

## Nature Recovery Plan considerations

### Important dates

- Considerations by January 1 2024.
- Plan due by March 2025.

### Why is this needed?

- England is widely considered to be one of the most nature-depleted counties in the world.
- Part of the Government Greening Commitments strategy.
- The Greening Government Commitment to produce a Nature Recovery Plan in the period 2021-2025 will align closely with the requirements of the strengthened biodiversity duty, which will come into force within 12 months of the Bill receiving Royal Assent. Effective plans will help ensure that central government departments and their partner organisations are taking the necessary steps to comply with the duty and the GGC annual reports will provide useful content for their first Biodiversity Report.

### What is needed?

- Departments and partner organisations with the greatest potential to improve biodiversity<sup>3</sup> should develop and deliver Nature Recovery Plans for their land, estates, development, and operations.
- All other departments and partner organisations should consider what they can do to support the Government's commitment to improve nature and develop and deliver Nature Recovery Plans where suitable.

### Points to consider

- Figure 1 below details the step on how to prepare.
- Pollinator friendly habitats – bees – already in place at 3-8 Whitehall.
- Volunteer days.
- Butterfly bus stops.
- BREEAM – do we need to instruct external agencies to conduct?
- Consider all office locations across the estate.
- One plan for DESNZ – DSIT – picking out the differences. Feed into GPA plan.
- Neither DSIT nor DESNZ are delivery departments, and they don't have any land, so land and operations are unlikely to offer opportunities.
- Some Partner Orgs will have greater scope (and are better resourced) to contribute.
- Consider crossover.
- Engage with Natural England for habitat information.
- Raise awareness with staff and managers both DESNZ/DSIT comms teams.
- Include a specified commitment i.e pollinator friendly habitat (full list below).
- Energy and water reductions – new offices better EPC.
- Heavy reliance on GPA and HMRC as our landlord/building manager in all locations – need to ensure complementarity with their considerations and eventual plans.

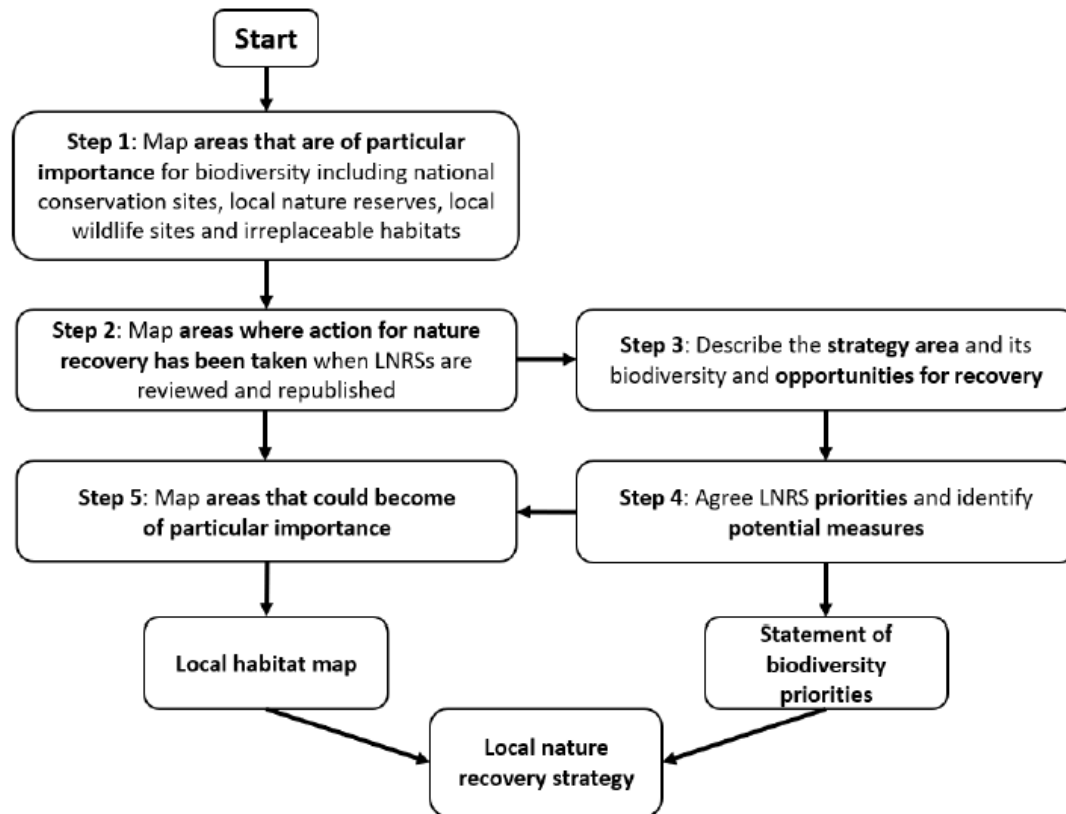


Fig 1 order of steps to be followed in preparing contents of a local recovery strategy for which 48 authorities (councils) have followed.

Example targets (one must be included)

**I. Tree planting and woodland cover**

- Setting out ambitious plans to increase tree planting and woodland cover across estates (by x additional hectares/trees planted by 2025 and 2030) *Defra will provide guidance on funding and approaches to doing this.*
- Ensuring existing trees and woodlands are protected and in good condition using woodland management plans.

**II. Total peatland owned and leased**

- Pledging to restore a percentage of total peatland owned and leased by 2025<sup>4</sup>

- Developing and implementing Wildfire Managed Plans<sup>5</sup> at holding or landscape level by 2025 on all owned and leased peatland to protect it from the risk of wildfire.
- Ceasing damaging practices (managed burning, ploughing, over grazing) on peatland owned or leased by 2022<sup>6</sup>

### **III.Land as a contribution to the Nature Recovery Network**

- Committing to restore a specified number of hectares of land within the Nature Recovery Network by 2025.

### **IV.Pollinator-friendly habitat**

- Committing to increase pollinator-friendly habitat (by x hectares and/or x sites by 2025 and 2030) across estates, contributing to the National Pollinator Strategy.

### **V.All protected sites under their management**

- Ensuring measures are in place to bring protected sites under their management into favourable condition.
- Working with local charities and partnerships where appropriate to manage public land for nature.
- Following government commitments and guidance on Integrated Pest Management in estate management activities

### **VI.Biodiversity considerations in development projects or programmes**

- Ensuring that development projects or programmes include a high standard of green infrastructure<sup>7</sup> provision.
- Planning to achieve a minimum of a 10% gain in biodiversity for all development projects.