

Local Nature Recovery Strategy: “You Said, We Did” Consultation Report

Introduction

The Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) is our strategy to safeguard and enhance the local natural environment. We recently held a public consultation to gather feedback on the draft strategy, and it received nearly 1,200 comments from individuals, community groups, and organisations. The response was overwhelmingly positive – about 97% of respondents agreed with the strategy’s aims. Alongside this strong support, many people offered constructive suggestions. We have listened carefully to your feedback. This report explains what you told us (“You Said”) and how we have responded (“We Did”).

Key Consultation Findings

- High level of support: Nearly all respondents supported the LNRS’s aims, with 97% agreement, showing clear public backing.
- Incorporated suggestions: Many comments included valuable ideas. We updated the strategy document and the local habitat map where possible to reflect these suggestions.
- Future delivery input: A large number of comments focused on how the LNRS will be delivered in practice. While not included in the current strategy, these insights will inform the forthcoming delivery plan.
- Need for guidance: Some people asked how local authorities and land managers will use the strategy. We will address these questions with sector-specific toolkits being developed to support implementation.

Detailed “You Said, We Did” Responses

Overwhelming Support for the Strategy’s Aims

You Said: The community expressed resounding support for the LNRS. An impressive 97% of respondents agreed with the strategy’s aims, emphasising that our vision for nature recovery has strong public approval.

We Did: We noted this overwhelming endorsement. We made an addition to a strategic aim to include the need for education. Otherwise, the strategy's aims remain unchanged and reaffirmed. Your support gives us confidence to move forward with implementing the LNRS, knowing that it aligns with other priorities.

Valuable Suggestions Incorporated

You Said: Many respondents provided constructive feedback on the draft strategy document and the local habitat map. For example, some suggested clarifying certain objectives, improving the map's detail to highlight important habitat measures, and improving the software to make it easier to understand.

We Did: We carefully reviewed all suggestions. Where feasible, we revised the strategy document and updated the Local Habitat Map to incorporate your ideas. These changes include clearer explanations of our priorities and more detailed mapping of key habitat measures. We adopted a new mapping software which is user friendly and displays information in much greater detail. In this way, the final strategy is easier to use and meets the requirements of the people.

Focus on Delivering the Strategy

You Said: A large number of comments were about the next steps – specifically, how the LNRS will be delivered on the ground. Respondents wanted to know who will be responsible, how actions will be funded, and when they will happen.

We Did: We acknowledge these important questions about implementation. While detailed delivery plans go beyond the scope of the current strategy document, we are using your feedback to shape a comprehensive Delivery Plan. This upcoming plan will outline responsibilities, funding, and timelines for putting the LNRS into action, directly informed by the issues you raised.

Clarification for Local Authorities and Land Managers

You Said: Some respondents asked for clarity on how different stakeholders, especially local authorities and land managers, should use the LNRS. People wanted to understand how the strategy will guide planning decisions and land management practices.

We Did: We recognise the need for clear guidance. To support implementation, we are developing sector-specific toolkits for various groups – including local planning

authorities, developers, ecologists, and land managers and farmers. These practical guides will explain how to apply the LNRS in decision-making and land management. By providing tailored advice and examples, we will help ensure that local authorities and land managers can effectively use the strategy in their work.

Conclusion and Next Steps

In summary, the public consultation confirmed strong support for the Local Nature Recovery Strategy and provided many useful ideas. You said that the strategy's direction is the right one, and we did make improvements and plan future actions based on your input. Moving forward, we will finalise the LNRS document with the incorporated changes and develop the detailed Delivery Plan. We will also release the guidance toolkits to help local authorities, farmers, land managers, and other partners put the strategy into practice. Thank you to everyone who took part in the consultation – your feedback has made the LNRS stronger and more attuned to our local area.