**Buckinghamshire & Milton Keynes LNRS Webinar**

**7th October 2024**

**Questions & Responses**

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| ***Do you believe the LNRS process can adequately protect our natural environment against governmental pressures in relation to house-building priorities and increasing traffic congestion?***  Good question, the government have designed the Local Nature Recovery Strategies to be integrated into the planning system. They are there to inform decisions in the plan-making system and to go hand-in-hand. What we are doing here, is all about opportunities for collective action. If an area is spatially identified, that doesn’t bind a landowner to carry out that opportunity; it’s there to present a vision of what we could be doing collectively. Bear in mind that local planning authorities have a duty to consider Local Nature Recovery Strategies. We are waiting to hear the final bit of guidance on this issue from the government, hopefully within a month. |
| ***Can you share the list of target species please?***  Yes we will be sharing, although are still working on the shortlist. So watch this space! |
| ***Can we view more detailed or interactive maps anywhere?***  We are in the process of putting the mapping together right now, the first opportunity to see the resulting maps will be on 18th November at our workshop. |
| ***Is it possible to interrogate the details in the draft maps?***  We are in the process of putting the mapping together right now, the first opportunity to see the resulting maps will be on 18th November at our workshop. |
| ***Are wildlife corridors being mapped?***  We will be mapping the measures to identify where they are best placed to achieve the priorities. Connectivity between sites is definitely part of the priorities. |
| ***Where might we find the list of 'priority species'?***  We are still working on the shortlist. So watch this space! |
| ***Has the baseline mapping considered at all crossovers with the historic environment e.g Registered Parks and Gardens; Scheduled Monuments?***  Yes – registered parks and gardens |
| ***Is the LNRS project engaged with those that have produced Neighbourhood Plans or in the process of creating one?***  We are liaising with neighbouring LNRS areas, but also have been actively engaging with town and parish councils as part of the sector engagement, to raise awareness of the LNRS process and ensure input at the Neighbourhood Plan scale. |
| ***Have you collected environment/biodiversity sections from all the neighbourhood plans that have been completed?***  Neighbourhood plans are really important documents and they are designed so that they are produced in accordance with the delivery of strategic policies set out in the local plan or spatial development strategy.  As such we see that part of the value of the Local nature recovery strategy will be that it will be able to be used by plan-makers to inform the way they address the National Planning Policy Framework requirement for plans to protect and enhance biodiversity. We fully envisage the LNRS will be really helpful for local communities to plan and implement local action that are in line with wider priorities and vision for natures recovery so that targeted, co-ordinated and collaborative action can be undertaken. |
| ***Would be a great idea if we could as a Planning Policy team at one of our meetings have a member of the LNRS project come along and we could do our own team workshop commenting on the areas in the Draft Opportunity meeting in November?***  Let us know where you're from - we do already have Bucks C and MKCC planning policy teams involved in the LNRS steering group. |
| ***Will there be any way to see the draft opportunities map and feedback on it, for people who can’t make the workshop on 18th November?***  We will be undertaking a formal consultation process on the draft LNRS outputs from the end January 25 |
| ***How should LNRS be incorporated into Local Plans?***  The Local Plans prepared by Local Planning Authorities must be consistent with national policy, as set out in the [National Planning Policy Framework](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-framework--2). Local nature recovery strategies should be used by plan-makers to inform the way they address the National Planning Policy Framework requirement for plans to protect and enhance biodiversity.  The Government is required to provide separate guidance by the 1 Jan 2025 at the latest on how local planning authorities are to comply with their duty to have particular regard to local nature recovery strategies through their planning functions. |
| ***Can the slides be made available?***  Yes |
| ***Do you see the LNRS as additional lobbying tools for developing grant funding opportunities support eg soil friendly farming other than SFI?***  Local nature recovery strategies are intended to help people to see where action to recover nature in their area would be most effective. The proposals are intended to guide where the public, private and voluntary sectors and focus their nature recovery efforts for greater collective impact.  LNRS have been designed so that they guide where investment could be channelled into local nature recovery priorities whatever the source of finance, be that private and public sources i.e. woodland creation funds, Environment Land Management scheme, species protection funds, BNG etc |
| ***Do you envisage LNRS focusing things other than BNG - e.g. funding from Defra, Local authority, NE, EA priorities for funding for nature recovery?***  As per the Planning Advisory Service (PAS) guidance, we anticipate that once “...up and running, we expect LNRS to inform future funding opportunities from a range of public and private sources.” |
| ***A question I have is:***   * ***first slide presented regarding to LRNS Environmental Plan 2023 was the previous governments priority.*** * ***I do believe new gov (Labour) have only 5 priorities…..***   A new EIP is due to be refreshed and published by Christmas. However, the new Government has already announced that ensuring Nature Recovery as one of its top 5 priorities for the environment. Please see amendments to first slide. |