

Part three



Delivering the LNRS





Warwickshire's Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) is designed to empower and enable everyone and every organisation in Warwickshire to collectively contribute positively and meaningfully to nature's recovery locally and nationally.

Warwickshire have over 25 years of spatial habitat data. This data has been used to track land use and habitat changes across the county. Similarly, it has a strong amateur expert community that supports the Warwickshire Biological Record Centre (WBRC)

As a county, Warwickshire lacks large contiguous areas designated for nature or landscape purposes, such as National Nature Reserves (NNRs), Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs), National Landscapes, or National Parks. This, among other factors, has led to increasing fragmentation across the county over time, exacerbated by large national infrastructure projects, urban sprawl, new settlements and general development, both residential and commercial. This fragmentation contrasts with other Strategy Areas where extensive land is designated and/ or protected for their ecological or landscape importance.

Warwickshire, however, remains crucial for nature conservation. Centrally located in England, Warwickshire is essential for ecological connectivity at both regional and national levels. This connectivity is crucial for facilitating species and habitat range shifts in response to the changes in climate. Therefore, the Warwickshire LNRS must prioritise enhancing connectivity across the entire landscape to support biodiversity and environmental resilience.

Nationally LNRS's are mandated to spatially target conservation efforts to achieve better localised outcomes for nature over the lifetime of the strategy; envisaged to be eight years. This will be accomplished by focusing actions within targeted areas coupled with Biodiversity Net Gain strategic areas based on scientific modelling and local knowledge. However, given Warwickshire's pivotal position within the country, this should not preclude broader activities across the county. Together these approaches will deliver our Overarching Themes and contribute to the Local Nature Partnership's (LNP) vision.

Targeted Approach

The Warwickshire LNRS will target action in two key ways by focusing recovery efforts in both the Areas of Importance for Biodiversity and Potential Actions for Nature Recovery locations:

Areas of Importance for Biodiversity (APIB)

These are mapped locations where valuable habitat exists. Key actions here will be to conserve, enhance and buffer these existing locations. They will also be used to inform wider land management decisions to create a resilient, ecologically connected landscape.

Potential Actions for Nature Recovery

These include mapped and unmapped areas where specific interventions can help achieve LNRS overarching themes. Actions will be focused on:

Conserve, Enlarge, Enhance and Connect – These are areas of existing habitat of biodiversity value that could be restored or buffered to compliment the APIB sites.

Create – These are priority and opportunity areas for habitat creation (e.g. priority areas for floodplain meadow creation) or interventions (e.g. opportunity areas for installation of leaky barriers or green bridges).

Species Action Areas – mapped locations where specific species actions have been identified

Species Assemblage Action Areas – There are mapped locations where specific species assemblage actions have been identified.

Importantly this does not preclude nature recovery actions from taking place outside the above mapped and unmapped areas, which covers 48% of Warwickshire.

Mapping

The APIB, Potential Actions for Nature Recovery and the Biodiversity Net Gain Strategic Areas that can be mapped are publicly accessible online:

Warwickshire LNRS Maps [\[LNRS\]](https://maps.warwickshire.gov.uk/LNRS)¹

The Warwickshire LNP will also look to provide partner focused online mapping with more informative datasets to assist with their decision making on what is best for nature and their own objectives. For example, the Warwickshire Coventry & Solihull Green Infrastructure mapping² has maps specific to spatial planners and developers.

¹ <https://maps.warwickshire.gov.uk/LNRS>

² [Green Infrastructure - Warwickshire, Coventry and Solihull](#)

Delivery Mechanisms Overview

The LNRS supports the implementation of a range of nature-recovery delivery mechanisms. These are essential for achieving habitat and species targets and the overall goal of thriving plants and wildlife.

Recognising the varied needs and priorities of different stakeholders, it is imperative that these mechanisms are adaptable and versatile, enabling stakeholders to employ the most suitable approaches or a combination thereof to achieve the desired outcomes.

Some of the key delivery mechanisms are outlined below.

Key Delivery Mechanisms:

Policy and Regulatory Frameworks

Implementing Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) policies will ensure that new development projects contribute positively to biodiversity. Additionally, exploring opportunities to apply broader Environmental Net Gain (ENG) principles, through the establishment of and other Nature Markets, will consider a wider range of environmental benefits beyond biodiversity through, for example, nature-based solutions. This mechanism will primarily benefit developers and local planning authorities by providing clear guidelines and incentives for incorporating biodiversity enhancements into their projects.

Integrating the Warwickshire LNRS into local planning policies will guide development and ensure that nature recovery is considered at all stages of the planning process, benefiting local authorities and planners by embedding nature recovery into the planning framework.

Financial Mechanisms and Incentives

Recognising the need for financial support, the Warwickshire LNRS and its partners emphasise securing funding from diverse sources, including government initiatives and schemes. Although LNRSs are spatial strategies rather than delivery plans, this Delivery section of the Warwickshire LNRS aims to identify mechanisms that offer the best chance of achieving the strategy's goals.

Securing funding from various sources, including government grants, charitable trusts and private sector investment will support nature recovery projects. This approach will benefit conservation organisations, local authorities, businesses and community groups by providing the necessary financial resources to implement nature recovery initiatives.



*Undertaking soil surveys, Warwickshire Wildlife Trust Farm and Wildlife Advice team.
Photo by Libby Keysell WWT.*

Utilising environmental land management schemes will enable farmers and landowners to adopt nature-friendly practices. These schemes will directly benefit farmers and landowners by offering financial incentives for sustainable land management practices.

Exploring opportunities to participate in emerging regulatory and voluntary nature markets, such as carbon markets and biodiversity net gain, can also generate income for nature recovery projects, benefiting landowners, businesses, and conservation organisations by creating new revenue and capital streams.

Partnership and Collaboration

Effective delivery of the LNRS requires collaboration among various stakeholders, including local authorities, parish councils, Non-Government Organisations, businesses, community groups, and landowners and farmers. Forming or utilising existing relevant partnerships, cooperatives, farm clusters and networks with appropriate structures for collaborative decision-making and continued engagement is crucial. These partnerships can help mitigate conflicts over land use decisions and enable multifunctional land use that supports a collective approach for both nature recovery and economic/social uses.

Parish councils across Warwickshire are being encouraged to prepare Local Nature Action Plans, which are their plans to declare what they will do to help nature's recovery. Each plan will be slightly different, depending on location and resource availability. These plans will directly relate to the LNRS and have shared ambition.

Engaging local businesses to promote biodiversity on their premises, reduce their environmental impact, and support local nature recovery initiatives is essential. This approach will benefit businesses by enhancing their corporate social responsibility and contributing to local conservation efforts.

Working closely with farmers and landowners through existing channels such as the Rural Hub and the Warwickshire Wildlife Trust, farm advisors will help implement sustainable land management practices and create wildlife-friendly habitats. This collaboration will benefit farmers and landowners by continuing to provide expert advice and support for nature-friendly practices.

Encouraging public participation in nature recovery through citizen science, volunteering, and community-led projects will further enhance the strategy's impact, benefiting local communities by fostering a sense of ownership and involvement in nature recovery efforts.



*Meadow survey work. Warwickshire Wildlife Trust Farm and Wildlife Advice Team.
Photo by Libby Keysell WWT.*



Monitoring

Tracking our progress

Tracking our progress is crucial to understand our successes or alter our priorities or approaches if necessary. The Convention on Biological Diversity, draws attention to the need to identify and monitor ecosystems, habitats, species, communities, genomes and genes. However, it is not possible nor practical to monitor all species, communities, and ecosystems. Therefore, there must be some kind of prioritisation and utilise the latest advances in technology to help us. The LNP will provide this direction and will produce a LNRS monitoring framework and report appropriately. The framework will need to be resourced and financed.

Citizen Science

Warwickshire has a strong ecological recording community that will continue to be supported and will enable species and habitat targets to be monitored. This community comprises of amateur experts and is open to all. The public including landowners, through citizen science, contributes most of the species records within the Warwickshire Biological Record Centre and this community spirit will remain a core philosophy of this strategy.

The LNP will continue to encourage and support local, parish and county recording schemes and events that will foster community recording of all wildlife and their habitats and not just those specifically mentioned in this strategy.

Surveillance

The LNRS monitoring framework will include a long-term, systematic survey program. This will enable the collection of ecological data in a standardized manner at regular intervals over time on dedicated sites across the county. It will comprise both traditional and modern survey techniques.

The LNP will continue to work with research establishments and county recording groups to develop and deliver the long-term systematic survey program.

Modelling and Research

The LNP will endeavour to ensure that all data gathered through the LNRS Framework will be open to all and made available to those that wish to research past, present, and future ecological trends

Recording LNRS Activity

The LNRS monitoring framework will also include how everyone can register the actions they have taken to fulfil the LNRS. It will look to promote one or more platforms on to which actions can be recorded and celebrated.