



Preparing Derbyshire's Local Nature Recovery Strategy

**Improvement and Scrutiny
Committee – Climate Change,
Biodiversity and Carbon
Reduction**

29 April 2024



Preparing the Local Nature Recovery Strategy for Derbyshire

- 1) Why is a Local Nature Recovery Strategy important for Derbyshire?**
- 2) What is required?**
- 3) How will Derbyshire County Council fulfil its responsible authority role?**
- 4) Collaborative governance**
- 5) Technical work to date**



Why is a Local Nature Recovery Strategy important for Derbyshire?

- Thriving plants and wildlife
- A strategic, collaborative & evidenced based approach
- Enable landowners & land managers to contribute to nature's recovery
- Offer opportunities to increase public connections to nature
- Climate change resilience, social, health, regeneration & economic growth benefits



What is required?

- Agreeing Derbyshire's ambition for nature recovery
- Identifying areas of existing biodiversity value
- Exploring opportunities & priorities for nature recovery
- Establishing actions & measures required to deliver Nature Recovery
- Publish the Strategy
- Review & republishing of the Strategy

How will Derbyshire County Council fulfil its responsible authority role?



1) Co-production of a consultation draft LNRS

- Stakeholder awareness raising & influence, & cross-sector dialogue
- Participatory & deliberative decision-making

2) Public consultation on the draft LNRS

3) Political approvals

4) Publication

Describing the strategy area, its biodiversity and opportunities for recovery

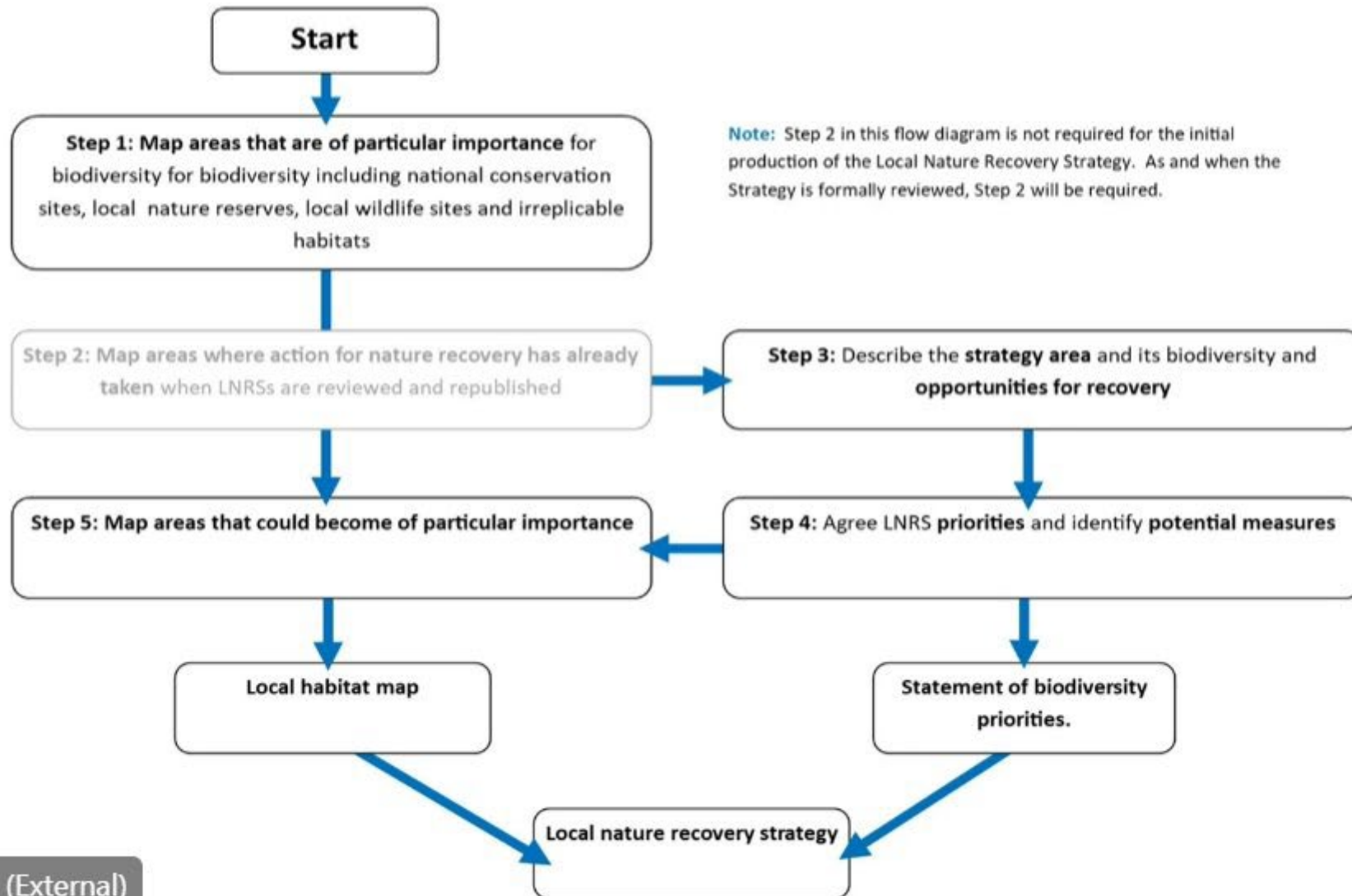
Luis J Ramos

Local Nature Recovery Strategy
Officer

Derbyshire County Council



Preparation of Local Nature Recovery Strategies



Note: Step 2 in this flow diagram is not required for the initial production of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy. As and when the Strategy is formally reviewed, Step 2 will be required.

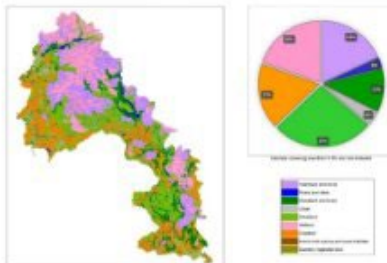
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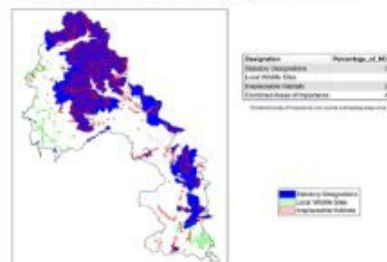
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Dark Peak (Character Area 51)

Percentage coverage of Natural Capital Status Habitats Areas within the Dark Peak Landscape Character Area



Percentage coverage of Areas of Particular Importance for Biodiversity within the Dark Peak Landscape Character Area



Key Sites for Nature: Large parts of the Dark Peak are identified as 'Areas of Particular Importance for Biodiversity' – with **12%** of the area is protected by international, national, and local designations.

Designation Type	Site Name	Size/Area
Special Protection Area (SPA)	Peak District Moors (South Pennine Moors Phase 1)	23,329.6 Ha
Special Area of Conservation (SAC)	South Pennine Moors	23,133.4 Ha
Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)	23 individual sites	23,923.08 Ha
Irreplaceable Habitat	Ancient & Semi-Natural Woodland	659.83 Ha
	Ancient Replanted Woodland	450.86 Ha
	Blanket Bog	12,699.55 Ha
	Blanket Bog, deciduous woodland	0.28 Ha
	Lowland fens	78.53 Ha
National Nature Reserve	Kinder Scout	1083.3
Local Nature Reserve	8 individual sites	27.41 Ha
Local Wildlife Sites	109 individual sites	1119.21 Ha

Key Habitats

- **Grassland** – 27% of the area, the predominant land-use including acidic, neutral and wet grassland.
- **Wetland** – 20% of land coverage - expanses of blanket bog on deep peat comprise.
- **Heathland and shrub** – covering 18% of the area - on lower moorland summits and slopes, where shallower peat supports heather dominated upland heath.
- **Cropland** – 17% of the area - intensive crop production is largely constrained by the topography and soils.
- **Woodland and forest** – 11% of the area including ancient woodland.
- **Rivers and streams** – including the River Derwent and Etherow, large reservoirs of the Derwent Valley and Longdendale, and fast-flowing streams of upland cloughs.

Natural Capital and Key Ecosystem Services Provided by Nature

- **Surface water regulation and natural flood management** – Dark Peak contains the source of both the River Dove and the River Derwent, whilst the uplands areas have been identified as providing the highest levels of Natural Flood Management services in Derbyshire due to the high occurrence of peaty soils that absorb and retain water. This plays a crucial role in protecting downstream areas – notably Derby City – from flooding during high rainfall events.
- **Water quality regulation** - Slope, soil type, vegetation cover and land management practice all have an impact on maintaining water quality. Peat habitats within the Dark Peak make a significant contribution to maintaining water quality downstream. However, degraded peat is a risk to water quality. The Howden, Derwent and Ladybower Reservoirs provide most of the drinking water for the residents of Derbyshire, as well as parts of South Yorkshire, Nottingham and Leicestershire.
- **Carbon Storage and Sequestration** – the intact bog habitats on deep peak soils of the Dark Peak have been identified as providing the greatest area of carbon storage in Derbyshire. However, areas of degraded peat are likely emitting, rather than sequestering, carbon. The greatest benefits to carbon sequestration could be achieved through bog and heath restoration.
- **Leisure and Tourism** – The extensive open landscapes of the Dark Peak have a long association with access and recreation and are an important destination both for local residents and tourists from further afield, supporting a valuable visitor economy. The recreational landscapes leisure activities such as walking and cycling. These environments will therefore make a strong contribution to both the physical health and mental wellbeing of visitors.
- **Food production** – Agricultural land generally falls within grades 4 and 5 (poor and very poor) of the Agricultural Land Classification system. However, farming – predominantly livestock farming through extensive grazing - is nevertheless an essential component of this landscape and the rural economy.

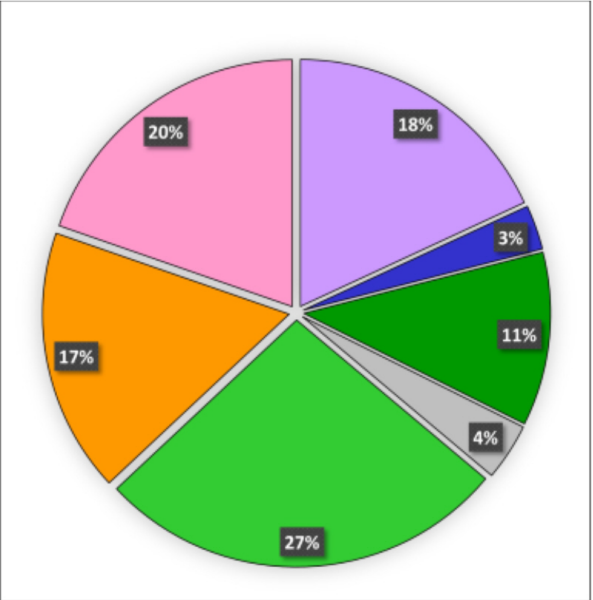
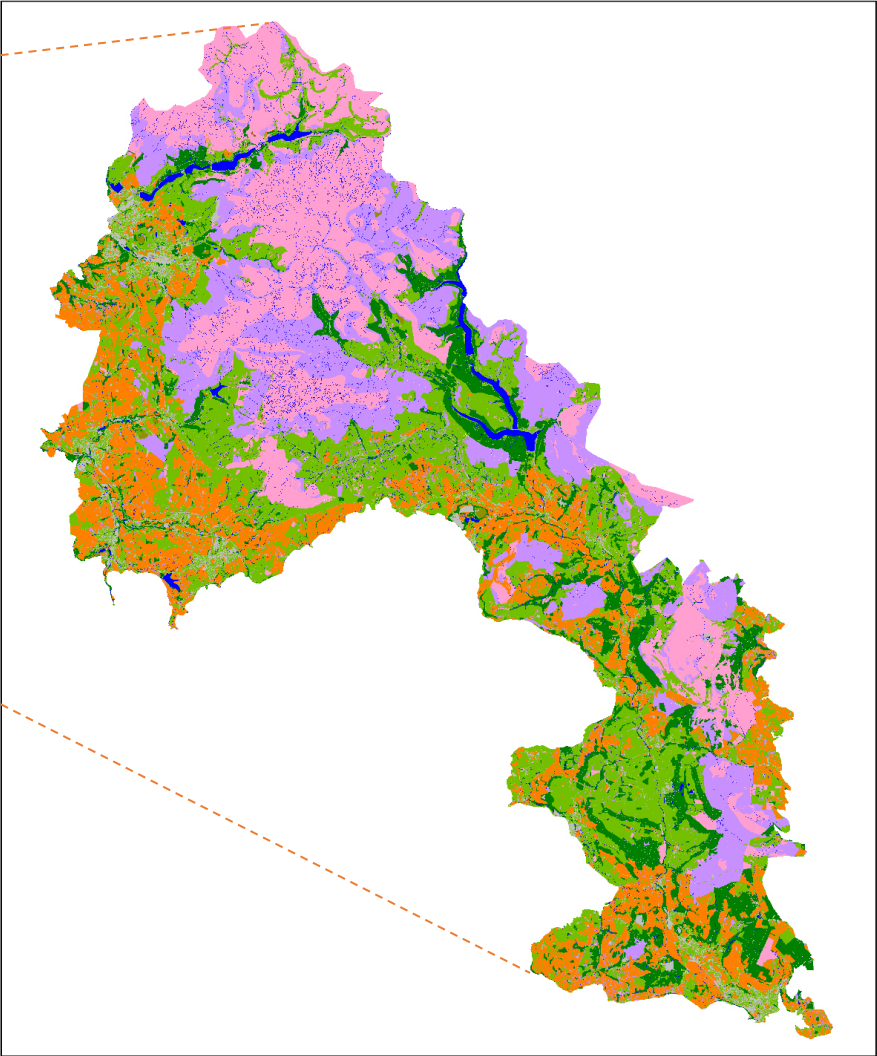
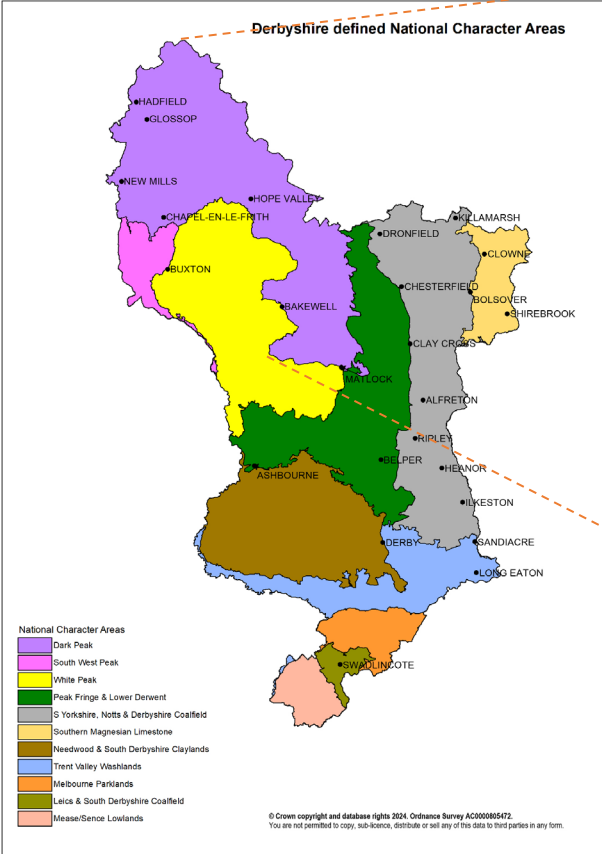
Did you know?
Kinder Scout in the Dark Peak was the site of the famous 1932 Mass Trespass – the catalyst for the creation of our National Parks and so is symbolic of the movement for public access to nature and the countryside.

Desirable outcomes and opportunities

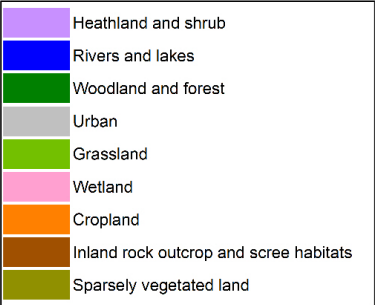
1. Conservation and management of functioning and species diverse upland bog habitats that store carbon, reduce flood risk, and improve water quality.
2. Naturally functioning and resilient water environments and river catchments, helping us adapt to the impacts of climate change and reduce the risk of flooding, and provide habitat rich with native plants and animals such as otter, water vole, and trout.
3. Protection and conservation of upland heath and expansion where conditions allow that capture and store carbon and help improve flood risk.
4. Pastoral farmland that provides improved and better-connected habitats for farmland birds, including curlew, lapwing, and snipe.
5. Creation of structurally diverse, species rich grassland that support pollinators and other invertebrates.
6. Conservation and active management of woodland, particularly ancient semi-natural woodland, and expansion where appropriate to help capture and store carbon, improve flood risk, and provide better connected habitat for woodland birds, including pied flycatcher, redstart, and wood warbler.

NCA as a Spatial Framework

Percentage coverage of Natural Capital Strategy Habitat Assets within the Dark Peak Landscape Character Area



Habitats covering less than 0.5% are not included



Dark Peak opportunities and priorities for nature recovery

Opportunities:

- Blanket bog
- Upland heath
- Ancient & Broadleaved woodlands.
- Unimproved Grasslands
- River, streams, and reservoirs.

Priorities:

- Improving the conditions of existing bog to increase ecosystem services.
- Protection, conservation, and restoration of existing ancient woodland sites to increase their ecological diversity and ensure their function and longevity.
- Protection, conservation, and enhancement of unimproved grasslands to deliver biodiverse grasslands that support pollinators and other invertebrates, as well as to provide improved and better-connected habitats for farmland birds.





Delivery Plan Timeline

- WP 2.1 – Describe the strategy area, its biodiversity, and opportunities and priorities (April-May).
- WP 2.2 – Preliminary stakeholder dialogue (April-May).
- WP 3.3 – Deliver stakeholder engagements (May – June).
- WP 4.1 - Prepare consultation draft of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy (June – July).
- WP 4.3 – LNRS Supporting Authorities review LNRS consultation draft prior to Public Consultations (August – September).
- WP 5.2 – LNRS Public Consultation (September – October).
- WP 6.2 – Provide the Final Local Nature Recovery Strategy to Supporting Authorities for their approval (December – January).
- WP 7.2 – The Council will publish the Local Nature Recovery Strategy on its approval by cabinet (March 2025).

A scenic view of a dam with water cascading over it, surrounded by a forested valley. The text "Thank you" is overlaid in the center.

Thank you
