



Lancashire Local Nature Recovery Strategy

Pendle Climate Emergency Working Group

January 2026

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Environment & Climate Team
Lancashire County Council

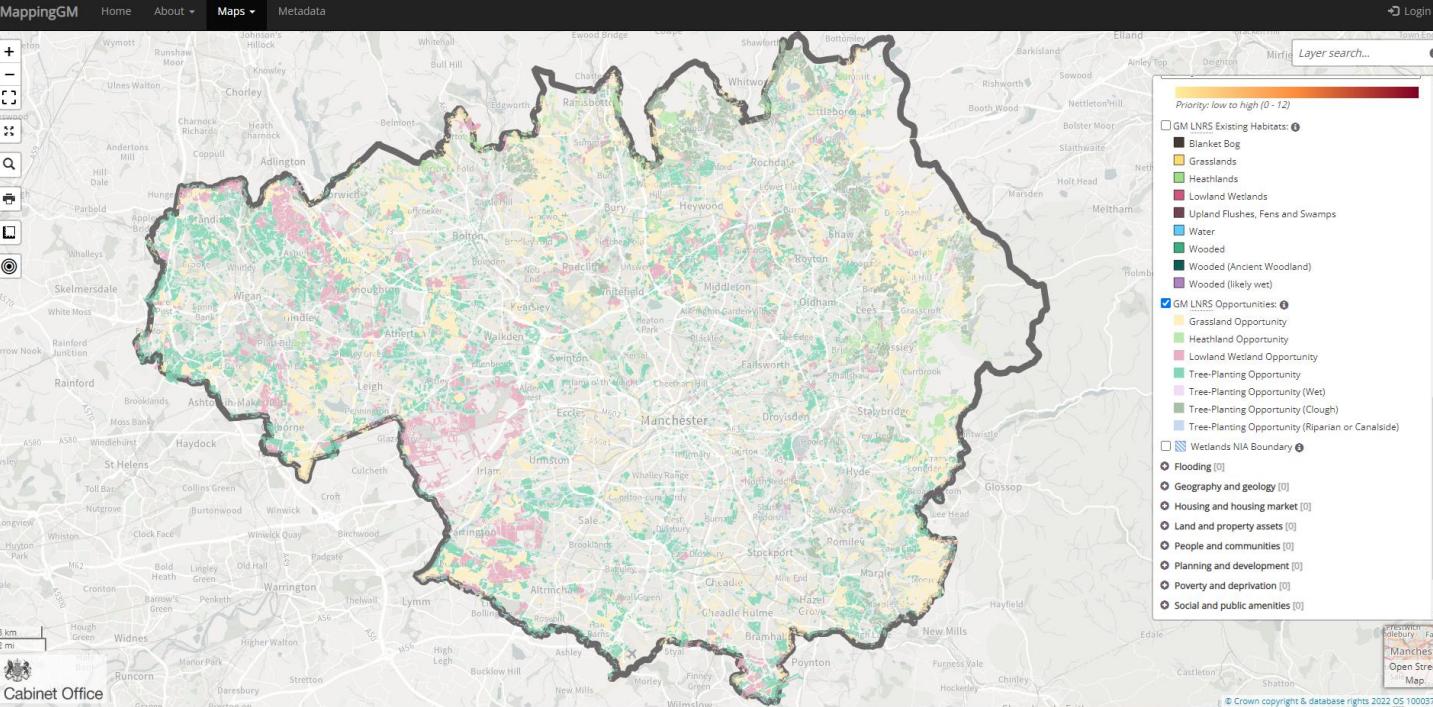
Overview



- 1. Local Nature Recovery Strategies**
- 2. LNRS development process**
- 3. Lancashire's LNRS**
- 4. Opportunities**
- 5. Next steps**

What are LNRSs?

The key mechanism for mapping and planning local delivery of the Nature Recovery Network



Local Nature Recovery Strategies: new system of locally led, transparent and collaborative decision making and planning tools for nature's recovery covering the whole of England.

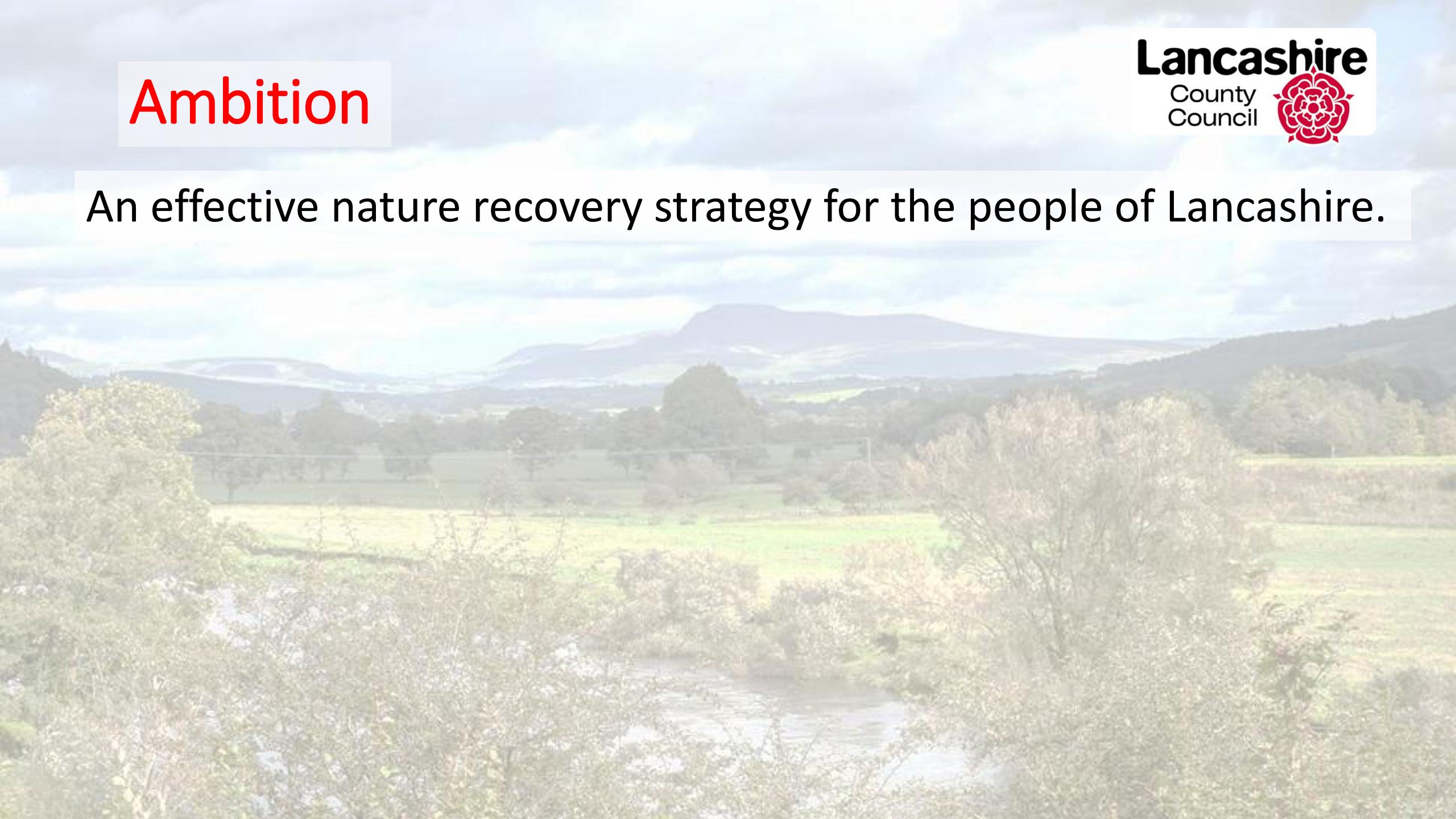
Each of the LNRS has been led by a Responsible Authority.

By 2026 each strategy will, for the area that it covers:

- Map the most valuable existing habitat for nature;
- Map specific actions for creating or improving habitat for nature and wider environment goals; and
- Agree priorities for nature's recovery.

Development process

- Ambition
- Challenges
- Successes



Ambition



An effective nature recovery strategy for the people of Lancashire.

Ambition

An effective nature recovery strategy for the people of Lancashire.

Collaborative process

- that reverses the decline in nature and provides wider environmental and societal benefits.

How?

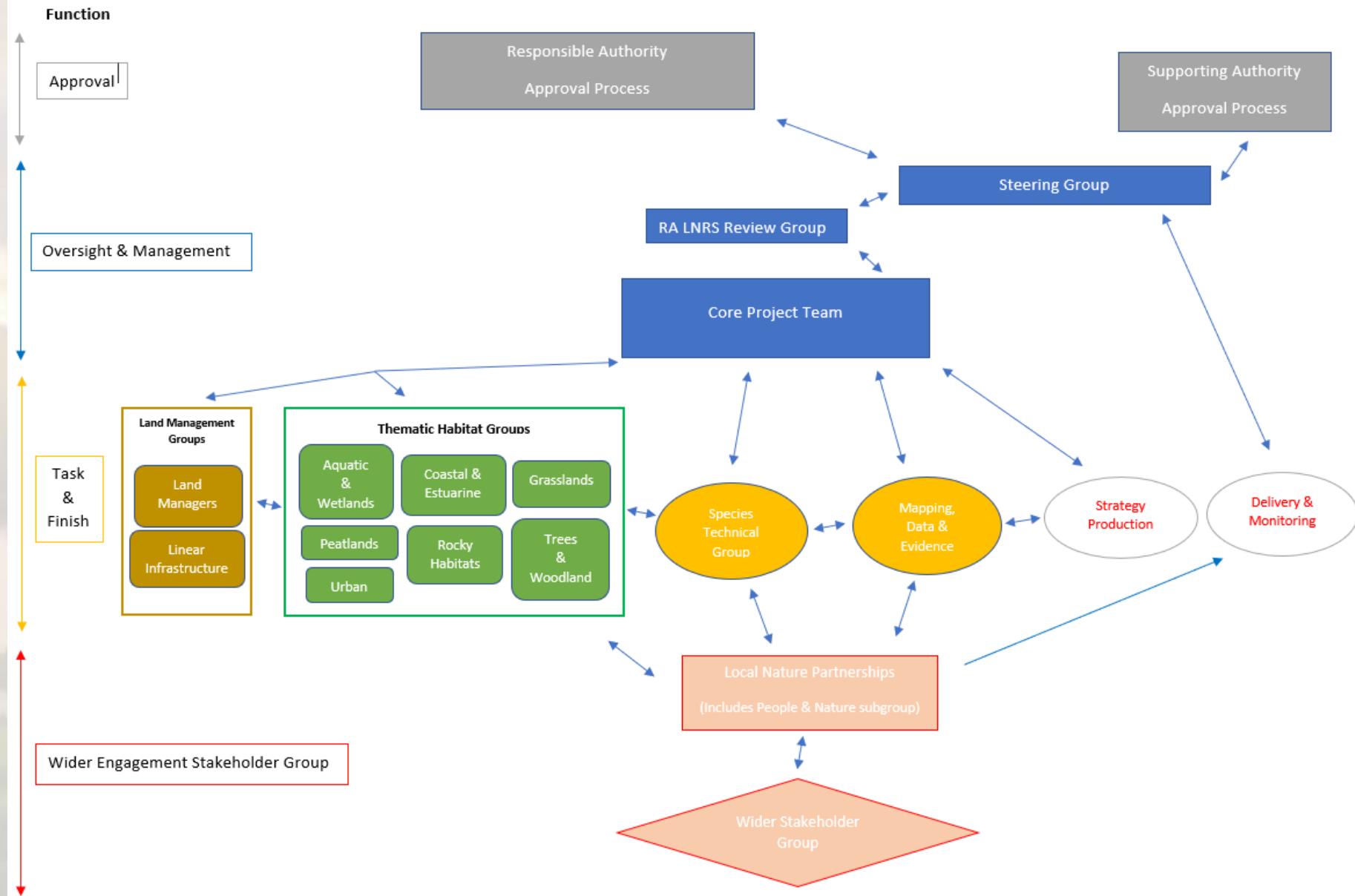
- open, honest and collaborative approach
- engaging with the right people at the right time
- using technical experts to develop the opportunities, potential measures & challenge
- strong communication & awareness raising

Challenges

Many supporting authorities

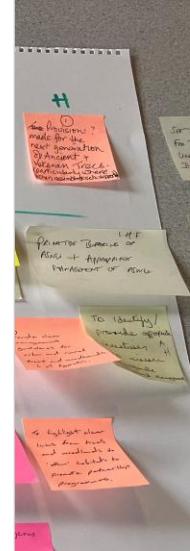
A Local Nature Partnership without purpose

Annex A – Governance structure diagram



Evidence gathered

Thematic habitat groups – knowledge, understanding and expertise

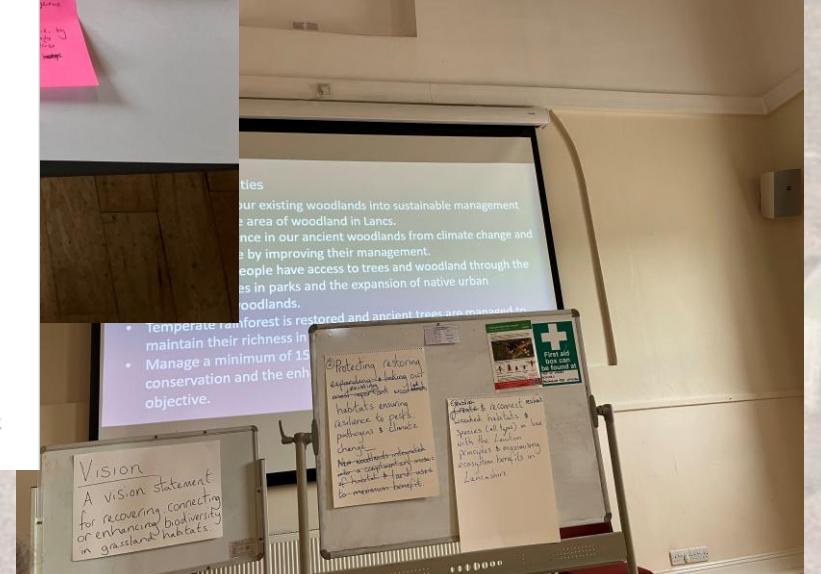


Task Specification

Thematic Habitat Group Lead
Lancashire Local Nature Recovery Strategy



lancashire.gov.uk



Evidence gathered

Thematic habitat groups – knowledge, understanding and expertise
Species technical group

Category	Description	Benefit from LNRS?	Suitable LNRS species priorities?
A: Needs more / bigger / better-connected habitat	<p>Species likely to markedly benefit from general creation, expansion, and improved connectivity of good quality habitats in the strategy area</p> <p>Species with high recovery potential that do not require specific or targeted recovery measures</p>	Yes	Probably not – species are likely to benefit from LNRS measures generally and do not need to be singled out for specific LNRS measures
B: Needs targeted habitat management	<p>Species with specific requirements for habitat quality, structure, conditions, or processes above and beyond category A</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Species may require specific configurations or complexes of connected or nearby habitat/s, either at site level or across large areas / multiple sites. This may include habitat connectivity measures for species needing support to track climate change. - Causes of decline can be addressed with new or improved management practices 	Yes	YES
C: Needs improvements in environmental quality	<p>Species primarily limited by one or more pressures beyond site level that can be mitigated at LNRS scale or wider scales through collaboration with neighbouring RAs</p> <p>For example, better catchment water quality, improved spatial planning of air pollution sources, mitigation of recreational disturbance</p>	Yes	YES
D: Needs bespoke conservation action/s	<p>Species requiring additional, tailored measures which can be spatially indicated on the local habitat map</p> <p>Species may need multiple coordinated actions to bring about recovery, including combinations of local actions and national actions, where LNRS could address the former</p> <p>Examples of bespoke, spatially targetable local actions include conservation translocations (such as assisted colonisation for climate change adaptation), control of invasive species, and localised surveys</p> <p>NB. Species requiring bespoke measures which cannot be mapped should be assigned to category E)</p>	Yes	YES
E: Needs better evidence base / on-the-ground action is not a priority	<p>Species for which there is insufficient evidence or understanding regarding drivers of decline, required recovery actions, and range / population levels</p> <p>Species for which the current priority is other than on-the-ground action, for example research or ex-situ conservation</p>	Unknown	Unknown
F: Needs action outside England	<p>Species with low (or very low) recovery potential due to factors constraining recovery beyond English borders</p> <p>Evidence shows that action in England is highly unlikely to improve species' prospects</p> <p>This category is likely to apply only to migratory species (e.g., Afro-Palearctic migratory birds affected by hunting)</p>	No	NO
G: Vagrants / occasional visitors	Species currently outside their normal breeding or wintering range or normal migration route, without an extant population in the strategy area, and which are not suitable for conservation translocation	No	NO

- Example Assemblage for Moths – Coastal Dunes:

Species Group: Micro-moths	Habitat associations	Latin name	Broad Habitat Specific	Species pressure(s) - Local and regional factors negatively impacting species	Criteria					Comment
					1	2	3	4	5	
DUNES:										
Anacampsis temerella	Coastal / Grasslands (and Cropland)	Coastal dune grassland - relies on extensive areas of <i>Salix repens</i> (in Over-grazing, footfall pressure and habitat dunes) <u>degradation.</u>			pR DB 2					A, B, C, D - targeted action needed, habitat extension and improvement may make the difference to this species Very rare nationally. Is presently known in Liverpool region but has not been noted in Lancashire region for 10 years. Recent survey work carried out in Lancashire in 2021, with observations on other <i>Salix</i> <i>repens</i> L. feeding Lepidoptera.
Scythris picaepennis	Coastal / Grasslands (and Cropland)	Herb rich coastal dune and limestone grassland. Open, short herb-rich (<i>Thymus</i> <i>drucei</i> and <i>Lotus</i> <i>corniculatus</i> included) turf on coastal grassland	Footfall pressure and habitat degradation.		Na t.S c.B					A, B - General habitat improvements including scrub management and limiting footfall. Nationally Scarce B.

Evidence gathered

Thematic habitat groups

Species technical group

Wider stakeholder input

- knowledge, understanding and expertise
- identified the most threatened species in the county
- shortlisted into habitat assemblages

Blackburn with Darwen – Lancashire Local Nature Recovery Strategy

Voluntary Community Faith Social Enterprise (VCFSE) consultation alongside support public sector and eNGOs

Audit of nature groups (to do)

Closed Group Green Social Prescribing suitable for mild/moderate mental health referrals	Closed group Food / Gardening suitable for mild/moderate mental health	Direct Payments Care farm / garden centre for learning disability / physical disability
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Audit of nature groups (to do)

Hyndburn – Lancashire Local Nature Recovery Strategy

Voluntary Community Faith Social Enterprise (VCFSE) consultation alongside support public sector and eNGOs

Audit of nature groups (to do)

Direct Payments				
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Lancaster – Lancashire Local Nature Recovery Strategy

Voluntary Community Faith Social Enterprise (VCFSE) consultation alongside support public sector and eNGOs

Audit of nature groups won't be done as information held by Lancaster CVS.

Closed Group Green Social Prescribing suitable for mild/moderate mental health referrals	Closed group Food / Gardening suitable for mild/moderate mental health referrals	Direct Payments Care farm / garden centre for learning disability / physical disability referrals	Multi site volunteering	Drop in Nature volunteering	Friends of group
Drop in Food / gardening	Eco faith Arocha Silver / Gold / wildflower burial grounds	Walking for wellbeing	Cycling for wellbeing	Park run	Accessibility e.g. with trampers

AMBITION SUMMARY

- Wildlife-friendly parks and open space:** - design for biodiversity in the whole area including novel areas like bowling greens, pub gardens, borders and allowing scrub regeneration in the right areas. Improvement is around "joined upness" for people and wildlife corridors.
- Wildlife species:** Recording species increases awareness and respect for nature and improves wellbeing. Otters on the canal. Dealing with raptor persecution but also keeping deer numbers in check. More beavers.
- Uplands and countryside** – Blue Influencers Young People project. Tackling developments on greenbelt, better land management in uplands, restoration of peat, reduction of grouse, tree planting where appropriate.
- Responsible Recreation** – increasing young people's enthusiasm and signage. Eleven comments on dogs including suggesting commercial dog walkers should pay a levy. How do we bring about societal behaviour change? Should we move towards enforcement over encouragement?
- Wildlife-friendly infrastructure:** - Lancaster City Council grassland management scheme. Safety around cycling plus greening back alleys of terraced streets and build up habitats in gardens in city centre.
- Making public buildings wildlife-friendly** – peregrines, Peregrines, green areas on school grounds, Morecambe Bay curriculum. Hospital and NHS clinic greenspace opportunities to be more creative. Encourage student housing to provide more greenspace.

ACTUAL OPPORTUNITIES VOTING PRIORITIES

- 5* Creating wildlife meadows in parks and cemeteries
- 4* Wildflower verges on roadside
- 4* Trees on the Carnal Corridor including Fairfield
- 4* Wetlands at Freemans Pools Lancashire Wildlife Trust
- 4* Lune Estuary
- 4* Green Social Prescribing A Blueprint for Recovery L: Morecambe
- 4* Bee Adventures reaching young people at risk of ex-reconnect them with nature
- 4* Whinney Hill Farm space for a variety of Green Social Activity
- 3* Burrow Heights and Whinney Carr Drumlins
- 3* Condor riverbank alongside new university solar farm
- 3* Green Social Prescribing Wildlife Wellbeing Walks C
- 3* Tool libraries making resources available for per-buy or store
- 2* wildflowers surrounding pub gardens
- 2* Tree planting Happy Mount Park
- 2* Canals
- 2* Linking up green spaces along river Lune and allowing regeneration by cycle path
- 2* Canal Corridor between Lancaster and [cannot read from development and intensive farming].

Wyre – Lancashire Local Nature Recovery Strategy

Voluntary Community Faith Social Enterprise (VCFSE) consultation alongside support public sector and eNGOs

Audit of nature groups (to do)

Closed Group Green Social Prescribing suitable for mild/moderate mental health referrals	Closed group Food / Gardening suitable for mild/moderate mental health referrals	Direct Payments Care farm / garden centre for learning disability / physical disability referrals	Multi site volunteering	Drop in Nature volunteering	Friends of group	Naturalist / Citizen Science
Drop in Food / gardening	Eco faith Arocha Silver / Gold / wildflower burial grounds	Walking for wellbeing	Cycling for wellbeing	Park run	Accessibility e.g. with trampers	Dementia friendly nature sessions

AMBITION SUMMARY

- Wildlife-friendly parks and open space:** - places name checked with a need to update management plans. There is a need for connected landscapes and green corridors.
- Wildlife species:** - marine species, toads and upland species mentioned alongside the role of the bioblitz. Species recovery includes hedgehog, Lapwing, Curlew, water voles.
- Coastal and countryside** – shingle beach, salt marshes, sand dunes, moss mentioned alongside Bay Wellbeing Activities, health walks and trampers Access for All. Improvements include tackling pollution, persecution, recreational disturbance, reworking rivers, bathing waters.
- Responsible Recreation** – good includes wheelchair accessibility and great outdoor website, booklets and events. Improvements around dogs, kites, fishing gear, litter, sea defences, invasive species.
- Wildlife-friendly infrastructure:** - Cycle rides available most weeks and bikes provided. However improvements to include revenue for capital funded coastal landscape scheme, PROW and climate mitigation generally.
- Making public buildings wildlife-friendly** – working around disability toilet access. More space for wildlife e.g. water, bat box, nesting birds, invertebrates and wildflowers on the new bypass.
- Encouraging regular volunteering for nature** – NGOs and Wyre Council provide opportunities seven days a week including disabilities / wellbeing.
- Gardening** – projects name checked with need to provide more allotments.

ACTUAL OPPORTUNITIES VOTING PRIORITIES

- 7* High tide roosts created
- 6* Wyre Estuary for wetland restoration
- 3* Tree planting Towers and Pheasants Wood
- 2* Wildflower verges on new bypass in Poulton
- 2* Wildflowers Tithe Barn Park
- 2* Peatland restoration Harrisend Fell Bleasdale, Parlick Clough Black Moss, Lancashire County Council and Wyre Rivers Trust
- 2* Nature mitigation on Wyre / Beach Management
- 2* River improvements in the Upper Wyre Catchment e.g. Brock Valley, Claughton, Abbestead, Scorton
- 2* River improvements Brock and River Calder Landscape Nature Recovery Project – third tier Environment Landscape Management Landscape Recovery
- 2* The Bay Green Social Prescribing
- 2* Volunteering and training Wyre Estuary Bioblitz as opportunity for training
- 2* The Bay as opportunity for training
- 1* Wildflowers Larkholme
- 1* More at Stanah Grasslands and salt marshes
- 1* Tree planting Lane Ends Pilling
- 1* Tree planting King Georges Playing fields Fleetwood tree planting
- 1* Tree planting Broadwater improved public access
- 1* Wyre Estuary bioblitz

Nature Recovery Survey

Nature Recovery Survey

Use this map

To inform Lancashire County Council (click the New Feature pin, zoom in, click on the map to drop the pin, and then fill in the details to highlight as an important nature place to you or a place you think needs recovery (or both). When you've filled in the details, click the Create button to submit your answers.

Don't show

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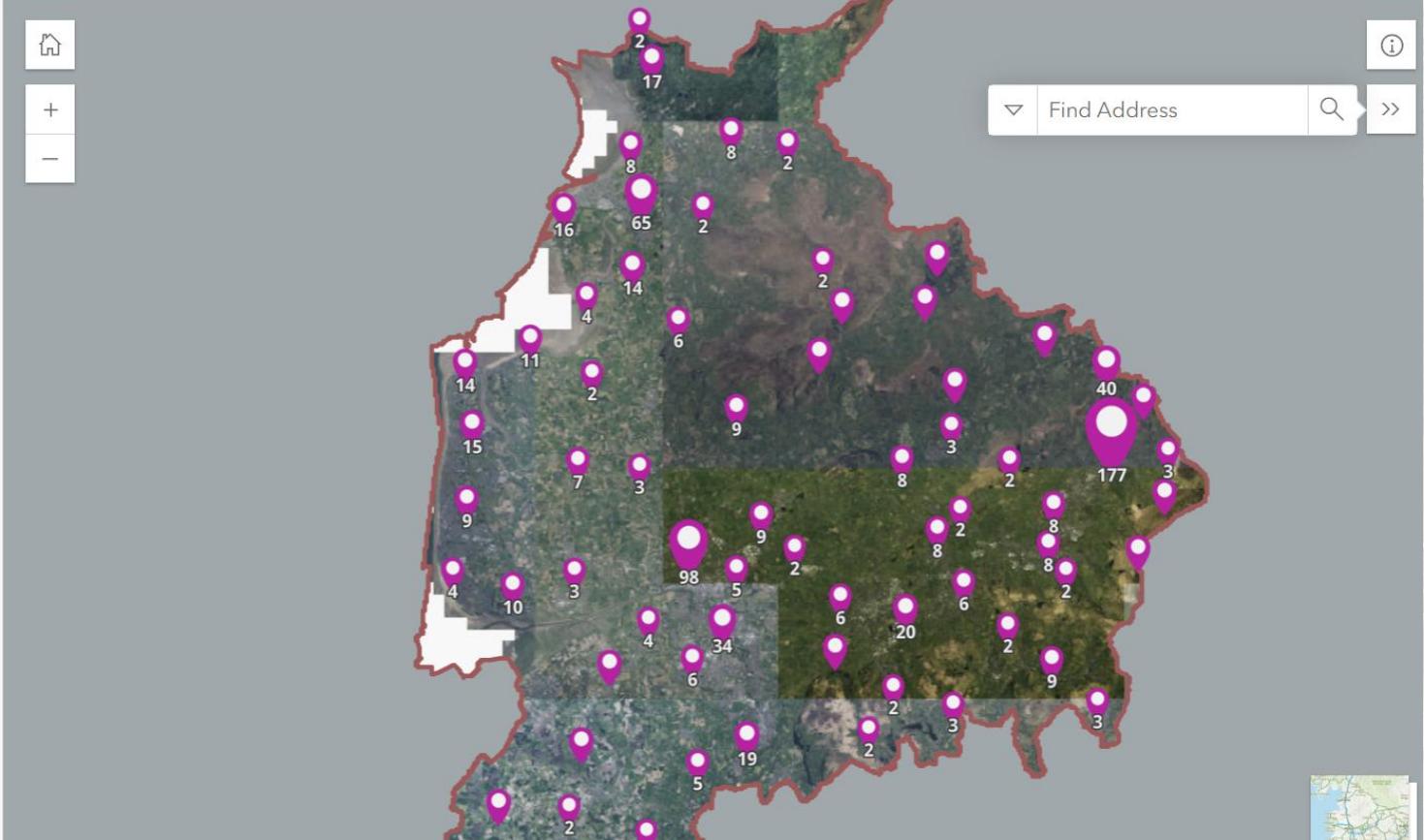
 Lancashire County Council

Nature Recovery Survey

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Responses



- 457 survey responses
- 29 email responses
- ALB spreadsheet
- 95 mapping requests

LNRS Habitat Survey

<https://survey123.arcgis.com/share/8489a25b29ce4a2b9d5276f0ab91d2fd?field:surveyID=>

Indicate on the map where you think an area has been inappropriately mapped.*

Please add a point in the centre of the relevant polygon/land parcel/area of the map highlighted by the measure you are looking at

► Details

Find address or place

Search

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Report: Local Nature Recovery Strategy for Lancashire Land Managers Webinar 2 report 19th June 2024

Report: Local Nature Recovery Strategy for Lancashire Land Managers Webinar 1 report 21st May 2024

Summary

Underpinned by the 25 Year Environment Plan (2018) and the Environment Act (2021), Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRS) are a new system of plans for nature recovery covering the whole of England. They are a key mechanism for planning and delivering the National Nature Recovery Network. The outputs to Defra will consist of a habitat map of areas that could become of particular importance for biodiversity and a Statement of Biodiversity Priorities. This will include prioritisation based on a number of factors including local and national environmental objectives, urgency, spatial factors and wider public benefits.

Independent facilitators 3KQ, on behalf of Lancashire County Council (the Responsible Authority), convened the first of two Land Managers' Webinars to help build farmer and land manager views into the LNRS to ensure the best chance of delivery.

This is a report from the first Land Managers' webinar, which was held on 21st May 2024.

The webinar aim:

As part of the wider engagement plan, to provide farmers and land managers an opportunity to find out about the Lancashire LNRS, and offer input during development.

The webinar objectives:

- * To explain the concept of LNRS across the country and discuss the

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As part of the wider engagement plan, to provide farmers and land managers an opportunity to find out about the Lancashire LNRS, and offer input during development of the strategy.

The webinar objectives:

- * To explain the concept of LNRS across the country and discuss the LNRS development process and opportunities in Lancashire.

Responses



Open Text Questions	Strongly or tend to agree
The vision and aims of the LNRS are clear	92%
It is clear what the LNRS is trying to achieve	89.4%
It is clear how the LNRS can be used	84.7%
It is clear what the LNRS priorities are seeking to achieve	89.2%
It is clear what Potential Measures could be taken to achieve the LNRS priorities	88.7%
I agree with the list of 24 Target Species	85.2%
It is clear what the BHS priority and measures are seeking to achieve	89.6%
It is clear what the Local Habitat Map is and how it can be used	87.4%
It is clear what the Universal Priorities are seeking to achieve	91.2%
It is clear what the Supporting Actions are seeking to achieve.	88.4%

Responses



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Evidence gathered

Thematic habitat groups

Species technical group

Wider stakeholder input

- knowledge, understanding and expertise
- identified the most threatened species in the county
- shortlisted into habitat assemblages
- 4 People & Nature roadshows
- public engagement survey
- land manager aspirations
- public consultation

Engaged with our stakeholders throughout to ensure they play a significant role in developing our priorities.

Strategic document review

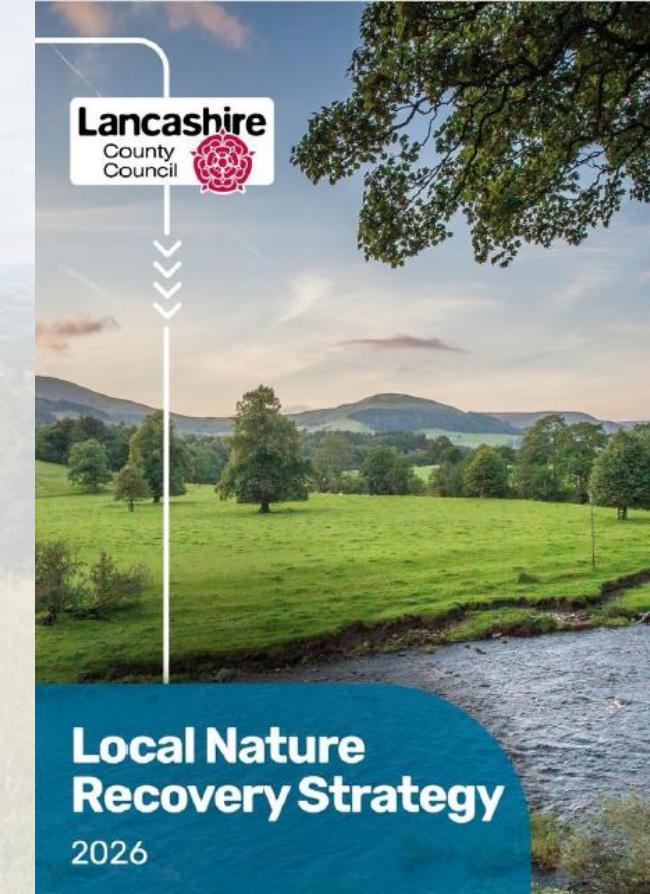
- Strategic documents were reviewed.
- Docs were grouped into high (recent local etc), medium (recent national) and low (not recent national etc) significance.
- The objectives within the documents were grouped into overall priorities
- The priority was times by the document's importance (3, 2, 1) to give a score and the total score for each thematic habitat group and priority was calculated. (i.e. the number of documents a priority occurred in inflated by a higher value if it occurred in a high significant document and a lower value if it occurred in a low significant document)
- Top priorities within and across groups was extracted

Lancashire Local Nature Recovery Strategy



Consists of:

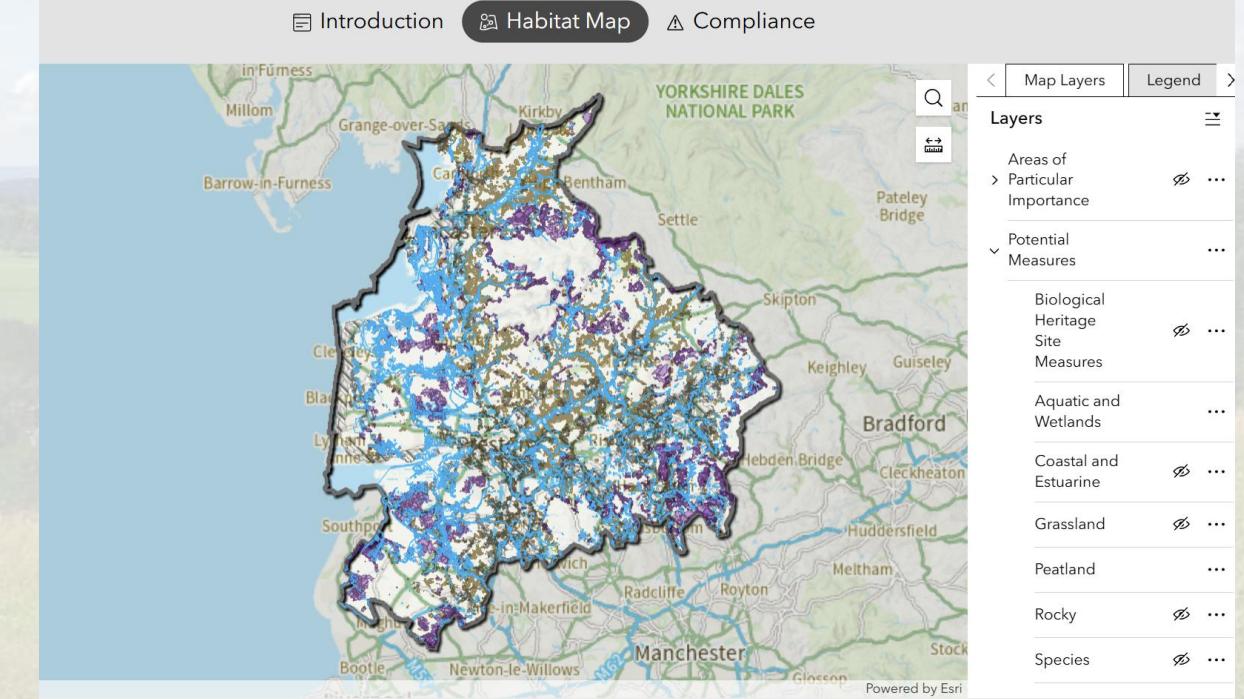
- the Statement of Biodiversity Priorities and,



Lancashire Local Nature Recovery Strategy

Consists of:

- the Statement of Biodiversity Priorities and,
- the Local Habitat Map.



Opportunities



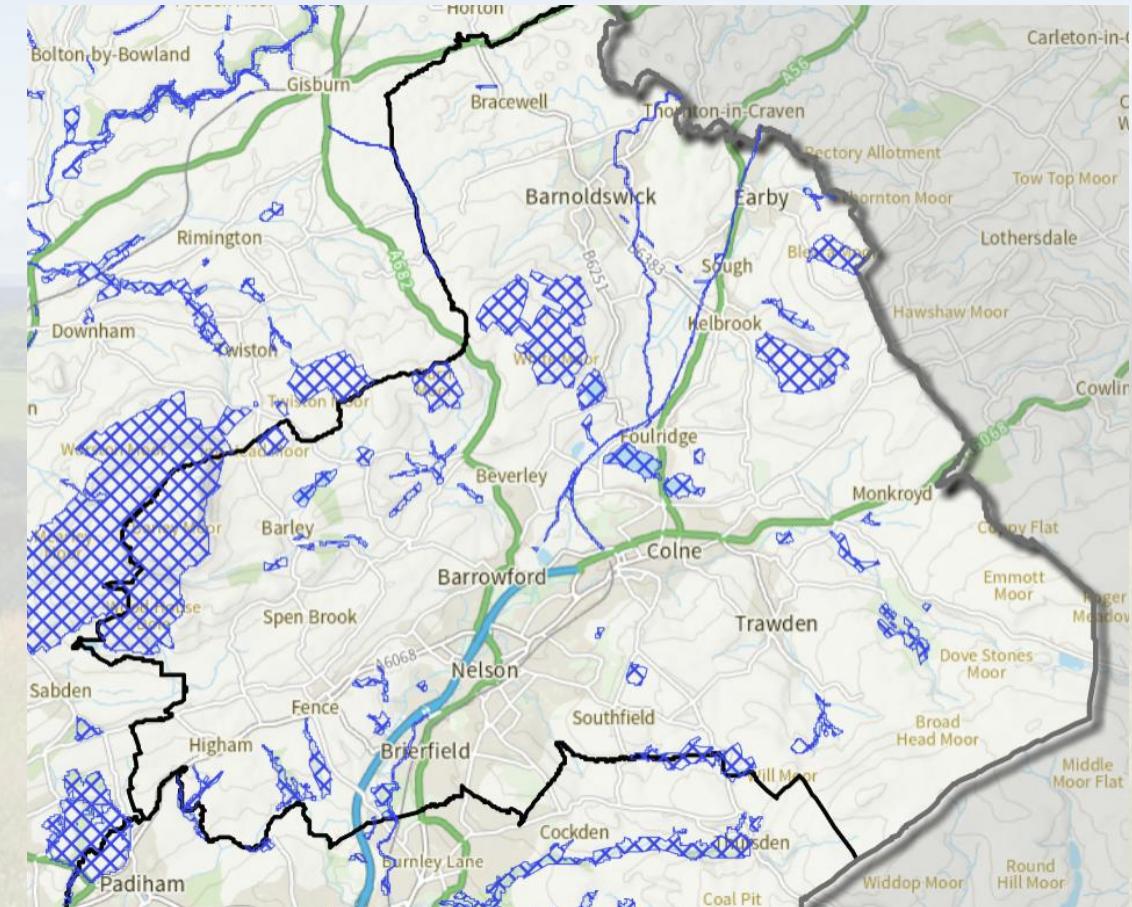
Opportunities

Biological Heritage Sites

B1

Habitat restoration, enhancement and positive conservation management within Biological Heritage Sites, which:

- supports the qualifying features of the BHS,
- maintains and enhances any irreplaceable habitats present,
- supports other existing habitats and species of the site,
- increases the ecological value of the site,
- is informed by the BHS site description and other information available from the BHS Partnership, and
- gives consideration to any available advice from the BHS Partnership.





Opportunities

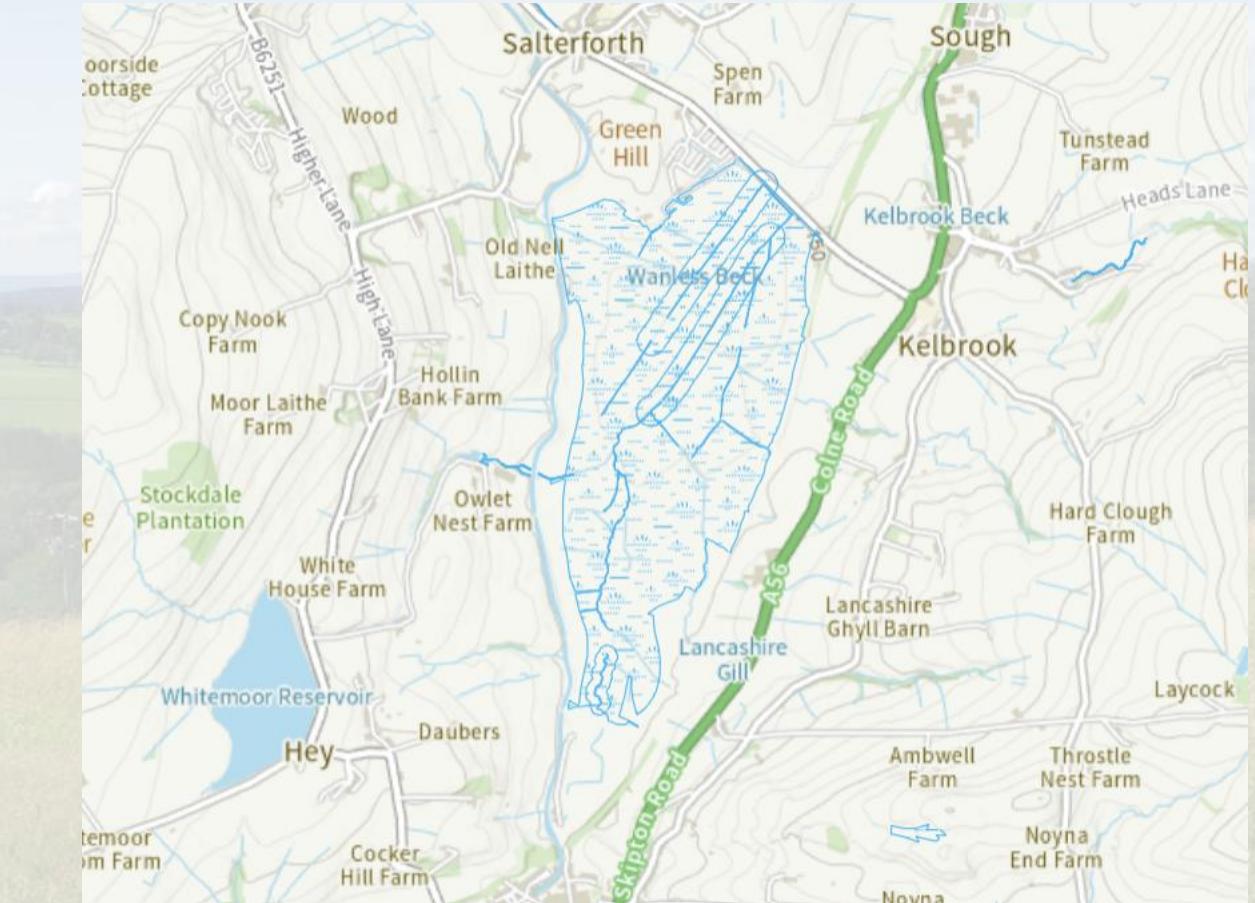
Aquatic and wetland

AW2.3

Re-meandering of reaches of straightened and artificial modified channels of rivers and streams.

AW3.3

Expand and enhance fens, reedbeds, springs, flushes, marshes, marsh fen and ephemeral waterbodies.





Opportunities

Grassland

G2.1

Enhance habitat, for example, good, semi-improved grasslands to priority habitat, and create biodiverse grasslands buffering and connecting important habitats, through appropriate management including low nutrient inputs, species and sward diversification as well as conservation grazing and mowing regimes.



Opportunities



Species – Atlantic Salmon

AS1

Work with land managers in upper river catchments to reduce the impact of the use of Diazinon (an insecticide used in sheep dip) on nearby watercourses which has a significant impacts on olfactory function in Atlantic salmon, by ensuring sheep do not access the water course.

AS4

Create and restore river habitat to support juvenile salmon during their various development phases. for example, by providing suitable habitat via the reintroduction of appropriately sized sediments and the introduction of refugia such as large rocks and large wood at priority sites, especially those in close proximity to known spawning locations.





Opportunities

Species – Atlantic Salmon

AS6

Improve connectivity by focussing on the removal of, or mitigation of man-made barriers across the river network (including potential installation of fish passes), a key issue for this species. Barriers include dams, weirs, fords and culverts of any height in the river network and impacts should be considered for both upstream and downstream migration.



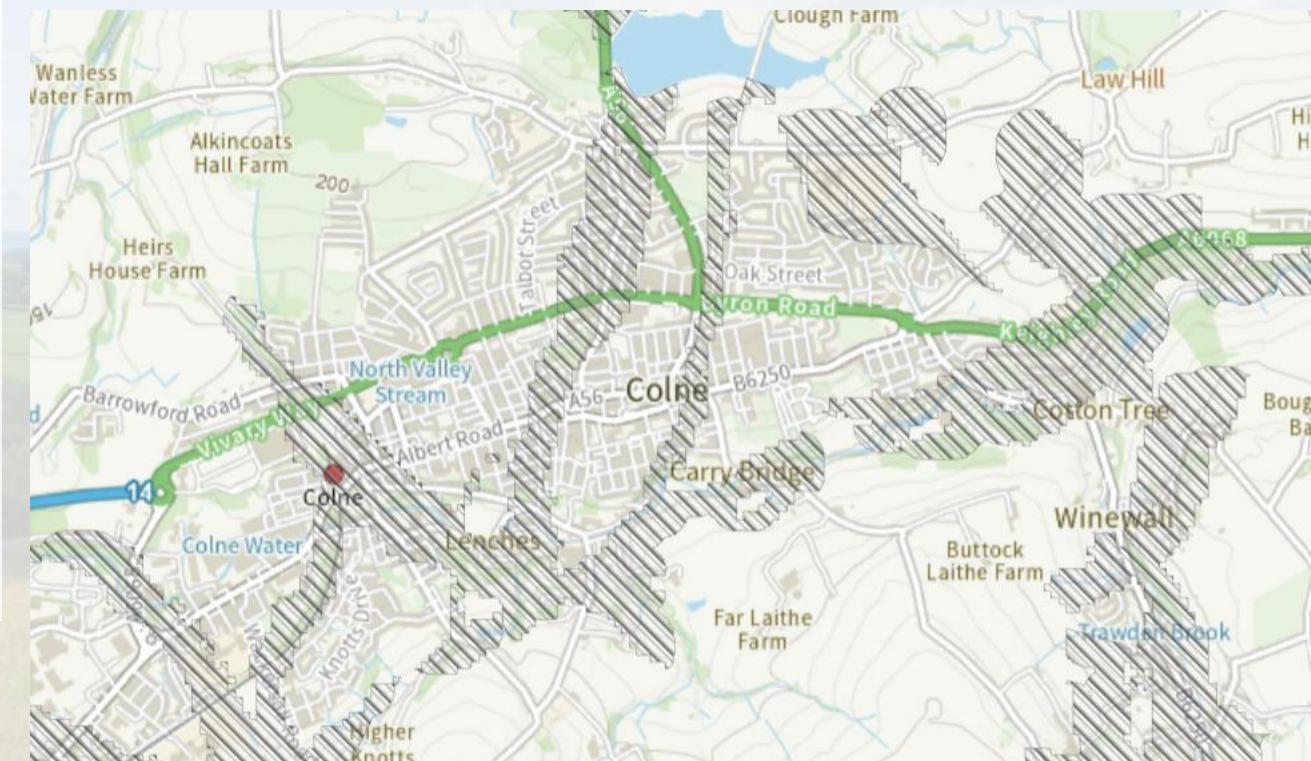


Opportunities

Urban

U1.2

Create more connected pollinator wildflower-rich habitat in and through urban centres seeking connectivity to the B-Lines approach for example hedgerows, arable margins and headlands, green roofs, and with parks and gardens containing wetland features, wilder areas with native plants including tall ruderals.



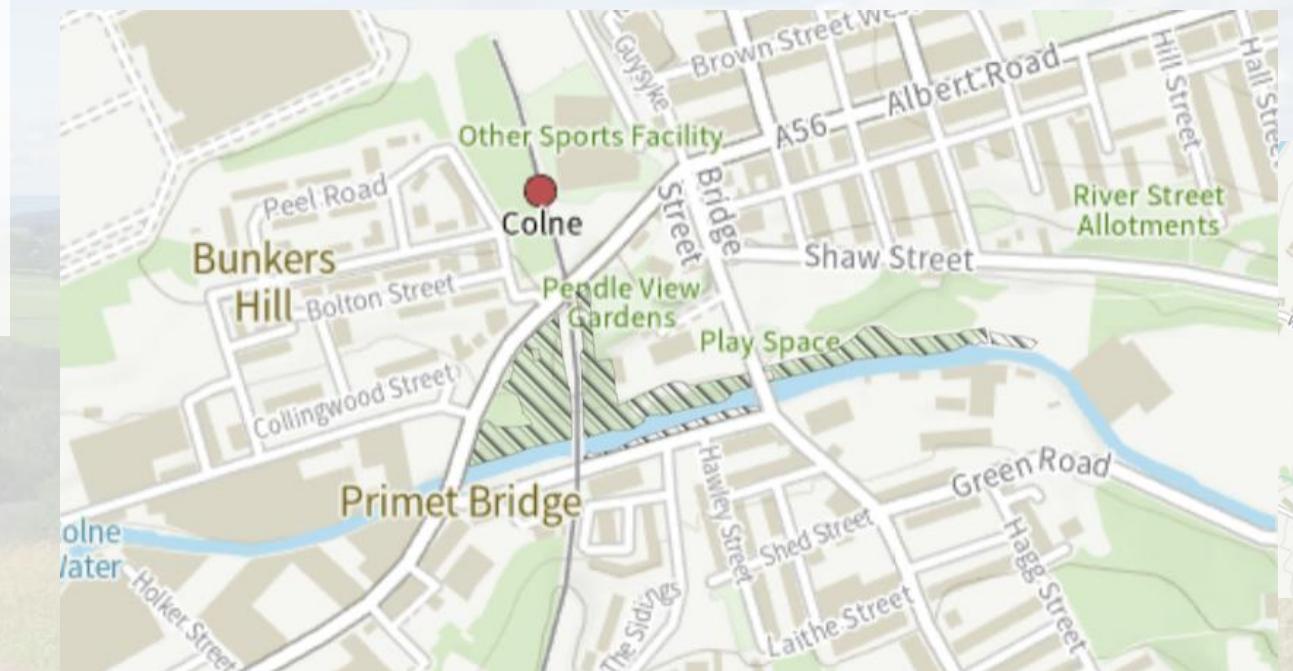


Opportunities

Urban

U2.1

Promote the naturalisation of watercourses including the establishment of buffer habitats in the urban environment.



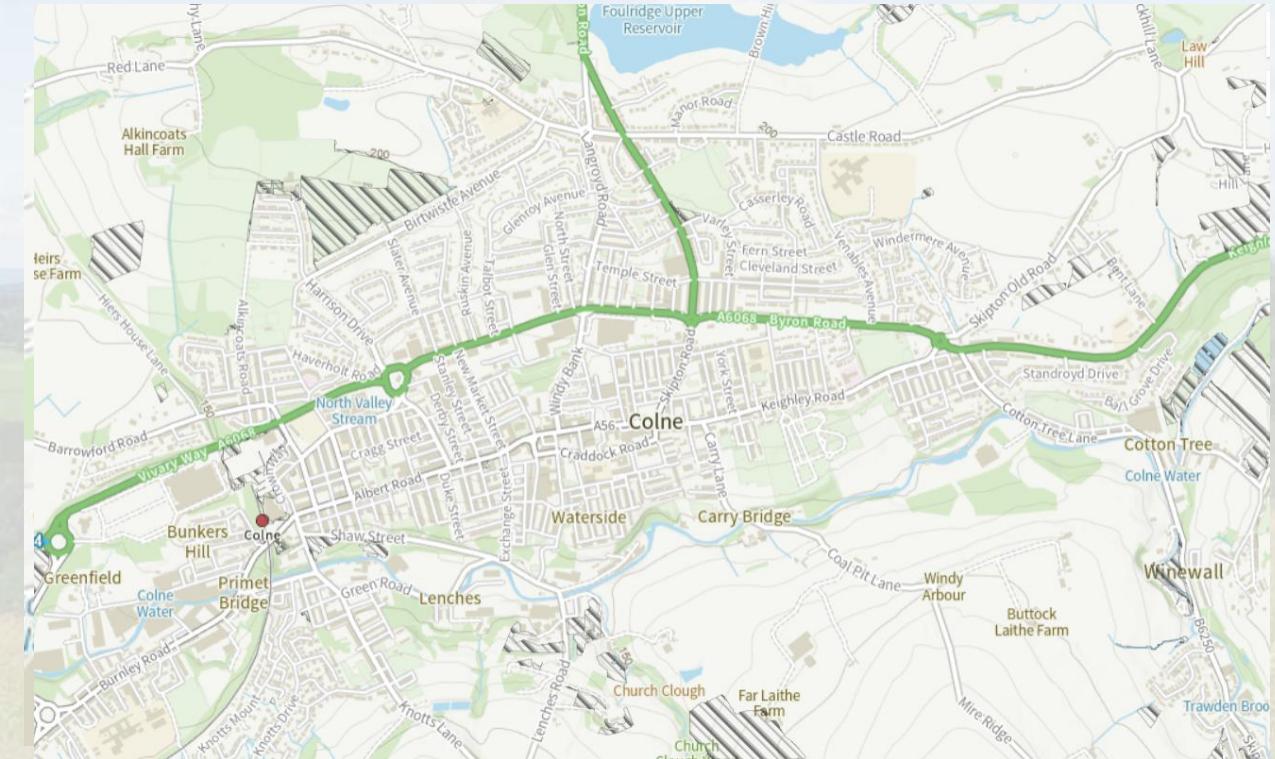


Opportunities

Urban

U2.2

Create and enhance waterbodies, wetlands and other aquatic habitats in urban areas, considering connectivity such as garden ponds, aerial ponds, bioswales, rain gardens and biodiverse sustainable drainage systems.



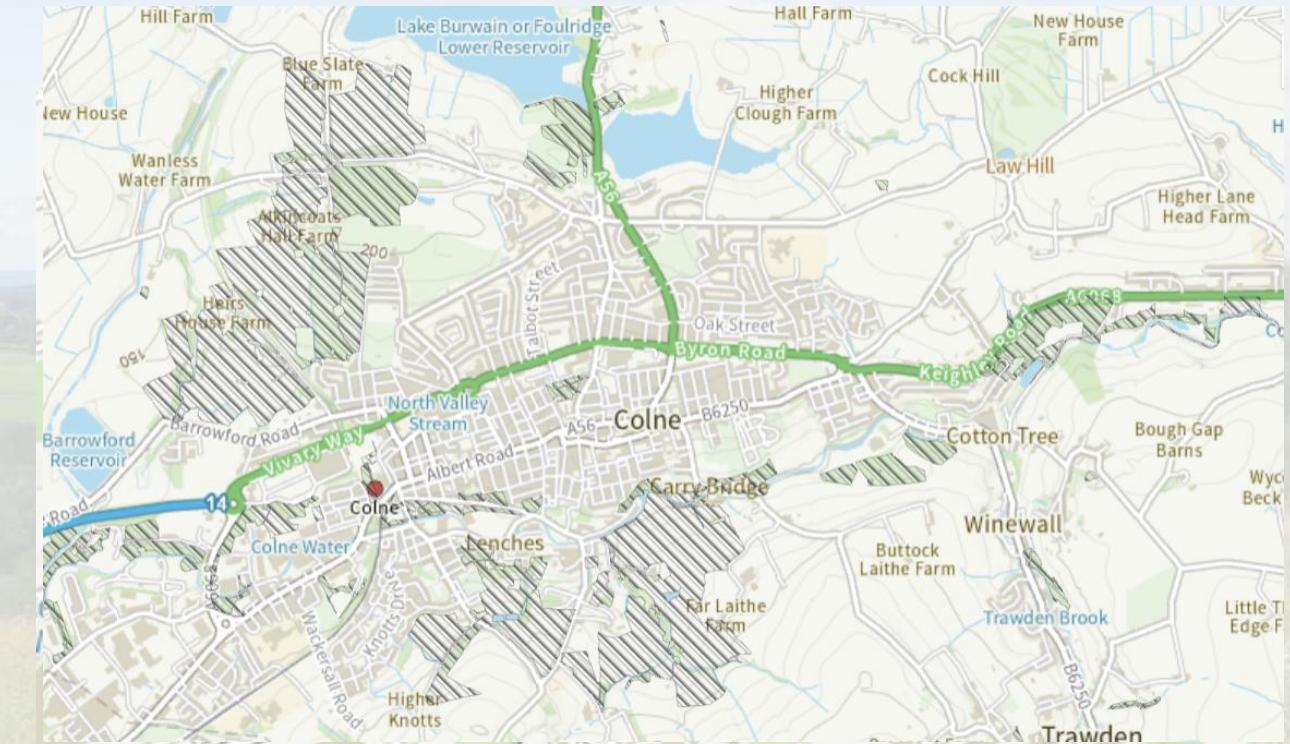


Opportunities

Urban

U2.3

Wooded habitat creation and enhancement in urban open spaces such as orchards, street trees, micro-woods, urban woodland and hedgerows.

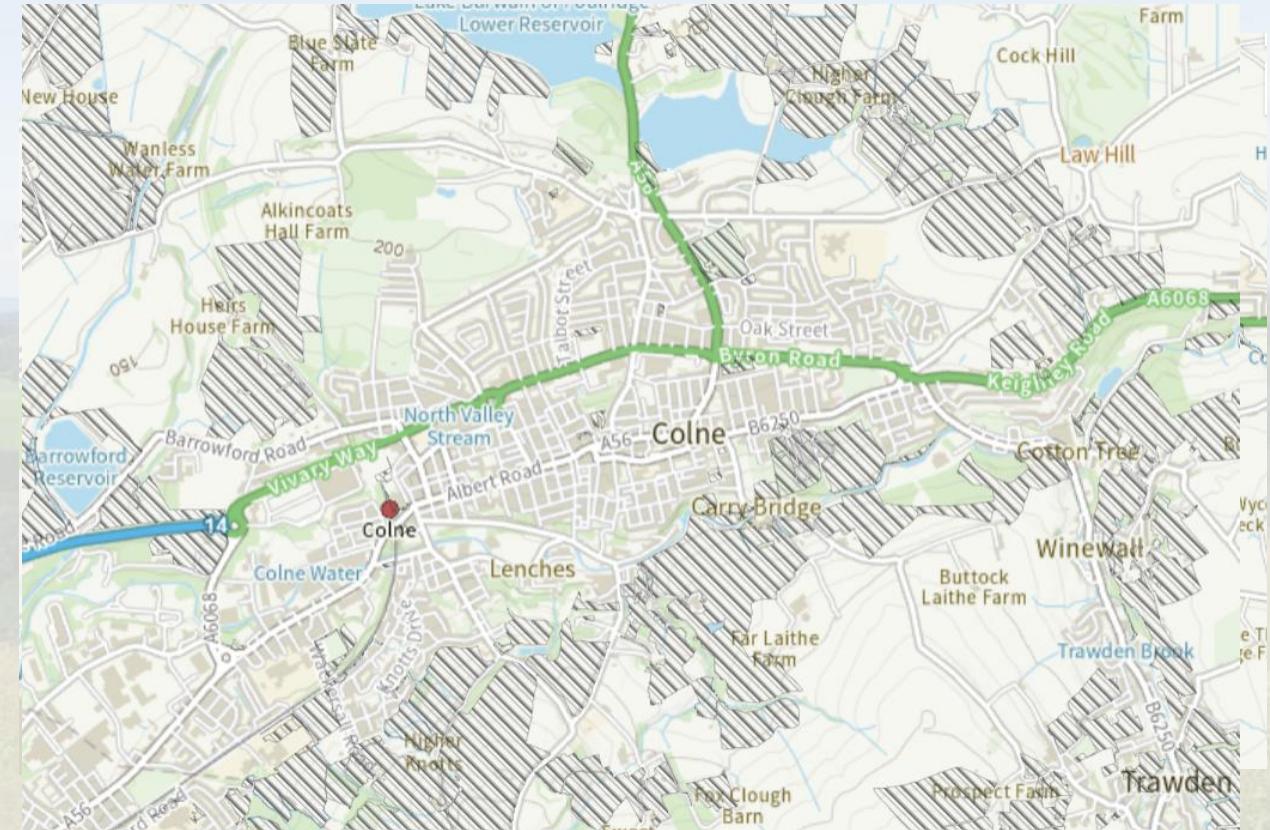


Opportunities

Urban

U2.4

Create, enhance and maintain biodiverse grassland habitats in urban areas, appropriate for the location and site conditions, taking account of ongoing land uses (e.g., old established grasslands in cemeteries) and existing ecological interest (e.g., fungi).

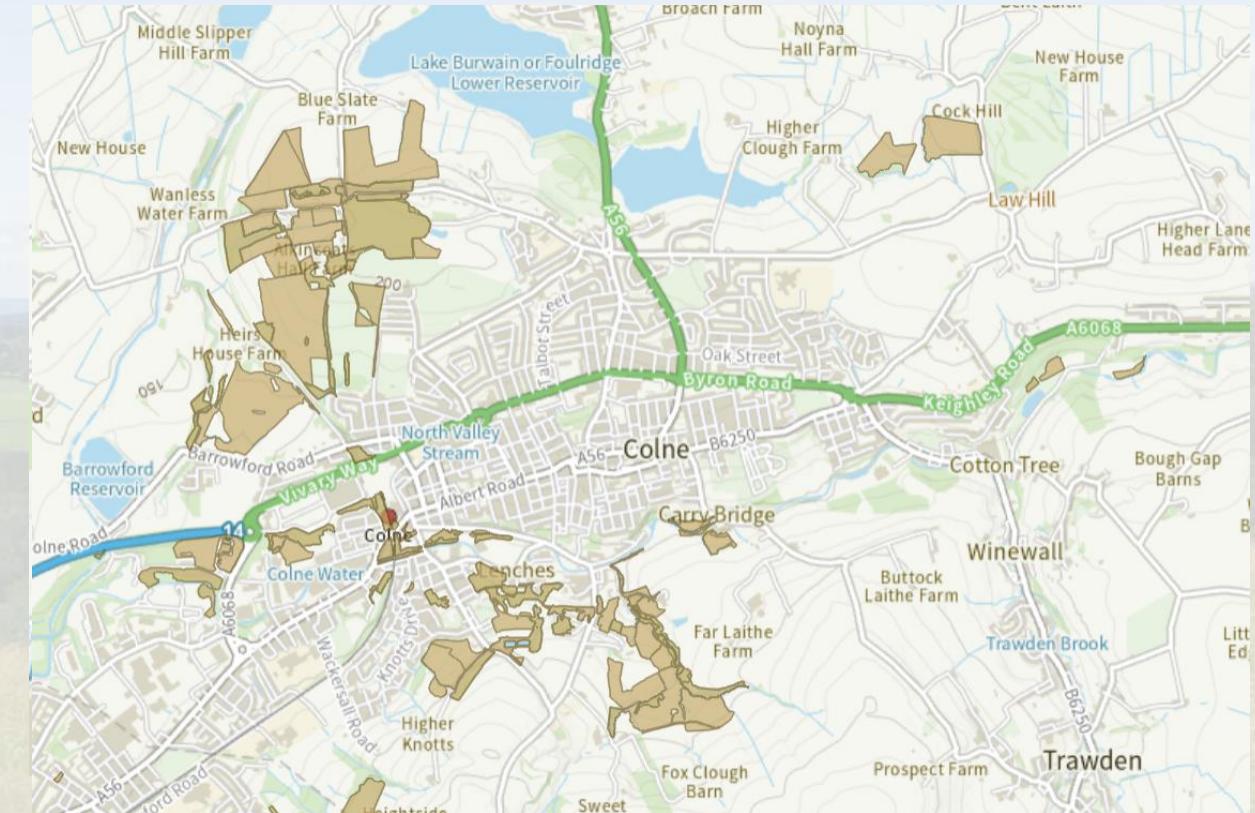


Opportunities

Wooded habitats and trees

W1.1

Restore natural processes and enhance the biodiversity value of existing wooded habitats, prioritising ancient and long-established woodlands, temperate rainforest, Plantations on Ancient Woodland Sites (PAWS) and wet woodland. Incorporate appropriate habitat enhancements for notable species known to be present or with high potential to colonise (such as feeding and breeding birds, small mammals, invertebrates and ground flora etc), for example: For dormice, consider retaining standard trees (especially oak), undertaking rotational coppicing of hazel, where appropriate, to promote a dense shrub layer and structural complexity, and adjust the timing of management work to avoid nesting and hibernation. On sites identified as BHS, also follow Measure B1.1.



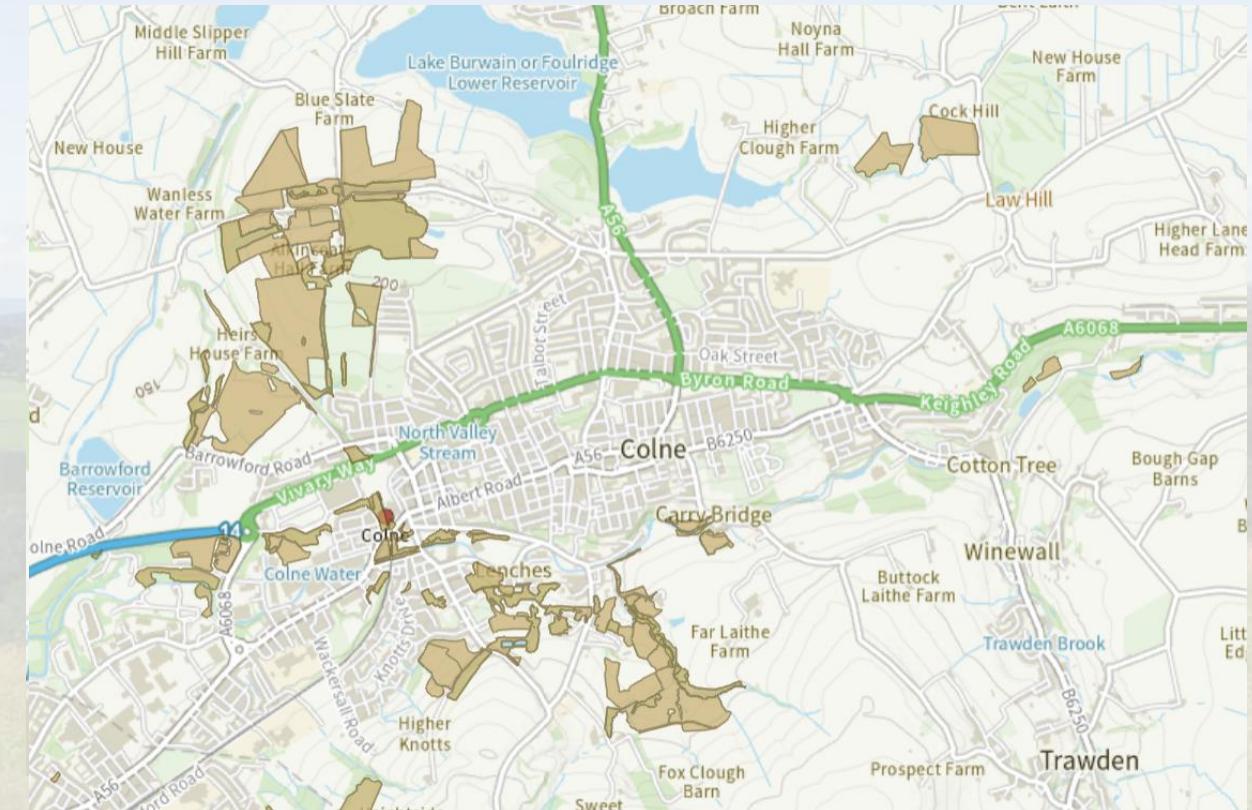
Opportunities

Wooded habitats and trees

W1.2

Enhance the biodiversity value of broadleaved, mixed and coniferous plantation woodland, including:

- Diversification of structure, age and species composition,
- Increasing the proportion of native species,
- Retaining permanent areas of broadleaved woodland,
- Creation of open habitats such as rides, glades and transitional woodland edge habitats, through selective felling, coppicing and ride management to increase the extent, diversity and connectivity of understory in woodlands and limit over-shading,
- Increasing standing and fallen dead wood,
- Inoculating habitats with appropriate native species from suitable agreed donor sites.



Opportunities

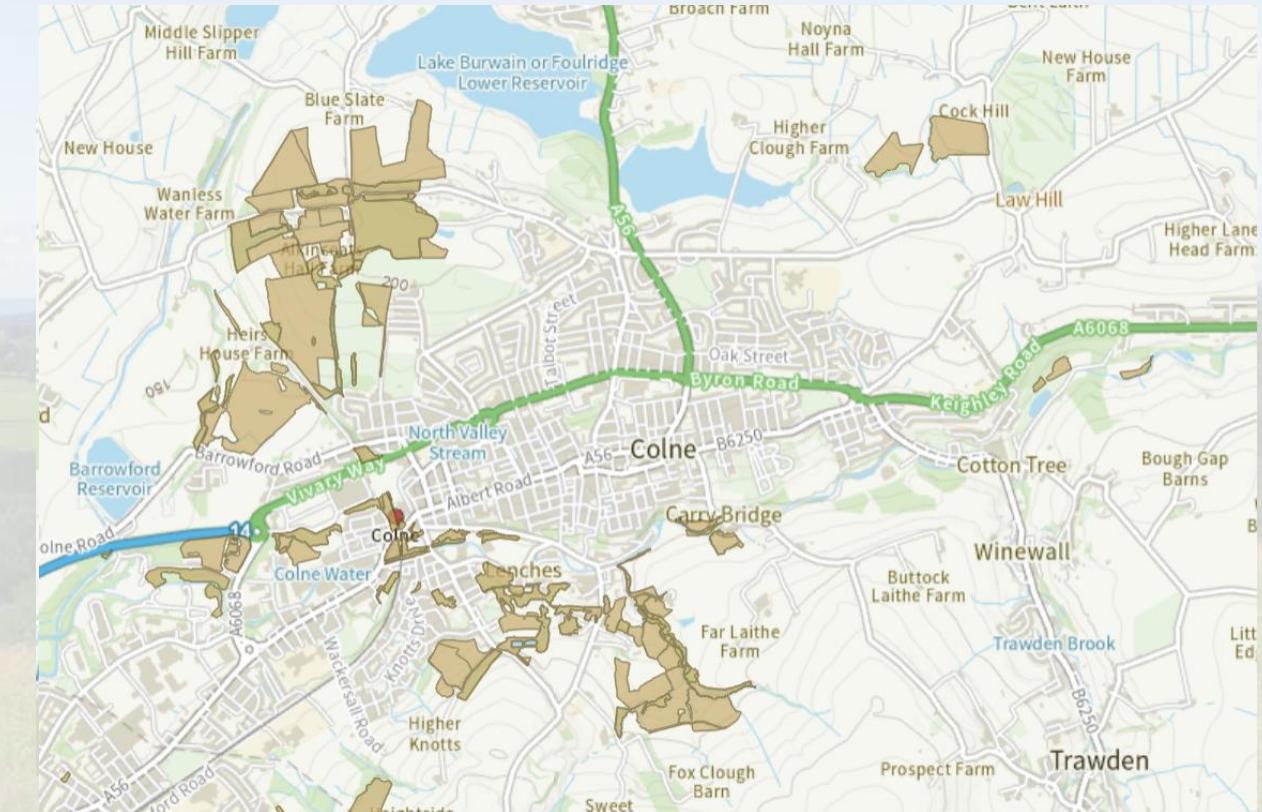
Wooded habitats and trees

W1.3

Introduce low impact woodland management and low impact management practices including sustainably managed Continuous Cover Forestry to diversify age range and structure of woodlands.

W1.5

Retention and appropriate maintenance of aged, ancient and veteran trees to maximise their lifespan and biodiversity value, including safe retention of dead and decaying wood and other veteran features as well as maintenance of root protection zones to prevent construction, soil compaction, cultivation/excavation and application of fertilizers and pesticides.



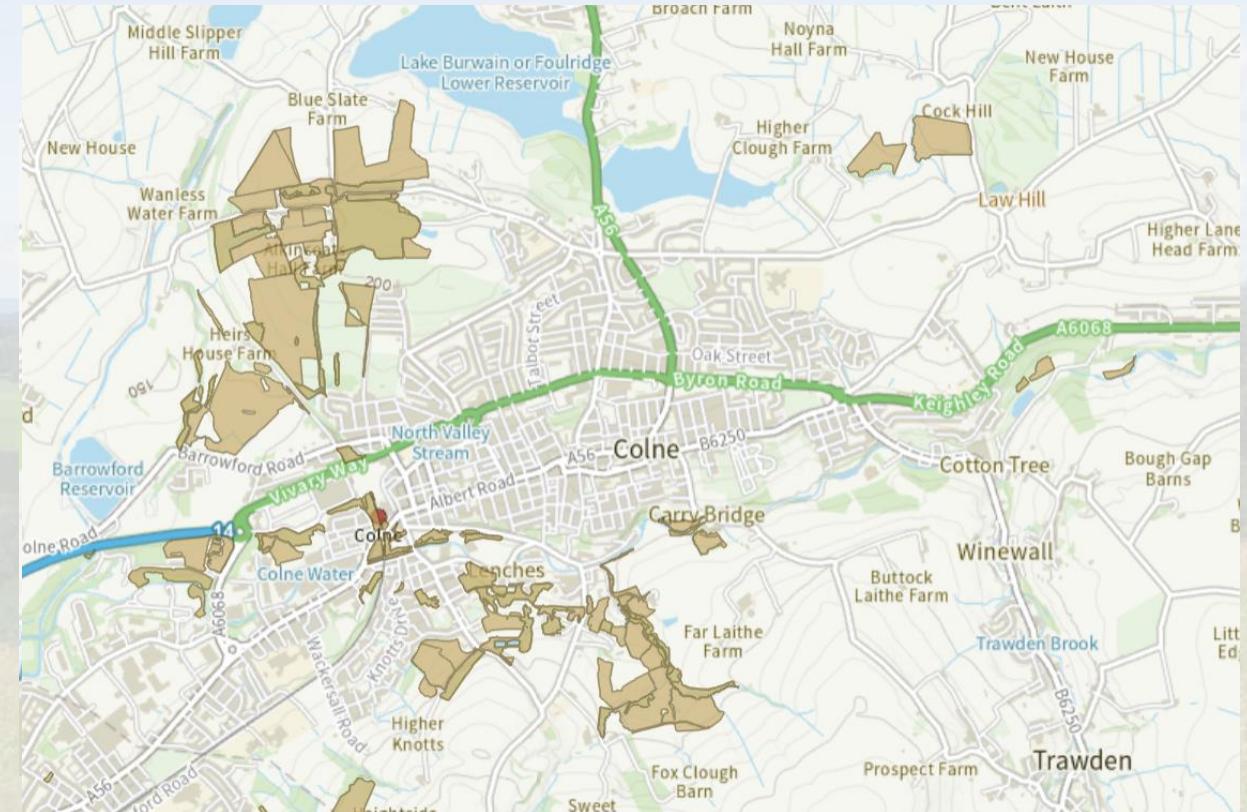


Opportunities

Wooded habitats and trees

W1.8

Retain and enhance standing and fallen dead wood resources in wooded habitats to maximise biodiversity value (where safe to do so).



LNRS delivery role

- Leading and convening a partnership focused on LNRS delivery.
- Embedding LNRS delivery into decision making.
- Identifying and developing a project pipeline.
- Monitoring and reporting on LNRS delivery.