



Department  
for Environment  
Food & Rural Affairs

# LNP Webinar: Local Nature Recovery Strategies

11/09/2019

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# Webinar aims

- Describe where we are with the Env Bill and Biodiversity Net Gain, and the NRN
- Set out the current thinking on LNRS and seek early input from LNPS to help with policy development'
- Discuss the overall direction of local delivery policy

# Webinar overview

- Background context and net gain – to support delivery of the NRN as set out in the 25 YP around the Environment Bill
- Introduce Local Nature Recovery Strategies
  - What they are
  - How they will work
  - How they interact with other mechanisms
  - What this means for LNPs
- Questions for discussion

# We made some announcements in July...



Policy paper

## Environment Bill summer policy statement: July 2019

Updated 23 July 2019

### Net gain

#### Summary of responses and government response

July 2019

#### Contents

1. Since publishing the draft Bill
2. Green governance
3. Improving the air we breathe
4. Restoring and enhancing nature and green spaces
5. A new direction for resources and waste management
6. Delivering sustainable water resources



# LNRs and Biodiversity Net Gain

- We published our response to the Net Gain consultation in July 2019. This set out the scope, the measurement criteria and that Biodiversity Net Gain will become mandatory.
- Public consultation response (including LNP input) stated a clear need for plans/strategies to identify existing habitat and opportunities for mandatory Biodiversity Net Gain regime to run smoothly. This is the primary focus of LNRs
- Biodiversity Net Gain will have an uplift for biodiversity units where they are in a strategically important (based on Lawton principles) location. LNRs will identify which sites are strategically important.

# What are Local Nature Recovery Strategies?

“In the Environment Bill, government will introduce new duties to support better spatial planning for nature through the creation of Local Nature Recovery Strategies”

- the whole of England will be covered by LNRSs with no gaps or overlaps
- each LNRS will include a statement of biodiversity priorities for the area covered by the strategy and a local habitat map that identifies opportunities for recovering or enhancing biodiversity
- the intention is that LNRSs will encourage the consideration of the wider benefits of habitats (e.g. carbon sequestration and flood mitigation) and promote greater connectivity between areas of habitat

# How do we think LNRs will work?

Our aspiration for LNRs is for them to be:

- Developed through a collaborative approach with a wide range of public bodies and local partners
- Developed locally using the best available national and local evidence, using a common framework of advice and guidance;
- cover all of England;
- help direct and target net gain;
- be used as an important information source to help inform a wide range of other activities including discharge of NERC, NPPF, and Local Plans, estate management plans.
- Subject to periodic review and improvement

Based on your experiences of Net Gain, what needs to be included in LNRs to make them effective in this regard?

What is the best way of making sure LNRs are produced collaboratively?

# LNRs and the planning system

- We envisage that LNRs will inform the town and country planning process by providing an important source of evidence to support plan-making
- The NPPF makes provision for strategic biodiversity mapping but this is not always completed- LNRs will mandate this and provide clear guidance on how it should be carried out
- We have worked closely with MHCLG to establish that LNRs will support the Local Plans process whilst ensuring the local plan remains the primary decision support tool for LPAs when determining development applications.



# Other roles LNRs can play

- LNRs will be open and therefore can provide a focal point for all those interested in improving nature in the area
- There are close links with the Nature Recovery Network- LNRs will support the NRN by better directing investment in the environment and Green Infrastructure
- There is the potential to look beyond nature and biodiversity and help shape wider government activity. For example, activities relating to Net Zero or flood risk management that could have a significant biodiversity benefit - afforestation, peat restoration etc
- We want LNRs to help public authorities identify activities they can do in line with the NERC duty (s40 of NERC Act)

How can we make sure LNRs are influential to all stakeholders in the area?

# How does this fit with wider local delivery policy?

- As set out in the 25 Year Environment Plan, it is our long-term aspiration to move towards a strategic planning approach for all natural capital assets in an area.
- Biodiversity is an important natural capital asset which provides a wide range of benefits for people. The legally-required LNRs can work alongside local natural capital planning which is not legally-required but operates at a more strategic level.

# What does this mean for LNPs?

We believe LNPS have a strong role to play in:

- Development and use of local evidence;
- Supporting or leading LNRS development;
- Supporting or leading the implementation against the priorities and agreed measures.

How can your LNP contribute to LNRSs?

# Questions for discussion

- What is the best way of making sure LNRs are produced collaboratively?
- Based on your experiences of Net Gain, what needs to be included in LNRs to make them effective in this regard?
- How can we make sure LNRs are influential to all stakeholders in the area?
- How can your LNP contribute to LNRs?
- Do you know of any similar work already going on? Were there any relevant lessons?