

Tees Valley Local Nature Recovery Strategy

Background

Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRSs) are a system of spatial strategies for nature and environmental improvement required by law under the Environment Act 2021. An LNRS should provide tools to inform decision-making and each strategy must:

- Agree priorities for nature's recovery.
- Map the most valuable existing areas for nature.
- Map specific proposals for creating or improving habitat for nature and wider environmental goals.

To read more about the LNRS process, please visit... →

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/6421a4bdf97a8001379ecf1/Local_nature_recovery_strategy_statutory_guidance.pdf

Why is this different?

Although several wildlife/biodiversity strategies have been developed in the past, this strategy differs from those that came before it for several reasons.

1. *Statutory*

- Unlike those that came before it, it is a statutory requirement that the 48 areas of England create their LNRS by March 2025. We are all working on our strategies at the same time and are required to consult with neighbouring areas to ensure that efforts are joined up.

2. *Biodiversity duty*

- Local authorities must consider what they can do to conserve and enhance biodiversity in England. This is the strengthened '[biodiversity duty](#)' that the Environment Act 2021 introduces. This means that they must:
 - i. Consider what they can do to conserve and enhance biodiversity.
 - ii. Agree policies and specific objectives based on their consideration.
 - iii. Act to deliver their policies and achieve their objectives.

3. *Green finance*

- Green finance is filtering/plans to filter more funding into conservation efforts through initiatives such as Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG), Nutrient Neutrality, and Environmental Land Management Schemes (ELMs), making them more sustainable and impactful.

4. *Priorities*

- Unlike past strategies that were often long, overly detailed documents that included all possible nature recovery opportunities, the aim is for the LNRS to be concise and



actionable, focusing on priorities.

Who is creating the strategy?

Each of the 48 LNRS areas has been assigned a Responsible Authority (RA) that has been tasked with strategy development, production, and review. In the Tees Valley, the RA is Tees Valley Combined Authority (TVCA). TVCA has commissioned three contractors to carry out this process, they include:

- [Mott MacDonald](#) – Strategy development and production
 - Mott MacDonald is the lead commission, responsible for writing the strategy based on the evidence base and the feedback from stakeholder engagement.
- [Environmental Records Information Centre North East](#) (ERIC NE) – Data provision and mapping
- [Tees Valley Nature Partnership](#) (TVNP) – Stakeholder engagement

Supporting Authorities (SAs) are also required to assist with the production of the LNRS. In the Tees Valley, the SAs include the five Local Authorities, plus North York Moors National Park Authority and Natural England.

TVCA is responsible for developing and overseeing Tees Valley's LNRS Steering Group which ensures that the strategy development is moving in the right direction and nothing has been overlooked. It also gives the SAs the chance to further feed into the process.

Stakeholder Engagement

The success of an LNRS depends on engaging stakeholders. By working together, stakeholders can advise the development of strategies tailored to the specific needs and characteristics of the local environment, ultimately promoting the recovery and resilience of nature at the local level.

Government agencies, conservation organisations, local communities, landowners, land managers, young people, and experts in ecology and biodiversity will be/have been engaged via group workshops, one-to-one meetings, newsletters, Tees Nature Conference 2024, event stalls, and more.

It is important to note that the recommendations gathered during the stakeholder engagement process will be/have been passed to Mott MacDonald who is responsible for – with input from the LNRS Steering Group – deciding which nature recovery opportunities should be prioritised. TVNP is not responsible for what is included in the final strategy.

To stay up to date on upcoming engagement events, please visit... → <https://teesvalley-ca.gov.uk/business/net-zero/tees-valley-local-nature-recovery-strategy/>

Timeline



Tees Valley aims to release the draft strategy in Autumn 2024, which will remain out for public consultation until the end of 2024. The deadline for the publication of the strategy is March 2025.

Where are we now?

31/07/2024

Mott MacDonald are in the process of narrowing down the longlist of nature recovery opportunities that have come to light through research and stakeholder engagement, into a shortlist of 10-15 priorities. To do this, they are utilising a system that assigns points to each opportunity based on questions such as:

- Does this help meet national environmental objectives?
- Is this a priority of a neighbouring LNRS area?
- Has this been chosen as a priority during a stakeholder engagement session?

Once these priorities have been signed off by the LNRS Steering Group, they will be developed into the draft strategy.