



## **Have your say on the draft Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) for Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes**

**Open date:** 10 February 2025

**Close date:** 24 March 2025

**Name:** LNRS team via the Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes Natural Environment Partnership (NEP)

**Email:** [LNRS@buckinghamshire.gov.uk](mailto:LNRS@buckinghamshire.gov.uk)

### **Overview**

**We want to hear your views on our draft Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) for Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes.**

#### **Why we need to recover nature**

Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes are home to a wide range of wildlife. For example, we have on our doorstep some of the world's only chalk streams, ancient woodland and nationally significant populations of species such as native black poplar trees and black hairstreak butterflies.

The health of the natural environment is critical in supporting these habitats and species.

Nature is both vital for human life and economic growth and it is an important part of our heritage.

However, our wildlife is under threat and in decline for many reasons, including climate change, competition for land and the rise of pests and diseases.

**We have drafted a Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) for Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes to help reverse the decline in nature in our local area (also known as 'recovering' nature), and now we want your views on our draft.**

## **What a Local Nature Recovery Strategy is**

Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRS) were introduced in the Environment Act 2021. Every area in England is producing one. A LNRS:

- provides a single vision for improving and increasing nature
- sets out local priorities and opportunities for nature recovery activities
- identifies the best locations to improve nature
- helps Local Planning Authorities plan with regard to the natural environment
- supports the delivery of Biodiversity Net Gain (a national policy that requires a 10% increase in biodiversity in all new developments)
- helps deliver our National Environment Objectives set by Government

The strategies do not force the owners and managers of the land identified to make any changes. Instead, the Government is encouraging action through opportunities for funding and investment. For example, Environment Land Management Schemes (ELMs), Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG), and for planning authorities to have regard to the LNRS in statutory Local Plans.

## **Who is responsible for developing the LNRS**

We, Buckinghamshire Council, are responsible for developing the LNRS for the area. Milton Keynes City Council and Natural England are partners in the process. We commissioned the [Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes Natural Environment Partnership \(NEP\)](#), our Local Nature Partnership, to lead the LNRS process on our behalf.

## **How we have developed the LNRS**

Stakeholder engagement is key to the development of the LNRS. Our stakeholders include, but are not limited to, the following:

- residents
- farmers and landowners
- town and parish councils
- businesses
- developers
- environmental organisations and experts
- local members

In Spring 2024, we identified a draft set of priorities for nature through workshops with our stakeholders. We also gathered information on the pressures on nature that are the most urgent to address, and the benefits that

nature provides that are vital for us. Stakeholders also told us how they would like the LNRS to be presented so it is user-friendly.

We asked for [views on the draft priorities](#) from 8 July 2024 to 18 August 2024.

Buckinghamshire (not including Milton Keynes) was part of a Defra pilot to understand how best to develop LNRSs. The information gathered during the pilot will be incorporated in the final LNRS for Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes.

### **The draft Local Nature Recovery Strategy**

Every LNRS is required to produce a statement of biodiversity priorities and a local habitat map.

The statement of biodiversity priorities:

- describes the area's important landscapes, habitats and species
- describes the pressures on nature and opportunities for nature recovery
- includes a shortlist of priorities for nature recovery and potential measures (practical actions) to achieve the priorities relevant to the area

The local habitat map includes two maps that are required as part of the draft LNRS:

1. a baseline map to show current areas that are of particular biodiversity importance – 'Areas of Particular Importance for Biodiversity' (APIB)
2. a targeted map to show future nature recovery opportunities – 'Areas that Could become of particular importance for Biodiversity' (ACB)
  - This shows where the measures (practical actions) for achieving the area's shortlisted nature recovery priorities would be best located to make the most difference to nature

### **Related documents and links**

Before you respond to this activity, please have a look at the following documents and links available at [yourvoicebucks.citizenspace.com](https://yourvoicebucks.citizenspace.com).

An executive summary and all supporting documents are available to view on our [interactive LNRS summary](#). The interactive LNRS summary is the best place to start. It is an online resource that provides a summary of the various sections of the LNRS, with links throughout to more detailed information should you wish to access it.

The interactive LNRS summary includes the following:

- our mapping portal - this contains the Local Habitat Map which shows our:
  - baseline map – ‘Areas of Particular Importance for Biodiversity’
  - targeted map of nature recovery – ‘Areas that Could become of particular importance for Biodiversity’
- draft priorities and measures
- full draft Local Nature Recovery Strategy document including Statement of Biodiversity Priorities

Other supporting documents include:

- species shortlist and species niches
- target areas for important species
- methodology statements

### **How to have your say**

You can tell us your views in one of the following ways:

- complete the online survey at [yourvoicebucks.citizenspace.com](https://yourvoicebucks.citizenspace.com)
- complete, and return, a printed version of the survey below
- email us at [LNRS@buckinghamshire.gov.uk](mailto:LNRS@buckinghamshire.gov.uk)
- write to us at LNRS consultation, The NEP, Planning and Environment, Buckinghamshire Council, Walton Street Offices, Walton Street, Aylesbury, HP20 1UA

If you have any questions about this activity, or require this information in another format or language, please email us at [LNRS@buckinghamshire.gov.uk](mailto:LNRS@buckinghamshire.gov.uk)

**Please tell us your views by 11:59pm on Monday 24 March 2025.**

### **What happens next**

We will consider all the responses we receive to help us develop the final Local Nature Recovery Strategy for Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes.

The final version of the Strategy will be presented to Cabinet in Summer 2025 before it is presented to the Secretary of State for approval ahead of publication.

### **Privacy**

We will use the information you provide here only for this activity. We will store the information securely in line with data protection laws and will not

share or publish any personal details. For more information about data and privacy, please see our [Privacy Policy](#).

Please note that we are required to publish all responses to this consultation as set out in [government regulations \(12.2\)](#). We ask that you do not disclose any personal information about yourself or anyone else in your response.

If you have questions about data and privacy, please email us on [dataprotection@buckinghamshire.gov.uk](mailto:dataprotection@buckinghamshire.gov.uk) or write to our Data Protection Officer at Buckinghamshire Council, The Gateway, Gatehouse Road, Aylesbury, HP19 8FF.

## Local Nature Recovery Strategy consultation – Printed survey

### Description of the strategy area

For the purposes of developing the LNRS, we gathered information and evidence around four LNRS zones within Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes. The zones are based on underlying areas of similar landscape character, geology and ecology, or ‘national character areas’.

View a summary description of nature and a map of our four LNRS zones in tab 5 of our interactive LNRS summary.

The full description of the strategy area, its biodiversity and opportunities for recovery is available at Sections 1-7 in the full LNRS document.

#### 1. Do you think there is any information missing from our ‘Description of nature in the Strategy Area’?

Please tick (✓) one option

- Yes
- No
- I don’t know

If ‘Yes’, please tell us what information you think is missing here:

### Priorities and measures

As part of the LNRS, we are required to identify and agree priorities for nature recovery and potential measures, or practical actions, to support achieving them.

We asked for views on the draft priorities in Summer 2024. Your views helped shape the shortlisted priorities and measures in the draft LNRS. We have also taken account of existing relevant environmental and spatial plans and strategies and the pressures on nature and opportunities for its recovery as

part of the shortlisting the draft priorities and associated measures (practical actions).

View more information on the priorities and measures in tab 6 on the interactive LNRS summary.

**2. Are there any priorities for nature recovery you think should be added to the list?**

Please tick (✓) one option

- Yes
- No
- I don't know

**If 'Yes', please tell us what priorities you think should be added here:**

**3. On a scale of high to low, please rank how important you think each of the priorities are:**

This will help us identify the priorities and measures to focus on first.

Please tick (✓) one for each option / statement

	High	Medium	Low	I don't know
<b>Priority 1:</b> Conserve, create, enhance and restore trees and woodland habitats	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Priority 2:</b> Conserve, create, enhance and restore hedgerows and field margins	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Priority 3:</b> Conserve, create, enhance and restore species-rich grasslands	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Priority 4:</b> Conserve, create, enhance and restore Heathlands	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Priority 5:</b> Conserve, create, restore and connect chalk and limestone (lowland calcareous) grasslands	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

	High	Medium	Low	I don't know
<b>Priority 6:</b> Conserve, create and enhance traditional orchards, open mosaic habitats and other important sites	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Priority 7:</b> Strategic enhancement, expansion and linking of our existing high value sites and areas	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Priority 8:</b> Reduce recreational pressure on irreplaceable, priority and other important habitats	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Priority 9:</b> Renaturalise river habitats using appropriate habitat restoration techniques and enhance the ecological value of river corridors and their floodplains	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Priority 10:</b> Improve river water quality	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Priority 11:</b> Conserve, enhance and restore Chalk Streams	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Priority 12:</b> Conserve, create, enhance, restore and connect existing ponds, rivers, lakes and lagoons to create a diversity of wetlands and pond sizes and depths to maximise and increase biodiversity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Priority 13:</b> Farm businesses and rural landholdings enhance and create connected and diverse wildlife-rich habitats across the landscape as an integral part of their businesses, recognising the importance of wildlife for pollination, crop and soil and water health	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Priority 14:</b> Improve soil health by increasing micro-organisms, animals and plants living within the soil, improve soil structure and increase organic matter. This will increase soil fertility, water retention, lock up carbon, and reduce the need for chemical fertilisers and pesticides	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Priority 15:</b> Manage existing green and blue spaces in built-up areas better for wildlife	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Priority 16:</b> Create more space for nature when designing new development	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Priority 17:</b> Provide habitats for nature along and around transport infrastructure	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Priority 18:</b> Connect habitats to make wildlife corridors and stepping stones at landscape scale	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



	High	Medium	Low	I don't know
<b>Priority 19:</b> Use nature to capture carbon and weaken climate change	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Priority 20:</b> Adopt nature-based solutions to address climate change impacts, water management and improve air quality	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Priority 21:</b> Reduce and prevent the spread of non-native invasive species, pests and diseases which can occur in high densities to the detriment of a broader range of wildlife	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Priority 22:</b> Conserve, create, enhance, restore and connect specific areas that are important for the area's important species	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**4. Are there any measures to achieve the priorities you think should be added to the list?**

Please tick (✓) one option

- Yes
- No
- I don't know

**If 'Yes', please tell us what measures you think should be added here:**

**5. Are there any measures to achieve the priorities you think should be removed from the list?**

Please tick (✓) one option

- Yes
- No
- I don't know

**If 'Yes', please tell us what measures you think should be removed here:**

You must refer to the number(s) of the measure you are suggesting is removed. For example, 'M1'.

**6. If you think any of the priorities or measures should be worded differently, please tell us here:**

You must include the number(s) of the priority and measure you are commenting on. For example, 'Priority 1' and 'M1'.

## **Species**

According to the national LNRS guidance, the species shortlist should include species that are native, rare and threatened, and whose conservation needs cannot be fully met by the measures (actions) for habitats in the LNRS.

View more information on important species in tab 7 of the interactive LNRS summary.

**7. With the guidance in mind, are there any species or groups of species (assemblages) that you think should be added to the shortlist?**

Please tick (✓) one option

- Yes
- No
- I don't know

**If 'Yes', please tell us what species or assemblages you think should be added to the shortlist here and why:**

**8. With the guidance in mind, are there any species or groups of species (assemblages) that you think should be removed from the shortlist?**

Please tick (✓) one option

- Yes
- No
- I don't know

**If 'Yes', please tell us what species or assemblages you think should be removed from the shortlist here and why:**

**9. With the guidance in mind, are there any species or groups of species (assemblages) that you think should be combined?**

Please tick (✓) one option

- Yes
- No
- I don't know

**If 'Yes', please tell us what species or assemblages you think should be combined in the shortlist here and why:**

**10. Are there any actions for species and assemblages included in the species shortlist that you think should be added?**

Please tick (✓) one option

- Yes
- No
- I don't know

**If 'Yes', please tell us what actions you think should be added to the shortlist here and why:**

**11. Are there any actions for species and assemblages included in the species shortlist that you think should be removed?**

Please tick (✓) one option

- Yes
- No
- I don't know

**If 'Yes', please tell us what actions you think should be removed from the shortlist here and why:**

**12. Are there any actions for species and assemblages included in the species shortlist that you think should be combined?**

Please tick (✓) one option

- Yes
- No
- I don't know

**If 'Yes', please tell us what actions you think should be combined in the shortlist here and why:**

Target Areas for Important Species have been created on the map. You can view the Target Areas for Important Species map layer on the LNRS mapping portal by selecting Theme 9, Priority 22 and then M115. Once these layers are on, click on individual areas to see an overview of the area and refer through to Target Areas for Important Species to see more information on the target area and the measures or actions that are a priority in the area.

**13. How easy did you find it to navigate the Target Areas for Important Species information?**

Please tick (✓) one option

- Very easy
- Easy
- Neither easy nor hard
- Hard
- Very hard
- I don't know

**Please tell us how we could make the information easier to find here:**

**14. How easy did you find it to understand the species information?**

Please tick (✓) one option

- Very easy
- Easy
- Neither easy nor hard
- Hard
- Very hard
- I don't know

**Please tell us how we could make the species information easier to understand here:**

**Mapping individual species or assemblages**

To test an approach that would enable the map to be filtered for individual species, or assemblages, map layers have been created for two species (Noble Chafer and Juniper) and one assemblage (group) of plants (Arable and disturbed ground plants), which indicate the target areas where they are mainly found. The aim is to add to the number of species that can be searched for on the map ahead of publication.

These layers can be viewed on the LNRS mapping portal by selecting Theme 9, Priority 22, and Measures 117 to 119.

**15. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the approach of mapping individual species and assemblages?**

Please tick (✓) one option

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree
- I don't know

**Please tell us the reason for your answer here:**

## **Mapping**

All of the mapping required for the LNRS is shown in our interactive mapping portal. This shows current important habitats and species as well as showing opportunities of where best to take action for nature recovery in line with our priorities.

Our Local Habitat Map contains two underlying maps

- 1) **Areas of Particular Importance for Biodiversity (APIB)** – a baseline map that includes all current national conservation sites, local nature reserves, local wildlife sites and irreplaceable habitats
- 2) **Areas that Could become of particular importance for Biodiversity (ACB)** – this shows, on the basis of best available data and modelling, where the measures (practical actions) for achieving the area’s shortlisted priorities for nature recovery would be best located so as to have the greatest potential to achieve our nature recovery goals

**16.If you have any feedback on how easy the map is to use, such as functionality and appearance, please tell us here:**

**17. If you have any feedback on the mapping of the measures or the Areas that Could become of particular importance for Biodiversity, please tell us here:**

## Other comments

### 18. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements:

Please tick (✓) one for each option / statement

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	I don't know
Overall, I am satisfied with the content of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Overall, the Local Nature Recovery Strategy is easy to use	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

### 19. If you have any other comments on the draft Local Nature Recovery Strategy, including how to improve it, please tell us here:



## About you

We will use the information you provide here only for the purpose of this activity. We will store the information securely in line with data protection laws and will not share or publish any personal details.

### 20. Which of the following describe you?

Please tick (✓) all that apply

- I live in Buckinghamshire or Milton Keynes
- I work in Buckinghamshire or Milton Keynes
- I study in Buckinghamshire or Milton Keynes
- I represent or own a business in Buckinghamshire or Milton Keynes
- I represent or work for an organisation working on environmental conservation in Buckinghamshire or Milton Keynes
- I work for Buckinghamshire Council or Milton Keynes City Council
- I represent a community or voluntary group in Buckinghamshire or Milton Keynes
- I represent a parish / town council or town committee in Buckinghamshire or Milton Keynes
- I am a farmer, landowner/manager, forester in Buckinghamshire or Milton Keynes
- I am an elected representative in Buckinghamshire or Milton Keynes
- I represent or work for a utilities company or Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP)
- I represent or work for a developer
- Other (please give details below):

### 21. How did you find out about this consultation?

Please tick (✓) all that apply

- Local media (newspaper, radio, TV, website or newsfeed)
- Social media (Facebook, Twitter/X, Instagram, Nextdoor or LinkedIn)
- Buckinghamshire Council website, Milton Keynes City Council website or Your Voice Bucks website
- Email or newsletter from Buckinghamshire Council or Milton Keynes City Council

- Buckinghamshire Council staff, Milton Keynes City Council staff or other professionals
- Through working at Buckinghamshire Council or Milton Keynes City Council
- Poster or leaflet
- Friend or family member
- Local community or special interest group
- Councillor, town/parish council or community board
- Other (please give details below):

**22. Are you responding as an individual or on behalf of an organisation (e.g. a business or a voluntary group)?**

Please tick (✓) one option

- As an individual (go to question 24)
- On behalf of an organisation

**On behalf of an organisation**

**23. Please provide the following details:**

Name of organisation:

Your job title:

**End of survey if responding on behalf of an organisation**

**More about you**

We want to hear from as many people as possible to understand the views and needs across Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes. The following questions help us see if the communities we serve have had the opportunity to be heard through this activity.

All questions are optional. You can skip any questions you do not wish to answer.

#### 24. What is your postcode?

We want to understand the views of people living in different areas. You don't have to provide your postcode, but it helps us plan and make considered decisions.

#### 25. What is your age?

**Why we ask this:** We want to understand the experiences and views of different age groups.

Please tick (✓) one option

- Under 16
- 16 to 24
- 25 to 34
- 35 to 44
- 45 to 54
- 55 to 64
- 65 to 74
- 75 to 84
- Over 85
- Prefer not to say

#### 26. Do you consider yourself to have a disability / disabilities, impairment(s) or long term health condition(s)?

**Why we ask this:** We want to understand the experiences and views of disabled people, people with impairments and people with long term health conditions.

Please tick (✓) all that apply

- Disability / disabilities
- Impairment(s)
- Long term health condition(s)
- No
- Prefer not to say

## 27. Are you:

**Why we ask this:** We want to understand the experiences and views of different sexes.

Please tick (✓) one option

- Female
- Male
- Prefer not to say

## 28. How would you describe your ethnicity?

**Why we ask this:** We want to understand the experiences and views of different ethnicities.

Please tick (✓) one option

- Asian - British
- Asian - Bangladeshi
- Asian - Chinese
- Asian - Indian
- Asian - Pakistani
- Any other Asian background - Please give details below
- Black - African
- Black - British
- Black - Caribbean
- Any other Black, African or Caribbean background - Please give details below
- Mixed or multiple ethnic groups - White and Asian
- Mixed or multiple ethnic groups - White and Black African
- Mixed or multiple ethnic groups - White and Black British
- Mixed or multiple ethnic groups - White and Black Caribbean
- Mixed or multiple ethnic groups - Mixed or Multiple Ethnic backgrounds British
- Any other Mixed or Multiple ethnic background - Please give details below
- White - English, Welsh, Scottish, Northern Irish or British
- White - Irish
- White - Gypsy or English traveller

- White - Irish Traveller
- White - European
- Any other White background - Please give details below
- Other ethnic group - Arab
- Other ethnic group - Arab British
- Other ethnic group - Please give details below
- Prefer not to say

Please give other details here:

### **End of the survey**

**Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey.**

Please return your completed survey by 11:59pm on 24 March 2025. You can:

- email it to [LNRS@buckinghamshire.gov.uk](mailto:LNRS@buckinghamshire.gov.uk)
- post it to LNRS consultation, The NEP, Planning and Environment, Buckinghamshire Council, Walton Street Offices, Walton Street, Aylesbury, HP20 1UA