

Species Recovery within Local Nature Recovery Strategies

Summary Version – August 2023

Purpose and Overview

This document summarises the guidance provided for Responsible Authorities (RAs) on incorporating species recovery into Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRS). It outlines a two-stage process:

1. Creating a Species Longlist: Identifying threatened and significant species relevant to the strategy area.
2. Creating a Species Priorities List: Prioritising species for recovery actions based on feasibility, urgency, and impact.

These steps align with statutory LNRS guidance and support government targets, such as halting species decline by 2030 and increasing species abundance by 2042.

Process Summary

Stage 1: Species Longlist

Develop a longlist by:

- Using data from **Local Environmental Record Centres (LERCs)** to identify species that meet nationally defined criteria, including those under threat or with significant recovery potential.
- Engaging stakeholders and local communities to include species of local significance, such as iconic or “champion” species.

The longlist informs the LNRS’s description of local biodiversity and recovery opportunities.

Stage 2: Species Priorities List

The longlist is refined to create a manageable priorities list through:

1. Categorisation: Assigning species based on recovery needs, e.g., habitat creation, targeted management, or specific conservation actions.
2. Grouping into Assemblages: Organising species with shared habitat needs for collective recovery actions.
3. Prioritisation: Selecting species or assemblages that address urgency, feasibility, cross-boundary opportunities, and alignment with national goals.

Key Considerations for Species Recovery

1. Partnerships and Collaboration:

Form technical groups and work with stakeholders, including Natural England (NE), the Environment Agency (EA), Forestry Commission (FC), and local partners, to ensure a well-rounded strategy. Cross-boundary collaboration is essential for ecological coherence.

2. Contribution to National Goals:

LNRS must support national species recovery efforts, focusing on areas with significant populations or habitats critical for biodiversity.

Leicestershire, Leicester & Rutland Local Nature Recovery Strategy



3. Maximising Environmental Benefits:

Species recovery should contribute to broader goals, such as ecosystem resilience and nature-based solutions (e.g., flood mitigation).

4. Adaptation to Climate Change:

LNRS should address species' vulnerability to climate change through actions like habitat connectivity, climate refugia, or assisted colonisation.

5. Building on Existing Initiatives:

Strategies should align with and build upon existing local and national projects, enhancing their impact.

Developing Recovery Measures

Propose actionable recovery measures for each species priority. These include:

- **Habitat Creation and Enhancement:** Expanding or connecting habitats to meet species' specific needs.
- **Pressure Mitigation:** Addressing factors like pollution, invasive species, or recreational disturbances.
- **Bespoke Actions:** Tailored interventions such as translocations or species-specific management.

Practical Implementation

1. Data and Evidence:

Local species data from LERCs and input from stakeholders are critical for creating informed species lists and identifying data gaps.

2. Governance and Decision-Making:

A transparent and participatory approach is vital. Engagement with local communities fosters ownership and supports delivery.

3. Monitoring and Flexibility:

Strategies should include mechanisms to evaluate progress and adapt to new challenges, ensuring long-term effectiveness.

Outcomes and Benefits

LNRS provides a coordinated framework to:

- Protect and enhance biodiversity.
- Support national and local conservation goals.
- Deliver wider environmental and societal benefits, such as climate resilience and improved ecosystem health.