



FOR PUBLICATION

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET

11 January 2023

Report of the Executive Director - Place

Preparing a Local Nature Recovery Strategy for Derbyshire
(Cabinet Member for Infrastructure and Environment)

1. Divisions Affected

1.1 County-wide.

2. Key Decision

2.1 This is a key decision because it is likely to be significant in terms of its effect on communities living or working in an area comprising two or more electoral areas in the County.

3. Purpose

3.1 The purpose of this report is to:

- a) Inform Cabinet of the statutory duties that the Council must perform in its responsible authority role for the preparation and publication by 31 March 2025 of a Local Nature Recovery Strategy.
- b) Seek Cabinet approval to the proposed governance arrangements for stakeholder engagement designed to support the performance of these duties that are outlined in this report.
- c) Seek Cabinet authorisation for the Executive Director – Place, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for the relevant portfolio, to make such minor adjustments to these arrangements as they might consider to be appropriate or necessary.

4. Information and Analysis

4.1 Summary

4.1.1 Biodiversity loss in England is accelerating. There is recognition from the Government, public authorities and the environmental sector that prompt action at both landscape and local scales is required to address society's neglect of nature. Planning for nature recovery must take place in a strategic, collaborative, and evidenced based manner. Furthermore, a more biodiverse environment will allow important new net zero, climate change resilience, social, health, regeneration, and economic growth benefits to be realised.

4.1.2 The Environment Act 2021 brings into law the Government's intention to create a Nature Recovery Network across England. The Nature Recovery Network will comprise of 48 County-based Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRS) which will cover the whole of England. In accordance with the Act, each strategy will be designed to ensure locally targeted, more co-ordinated, practical, and focused action, and investment in nature. The collective and complementary outputs from 48 strategies will be the delivery of the strategic national objectives of the Nature Recovery Network which are as follows:

- Creating and restoring wildlife-rich habitats.
- Improving the landscape's resilience to climate change.
- Reinforcing the natural, geological, and cultural diversity of England's landscapes.
- Enabling people to enjoy and connect with nature - benefiting society's health and wellbeing.

4.1.3 The Council has been appointed by the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) as the responsible authority for preparing, approving and publishing the LNRS for Derbyshire (including Derby City) by 31 March 2025. The Government has set a framework within which the Council must formulate the LNRS which comprises of:

- Ensuring the LNRS is prepared in a collaborative manner.
- Using evidence to identify opportunities and then the priorities for enhancing biodiversity.
- Establishing an action plan to deliver the priorities, with an initial time-horizon to 2033.
- Undertaking a public consultation on the draft LNRS.

- Seeking approval to the LNRS from Derbyshire's district and borough councils and the Peak District National Park Authority.
- The Council's Cabinet approving the LNRS.
- Publishing the LNRS (and then leading on its subsequent reviews).

4.1.4 This report explains why the LNRS for Derbyshire is important, the procedure by which the Council needs to lead its preparation, and the governance arrangements proposed to ensure that the LNRS is co-produced through effective engagement with interested stakeholder organisations and the public. Hence, the LNRS preparation will be a partnership endeavour and sustaining this approach will be critical to the successful delivery of the LNRS from 2025-26.

4.1.5 A draft LNRS Public Information Memorandum has been prepared to explain why the preparation of a LNRS is important for Derbyshire and how this will be undertaken over the period January 2024 to March 2025. The draft Public Information Memorandum supports the information provided in this report and is provided as Appendix 4. On approval of this report the Public Information Memorandum will be published on the Council's LNRS webpage.

4.2 **The Purpose of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy for Derbyshire**

4.2.1 The LNRS for Derbyshire will provide the route map for nature recovery in Derbyshire; setting a long-term vision and action plan that is formulated and delivered in a collaborate manner with everyone who wishes to participate. It will be founded on existing good practice and expertise whilst creating new opportunities to apply the advantages of partnerships to enabling nature to thrive. The LNRS will be reviewed every 3 to 10 years to assess progress and update priorities and actions.

4.2.2 The preparation of the LNRS for Derbyshire will fulfil a new statutory (legal) duty for the Council. This means that it must fulfil the statutory duties of a LNRS responsible authority as set out in:

- The Environment Act 2021(Section 105)
- The Environment (Local Nature Recovery Strategies) (Procedure) Regulations 2023 (April 2023)

4.2.3 Furthermore, the LNRS will be prepared in accordance with the East Midlands Mayoral Combined County Authority (EMCCA) Deal (August 2022) which makes the following important commitments:

- Agreement by Derbyshire County Council and Nottinghamshire County Council to act as the responsible authorities for the preparation of the Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRSs) for the Derby City and Derbyshire County, and Nottingham City and Nottinghamshire County LNRS respectively. Both county councils will work to ensure join up where possible across the two LNRS areas.
- Production of a EMCCA Flood Alleviation Strategy to help build community and economic resilience. This will support a comprehensive approach to tackling local nature recovery with a focus on green and blue infrastructure and maximising benefits for people, wildlife, and the economy.

4.2.3 DEFRA has also published LNRS Statutory Guidance (March 2023), which LNRS responsible authorities must have regard to.

4.2.4 The benefits that the LNRS for Derbyshire will provide include:

- A strategic guide for a locally led transformation of the way in which biodiversity is protected, restored and enhanced.
- The use of research and evidence to inform priorities for nature recovery e.g. the baseline information on habitats, and the ecosystem services they provide, as identified in the Natural Capital Strategy for Derbyshire
- Enable funding and resources to be used more efficiently and effectively in the support of nature recovery.
- Encourage all organisations and individuals interested in nature recovery to work effectively together to achieve agreed outcomes for nature.
- Enable landowners and land managers to understand how their land can contribute to nature's recovery.
- Offer opportunities to increase public connections to nature whilst supporting its recovery.
- Support the application of the National Planning Policy Framework (conserving and enhancing the natural environment) in Derbyshire.
- Maximise and quantify the value of biodiversity net gain as a condition of planning permission to Derbyshire.
- Tangible and significant contributions to the delivery of the Government's national "apex goal" of "thriving plants and wildlife" as set-out in the Environmental Improvement Plan (EIP) 2023.

4.3 The Responsible Authority for the Local Nature Recovery Strategy for Derbyshire

4.3.1 The Council has been appointed by the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, as the responsible authority for preparing, publishing and subsequently reviewing a LNRS for Derbyshire. The initial overarching responsibility of the Council is to prepare and publish the LNRS for Derbyshire by 31 March 2025. In summary this will involve fulfilling the requirements outlined below.

4.3.2 Establishing the baseline of the quantity, quality and diversity of habitats across Derbyshire

The LNRS will map the location and condition of Derbyshire's habitats – existing areas, places and sites that already exhibit good natural habitats and which form the basis for nature recovery. This will include local nature reserves and areas of irreplaceable habitats. Furthermore, the LNRS will identify where biodiversity is in decline or limited in ecosystem value.

4.3.3 Setting Derbyshire's ambition for nature recovery through a Statement of Biodiversity Priorities and a Local Habitat Map

The LNRS preparation will identify opportunities, priorities, outcomes, and measures for nature recovery and the wider environmental, economic, and social benefits this will realise. It will also assess where and how such benefits can be secured by considering the different parts of Derbyshire's natural environment, its geography and ecology, and the potential for improvement. The results will be written in the LNRS's statement of biodiversity priorities and plotted on a local habitat map.

4.3.4 Preparing a Delivery Plan for Nature Recovery in Derbyshire

The LNRS will provide a tangible set of measures/actions through which Derbyshire's nature recovery will be delivered, with an initial time horizon of up to April 2033.

4.3.5 Publish the LNRS for Derbyshire

The LNRS must be published, i.e., publicly available, with the evidence base against which it has been formulated, in accordance with a format prescribed by Government.

4.3.6 *Review and republishing of the LNRS for Derbyshire*

The LNRS must be reviewed and republished as part of an ongoing cycle of appraising what the strategy has achieved and identifying what further work is needed for nature to recover.

4.4 **Collaboration – the Involvement of People and Organisations**

4.4.1 The Council will need to work closely with relevant public, private and voluntary sector organisations to draw on their collective expertise in the production of the LNRS for Derbyshire. Hence the strategy will reflect collective local knowledge of relevant planned or ongoing nature recovery activity, enabling it to enhance integration between existing efforts to improve the environment in Derbyshire. Furthermore, the Council must ensure that the strategy is understandable and promote its value to local stakeholders, therefore encouraging their involvement in its preparation. Such stakeholders will include non-governmental organisations (NGOs), local planning authorities, businesses, landowners and managers, community interest groups, and the public.

4.4.2 The Council as the responsible authority must by the 2023 Regulations take certain 'reasonable steps' to involve Natural England and the supporting authorities, as defined in the Environment (Local Nature Recovery Strategies) (Procedure) Regulations 2023, in the preparation of the LNRS for Derbyshire. The supporting authorities are the local authorities whose areas are in the strategy area or partly in the strategy area. For Derbyshire, the supporting authorities are:

- Amber Valley Borough Council
- Bolsover District Council
- Chesterfield Borough Council
- Derby City Council
- Derbyshire Dales District Council
- Erewash Borough Council
- High Peak Borough Council
- North East Derbyshire District Council
- South Derbyshire District Council
- Peak District National Park Authority
- Natural England

4.4.3 These reasonable steps required of the Council include ensuring that the Council has regard to any opinions expressed by these authorities in relation to the strategy. It is important for these steps to be underpinned by effective collaboration, as a supporting authority can

lodge a formal objection to a LNRS consultation draft and give notice to the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if it considers that the final LNRS proposed for approval is materially deficient. The procedure for managing such circumstances involve the Secretary of State.

4.4.4 It is proposed to use the ten National Character Areas that relate to Derbyshire's landscapes as the basis for creating the LNRS. In so doing, each National Character Area's specific features (their Landscape Character Types), relevant evidence and policies, and stakeholder interests, will inform facilitated deliberate focus group discussions to establish, as far as is possible, an informed and agreed "local" LNRS for each National Character Area. The ten "local" National Character Areas will then be aggregated in a complementary manner to form the overarching Derbyshire LNRS for subsequent public consultation. Derbyshire's National Character Areas are shown on the map of the county shown in Appendix 2.

4.5 **Proposed Governance Arrangements for Stakeholder Engagement to Assist the Preparation of the LNRS**

4.5.1 To assist the Council to fulfil the responsible authority duties, it is proposed that the Council establishes governance arrangements for stakeholder (including supporting authority) engagement that reflect the legislative significance of the LNRS; the need for the Council to facilitate an inclusive and evidence-based approach to its preparation; and for the Council to be able to make a well-informed decision to approve a final version of the LNRS for Derbyshire in Quarter 4 2024-25.

4.5.2 Proposed outline arrangements are set out below and illustrated as a diagram in Appendix 3. They are regarded as suitable for implementation subject to any minor adjustments that might be considered by the Council (though the Executive Director Place in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Infrastructure and Environment), e.g. in respect of any comments or suggestions on it that might be received from a supporting authority or Natural England. They are also considered to be in line with the funded financial position described in Appendix 1. There are seven elements to the proposed arrangements as explained below.

4.5.3 *Derbyshire County Council (Cabinet)*

- Derbyshire County Council as the responsible authority designated under the Environment Act 2021 must fulfil the the functions for

preparation and publication of the LNRS under the Act and regulations made under it.

- These functions are part of the Cabinet executive functions and relate to the Infrastructure and Environment portfolio.

4.5.4 *The Derbyshire LNRS Advisory Board (Advisory Board)*

- This is a proposed new board for assisting the LNRS preparation for which draft terms of reference have been prepared and can be seen in the LNRS Public Information Memorandum which is a background paper to this report.
- Reporting to Derbyshire County Council (Cabinet).
- The main purpose of the Board would be to provide recommendations to the County Council regarding the Council's LNRS responsible authority functions under the 2021 Act and regulations (currently the Environment (Local Nature Recovery Strategies) (Procedure) Regulations 2023 (April 2023)).
- The Board would receive from the LNRS Steering Group (see below) proposals for it to consider for formulating any recommendations for the draft LNRS to the County Council.

Membership of the LNRS Advisory Board:

- Cabinet Member – Infrastructure and Environment, Derbyshire County Council.
Representing Derbyshire County Council, as the upper tier local authority for the Derbyshire LNRS area (except for Derby City).
- Elected member representative – Peak District National Park Authority.
Representing the Peak District National Park Authority, as the free-standing local planning authority for the part of the LNRS area in the National Park.
- Elected member representative – Derby City Council.
Representing Derby City Council, as unitary local authority for the part of the LNRS area outside the administrative area of Derbyshire County Council.
- Chair of the LNRS Steering Group.
- Chair of the LNRS Supporting Authorities Group (representing the input from Derbyshire's district and borough councils).
- Officer representative from Derby City Council.
- Officer representative from the Peak District National Park Authority.
- Environment and Transport Director, Derbyshire County Council.
- Senior Advisor, Local Nature Recovery Strategies (Derbyshire), Natural England.

4.5.5 *The Derbyshire LNRS Steering Group (LNRS Steering Group)*

- This is a proposed new Steering Group for the LNRS preparation for which draft terms of reference have been prepared.
- Reporting to the LNRS Advisory Board.
- A key purpose of the LNRS Steering Group would be to make proposals for the draft LNRS for Derbyshire for consideration by the LNRS Advisory Board.
- Another key purpose would be to promote effective organisational sector stakeholder involvement in the preparation of proposals for the draft LNRS and subsequent effective public consultation on the document, (having regard to the relevant Government guidance (currently the LNRS Statutory Guidance (March 2023))).

Membership of the LNRS Steering Group:

- Chair of the LNRS Steering Group (individual to be selected via a recruitment process by the Derbyshire County Council in January 2024).
- Chair of the LNRS Supporting Authorities Group (representing the input from Derbyshire's district and borough councils (see below)). Individual to be appointed from that Group.
- The representatives of the following LNRS Stakeholder Sector Groups (see below)
 - Agricultural Sector
 - Commercial developers
 - Business Sector
 - Infrastructure, energy and utility companies
 - Green finance investors
 - Healthcare
 - Mineral Products Industry
 - Environmental regulators
 - Land estates owners and managers
 - Research and academic sector
 - Town and Parish Councils
 - Trusts and charity landowners
 - Voluntary, Community, Faith and Social Enterprise Sector
 - Children and young adults
- Senior Advisor, Local Nature Recovery Strategies (Derbyshire), Natural England
- Assistant Director for Climate Change and Environment, Derbyshire County Council

4.5.6 *LNRS Supporting Authorities Group*

- This is a proposed group comprising officers from the Derbyshire district and boroughs councils, Derby City Council, and the Peak District National Park Authority that would contribute to the LNRS preparation. The Council would invite these authorities to set the terms of reference for the group, within the framework set out in this report.
- Reporting to the LNRS Advisory Board.
- Key activities of the Supporting Authorities Group would be to co-ordinate briefings with Derbyshire's district and borough council elected members, Derby City Council elected members, and the Peak District National Park Authority elected members on the LNRS preparation, and to provide information to the LNRS Steering Group.
- The Group would also provide a route by which the district and borough councils could direct their documented political approval (or other comments) for the final LNRS.
- The Supporting Authorities Group would also be requested by the Council to nominate its Chair (or other Group member) to represent Derbyshire's district and borough councils on the LNRS Steering Group.

4.5.7 *LNRS Stakeholder Sector Groups*

- These are proposed as new groups for assisting the LNRS preparation, reporting to the LNRS Steering Group
- Each sector group will be requested by the Council to mobilise effective and representative input into the LNRS preparation from their sector (e.g. with their specific LNRS evidence, policy, perspectives and priorities).
- The Council would invite stakeholders from the relevant sectors to nominate representatives to become members of the relevant sector group.
- Each sector group would appoint a member of their group to be the member of the LNRS Steering Group representing their sector.
- Each sector group would also be able to provide representation and participation on behalf of their sector in multi-sector LNRS Focus Groups for each of Derbyshire's National (landscape) Character Areas.

The proposed LNRS Stakeholder Sector Groups are as follows:

- Agricultural Sector
- Commercial developers

- Business Sector
- Infrastructure, energy and utility companies
- Green finance investors
- Healthcare
- Mineral Products Industry
- Environmental regulators
- Land estates owners and managers
- Research and academic sector
- Town and Parish Councils
- Trusts and charity landowners
- Voluntary, Community, Faith and Social Enterprise Sector
- Children and young adults

4.5.8 *Multi-sector LNRS Focus Groups*

- These are proposed new groups for assisting the LNRS preparation.
- Stakeholder Sector Group representatives will be invited by the Council to participate in focus groups for specific landscape character area facilitated discussions and debate based on each area's relevant policy, strategies and evidence. This will explore the perspectives from each Stakeholder Sector Group with the objective of building understanding, consensus and agreed National (landscape) Character Area habitat priorities.
- It is anticipated that a stakeholder engagement advisor will be commissioned by the Council to design, lead and report on the outcomes of the focus groups.
- The focus groups will have terms of reference.
- The reported outcomes will be scrutinised by the LNRS Steering Group when forming proposals for the draft LNRS for Derbyshire.

4.5.9 *Derbyshire County Council LNRS Officer Group*

- The Council has established an officer working group to enable the preparation of LNRS and stakeholder engagement. Its objectives are as follows:
 - To project manage the effective delivery of the work set out in the draft LNRS Information Memorandum (provided as a background document).
 - To draft the LNRS taking into account all relevant factors and giving close consideration to relevant recommendations of the LNRS Advisory Board based on proposals from the LNRS Steering Group.
 - To provide technical advice, information and secretariat to the LNRS Advisory Board.

- To commission and manage contracts associated with the preparation of the LNRS, in accordance with the Council's Financial Regulations.
- To ensure appropriate officer or advisor capacity and expertise.
- To encourage effective relationships between each element of the LNRS stakeholder engagement governance structure.

5. Consultation

5.1 The preparation and delivery of the LNRS for Derbyshire must be collaborative, it will build and strengthen local partnerships and positively influence the owners and managers of land to instigate biodiversity positive actions.

5.2 To ensure such collaborative production of the LNRS the following principles will be applied to the collaboration and governance arrangements explained in paragraphs 4.4 and 4.5:

- Inclusivity – priority will be placed on ensuring that everyone with an interest will have the opportunity to be involved.
- Clear communication – it is important that everyone can understand and contribute from a non-technical perspective.
- Transparency – the contributions of partners will be recorded and considered and how these inputs have been used, or not, in decisions will be explained and recorded.
- Consideration of national environmental objectives and their appropriate application in Derbyshire.
- Evidence based decisions – using the research, data and expertise available from local partnerships.
- Integration with relevant Derbyshire spatial plans and the existing designations of protected landscapes.
- Good joint working and complementary approaches with the Derbyshire's neighbouring LNRS areas of:
 - Cheshire East Council
 - Greater Manchester Combined Authority
 - Leicestershire County Council
 - Nottinghamshire County Council
 - South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority
 - Staffordshire County Council

6. Alternative Options Considered

6.1 The proposed approach to preparing Derbyshire's LNRS is designed to ensure compliance with the Council's statutory duties as the responsible authority for the LNRS.

- 6.2 The proposed approach for governance of stakeholder engagement has been established following the assessment of other models which have not offered the extent of opportunities for the collaborative production of the LNRS through the engagement of stakeholder organisations, for example not including the proposed multi-sector LNRS Focus Groups. Such options have been rejected given the strong desire of the Council to seek informed debate, sharing of perspectives, consensus building, agreed priorities, and thereby a deliverable county-wide improvement strategy for nature.
- 6.3 The option of including elected member representatives of Derbyshire's district and borough councils (the tier 2 of local government in the County) on an LNRS Board as voting members has also been considered. However, this has been rejected because such political input can be secured via the proposed LNRS Supporting Authorities Group, and the legal mechanisms open to the district and borough councils (as LNRS supporting authorities) should they not be content with whatever is prepared for the LNRS.

7. Implications

- 7.1 Appendix 1 sets out the relevant implications considered in the preparation of the report.

8. Background Papers

- 8.1 Report to the Cabinet Member for Infrastructure and Environment 26 May 2023 – Appointment of Responsible Authority for a Local Nature Recovery Strategy for Derbyshire.

9. Appendices

- 9.1 Appendix 1 – Implications
- 9.2 Appendix 2 - Derbyshire's National (landscape) Character Areas.
- 9.3 Appendix 3 - Diagram of proposed LNRS stakeholder engagement arrangements.
- 9.4 Appendix 4 - Draft LNRS Public Information Memorandum (12 December 2023).

10. Recommendations

That Cabinet:

- a) Notes the statutory duties that the Council must perform in its responsible authority role for the preparation and publication by 31 March 2025 of a Local Nature Recovery Strategy for Derbyshire.
- b) Approves the proposed governance arrangements for stakeholder engagement designed to support the performance of these duties that are outlined in this report.
- c) Authorises the Executive Director of Place in consultation with the Cabinet Member for the relevant portfolio to make such minor adjustments to these arrangements as he might consider to be appropriate or necessary.

11. Reasons for Recommendations

To ensure that the Council is compliant with the Environment (Local Nature Recovery Strategies) (Procedure) Regulations 2023 and the LNRS Statutory Guidance published by DEFRA in March 2023. The arrangements recommended for approval are designed to ensure effective opportunities for stakeholder collaboration as the Council fulfils its duties as responsible authority.

12. Is it necessary to waive the call in period?

12.1 No.

Report Author: Rupert Casey

Contact details: Rupert.Casey@derbyshire.gov.uk

Implications

Financial

- 1.1 The Government's New Burdens LNRS Funding allocated to the Council will ensure that the preparation of the LNRS is cost neutral to the Council's revenue budget.
- 1.2 The Council's LNRS New Burdens Funding budget is £0.423m.
- 1.3 The £0.423m comprises of the following sources of funding:
 - £0.048m in 2022-23 (received, not used in 2022-23 and carried forward to 2023-24)
 - £0.200m for 2023-24
 - £0.175m for 2024-25

Legal

- 2.1 Under Section 105 of the Environment Act 2021, LNRSs are to be prepared, published, and reviewed by responsible authorities designated by the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. The Council was identified by the Government in March 2022 as being a provisional responsible authority. The Environment (Local Nature Recovery Strategies) (Procedure) Regulations 2023 make provision in relation to the preparation, publication, review and republication of the LNRS, particularly the procedures to be followed. The Council, for carrying out this work, will also have to have regard to the relevant Government guidance (currently the LNRS Statutory Guidance published by DEFRA in March 2023).

Human Resources

- 3.1 The Council will ensure that appropriate officer resources are allocated to the preparation of the LNRS. This includes recruiting to a new fixed-term post of LNRS Officer using the funding referenced in Paragraph 1.2.

Information Technology

- 4.1 There are no direct information technology implications arising from this report.

Equalities Impact

- 5.1 The preparation of the LNRS will be undertaken in an inclusive manner in accordance with the principles identified at Paragraph 5.2.

Corporate objectives and priorities for change

- 6.1 The preparation of the LNRS will contribute to the following Council Plan objectives:

- Resilient, healthy, and safe communities
- High performing, value for money and resident focused services
- Effective early help for individuals and communities
- A prosperous and green Derbyshire

Other (for example, Health and Safety, Environmental Sustainability, Property and Asset Management, Risk Management and Safeguarding)

- 7.1 There are no other implications arising from this report.

Natural England's National Character Areas in Derbyshire



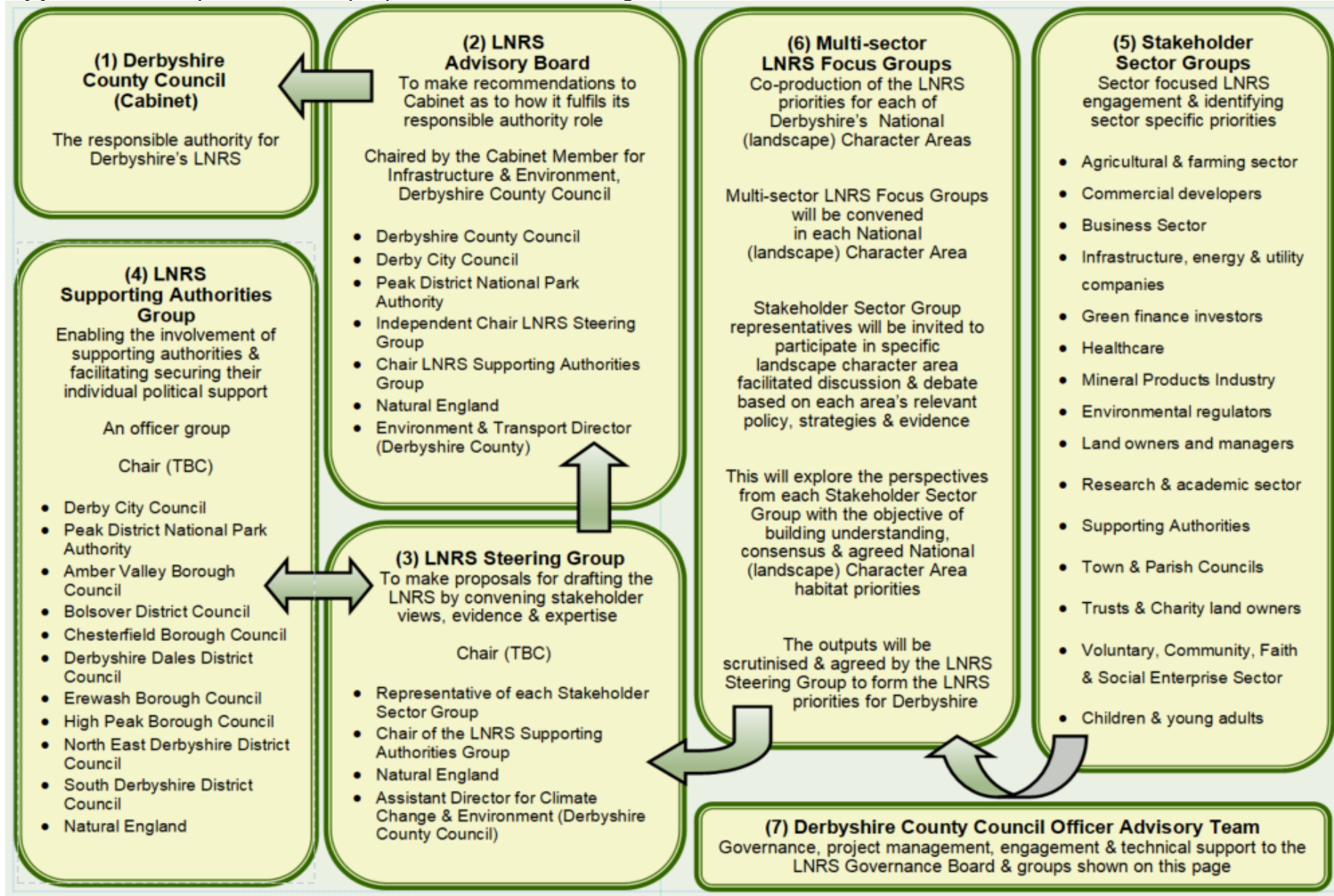
National Character Areas

- | | | | |
|---|---|---|---------------------------------------|
|  | Dark Peak |  | Needwood & South Derbyshire Claylands |
|  | White Peak |  | Trent Valley Washlands |
|  | Peak Fringe & Lower Derwent |  | Melbourne Parklands |
|  | S Yorkshire, Notts & Derbyshire Coalfield |  | Leics & South Derbyshire Coalfield |
|  | Southern Magnesian Limestone |  | Mease/Sence Lowlands |

© Crown copyright and database rights 2023. Ordnance Survey 100023251.

You are not permitted to copy, sub-licence, distribute or sell any of this data to third parties in any form.

Appendix 3: Proposed LNRS preparation liaison arrangements



Draft Public Information Memorandum



Preparing a Local Nature Recovery Strategy for Derbyshire

Public Information Memorandum

Local Nature Recovery Strategy: Context, Procedure and Governance

Draft: 12 December 2023

Publication date: 11 January 2024

Contents

	Page
Introduction	3
Part 1 The purpose of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy for Derbyshire	5
Part 2 Background	7
Part 3 The responsible authority for the Local Nature Recovery Strategy for Derbyshire	9
Part 4 The procedure by which Derbyshire County Council will fulfil its responsible authority for the Local Nature Recovery Strategy	11
Part 5 Preparing the content of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy for Derbyshire	19
Part 6 Governance arrangements for the preparation of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy for Derbyshire	30
Appendix A Glossary of terms	48
Appendix B Stakeholder organisations relevant to the LNRS preparation	51
	52

Introduction

This Information Memorandum has been prepared by Derbyshire County Council to explain why the preparation of a Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) is important for Derbyshire and how this will be done over the period January 2024 to March 2025. The Memorandum seeks to provide assurance to the people and organisations who are interested in contributing to this important partnership endeavour to enhance the county's biodiversity that this work will be progressed in accordance with Government legislation and guidance.

The Information Memorandum will be published on Derbyshire County Council's LNRS webpage on 11 January 2024:

[Local nature recovery - Derbyshire County Council](#)

Subsequent information memorandums will be published by Derbyshire County Council at appropriate times during the preparation of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy.

This Information Memorandum is structured as follows.

Structure	Key points
Part 1 The purpose of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy for Derbyshire	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Setting a long-term vision, outcomes and action plan• Formulated and delivered in a collaborate manner• Fulfilling a new statutory (legal) duty for Derbyshire County Council• The benefits that the LNRS is expected to provide to Derbyshire
Part 2 Background	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Biodiversity loss in England is accelerating• The Government's Environmental Improvement Plan 2023• Nature Recovery measures for England• Creating a Nature Recovery Network for England of 48 complementary county-scale LNRS
Part 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Derbyshire County Council is the responsible authority for preparing the LNRS for Derbyshire in a highly collaborative way

<p>The Responsible Authority for the Local Nature Recovery Strategy for Derbyshire</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This is a new statutory duty • Key requirements - preparing, publishing and subsequently reviewing a LNRS for Derbyshire • Preparation to be completed by 31 March 2025
<p>Part 4 The procedure by which Derbyshire County Council will fulfil its responsible authority for the Local Nature Recovery Strategy</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensuring the LNRS is prepared in accordance with The Environment (Local Nature Recovery Strategies) (Procedure) Regulations 2023 • The Government's set procedure for responsible authorities must be adhered to
<p>Part 5 Preparing the content of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy for Derbyshire</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Writing the LNRS in an informed and collaborative manner that will enable the procedure for the strategy's preparation, consultation, approval and publication to be effectively followed and completed
<p>Part 6 Governance arrangements for the preparation of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy for Derbyshire</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The management arrangements that Derbyshire County Council will use in the preparation of the LNRS will ensure the effective delivery of Parts 1 to 5 of this Information Memorandum
<p>Appendix A - Glossary of terms</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A glossary of terms that relate to the Local Nature Recovery Strategy
<p>Appendix B – Stakeholders</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The stakeholder sector groups that Derbyshire County Council has identified as being relevant to the preparation of the LNRS

Part 1

The purpose of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy for Derbyshire

The LNRS for Derbyshire will provide the route map for nature recovery in Derbyshire; setting a long-term vision and action plan that is formulated and delivered in a collaborate manner with everyone who wishes to participate. It will be founded on existing good practice and expertise whilst creating new opportunities to apply the advantages of partnerships to enabling nature to thrive. The LNRS will be reviewed every 3 to 10-years to assess progress and update priorities and actions.

The preparation of the LNRS for Derbyshire will fulfil a statutory (legal) duty for Derbyshire County Council.

The benefits that the LNRS for Derbyshire is expected to provide are as follows:

- Strategically guide a locally led transformation in the way in which biodiversity is protected, restored and enhanced
- Enable funding and resources to be used more efficiently and effectively in the support of nature recovery
- Encourage all organisations and individuals interested in nature recovery to work effectively together to achieve agreed outcomes for nature
- Enable landowners and land managers to understand how their land can contribute to nature's recovery
- Offer opportunities to increase public connections to nature whilst supporting its recovery
- Support the application of the National Planning Policy Framework (conserving and enhancing the natural environment) in Derbyshire; it is anticipated that local planning authorities will need to have regard to the LNRS (guidance on this is anticipated from the Government)
- Inform the delivery of the duty on Derbyshire's local authorities to report on action taken to conserve and enhance biodiversity ("the general biodiversity objective" as set out in section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 (NERC Act) as revised by the Environment Act 2021)
- Maximise and quantify the value of Biodiversity net gain as a condition of planning permission to Derbyshire (Sections 98 to 101 Environment Act 2021)
- Tangible and significant contributions to the delivery of the Government's national "apex goal" of "thriving plants and wildlife" as set-out in the Environmental Improvement Plan (EIP) 2023

Importantly, the East Midlands Mayoral Combined County Authority (EMCCA) Deal (August 2022) makes the following important commitments:

- Agreement by Derbyshire County Council and Nottinghamshire County Council to act as the responsible authorities for the preparation of the Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRSs) for the Derby City and Derbyshire County, and Nottingham City and Nottinghamshire County LNRS respectively. Both county councils will work to ensure join-up of each LNRS where this is possible.
- Production of a EMCCA Flood Alleviation Strategy to help build community and economic resilience. This will support a comprehensive approach to tackling local nature recovery with a focus on green and blue infrastructure and maximising benefits for people, wildlife, and the economy.

Part 2 Background

Biodiversity loss in England is accelerating. There is recognition from the Government, public authorities, and the environmental sector that prompt action at both landscape and local scales is required to address society's neglect of nature. Planning for nature recovery must take place in a strategic, collaborative, and evidenced based manner. Furthermore, a more biodiverse environment will allow important new net zero, climate change resilience, social, health, regeneration, and economic growth benefits to be realised.

On 31 January 2023 the Government published its Environmental Improvement Plan 2023. This is a detailed delivery plan designed to halt the decline in biodiversity and achieve the Government's apex goal of Thriving Plants and Wildlife. The Plan replaces the Government's 25 Year Environment Plan (2018). Importantly the Plan is set against the legal framework of the Environment Act 2021 to ensure effective progress of its policies and actions. This includes enabling local government, businesses, the third sector, and the public to take collective nature positive action.

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1168372/environmental-improvement-plan-2023.pdf

The Government has established a suite of interrelated measures to enable the effective delivery of its Environmental Improvement Plan 2023. The targets include specific requirements that relate to nature recovery in England, for example:

- Halt the decline in species populations by 2030, and then increase populations by at least 10% to exceed current levels by 2042
- Restore precious water bodies to their natural state
- Increase total tree and woodland cover from 14.5% of England's land area now to 16.5% by 2050
- To restore or create in excess of 500,000 hectares of a range of wildlife-rich habitat outside protected sites by 2042, compared to 2022 levels

The Environment Act 2021 brings into law the Government's intention to create a Nature Recovery Network across England. The Nature Recovery Network will comprise of 48 county-based local nature recovery strategies which will cover the whole of England with no gaps or overlaps. In accordance with the Act each strategy will be designed to ensure locally targeted, more co-ordinated, practical, and focused action, and investment in nature. The collective and complementary outputs from 48 strategies will be the delivery of the strategic national objectives of the Nature Recovery Network which are as follow:

- Creating and restoring wildlife-rich habitats, corridors and stepping-stones that help wildlife populations to grow and move

- Improving the landscape's resilience to climate change, providing natural solutions to reduce carbon and manage flood risk, and sustaining vital ecosystems such as improved soil, clean water, and clean air
- Reinforcing the natural, geological, and cultural diversity of England's landscapes, and protecting the country's historic natural environment
- Enabling people to enjoy and connect with nature where they live, work and play - benefiting society's health and wellbeing

Part 3

The responsible authority for the Local Nature Recovery Strategy for Derbyshire

Derbyshire County Council has been appointed by the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, as the responsible authority for preparing, publishing and subsequently reviewing a LNRS for Derbyshire. This means that it must fulfil the statutory duties of a LNRS responsible authority as set out in:

- The Environment Act 2021(Section 105)
- The Environment (Local Nature Recovery Strategies) (Procedure) Regulations 2023 (April 2023)
- The Government’s LNRS Statutory Guidance (March 2023)

The initial overarching responsibility of Derbyshire County Council is to prepare and publish the LNRS for Derbyshire by 31 March 2025. In summary this will involve fulfilling the requirements (a) to (d) below.

a) Establishing the baseline of the quantity, quality and diversity of habitats across Derbyshire

The LNRS will map the location and condition of Derbyshire’s habitats – existing areas, places and sites that are already exhibit good natural habitats and which form the basis for nature recovery. This will include local nature reserves and areas of irreplaceable habitats. Furthermore the LNRS will identify where biodiversity is in decline or limited in ecosystem value.

b) Setting Derbyshire’s ambition for nature recovery through a Statement of Biodiversity Priorities and a Local Habitat Map

The LNRS preparation will identify opportunities, priorities, outcomes, and measures for nature recovery and the wider environmental, economic, and social benefits this will realise. It will also assess where and how such benefits can be secured by considering the different parts of Derbyshire’s natural environment, its geography and ecology, and the potential for improvement. The results will be written in the Local Nature Recovery Strategy’s statement of biodiversity priorities and plotted on a local habitat map.

c) Preparing a Delivery Plan for Nature Recovery in Derbyshire

The LNRS will provide a tangible set of measures / actions through which Derbyshire’s nature recovery will be delivered, with an initial time horizon of up to April 2033.

d) Publish the LNRS for Derbyshire

The LNRS must be published i.e. publicly available, with the evidence base against which it has been formulated, in accordance with a format prescribed by Government.

e) Review and republishing of the LNRS for Derbyshire

The LNRS must be reviewed and republished as part of an ongoing cycle of appraising what the strategy has achieved and identifying what further work is needed for nature to recover.

**The procedure by which Derbyshire County Council will fulfil its
responsible authority for the Local Nature Recovery Strategy**

In fulfilling the responsible authority role for the LNRS for Derbyshire, Derbyshire County Council will ensure that requirements (a) to (e) shown in Part 3 are undertaken in accordance with the following actions:

Action A: Collaboration – the involvement of people and organisations

Action B: Collaboration – the involvement of supporting authorities

Action C: Preparing the consultation draft of the LNRS for Derbyshire

Action D: Preparing the final LNRS for Derbyshire

Action E: Publication of the final local nature recovery strategy

Action F: Ensuring the final LNRS can be reviewed and updated

An explanation of actions (A) to (F) is provided below.

Action A: Collaboration – the involvement of people and organisations

A (1) Derbyshire County Council will work closely with relevant public, private and voluntary sector organisations to draw on their collective expertise in the co-production of the LNRS for Derbyshire. Hence the strategy will reflect collective local knowledge of relevant planned or ongoing nature recovery activity, enabling it to enhance integration between existing efforts to improve the environment in Derbyshire. Furthermore, Derbyshire County Council will ensure that the strategy is understandable and promote its value to local stakeholders, therefore encouraging their involvement in its preparation. Such stakeholders will include non-governmental organisations (NGOs), local planning authorities, businesses, landowners and managers, community interest groups, and the public.

- A (2)** Derbyshire County Council is in the process of identifying the persons and organisations it considers appropriate to involve in the preparation of the LNRS for Derbyshire. Relevant stakeholder sector groups are shown in Appendix B. It will keep this under review.
- A (3)** Derbyshire County Council has created a LNRS for Derbyshire webpage ([Local nature recovery - Derbyshire County Council](#)) which contains the following content:

- Contact details for enquiries to Derbyshire County Council in respect to the Local Nature Recovery Strategy
- Government guidance on Local Nature Recovery Strategies

Derbyshire County Council will host and maintain a Local Nature Recovery Strategy webpage, to publicise the LNRS and provide information and resources about the LNRS to partners, stakeholders and the public. The Council will publish contact details for the LNRS officer or team and provide updates on the progress in developing the strategy. The Council also intends to use the LNRS webpage to provide more detailed information, including to:

- Show the work achieved to date, including sharing draft strategy documents, workshop outputs, links to presentations etc
- Link to mapping work associated with the project
- Showcase associated work, like the Natural Capital Strategy for Derbyshire and provide links to data and evidence being used to inform the development of the LNRS
- Be one method by which we undertake public consultation and engagement at critical stages of strategy development

Once the LNRS is completed, the Council will use the webpage to publicise details about any future plans to review and republish the strategy.

- A (4)** This website will be updated as the LNRS preparation progresses with the following type of information:
- Agendas, reports and minutes from relevant governance meetings
 - Information memorandums e.g. project plan, consultation information, calls for evidence and progress update

Action B: Collaboration – the involvement of supporting authorities

B (1) Derbyshire County Council will take reasonable steps to involve all supporting authorities, as defined in the Environment (Local Nature Recovery Strategies) (Procedure) Regulations 2023, in the preparation of the LNRS for Derbyshire (i.e. a local authority whose area is within the strategy area and including authorities partly within the strategy area).

For Derbyshire, the supporting authorities are:

- Amber Valley Borough Council
- Bolsover District Council
- Chesterfield Borough Council
- Derby City Council
- Derbyshire Dales District Council
- Erewash Borough Council
- High Peak Borough Council
- North East Derbyshire District Council
- South Derbyshire District Council

- Peak District National Park Authority

- Natural England

B (2) Derbyshire County Council will proactively seek to involve all supporting authorities in the preparation of the LNRS and will have regard to any opinions expressed by the authorities in relation to the strategy.

Action C: Preparing the consultation draft of the LNRS for Derbyshire

C (1) Through the collaborative approaches highlighted in Actions (A) and (B) above Derbyshire County Council will prepare a consultation draft of the LNRS.

- C (2)** Derbyshire County Council plans to commission a LNRS Stakeholder Engagement Advisor to design and deliver a stakeholder engagement process that will inform the preparation of the consultation draft LNRS in a manner whereby:
- Derbyshire County Council has listened to, and considered, participants views
 - There is clear evidence of how such engagement has had influence
 - Participants are engaged in a meaningful way, and are therefore more enthusiastic about getting involved in the future
 - The engagement process has made a difference – to the participants, to the content of the draft LNRS and the work programme that arises
- C (3)** Derbyshire County Council's procurement procedures will be used to select this advisor with the commission starting in February 2024.
- C (4)** Derbyshire County Council anticipates that stakeholder engagement in the preparation of the draft LNRS will be undertaken through a process of participatory and deliberative decision-making. This is an approach to decision-making that allows participants to consider relevant information, discuss the issues and options and develop their thinking together before coming to a view. Such an engagement process will lead to the co-production and then co-delivery of a LNRS for Derbyshire.
- C (5)** On completion of the draft LNRS Derbyshire County Council will consult people and organisations on its content in the following order of stages.
- **Stage 1: Feedback from the supporting authorities on the draft LNRS**
 - Derbyshire County Council will provide the supporting authorities with the consultation draft of the LNRS.
 - At this time Derbyshire County Council will ask all the supporting authorities for written comments on the consultation draft and agreement for it to be used for public consultation (see Stage 2 below).
 - Derbyshire County Council will engage with the supporting authorities to ensure that to the greatest extent possible the comments are used to enhance the draft LNRS and thereby secure agreement for public consultation. Derbyshire County Council will record the comments received and respond, in writing to the supporting authorities, to explain how these have

been used. This engagement will be undertaken, and ideally concluded, in advance of Derbyshire County Council conducting public consultation on the strategy.

- If a supporting authority is not satisfied with the outcomes of this engagement and therefore does not agree to the consultation draft LNRS it can make formal written objections, with reasons, to Derbyshire County Council regarding:
 - The content of the consultation draft of the local nature recovery strategy
 - The extent to which Derbyshire County Council has involved them in the preparation of the consultation draft of the local nature recovery strategy
- Such objections must be provided to Derbyshire County Council before the expiry of 28-days beginning with the day on which Derbyshire County Council provided the supporting authority with the draft LNRS. Derbyshire County Council will seek to resolve the objections through further engagement with the objecting supporting authority and thereby secure the supporting authority's agreement to proceed with public consultation.
- If such an agreement cannot be secured and Derbyshire County Council wishes to proceed with public consultation on the draft LNRS, then there is a legal procedure through which the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs will determine if the public consultation should proceed. Derbyshire County Council cannot conduct a public consultation, i.e. move to Stage 2 below, unless the outcome of this procedure authorises it to do so.

- **Stage 2: Public consultation on the draft LNRS**

- Taking into consideration feedback from supporting authorities on the consultation draft of the LNRS (Stage 1 above), Derbyshire County Council will finalise the consultation draft of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy.
- Derbyshire County Council will then undertake a Derbyshire-wide public consultation on the public consultation draft Local Nature Recovery Strategy. The design of this consultation has yet to be determined, however Derbyshire County Council will ensure that it is formulated with the supporting authorities and other organisational partners.
- Derbyshire County Council expects to commission a LNRS Public Consultation Advisor to design and deliver public consultation on the consultation draft of the LNRS that provides results that are statistically sound and are representative of the views of Derbyshire. To do so the methods used for the public consultation will provide high-value and independent

quantitative and qualitative research outcomes that accord with the Market Research Society Code of Conduct 2023 ([MRS-code-of-conduct-2023.pdf](#)).

- Derbyshire County Council's procurement procedures will be used to select this advisor with the commission starting in April 2024.
- On conclusion of the public consultation Derbyshire County Council will review the feedback received and invite the supporting authorities and other organisational stakeholders to take part in this exercise. Derbyshire County Council will determine if or how the LNRS should be updated considering the consultation outcomes and the views of the supporting authorities and organisational stakeholders on the results.
- This update will represent the final LNRS for Derbyshire and at this point Derbyshire County Council will consider it ready for formal approval to be published (see Action D below).
- All responses to the public consultation will be published by Derbyshire County Council. Furthermore, Derbyshire County Council will provide a written public explanation as to how it has taken the responses into account in preparing the final LNRS.

Action D: Preparing the final LNRS for Derbyshire

- D (1)** Derbyshire County Council will undertake the following steps to enable the final LNRS to be formally approved by the political leadership of each supporting authority (apart from Natural England) in advance of it being published.
- D (2)** The final LNRS will be provided to Derbyshire County Council's neighbouring responsible authorities. At this time, Derbyshire County Council will notify them of the date on which the final LNRS will be published (this is expected to be 31 March 2025). The supporting authorities (apart from Natural England) will be asked by Derbyshire County Council may wish to provide their formal political leadership written approval to the final LNRS for Derbyshire within 28-days of them receiving this approval request.
- D (3)** On receipt of formal political leadership written approval to the final LNRS from ideally all supporting authorities then Derbyshire County Council's Cabinet will then consider approving the final Local Nature Recovery Strategy. If approval is secured from Derbyshire County Council's Cabinet, then Derbyshire County Council will then give reasonable advance written notice to the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs of the date it intends to publish the final LNRS and the website it will be published on.

D (4) Derbyshire County Council will also, at the time of giving this written notice of publication, provide the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs with the final LNRS in an editable electronic format from which its relevant parts can be readily accessed including:

- The location and extent of areas in Derbyshire which, in the opinion of Derbyshire County Council, are of particular importance for biodiversity
- The location and extent of areas in Derbyshire which, in the opinion of Derbyshire County Council:
 - Could become of particular importance for biodiversity; or
 - Are areas where the recovery or enhancement of biodiversity could make a particular contribution to other environmental benefits
- Proposals by Derbyshire County Council as to potential measures (and their locations) relating to the priorities, in terms of habitats and species, for recovering and enhancing biodiversity

Action E: Publication of the final LNRS

E (1) Derbyshire County Council will publish the final LNRS once it has met the following criteria:

- The conclusion of a public consultation on the draft local nature recovery strategy
- Notification to the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs of the intention to publish the final Local Nature Recovery Strategy
- All supporting authorities have confirmed in writing support for the final LNRS to be published; or, 28-days have expired, beginning with the date on which Derbyshire County Council provided the final LNRS to all of the supporting authorities
- The appropriate conclusion to any publication advisory notice given to Derbyshire County Council by a supporting authority (as highlighted below)

E (2) A supporting authority that considers that the final LNRS is materially deficient because it cannot be justified based on the results of the public consultation then it may give a written publication advisory notice to Derbyshire County Council and the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. Derbyshire County Council will investigate the matters raised in the publication advisory notice and reply in writing to the supporting authority, within 28-days of receipt of the notice, the results of the investigation and the further steps it intends to take, or has taken, in relation to the matters raised in the notice. This response will also be sent to the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. If the supporting authority does not subsequently inform Derbyshire County Council that it is content with the publication of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy, then Derbyshire County Council will request permission from the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs to publish the LNRS and alert the supporting authorities that it has done this.

E (3) Derbyshire County Council will publish the final LNRS as follows:

On the following website: [Local nature recovery - Derbyshire County Council](#)

Paper copies available to view at:

Derbyshire County Council
County Hall
Matlock
DE4 3AG

Other locations for viewing paper copies will be considered in due course.

Derbyshire County Council will not change the published LNRS other than in accordance with the Regulations or without written agreement of the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.

Action F: Ensuring the final LNRS can be reviewed and updated

F (1) Derbyshire County Council will arrange to review the LNRS when notified by the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs to do so. This notification is expected between April 2026 and April 2033. It will include:

- A review of the statement of biodiversity priorities and local habitat map

- An assessment of progress in achieving the priorities for recovering or enhancing biodiversity set out in the Local Nature Recovery Strategy's statement of biodiversity priorities
- An assessment of any actions taken to enable areas in Derbyshire to become of particular importance for biodiversity
- An assessment of any actions taken to recover or enhance biodiversity in Derbyshire for the purpose of achieving environmental benefits

Part 5

Preparing the content of the LNRS for Derbyshire

Parts 3 and 4 of this Information Memorandum have explained the procedure and approach that Derbyshire County Council will follow in the preparation of the LNRS for Derbyshire.

Part 5 of this Information Memorandum outlines the scope of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy's content and how this should be informed, formulated and presented in accordance with the Government's LNRS statutory guidance. This represents the vital work of preparing / writing the LNRS in an informed and collaborative manner that will enable the procedure for the strategy's preparation, consultation, approval and publication to be effectively followed.

a) The preparation of the LNRS for Derbyshire will be informed by:

- Understanding the environmental issues that are important locally
- Applying technically sound and evidenced based information
- Describing the biodiversity that Derbyshire currently hosts
- Mapping the most valuable existing areas for nature
- Mapping areas where nature recovery has taken place (when the strategy is reviewed)
- Establishing a single vision for nature recovery in Derbyshire identifying the priorities to deliver this
- Mapping locations to create or improve habitat that are likely to provide the greatest benefit for nature, the wider environment and society
- Identifying measures (actions) for achieving the agreed priorities for nature recovery
- Establishing mechanisms for reviewing progress of actions, updating and re-publishing the strategy every three to ten years

- b) **The preparation and delivery of the LNRS for Derbyshire must be collaborative, it will build and strengthen local partnerships and positively influence the owners and managers of land to instigate biodiversity positive actions**

To ensure the co-production of the LNRS for Derbyshire the following principles will be applied:

- Inclusivity – priority will be placed on ensuring that everyone with an interest will have the opportunity to be involved
- Clear communication – it is important that everyone can understand and contribute from a non-technical perspective
- Transparency – the contributions of partners will be recorded and considered and how these inputs have been used, or not, in decisions will be explained and recorded
- Consideration of national environmental objectives and their appropriate application in Derbyshire
- Evidence based decisions – using the research, data and expertise available from local partnerships
- Integration with relevant Derbyshire spatial plans and the existing designations of protected landscapes
- Good joint working and complementary approaches with the Derbyshire’s neighbouring LNRS areas of:
 - Cheshire East Council
 - Greater Manchester Combined Authority
 - Leicestershire County Council
 - Nottinghamshire County Council
 - South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority
 - Staffordshire County Council

- c) **The Statement of Biodiversity Priorities**

The LNRS must include a statement of biodiversity priorities (the written statement) and a local habitat map (the visual interpretation of the written statement) that are aligned to direct nature recovery measures / actions.

The statement of biodiversity priorities must include:

- **A description of the landscape character areas of Derbyshire** (i.e. sub-areas of the county that have similar topography, geology and soil type) and the biodiversity these areas host that considers:
 - The current range and distribution of habitats (especially priority habitats)
 - How this range and distribution of habitats has changed over recent decades (including any habitats that may have been lost entirely from Derbyshire)
 - The species or groups of species for which Derbyshire is, or could feasibly be, of national importance
 - Anticipated future pressures likely to influence species or the extent, distribution or quality of different habitat types; including recognising the impact of climate change scenarios and anticipated new developments, including house building and infrastructure
 - Wider environmental issues affecting part or all of Derbyshire which changes in land use or management could help to address e.g. improvements to the water environment, flood risk management, or climate change mitigation and adaptation
 - Information drawn from relevant spatial plans e.g. local plans and river basin management plans
- **A description of the opportunities for recovering or enhancing biodiversity**, in terms of habitats and species, in these landscape character areas (with specific locations being identified on the local habitat map)
- **The priorities for recovering or enhancing biodiversity and considering the contribution that these can make to other environmental benefits** (with specific locations, where appropriate, for their delivery being identified on the local habitat map). Such priorities will:
 - Establish what nature recovery benefits the strategy is seeking to achieve locally and in support of national environmental objectives
 - Identify how the strategy will provide nature-based solutions that enable wider environmental benefit
 - Enable the effective targeting of available resources in specific areas that deliver high benefit whilst recognising the importance of broader and less-impactful landscape-scale priorities

- Be selected through the design and application of a co-produced method of evaluation with Derbyshire's public, private and voluntary sectors
- **The proposed measures (actions) to deliver each priority.** These measures should:
 - Be determined transparently based on local circumstances and expertise
 - Demonstrate high habitat improvement impact
 - Can deliver achievable improvements by 2033 to species and habitats through the conservation and enhancement of the natural environment at identified / mapped locations
 - Contribute to the national environmental objectives, commitments and targets such as mitigating climate change (e.g. through the potential measure of planting trees), improving the water environment (e.g. through the potential measure of creating wetlands), and mitigating flood risk (e.g. through the potential measure of restoring upland peat)
 - Create co-benefits that arise from securing the primary objective of improved biodiversity such as enhancing people's health and wellbeing by encouraging their connections with nature
 - Include relevant environmental projects already planned or underway
 - Bring about significant and lasting change that establish larger, more resilient networks of high-quality habitat across Derbyshire (rather than minor, short-term or uncertain benefits)
 - Consider the resulting impact on changes to habitats type coverage to ensure that an overall biodiversity-positive benefit is secured

d) **The Local Habitat Map**

The LNRS must include a local habitat map.

The local habitat map will plot in a clear visual way the areas of Derbyshire that are or could become of particular importance for biodiversity, by mapping two types of information:

- **Areas of particular importance for biodiversity (relevant sites), including:**
 - National conservation sites in Derbyshire
 - Local nature reserves in Derbyshire
 - All existing local wildlife sites that are identified at a local level for their biodiversity value

- Areas of irreplaceable habitat as defined by the National Planning Policy Framework i.e.:
- Habitats which would be technically very difficult (or take a very significant time) to restore, recreate or replace once destroyed, taking into account age, uniqueness, species diversity or rarity. They include ancient woodland, ancient and veteran trees, blanket bog, limestone pavement, sand dunes, salt marsh and lowland fen.

The suite of sites and habitat data outlined above has been prescribed by Government to establish a nationally consistent baseline of areas whose particular importance has already been recognised and are protected.

- **Other areas within the strategy area that could become of particular importance for nature recovery; where the potential measures / practical actions identified in the statement of biodiversity priorities will be applied i.e.:**

- Areas that are, or could become, of particular importance for biodiversity e.g. protected landscapes such as Green Belt and the Peak District National Park
- Areas where the recovery or enhancement of biodiversity could make a particular contribution to other environmental benefits e.g. near to communities

These areas will be defined through the co-production of the LNRS with stakeholders in describing the strategy area and the biodiversity it currently supports; to identify opportunities for nature recovery; and in agreeing the priorities for nature recovery for Derbyshire; and the actions and measures required to deliver against those priorities.

e) Using Derbyshire's existing policy, evidence and knowledge to inform the preparation of the LNRS

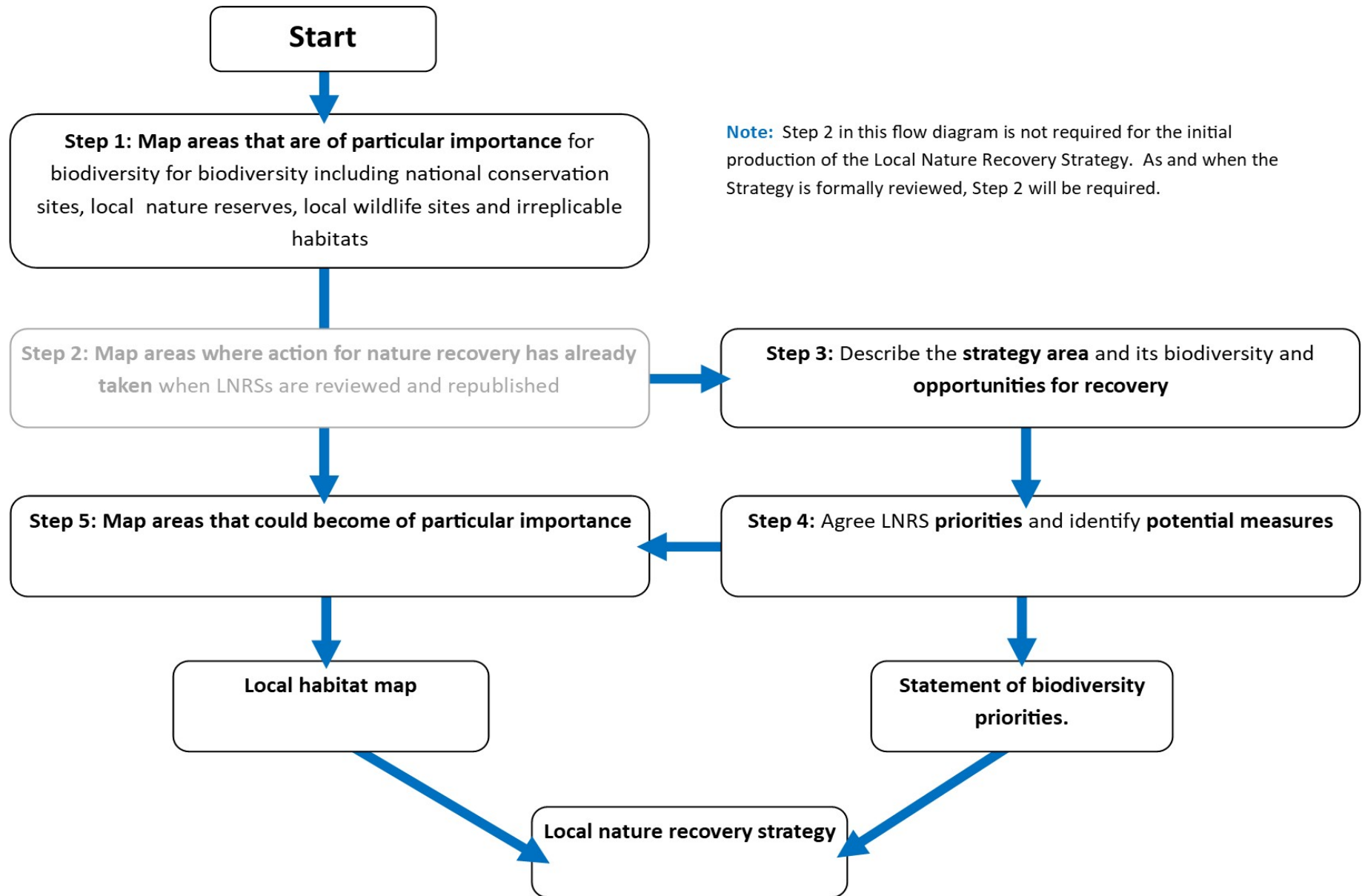
Derbyshire County Council wishes to use existing policies, strategies and evidence to establish a shared understanding of the environmental challenges, opportunities and priorities in Derbyshire.

Derbyshire County Council holds a variety of data and environmental information which it can contribute to this process, including information on the natural environment, the Landscape Character of Derbyshire, and information on the cultural heritage and archaeology of the county.

The Natural Capital Strategy for Derbyshire provides an assessment of the natural capital (environmental resources) present in Derbyshire, an appraisal of the ecosystem services they provide, and an assessment to the benefits we currently receive from the environment, including identifying areas where environmental enhancement could be targeted to deliver additional benefits for people and for nature. The Natural Capital Strategy is based upon a countywide habitat mapping exercise which can both contribute to the LNRS evidence base and subsequent preparation.

- f) **The statement of biodiversity priorities and the local habitat map will be aligned to form the LNRS for Derbyshire.**

The following steps will be followed in their preparation.



g) Using Derbyshire’s National (landscape) Character Areas as the basis to structure the preparation of the LNRS

Derbyshire County Council intends to use the ten National Character Areas that relate to Derbyshire to create a “local” Statement of Biodiversity Priorities and Habitat Map for each of these National Character Areas. In so doing each National Character Area’s specific features (as shown as Landscape Character Types), relevant evidence and policies, and stakeholder interests, will inform facilitated discussions to establish, as far as is possible, an informed and agreed “local” LNRS for each National Character Area. The ten “local” National Character Area LNRS will then be aggregated in a complementary manner to form the overarching Derbyshire LNRS.

The Landscape Character of Derbyshire document was originally prepared by the Council in 2003 and updated by the Council in 2014. It informs spatial planning and landscape policy for Derbyshire. It has been prepared to follow the Government’s (Natural England) national mapping of 159 separate and distinctive National Character Areas (NCAs). There are ten NCAs which wholly, or in part, cover Derbyshire. Hence, the approach of using this method to formulate the LNRS should dovetail with the cross-over with Derbyshire’s neighbouring LNRS.

These ten National Character Areas are sub-divided into 39 Landscape Character Types (LCTs) that represent landscapes within each NCA of similar character. A description of the key features each Landscape Character Type has been prepared that provides a robust evidence base against which the LNRS can be strategically prepared and then delivered.

The National Landscape Character Area descriptions for Derbyshire are identified below.

The National Landscape Character Area descriptions for Derbyshire	
National Character Area	Landscape Character Type
1) Dark Peak	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open Moors • Moorland Fringe • Enclosed Moorland • Settled Valley Pastures • Riverside Meadows
2) White Peak	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plateau Pastures • Upland Limestone Pastures • Limestone Slopes • Limestone Dales











3) Derbyshire Peak Fringe and Lower Derwent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enclosed Moors and Heaths • Wooded Slopes and Valleys • Woodland Farmlands • Gritstone Heaths and Commons • Settled Farmlands • Riverside Meadows
4) Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire, and Yorkshire Coalfield	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wooded Hills and Valleys • Estate Farmlands • Wooded Farmlands • Coalfield Village Farmlands • Coalfield Estatelands • Plateau Estate Farmlands • Riverside Meadows
5) Southern Magnesium Limestone	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limestone Farmlands • Limestone Gorges
6) Needwood and South Derbyshire Claylands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Settled Plateau Farmlands • Settled Farmlands • Sandstone Slopes and Heaths • Estate Farmlands • Riverside Meadows
7) Trent Valley Washlands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lowland Village Farmlands • Wet Pasture Meadows • Riverside Meadows
8) Melbourne Parklands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Estate Farmlands • Wooded Estatelands • Sandstone Slopes and Heaths

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Riverside Meadows
9) Leicestershire and South Derbyshire Coalfield	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Coalfield Village Farmlands
10) Mease / Sence Lowlands	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Village Estate Farmlands• Riverside Meadows

Natural England's National Character Areas in Derbyshire



National Character Areas

 Dark Peak	 Needwood & South Derbyshire Claylands
 White Peak	 Trent Valley Washlands
 Peak Fringe & Lower Derwent	 Melbourne Parklands
 S Yorkshire, Notts & Derbyshire Coalfield	 Leics & South Derbyshire Coalfield
 Southern Magnesian Limestone	 Mease/Sence Lowlands

© Crown copyright and database rights 2023. Ordnance Survey 100023251.
 You are not permitted to copy, sub-licence, distribute or sell any of this data to third parties in any form.

Part 6

Governance arrangements for the preparation of the LNRS for Derbyshire

The management arrangements that Derbyshire County Council will use in the preparation of the LNRS will ensure the effective delivery of Parts 1 to 5 of this Information Memorandum.

Governance

The governance model that Derbyshire County Council intends to apply is shown as a structure chart below.

(1) Derbyshire County Council (Cabinet)

The responsible authority for Derbyshire's LNRS

(4) LNRS Supporting Authorities Group

Enabling the involvement of supporting authorities & facilitating securing their individual political support

An officer group

Chair (TBC)

- Derby City Council
- Peak District National Park Authority
- Amber Valley Borough Council
- Bolsover District Council
- Chesterfield Borough Council
- Derbyshire Dales District Council
- Erewash Borough Council
- High Peak Borough Council
- North East Derbyshire District Council
- South Derbyshire District Council
- Natural England

(2) LNRS Advisory Board

To make recommendations to Cabinet as to how it fulfils its responsible authority role

Chaired by the Cabinet Member for Infrastructure & Environment, Derbyshire County Council

- Derbyshire County Council
- Derby City Council
- Peak District National Park Authority
- Independent Chair LNRS Steering Group
- Chair LNRS Supporting Authorities Group
- Natural England
- Environment & Transport Director (Derbyshire County)

(3) LNRS Steering Group

To make proposals for drafting the LNRS by convening stakeholder views, evidence & expertise

Chair (TBC)

- Representative of each Stakeholder Sector Group
- Chair of the LNRS Supporting Authorities Group
- Natural England
- Assistant Director for Climate Change & Environment (Derbyshire County Council)

(6) Multi-sector LNRS Focus Groups

Co-production of the LNRS priorities for each of Derbyshire's National (landscape) Character Areas

Multi-sector LNRS Focus Groups will be convened in each National (landscape) Character Area

Stakeholder Sector Group representatives will be invited to participate in specific landscape character area facilitated discussion & debate based on each area's relevant policy, strategies & evidence

This will explore the perspectives from each Stakeholder Sector Group with the objective of building understanding, consensus & agreed National (landscape) Character Area habitat priorities

The outputs will be scrutinised & agreed by the LNRS Steering Group to form the LNRS priorities for Derbyshire

(5) Stakeholder Sector Groups

Sector focused LNRS engagement & identifying sector specific priorities

- Agricultural & farming sector
- Commercial developers
- Business Sector
- Infrastructure, energy & utility companies
- Green finance investors
- Healthcare
- Mineral Products Industry
- Environmental regulators
- Land owners and managers
- Research & academic sector
- Supporting Authorities
- Town & Parish Councils
- Trusts & Charity land owners
- Voluntary, Community, Faith & Social Enterprise Sector
- Children & young adults

(7) Derbyshire County Council Officer Advisory Team

Governance, project management, engagement & technical support to the LNRS Governance Board & groups shown on this page

The purpose of each component of the model is explained below.

The Cabinet of Derbyshire County Council (Cabinet)

The role of Cabinet, in respect to the Local Nature Recovery Strategy, is to ensure that Derbyshire County Council's LNRS responsible authority duties under the Environment Act 2021 (sections 104 to 108) are fulfilled. These are set out in:

- The Environment (Local Nature Recovery Strategies) (Procedure) Regulations 2023 (April 2023)
- The Government's LNRS Statutory Guidance (March 2023)

Accountability for these duties will be delivered through Cabinet's executive function of Infrastructure and Environment.

Cabinet is chaired by Councillor Barry Lewis, the Council Leader and Cabinet Member - Strategic Leadership, Culture, Tourism and Climate Change.

The Derbyshire LNRS Advisory Board

The purpose of the LNRS Advisory Board is to make recommendations to Cabinet in respect to its fulfilment of Derbyshire County Council LNRS responsible authority duties.

The Advisory Board's terms of reference are as follows.

1) Constitution and Legal

- The Advisory Board is not a legal entity.
- It does not directly control resources, employ staff, nor is it able to enter contractual arrangements.
- It shall not be regarded as a statutory body.

2) Accountability

- The Advisory Board is responsible for reviewing and validating information referred to it by the LNRS Steering Group and formulating this into appropriate updates / recommendations to the Cabinet of Derbyshire County Council.
- The Advisory Board needs to ensure that the Derbyshire LNRS Steering Group has appropriately developed the LNRS preparation to cover all areas of the county to the satisfaction of the supporting authorities.

3) Purpose

- a) To make and oversee arrangements that fulfil the scope of responsibilities set out in Part 4 of this Information Memorandum i.e. the procedure by which Derbyshire County Council will fulfil its responsible authority for the LNRS.
- b) To ensure that these arrangements are effectively fulfilled within the Government's New Burdens Funding made available to Derbyshire County Council to prepare a Local Nature Recovery Strategy.
- c) To assign the delivery of such arrangements to the Derbyshire LNRS Steering Group.
- d) To provide assurance to the Cabinet of Derbyshire County Council that its LNRS responsibility is fulfilled.

4) Membership

- Councillor Carolyn Renwick (Chairperson)
Cabinet Member – Infrastructure and Environment, Derbyshire County Council
Representing Derbyshire County Council, as the upper tier local authority for the Derbyshire LNRS area (except for Derby City).
- Name to be confirmed
Elected member representative – Peak District National Park Authority
Representing the Peak District National Park Authority, as the free-standing local planning authority for the part of the LNRS area in the National Park.

- Name to be confirmed
Elected member representative – Derby City Council
Representing Derby City Council, as unitary local authority for the part of the LNRS area outside the administrative area of Derbyshire County Council.
- Name to be confirmed
Independent Chair of the LNRS Steering Group
- Name to be confirmed
Chair of the LNRS Supporting Authorities Group (representing the input from Derbyshire’s district and borough councils)
- Name to be confirmed
Officer representative from Derby City Council
- Name to be confirmed
Officer representative from the Peak District National Park Authority
- Claire Brailsford
Environment and Transport Director, Derbyshire County Council
- Samantha Lawson
Senior Advisor, Local Nature Recovery Strategies (Derbyshire), Natural England

5) **Code of Advisory Board business**

All business of the Advisory Board will be conducted in accordance with The Seven Principles of Public Life as defined by the Committee for Standards in Public Life (the Nolan principles). They are as follows.

Selflessness

Holders of public office should act solely in terms of the public interest.

Integrity

Holders of public office must avoid placing themselves under any obligation to people or organisations that might try inappropriately to influence them in their work. They should not act or take decisions in order to gain financial or other material benefits for themselves, their family, or their friends. They must declare and resolve any interests and relationships.

Objectivity

Holders of public office must act and take decisions impartially, fairly and on merit, using the best evidence and without discrimination or bias.

Accountability

Holders of public office are accountable to the public for their decisions and actions and must submit themselves the scrutiny necessary to ensure this.

Openness

Holders of public office should act and take decisions in an open and transparent manner. Information should not be withheld from the public unless there are clear and lawful reasons for doing so.

Honesty

Holders of public office should be truthful.

Leadership

Holders of public office should exhibit these principles in their own behaviour. They should actively promote and robustly support the principles and be willing to challenge poor behaviour wherever it occurs.

6) Conduct of Advisory Board members

Members commit to:

- Support the purpose of the Advisory Board.
- Provide strategic input into the key decisions of the Advisory Board relating to strategic objectives and delivery plans.
- Contribute their individual knowledge and expertise towards the work of the Advisory Board.

- Work co-operatively with other Advisory Board Members, the secretariat, and relevant partners in the best interests of the Advisory Board.
- Actively support equality, diversity and inclusion in the work of the Advisory Board.
- Represent and be accountable for the wider interests of their sector at Advisory Board meetings.
- Avoid putting themselves in a position where there is a conflict (actual or potential) between their personal interests and those of the Advisory Board.
- Base their views on matters before the Advisory Board on an honest assessment of the available facts and representative engagement results, unbiased by partisan or representative views.
- Support Advisory Board decisions in public, while acknowledging that differences of opinion may arise in discussion.
- Refrain from making statements or expressing opinions on behalf of the Advisory Board, unless specifically authorised to do so.
- Respect the confidentiality of items of business which the Advisory Board decides should remain confidential.
- Honour the obligation on all members not to reveal to third parties the views expressed at meetings.
- Give priority, as far as practicable, to attendance at Advisory Board meetings.

7) Alternate or substitute Advisory Board members

- Advisory Board members should make every effort to attend meetings and to not send a delegate or substitute.
- To maintain consistency and focus alternate members will only be allowed with the prior agreement of the chairperson.

8) Attendance of Advisory Board members

- Advisory Board members (or approved deputies) are expected to attend 100% of the Advisory Board meetings which are expected to take place as follows (dates to be confirmed).
 - January 2024
 - March 2024
 - June 2024
 - September 2024
 - December 2024
 - March 2025
- If this attendance rate is not achieved by any member, the Advisory Board through the Chair is entitled to review their membership and ask for an explanation before taking further action.

9) Role of the Chairperson

- The role of the Chair is to ensure the Advisory Board fulfils its purpose as outlined above.
- To do this, the Chair must steer the Advisory Board in a timely, open and transparent manner through its business, ensuring that the views of all Advisory Board members are heard.
- Responsibility for setting the agenda for Advisory Board meetings.

10) Role of the Vice Chairperson

- A vice chairperson will be appointed by the Chairperson from the elected member representatives on the Advisory Board.
- The role of the Vice Chairperson is to support the Chairperson in the exercise of their duties in addition to their normal duties as Advisory Board members.
- They will stand in for the Chair in the event of the Chair's absence and will be the first point of contact if an urgent Advisory Board matter occurs whilst the Chair is not contactable.

11) Meetings

- All meetings will be fully accessible to Advisory Board members and any reasonable adjustments considered when requested to enable full participation.
- Where possible the Advisory Board will make decisions based on consensus and agreement. The Advisory Board may invite observers and / or expert contributors to attend and / or speak at meetings, under the guidance of the Chair. However, meetings will not be conducted in public.
- In line with the principles of public life, it is important that there is transparency around the operation of the Advisory Board. The Advisory Board will work with the secretariat in publishing information on the Advisory Board and its decision-making processes, via the Derbyshire County Council LNRS webpage.
- This information will include:
 - Profiles of Advisory Board Members, to be published within 10 working days of the inaugural Advisory Board meeting.
 - All Advisory Board meeting papers, to be published 5 working days in advance of the meeting.
 - Draft minutes, to be published within 10 working days following the meeting.
 - Final minutes, to be published within 5 working days following approval by the Advisory Board.
 - Any conflicts of interest reported, to be formally noted within the published minutes.
 - The default position should be that all Advisory Board papers are published. Where there is a need to keep a report private, the Advisory Board will use Derbyshire County Council's governance and finance arrangements when considering what constitutes justification for this.

12) Data Protection and GDPR

- The Advisory Board will accord with the Privacy Policy of Derbyshire County Council.
[Privacy policy - Our Derbyshire](#)

13) Secretariat

- The secretariat function to the Advisory Board will be provided by the Derbyshire County Council LNRS Officer Advisory Group.

The Derbyshire LNRS Steering Group

The purpose of the LNRS Steering Group is to make proposals for the draft LNRS for Derbyshire for consideration by the LNRS Advisory Board. Another key purpose of the Steering group is to promote effective organisational sector stakeholder involvement in the preparation of proposals for the draft LNRS and subsequent effective public consultation on the document, (having regard to the relevant Government guidance (currently the LNRS Statutory Guidance (March 2023))).

The Steering Group's terms of reference are as follows.

1) Constitution and Legal

- The Steering Group is not a legal entity.
- It does not directly control resources, employ staff, nor is it able to enter contractual arrangements.
- It shall not be regarded as a statutory body.

2) Accountability

- The Steering Group is accountable to the Derbyshire LNRS Governing Board

3) Purpose

- a) To receive direction from the LNRS Governing Board as the procedure to be followed in preparing the LNRS for Derbyshire
- b) To oversee and scrutinise arrangements that fulfil the scope of responsibilities set out in Part 5 of this Information Memorandum:

- c) To ensure that these arrangements are effectively fulfilled within the budget made available by the LNRS Governing Board to prepare a local nature recovery strategy
- d) To provide assurance to the Governing Board that the LNRS is prepared in accordance with Part 5 of this Information Memorandum

4) Membership

- Name to be confirmed
Chair of the LNRS Steering Group (to be selected via a recruitment process by the Derbyshire LNRS Governing Board)
- Name to be confirmed
Chair of the LNRS Supporting Authorities Group (representing the input from Derbyshire's district and borough councils)
- The respective chairs of the following LNRS Stakeholder Sector Groups (the chairs will be determined by each sector group):
 - Agricultural Sector
 - Commercial developers
 - Business Sector
 - Infrastructure, energy and utility companies
 - Green finance investors
 - Healthcare
 - Mineral Products Industry
 - Environmental regulators
 - Land estates owners and managers
 - Research and academic sector
 - Town and Parish Councils
 - Trusts and charity landowners
 - Voluntary, Community, Faith and Social Enterprise Sector
 - Children and young adults
- Samantha Lawson

Senior Advisor, Local Nature Recovery Strategies (Derbyshire), Natural England

- Rupert Casey
Assistant Director for Climate Change and Environment, Derbyshire County Council

5) Code of Steering Group business

All business of the Steering Group will be conducted in accordance with The Seven Principles of Public Life as defined by the Committee for Standards in Public Life (the Nolan principles). They are as follows.

Selflessness

Holders of public office should act solely in terms of the public interest.

Integrity

Holders of public office must avoid placing themselves under any obligation to people or organisations that might try inappropriately to influence them in their work. They should not act or take decisions in order to gain financial or other material benefits for themselves, their family, or their friends. They must declare and resolve any interests and relationships.

Objectivity

Holders of public office must act and take decisions impartially, fairly and on merit, using the best evidence and without discrimination or bias.

Accountability

Holders of public office are accountable to the public for their decisions and actions and must submit themselves the scrutiny necessary to ensure this.

Openness

Holders of public office should act and take decisions in an open and transparent manner. Information should not be withheld from the public unless there are clear and lawful reasons for doing so.

Honesty

Holders of public office should be truthful.

Leadership

Holders of public office should exhibit these principles in their own behaviour. They should actively promote and robustly support the principles and be willing to challenge poor behaviour wherever it occurs.

6) Conduct of Steering Group members

Members commit to:

- Support the purpose of the Steering Group
- Provide strategic input into the key decisions of the Steering Group relating to strategic objectives and delivery plans
- Contribute their individual knowledge and expertise towards the work of the Steering Group
- Work co-operatively with other Steering Group Board Members, the secretariat, and relevant partners in the best interests of the Steering Group
- Actively support equality, diversity and inclusion in the work of the Steering Group
- Represent and be accountable for the wider interests of their sector at Steering Group meetings
- Avoid putting themselves in a position where there is a conflict (actual or potential) between their personal interests and those of the Steering Group
- Base their views on matters before the Steering Group on an honest assessment of the available facts and representative engagement results, unbiased by partisan or representative views
- Support Steering Group decisions in public, while acknowledging that differences of opinion may arise in discussion
- Refrain from making statements or expressing opinions on behalf of the Steering Group, unless specifically authorised to do so
- Respect the confidentiality of items of business which the Steering Group decides should remain confidential

- Honour the obligation on all members not to reveal to third parties the views expressed at meetings
- Give priority, as far as practicable, to attendance at Steering Group meetings

7) Alternate or substitute Steering Group members

- Steering Group members should make every effort to attend meetings and to not send a delegate or substitute
- To maintain consistency and focus alternate members will only be allowed with the prior agreement of the chairperson

8) Attendance of Steering Group members

- Steering Group members (or approved deputies) are expected to attend 100% of the Steering Group meetings which are expected to take place as follows (dates to be confirmed).
 - February 2024
 - March 2024
 - June 2024
 - September 2024
 - December 2024
 - March 2025
- If this attendance rate is not achieved by any member, the Steering Group through the Chair is entitled to review their membership and ask for an explanation before taking further action.

9) Role of the Chairperson

- The role of the Chairperson is to ensure the Steering Group fulfils its purpose as outlined above
- To do this, the Chair must steer the Steering Group in a timely, open and transparent manner through its business, ensuring that the views of all Steering Group members are heard

- Responsibility for setting the agenda for Steering Group meetings

10) Role of the Vice Chairperson

- The role of the Vice Chairperson is to support the Chairperson in the exercise of their duties in addition to their normal duties as Steering Group members
- They will stand in for the Chair in the event of the Chair's absence and will be the first point of contact if an urgent Steering Group matter occurs whilst the Chair is not contactable

11) Meetings

- All meetings will be fully accessible to Steering Group members and any reasonable adjustments considered when requested to enable full participation.

Where possible the Steering Group will make decisions based on consensus and agreement.

- The Steering Group may invite observers and / or expert contributors to attend and / or speak at meetings, under the guidance of the Chairperson. However, meetings will not be conducted in public.
- In line with the principles of public life, it is important that there is transparency around the operation of the Steering Group. The Steering Group will work with the secretariat in publishing information on the Steering Group and its decision-making processes, via the Derbyshire County Council LNRS webpage.
- This information will include:
 - Profiles of Steering Group Members, to be published within 10 working days of the inaugural Steering Group meeting.
 - All Steering Group meeting papers, to be published 5 working days in advance of the meeting.
 - Draft minutes, to be published within 10 working days following the meeting.
 - Final minutes, to be published within 5 working days following approval by the Steering Group.

- Any conflicts of interest reported, to be formally noted within the published minutes.
- The default position should be that all Steering Group papers are published. Where there is a need to keep a report private, the Steering Group will use Derbyshire County Council's governance and finance arrangements when considering what constitutes justification for this.

12) Data Protection and GDPR

- The Steering Group will accord with the Privacy Policy of Derbyshire County Council.
[Privacy policy - Our Derbyshire](#)

13) Secretariat

- The secretariat function to the Steering Group will be provided by the Derbyshire County Council LNRS Officer Group.

The LNRS Supporting Authorities Group

This is a proposed group comprising officers from the Derbyshire district and boroughs councils, Derby City Council, and the Peak District National Park Authority that would contribute to the LNRS preparation.

Inputting to the LNRS Advisory Board.

Key activities of the Supporting Authorities Group would be to co-ordinate briefings with Derbyshire's district and borough council elected members, Derby City Council elected members, and the Peak District National Park Authority elected members on the LNRS preparation, and to provide information to the LNRS Steering Group.

The Supporting Authorities Group are requested by the Council to nominate its Chair (or other Group member) to represent Derbyshire's district and borough councils on the LNRS Steering Group.

The supporting authorities are invited by Derbyshire County Council to agree their terms of reference for their Group. These terms of reference will reflect the role of the supporting authorities in the preparation of the LNRS and be set against the framework outlined in this

Public Information Memorandum. In particular the terms of reference should identify how the Supporting Authorities Group will co-ordinate briefings with Derbyshire's district and borough council elected members on the LNRS preparation to inform the LNRS Steering Group and LNRS Governing Board. In this regard the Group will also provide a route by which the district and borough councils direct their documented political approval to (or otherwise) the final LNRS.

Stakeholder Sector LNRS Groups

As identified in Appendix B there are a range of stakeholder organisations that Derbyshire County Council has identified to date as being important to involve in preparing the LNRS. The Council proposes to combine these organisations in Stakeholder Sector LNRS Groups as listed below.

- Agricultural Sector
- Commercial developers
- Business Sector
- Infrastructure, energy and utility companies
- Green finance investors
- Healthcare
- Mineral Products Industry
- Environmental regulators
- Land estates owners and managers
- Research and academic sector
- Town and Parish Councils
- Trusts and charity landowners
- Voluntary, Community, Faith and Social Enterprise Sector
- Children and young adults

Each sector group will be requested by Derbyshire County Council to mobilise effective and representative input into the LNRS preparation from their sector. In so doing they will advise the LNRS Steering Group on their sector specific LNRS evidence, policy, perspectives and priorities. Furthermore, each sector group will also be requested to ensure their sector's representation and participation in multi-sector LNRS Focus Groups for each of Derbyshire's National (landscape) Character Areas.

Multi-sector LNRS Focus Groups

As explained on page 26 a key component of co-producing the LNRS is undertaking Multi-sector LNRS Focus Groups to consider nature recovery for each of Derbyshire's ten National (landscape) Character Areas. This will be structured to consider the key elements of the LNRS preparation as explained in this Information Memorandum.

Stakeholder Sector Group representatives will be invited to participate in specific landscape character area facilitated discussion and debate based on each area's relevant policy, strategies and evidence. This will explore the perspectives from each Stakeholder Sector Group with the objective of building understanding, consensus and agreed National (landscape) Character Area habitat priorities. The outputs will be scrutinised and agreed by the LNRS Steering Group to form the LNRS priorities for Derbyshire.

The design of this engagement is to be confirmed by Derbyshire County Council, however, it is anticipated take place over the period February to June 2024. Derbyshire County Council plans to commission a stakeholder engagement advisor to support this key element of preparing the LNRS.

Derbyshire County Council LNRS Officer Advisory Group

Derbyshire County Council has established an officer working group to enable the preparation of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy. Its purpose is as follows:

- To project manage the effective delivery of the work set out in the draft LNRS Information Memorandum (provided as a background document).
- To draft the LNRS taking into account all relevant factors and giving close consideration to relevant recommendations of the LNRS Advisory Board based on proposals from the LNRS Steering Group.
- To provide technical advice, information and secretariat to the LNRS Advisory Board.
- To commission and manage contracts associated with the preparation of the LNRS, in accordance with the Council's Financial Regulations.
- To ensure appropriate officer or advisor capacity and expertise.
- To encourage effective relationships between each element of the LNRS stakeholder engagement governance structure.

The Derbyshire County Council LNRS Officer Group working group consists of:

Officer	Role in the preparation of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy
<p>Claire Brailsford Transport and Environment Director</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LNRS Sponsor
<p>Rupert Casey Assistant Director for Climate Change and Environment</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LNRS Project Manager
<p>Adam Lathbury Head of Conservation, Heritage and Design</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biodiversity, Landscape and Natural Capital advisor • LNRS preparation • LNRS budget
<p>Caroline Toplis Programme Manager – Climate Change</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate Change, Co-benefits and Engagement advisor • Project management
<p>Name to be confirmed LNRS Officer</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technical, data and evidence • Project management • Engagement and co-ordination • LNRS drafting
<p>Mary Fairman Assistant Director Legal Services</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Governance • Statutory compliance

Appendix A: Glossary of Terms

Strategy Area

The boundary of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy will be the Derbyshire county boundary including those parts of the Peak District National Park within Derbyshire and the Derby City Council area of the county.

Measures

The actions identified to deliver the priorities / outcomes set in the Local Nature Recovery Strategy

People and Organisations

The public, and public, private and community sectors, of Derbyshire.

Environmental Improvement Plan 2023

The Environmental Improvement Plan (EIP) 2023 for England the Government's first revision of the 25 Year Environment Plan (25YEP) published in 2028. It builds on the 25YEP vision with a new plan setting out how the Government will work with landowners, communities and businesses to deliver each of its goals for improving the environment, matched with interim targets to measure progress.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/environmental-improvement-plan>

<https://oifdata.defra.gov.uk/>

Nature Recovery Network

The Nature Recovery Network (NRN) will be a national network of wildlife-rich places across England. The NRN will benefit both people and nature by expanding, improving, and connecting nature-rich spaces across our countryside, cities, towns and coast. Whilst individual Local Nature Recovery Strategies will identify the opportunities, priorities and mechanisms for nature recovery in their area, collectively the 48 LNRS produced across England will form a complete picture of the actions required for nature recovery across England, and will be used to inform the NRN.

Consultation draft of the local nature recovery strategy

This is the version of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy that Derbyshire County Council considers is ready for public consultation Regulation 7(3) of the Environment (Local Nature Recovery Strategies) (Procedure) Regulations 2023

National conservation site

- a site of special scientific interest, within the meaning of Part 2 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981;
- a national nature reserve declared in accordance with section 35 of that Act;
- a Ramsar site, within the meaning of section 37A of that Act;
- a marine conservation zone designated under section 116 of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009;
- a European site, within the meaning of regulation 8 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017

Local Nature Reserve (LNR)

An area established by a local authority to be managed as a nature reserve Section 21(1) of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949

Relevant site

A site that is not a local nature reserve but is recognised by a local planning authority as justified for protection due to its value to biodiversity, but is not a national conservation site. In Derbyshire, 'relevant sites' will include sites formally designated as Local Wildlife Sites by the LWS partnership

Irreplaceable habitats

Irreplaceable habitats are those considered to be the most valuable habitats in England, having such high biodiversity value that they are very difficult to recreate. At the time of writing, the published definition of irreplaceable habitats is restricted to:

- Ancient woodland
- Ancient and veteran trees
- Blanket bog
- Limestone pavements

- Coastal sand dunes
- Spartina saltmarsh swards
- Mediterranean saltmarsh scrub
- Lowland fens

Final Nature Recovery Strategy

This is the version of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy that Derbyshire County Council considers is ready for publication

Publication Advisory Notice

A Derbyshire supporting authority may give notice to Derbyshire County Council via Publication Advisory Notice that it considers the final Local Nature Recovery Strategy to be materially deficient based on the results of Derbyshire County Council's consultation on the consultation draft of the local nature recovery strategy. In the first instance Derbyshire County Council will seek resolution to the Publication Advisory Notice through investigation and engagement with the issuing supporting or authority. If this does not resolve the matter then the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs will determine the matter.

Responsible Authority

The authority appointed by the Secretary of State to be responsible for the production of an LNRS for their area. Derbyshire County Council is the Responsible Authority for the Strategy Area.

Supporting Authority

Supporting Authorities are defined in the Environment (Local Nature Recovery Strategies) (Procedure) Regulations 2023, and for Derbyshire, the supporting authorities are as follows:

- Amber Valley Borough Council
- Bolsover District Council
- Chesterfield Borough Council
- Derby City Council
- Derbyshire Dales District Council

- Erewash Borough Council
- High Peak Borough Council
- North East Derbyshire District Council
- South Derbyshire District Council
- Peak District National Park Authority
- Natural England

Neighbouring Responsible Authority

For Derbyshire the neighbouring responsible authorities are as follows:

- Cheshire West and Chester Council
- Greater Manchester Combined Authority
- Leicestershire County Council
- Nottinghamshire County Council
- South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority
- Staffordshire County Council

Biodiversity

Biodiversity, or biological diversity, is the variety and variability of life on earth. It includes all animals, plants, fungi and bacteria, the complex ecosystems which they form, and even the genetic diversity present within and across all species. A place rich in wildlife is often said to be of 'high biodiversity' or simply 'biodiverse'

Natural capital and ecosystem services

Natural capital can be defined as the stocks of natural assets which include geology, soil, air, water and all living things. Our environment is our life support system sustaining and providing our food, fuel, building materials, fresh air, clean water; and as such is fundamental to the functioning and stability of our economy.

It is from this natural capital that humans derive a wide range of services, often called ecosystem services, which make human life possible and enjoyable.

Appendix B: Stakeholder sector groups relevant to the LNRS preparation

- Agricultural Sector
- Commercial developers
- Business Sector
- Infrastructure, energy and utility companies
- Green finance investors
- Healthcare
- Mineral Products Industry
- Environmental regulators
- Land estates owners and managers
- Research and academic sector
- Town and Parish Councils
- Trusts and charity landowners
- Voluntary, Community, Faith and Social Enterprise Sector
- Children and young adults