	EA Flooding team
	GIS officers of other boroughs

Our Mapping Working Group

Species Recovery Working Group	
Graham Hawker	Berkshire Moth Group
Carl Hunter-Roach	Middle Thames Bird Conservation Trust
Brian Clews	Wild Cookham and Wild Maidenhead, ornithologist
Steve Wilkes	Director, TVERC
Fraser Cottingham	Lavells Wetlands Trust, birds
Paul Warham	Bisham Barn owl group
Claire Taylor	Bats and Riverfly
Les Finch	Local moth enthusiast
Orlando Methuen	Forestry Commission
Peter Cuss	Moths
Ed Munday	Great Crested Newts
Matt Blee	Great Crested Newts
Lauren Giddings	Environment Agency, waterways
Carolyn Foster	Flora, specifically wildflowers
Jon Cole	Coleoptera
Martin Harvey	Diptera
Matt Smith	Reptiles and Amphibians
Alan Holmes	Dragonflies
Potential members	
Jamie Preston	National Trust - flora
Nicola Buckland	Thames Basin Heath Partnership - heathland species
Martin Woolner	Spiders
	Berkshire Mammal Group

Our Species Recovery Working Group

Farmer and Landowner Working Group	
Nick Manderfield	East Berks Agricultural Society, NFU
Des Sussex	The Crown Estate
Sam Armitage	Berkshire College of Agriculture
Karen Davies	Natural England
Isobel Budden	NFU, County Advisor for Berks, Bucks and Ox
Piran Borlase	Ecologist at AWE
Rosie Salt-Crockford	Rural Surveyor at CLA
Greg Wilkinson	CPRE
Leo Jennings	National Trust
Potential members	
Nick Wallis	Newbury and District Agricultural Society
Richard Edwards	Chief Forester at Englefield Estate

Our Farmer / Landowner Working Group

Stakeholder Engagement Working Group	
Lynn Hughs	BBOWT, Education Manager
Alistair Will	Engagement Manager, Natural Environment Team at RBWM
Chris Moriarty	Councillor and Consultation Champion, RBWM
Steve Wilkes	Director, TVERC
Sarah Thornley	Thames Catchment Partnership, Maidenhead to Teddington Catchment Coordinator
Lorna Clark	Forestry Commission
Bob Collis	Earley Environmental Group
Raj Chaggar	Children's engagement specialist
Amber Sedki- Farag	Thames Valley Chamber of Commerce
Ellen McManus-Fry	RBWM Equalities and Community Engagement Officer
Potential members	
Charlotte Hitchmough	Director, Action for the River Kennet
	South East Water Catchment

Our Stakeholder Engagement Working Group

Provisional timeline



Summer 2023 -
**Creating governance,
baseline map
creation**



Autumn 2023 -
**Introductory
Webinars**



Winter 2023 -
Consultation period 1



Spring 2024 -
**Analysis of
Consultation 1**



Spring 2024 -
Consultation 2



Summer 2024 -
**Habitat Map creation
and working group
draft reviews**



Summer 2024 -
Priority list creation



Autumn 2024 -
LNRs publication

What are the opportunities of the LNRS for you?



Landowners - opportunity for biodiversity credits



Residents - have your say in consultations



And so much more!

Question
time



What's next?

Survey- sign up!

Stakeholder Engagement
sessions coming soon

February 2024

Thanks so
much for
attending
today

Rosie.street@rbwm.gov.uk

[Berkshire's Local Nature Recovery
Strategy | RBWM Together](#)

<https://rbwmtogether.rbwm.gov.uk/Berkshire-local-nature-recovery-strategy>

