2026

Local Nature Recovery Strategy User Guidance

Nuneaton & Bedworth
United to Achieve

Planning Policy
Nuneaton and Bedworth
Borough Council
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Local Nature Recovery Strategy Guidance Document

A document written to guide applicants and others through the process of what the Local Nature Recovery Strategy document is, why it was produced and how it is intended to be used. Covering detailed legislative context, mapping guidance and Biodiversity Net Gain advice.

Planning Policy

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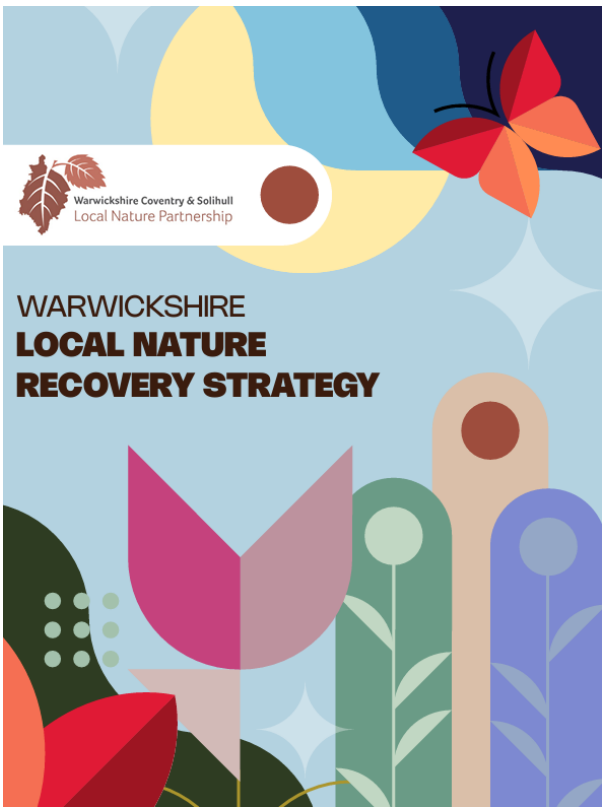
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1.0 Local Nature Recovery Strategy Background

All local authorities have a duty to 'have regard' to the Local Nature Recovery Strategy.[1]

The Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) has been instructed by the Government under the Environment Act 2021, as part of their ambition to reverse the decline of biodiversity.



A total of 48 Local Nature Recovery Strategies are currently being developed across England, with the purpose of creating a strategic, shared vision for where and how to best help nature recover.

In Warwickshire, the LNRS has been developed by Warwickshire County Council who were appointed as a Responsible Authority under section 105 of the Environment Act 2021 with a duty to prepare and publish a LNRS. They are supported by the Warwickshire Coventry and Solihull Local Nature Partnership in promoting and enacting the strategy.

The document can be viewed here: https://www.wcslnp.co.uk/lnrs

[1] Planning Practice Guidance

1.1 What is a Local Nature Recovery Strategy?

The new National Planning Policy Framework (August 2026) defines them as 'A system of spatial strategies for nature and environmental improvement required by law under s.104 of the Environment Act 2021'.

In summary, a LNRS is a map, or series of mapped data and an accompanying report setting out what is planned, where and why. The main purpose of an LNRS is to identify locations to create or improve habitat most likely to provide the greatest benefit for nature and the wider environment.

The Warwickshire LNRS will:

- Identify locations and activities that will have the biggest impact to improve nature recovery over this first period of the LNRS, which is envisaged to be 8 years.
- Be used by local authorities when developing planning strategies and to inform decision making.
- Be used to incentivise locations for habitat creation within Biodiversity Net Gain implementation.

The overall strategy and actions in the LNRS will be a material consideration when making decisions on relevant planning applications and will influence plan making. It may also be used to influence decisions made by the Council in respect of the management of Council owned land.



(Source: Warwickshire LNRS)

1.2 How to use the LNRS

Planners and Developers should use the LNRS to identify where nature recovery efforts should be prioritised within Local Plans. As well as to ensure that planning decisions and processes support local biodiversity goals and contribute to the broader Nature Recovery Network. The LNRS will also guide developers when choosing the location of off-site Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) units.

Role in Plan Making

"Have Regard To" the LNRS:

Local Nature Recovery Strategies are intended to support local planning authorities in preparing Local Plans that conserve and enhance biodiversity and the natural environment, and Local Planning Authorities have a legal duty to 'have regard' to the relevant strategy for their area. Local planning authorities should consider the priorities set out in the relevant Local Nature Recovery Strategy when determining how their Local Plan should contribute to and enhance the local and natural environment.

Safeguarding Areas

National Planning Policy Framework (2026) Policy N1 states that 'Development plans should safeguard and enhance the natural environment and reflect the wider benefits from natural capital and ecosystem services, by using Local Nature Recovery Strategies, Protected Landscape Management Plans…to.

c) Steer the location of development, including through site allocations, in ways which utilise land of least environmental value where that would be consistent with other policies in this Framework…Areas which could become of particular importance for nature identified in Local Nature Recovery Strategies should be taken into account as opportunities to integrate development with environmental restoration…'

1.2 Warwickshire's LNRS

The document is split into 6 sections:

Introduction to the LNRS, LNRS Themes & Priorities, LNRS Delivery & Monitoring, LNRS Glossary, Warwickshire LNRS Map and LNRS Guidance.

1- The first section sets out the Introduction to the Local Nature Recovery Strategy which includes a Strategy Area Description and details the different Geology, Landscape, Habitats, Species, Water, Farming and the Wider Ecological Connections beyond.

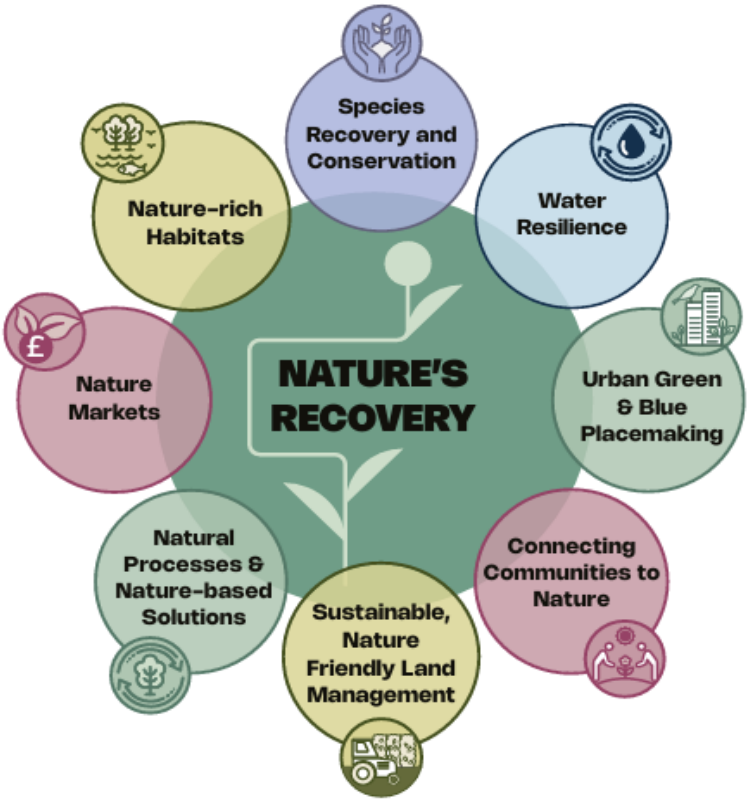
2- Section two sets out the LNRS themes and priorities, Environmental Improvement Plan (EIP) goals, Habitat Priorities and Actions, Species Priorities List and Species Priorities.

3- Section 3 sets out the LNRS Delivery & Monitoring, including a Targeted Approach, Delivery Mechanisms, Overview and Monitoring.

4- Section 4 is a list of terminology set out in a Glossary & Acronyms.

5- Warwickshire LNRS Map.

6- Local Nature Recovery Strategy supporting Guidance.



Warwickshire LNRS's Overarching Themes

2.0 Legislative context

Producing a Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) is a requirement of Section 104 of the Environment Act 2021, so the Warwickshire LNRS has been produced in line with Environment (Local Nature Recovery Strategies) (Procedure) Regulations 2023.

The Local Nature Recovery Strategy has now received approval for publication from all of Warwickshire's District Councils, the County Council, and Natural England.

Local Plan

Policy NE3 (Ecology, Biodiversity, Geodiversity and Local Nature Recovery) of the Borough Plan Review (2025) was prepared in consultation with Warwickshire County Council. The Policy requires development proposals to **have regard to the Warwickshire LNRS** and its priority habitats and species and any Areas of Particular Importance for biodiversity or opportunity areas.

National Planning Policy Framework

The new National Planning Policy Framework (August 2026) states:

National decision-making policy

N2: Improving the natural environment:

c. Take suitable opportunities to connect to and strengthen ecological networks that extend beyond the site, **drawing on the measures proposed by Local Nature Recovery Strategies..**

Paragraph 19. Conserving and enhancing the natural environment

N1: Identifying environmental opportunities and safeguards

1. Development plans should safeguard and enhance the natural environment, and reflect the wider benefits from natural capital and ecosystem services, **by using Local Nature Recovery Strategies..**

CC1: 1. Development plans should take a proactive approach…by:

d. Identifying opportunities for green infrastructure provision and nature-based solutions which can safeguard and improve carbon storage, support nature recovery and resilience, and which **take account of Local Nature Recovery Strategies** in accordance with policy N1.

HO4: Land for strategic site development

1. The development plan should…identify suitable locations for strategic sites for housing-led development…These locations should:

c. Address strategic environmental opportunities and safeguards, including those set out in **Local Nature Recovery Strategies**.



(Source: Warwickshire LNRS)

3.0 Mapping

The LNRS map is an Opportunity Map. The inclusion of land in the LNRS is not a statutory designation. It is an opportunity map intended to guide investment and action.

When interpreting the mapping note the following:

• Mapping indicates areas where the potential measures could be delivered. In some incidences, these are wide ranging areas, in others they are specific areas depending on the mapping capability. The mapped areas are indicative.

• The desk-based approach means the mapping is theoretical and not based on actual known site condition. Site assessments, and other permissions and prerequisites, will determine the action to that location.

• Sites of Special Scientific Interest, Special Areas of Conservation, Special Protection Areas, Ramsar sites and National Nature Reserves are statutory national and international designations. The mapped potential measures do not override or replace existing management associated with the designation nor do they negate the need for any requisite consents or approvals.

• The Strategy and associated maps do not determine actions or implementation, they are a guide for how landowners and managers could use or manage the land, or approach their operations, in a way that could support the recovery of nature.

• Although mapping indicates where this action may be most needed or result in the greatest gains, the introduction of this action can be applied outside of the target area. Nature recovery action does not need to be limited to the areas that could become of particular importance to biodiversity.

4.0 Biodiversity Net Gain

The LNRS provides a spatial strategy for nature recovery, helping developers to identify where their BNG provision will be most impactful and beneficial to the Nature Recovery Network, through a financial incentive.

In accordance with local plan policy NE3 – Ecology, Biodiversity, Geodiversity and Local Nature Recovery, developers must provide a minimum of 10% BNG with off-site offsetting being required as a last resort. The policy seeks to ensure that where habitat loss cannot be replaced on site then replacement habitat is provided in accordance with the sequential spatial hierarchy, comprising firstly of locations within the Borough before looking within a neighbouring authority and then to Warwickshire, Coventry and Solihull.

LNRSs and Biodiversity Net Gain policies work together to support nature recovery and create joined-up outcomes for the wider environment.



(Source: Warwickshire LNRS)

5.0 Other resources

Further resources are listed below:

- Visit the government website for more information about BNG: Biodiversity net gain - GOV.UK Biodiversity net gain: guidance for developers, land managers and authorities - GOV.UK
- More information about key issues in implementing policy to protect and enhance the natural environment can be found here: https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/biodiversity-net-gain-guidance-for-developers-land-managers-and-authorities
- The Environment Act 2021: Environment Act 2021Environment Act 2021
- The Planning Practice Guidance includes a section on LNRS
- See the frequently asked questions about Local Nature Recovery Strategies on the Planning Advisory Service website Planning for Nature | Local Government Association
- The Biodiversity Metric User Guide identifies how to use the LNRS to assign strategic significance in Biodiversity Net Gain calculations.

Warwickshire County Council ecologists will also be able to provide further advice

This document has been published by Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council

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