Welcome

Buckinghamshire & Milton Keynes
Local Nature Recovery Strategy
Cross Sector Workshop

The Environment Act 2021 requires all areas in England to produce a Local Nature Recovery Strategy.

The purpose of the LNRS is to:

- Restore and enhance nature across England

- Propose practical actions to achieve nature recovery

- Direct where funding would be best spent on nature

- Link with Biodiversity Net Gain, a new planning requirement

- Encourage more coordinated and practical action for nature

- **48 LNRSs** will cover the whole of England

- Locally-led by "**Responsible Authorities**"

- Updated **every 5 years**

- The new Government has announced ensuring **Nature Recovery as one of its top 5 priorities** for the environment.

Buckinghamshire Council
Responsible Authority

Milton Keynes City Council
Natural England
Supporting Authorities

Bucks & Milton Keynes NEP
Project management

There are two key parts to the Local Nature Recovery Strategy:

- Biodiversity Statement

- Local Habitats map

Public Engagement

- February / March 2024: Stakeholder Engagement Workshops

- July / August 2024: Open Survey

- **November 2024: Cross Sector Workshop**

- January / February 2025: Public Consultation

We are here today to:

- Build understanding of the LNRS - what it is, what hopes to achieve

- Share story, process and findings so far

- Sense check critical aspects of the LNRS before it goes out to public consultation

- Begin to build understanding across sectors as a way to support action on nature recovery

Morning Session

Sector specific findings from LNRS stakeholder engagement

How the LNRS has been created

Sense checking the themes priorities and actions in the LNRS

Break

Introducing the LNRS digital habitats map

Q+A / Responses to questions submitted at workshop sign up

Lunch

Afternoon Session

Preparing the ground for an LNRS Action Network

Plenary

Optional Networking

Findings from LNRS sector-based workshops

Sector Representatives

Development Sector Jo Alden, Barret David Wilson Homes

Environmental Orgs Dr Helen Read, Burnham Beeches & Stoke Common

Town and Parish Councils Mel Woof, Association of Local Town and Parish Councils

Community / General Public Adrian Porter, Wild Amersham

Business Chris Bridgman, Gardens in the Sky

Farmers, Landowners and Foresters Peter Hobbs, Rectory Farm

Sector-based workshops March /April 2024

1. Which pressures on nature are most important to address in this area?
2. Which benefits of nature should we invest in for the future?
3. What are your priorities for nature recovery?
4. What are your asks of the LNRS?

"Investing is nature is our obligation. We believe you will always get out more than you put in"

Development Sector

'It's very hard to do any of this on your own.'

Environmental Organisations

'There's more going on than you might imagine'

Town and Parish Councils

'A great opportunity for joined up thinking'

Community / General Public

'A lot of businesses want to invest in nature but just don't know how to go about it'

Businesses

'We want to do more for nature...and it has to make economic sense.'

Farmers, Landowners and Foresters

In twos or threes on your table, please share:

- Something that stood out for you from the sector feedback

- A nature recovery achievement that you are proud of

Sense checking the critical aspects of the LNRS:

- The **priorities** for nature recovery that are specific to Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes

- The **measures** we can take to achieve them

Measures = Actions

Nicola Thomas

Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) for Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes:

The Story So Far

www.bucksmknep.co.uk

Our Core LNRS Team

Malori Richards - LNRS Project Manager

Nicola Thomas - Buckinghamshire and MK Natural
Environment Partnership (NEP is leading
the work)

Clare Branch – NEP, Project Support Officer

David Sutherland – Buckinghamshire Council

Phil Snell - Milton Keynes City Council

Caroline Svendsen - Natural England
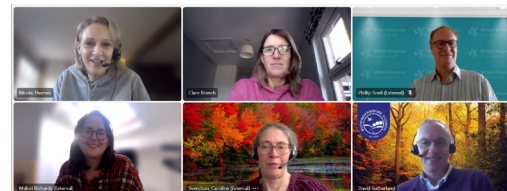
LNRS Steering group

Reps from key environment organisations incl. Env Agency, Forestry Commission,
Chilterns National Landscape and BBOWT.
Guide and sense check technical input

What does the LNRS consist of?

Local Nature Recovery Strategy

Statement of Biodiversity Priorities

1. What nature do we already have?

2. Priorities - what do we want?

3. Measures – how do we get there?

Local Habitat Map

1. Where are the best places for nature now?

2. Map areas that could become of particular importance for biodiversity
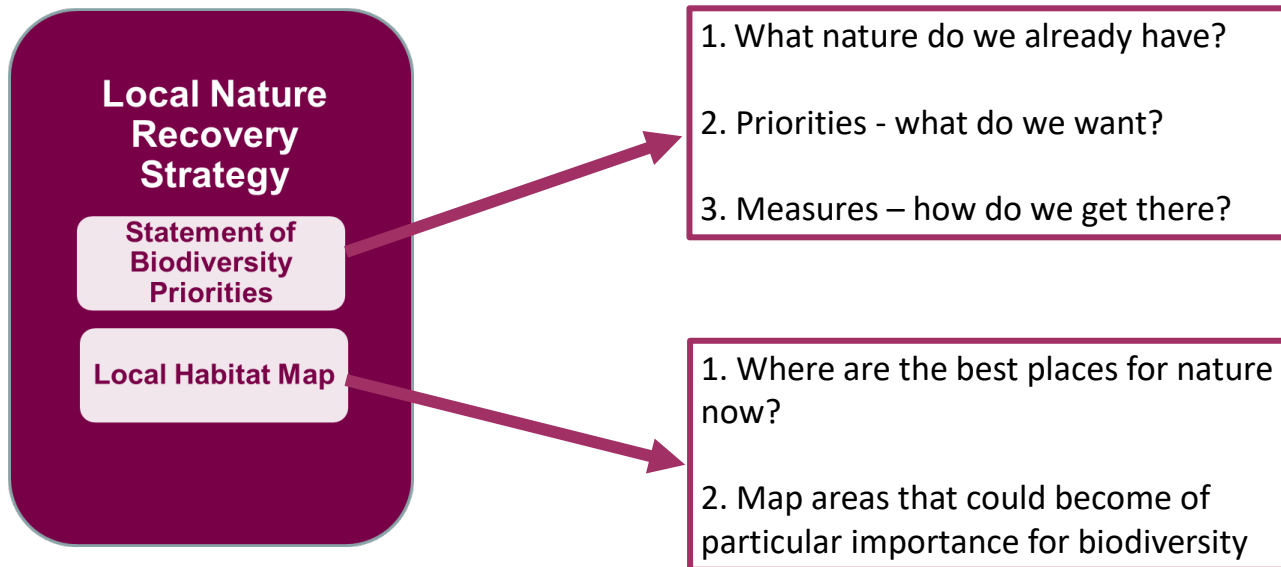
Stepped process for production of LNRS

Bucks and MK Natural Environment Partnership commissioned to lead production of LNRS

Start

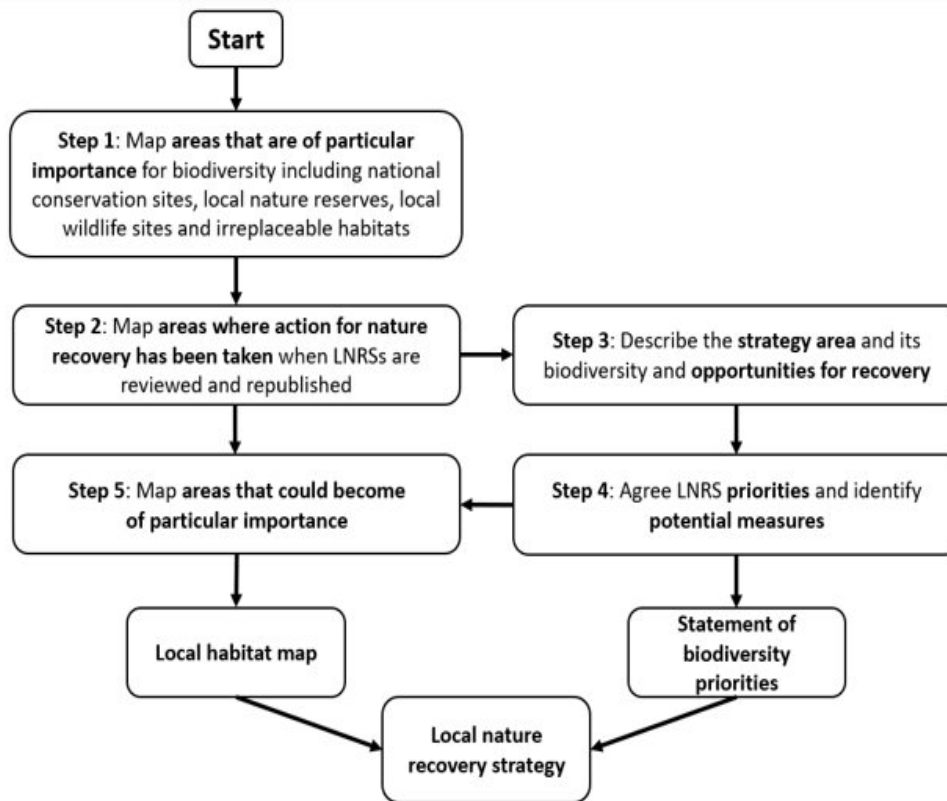Step 1: Map **areas that are of particular importance** for biodiversity including national conservation sites, local nature reserves, local wildlife sites and irreplaceable habitats

Step 2: Map **areas where action for nature recovery has been taken** when LNRSs are reviewed and republished

Step 3: Describe the **strategy area** and its biodiversity and **opportunities for recovery**

✓ **Step 3 – draft complete**

Step 5: Map **areas that could become of particular importance**

Step 4: Agree LNRS **priorities** and identify **potential measures**

We are here

Local habitat map

Statement of biodiversity priorities

Local nature recovery strategy

Stakeholder Engagement Process

Event	Purpose
10 Sector-based Workshops 150 attendees	**March–April 2024,** (6 sectors) To identify **stakeholders' priorities** for nature and nature benefits, and any corresponding measures To understand the **format requirements** for the LNRS documents. **Youth Summit** (40 respondents)
Survey 444 respondents	**July/August 2024**;. To reach a **wider audience** to check the proposed shortlisted LNRS themes derived from the stakeholder engagement workshops. To **fill any gaps** and gain additional information regarding "**other plans and strategies**" that may have a bearing upon the LNRS.
Multisector Event	**18th Nov, 2024** Cross–sector dialogue to discuss **the proposed mapped opportunities** and **priorities for nature** that would comprise the LNRSs Local Habitat Map. Also to test functionality of the draft LNRS maps.

Step 1: Map Areas of Particular Importance for Biodiversity

LNRS Irreplaceable Habitats

- Ancient Tree Inventory (Woodland Trust)
- Lowland Fens

Ancient Woodland © Natural England

- Ancient & Semi-Natural Woodland
- Ancient Replanted Woodland
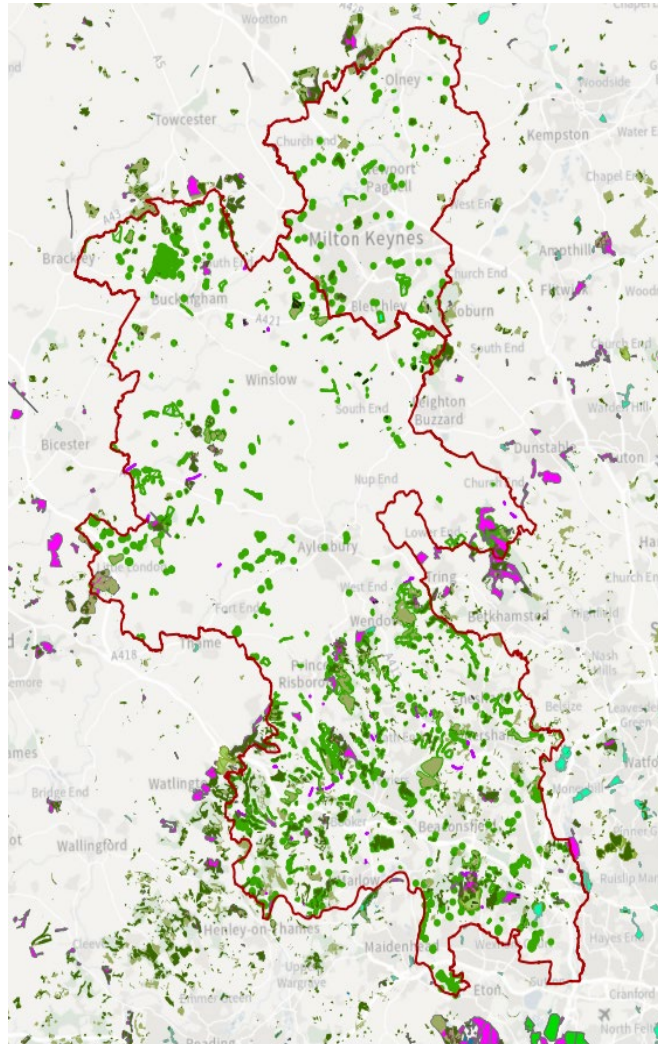- Ancient Wood Pasture

National Conservation Sites

- National Nature Reserves (England)
- Sites of Special Scientific Interest (England) © Natural England
- Special Areas of Conservation (England)
- Special Protection Areas (England)

Local Conservation Sites

- Local Nature Reserves (England) © Natural England
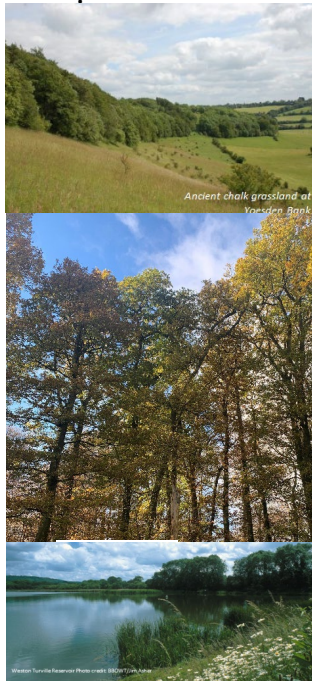
Local Sites

- Local Wildlife Sites
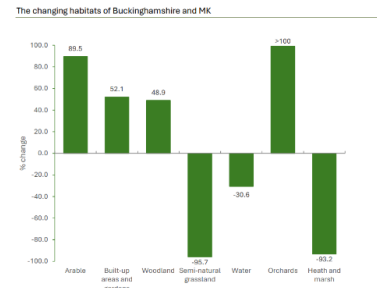- Road Verge Nature Reserves

Step 3: Describe the Strategy Area, its biodiversity and opportunities for recovery
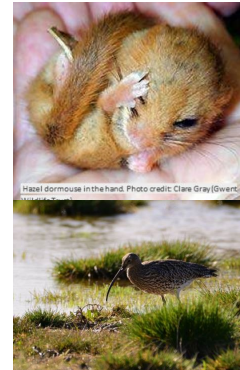
Variety of landscapes, habitats and

Ancient chalk grassland of Yoesden Bank

Weston Turville Reservoir Photo credit: BBOWT/Jim Asher

Change over recent decades

Important species

Hazel dormouse in the hand. Photo credit: Clare Gray (Gwent

Opportunities for nature recovery

Challenges facing nature

Step 4: Priorities and Measures

Priorities - Objectives for nature recovery
in relation to habitats, species or the wider environment

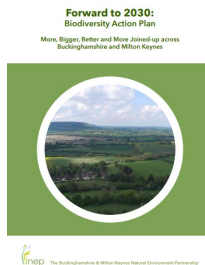Measures - Practical **actions** to achieve the priorities

Priorities and Measures: Ideas from…
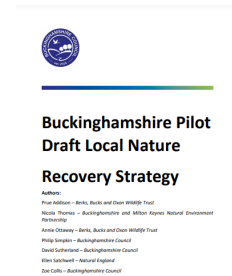

Important species – specialist input

Stakeholder workshops
6 sectors, 147 participants
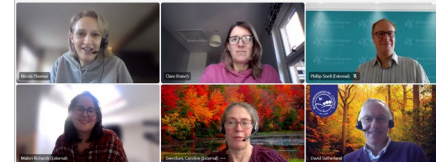

Environmental plans and strategies

Bucks Youth Summit
40 responses

Bucks PILOT LNRS stakeholder input (2020-21)

Priorities and Measures process
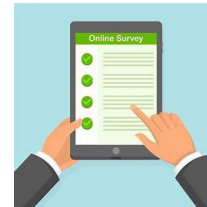
1) Gather ideas

2) Analysis

3) Check

4) Refine

Core and steering group

Stakeholders
(6 sectors)
Experts
Existing plans and strategies

Scope in or out
Apply criteria
Simplify

Identified themes

SURVEY
444 responses:

FINAL SHORTLIST:
3 tiers:
9 Themes
20 Priorities
115 Measures

Themes arising from the priorities and measures process

THEMES
1) Protect, create, enhance and restore **Land-based habitats**
2) Improve **rivers, their floodplains** and the **quality of their waters**
3) Protect, create, increase, enhance and maintain **wetland habitats**
4) More **farmers and rural land managers** to adopt **wildlife-friendly land management** practices and take action to improve **soil health**
5) Improve **biodiversity in built-up areas.**
6) **Create connections** between green areas for wildlife to flourish
7) Manage the effects of a **changing climate**
8) Tackling non-native **invasive species, pests and diseases**
9) Improve the environment for **target species**

THEMES arising from Priorities shortlisting	#	PRIORITY DESCRIPTION
THEME 1: **Protect, create, increase, enhance and restore land-based habitats**	1	**Protect, create, increase, enhance and restore trees and woodland habitats**
	2	**Protect, create, increase, enhance and restore hedgerows and field margins**
	3	**Protect, create, increase, enhance and restore species-rich grasslands**
	4	**Protect, create and improve, restore and connect chalk and limestone grassland**
	5	**Protect, create and improve traditional orchards, open mosaic habitats, Biodiversity Opportunity Areas and other important sites**
	6	**Reduce recreational pressure on irreplaceable, priority and other important habitats**
THEME 2: **Improve rivers, their floodplains and the quality of their waters**	7	**Renaturalise river habitats using appropriate habitat restoration techniques (to) and enhance the ecological value of river corridors and their floodplains**
	8	**Improve river water quality**
	9	**Protect, enhance and restore Chalk Streams**
THEME 3: **Protect, create, increase, enhance and maintain wetland habitats.**	10	**Protect, create, enhance, restore and connect existing ponds, rivers, lakes and lagoons to create a diversity of wetlands** and pond sizes and depth**s to maximise and increase biodiversity**
THEME 4: **More Farmers and rural land managers to adopt wildlife-friendly land management practices and take action to improve soil health**	11	**Farm businesses and rural landholdings enhance and create connected and diverse wildlife-rich habitats across the landscape as an integral part of their businesses,** recognising the importance of wildlife for pollination, crop and soil and water health.
	12	**Improve soil health** by increasing micro-organisms, animals and plants living within the soil, improve soil structure and increase organic matter. This will increase soil fertility, water retention, lock up carbon, and reduce the need for chemical fertilisers and pesticides.
THEME 5: **Improve biodiversity in built-up areas**	13	**Manage existing green and blue spaces in built-up areas better for wildlife**
	14	**Create more space for nature when designing new development**
	15	**Provide habitats for nature along and around infrastructure such as roads, railways and airports**
THEME 6: Create connections between green areas for wildlife to flourish	16	**Connect habitats to make wildlife corridors and stepping stones at landscape scale**
THEME 7: **Manage the effects of a changing climate**	17	**Use nature to capture carbon and weaken climate change**
	18	**Adopt nature-based solutions to address climate change impacts, water management and improve air quality**
THEME 8: **Tackle non-native species, pests & diseases**	19	**Reduce and prevent the spread of non-native invasive species, pests and diseases** which can occur in high densities to the detriment of a broader range of wildlife.
THEME 9: **Improve the environment for important species**	20+	tbc - species work-dependent

Each priority contains a number of measures (practical actions)

PRIORITY 8: Improve river water quality	M46 (not mapped)	**Incorporate permeable surfaces and other Sustainable urban Drainage Systems techniques within urban areas to filter pollutants before they enter river systems.** This will help improve water quality reducing the impact of flooding and pollution on wildlife, as well as reducing flooding risk, improve water quality, and support groundwater recharge. *For example,* rain gardens and rainwater harvesting	Direct
	M47 (mapped)	**Increase the area of woodlands where they can intercept the flow of surface run-off of water and capture sediment to improve water quality in rivers.** This reduces the impact of pollution on wildlife.	Direct
	M48 (not mapped)	**Water companies to consider building artificial wetlands to treat wastewater, remove pollutants and provide habitat for wildlife.** This will aid their required rapid progress in the implementation of measures and improvements to meet their Environment Programme requirements as set by the Environment Agency and agreed by Ofwat. The measure would help to address water quality pressures arising from treated sewage effluent and failing/under-capacity sewerage infrastructure.	Supporting
	M49 (not mapped)	**Encourage volunteers to help monitor water quality so that decisions are made based on up-to-date data.** **Support citizen science initiatives to add to existing baselines and monitor water quality,** integrate these data sets with other data collection activities (research and regulatory) and to incorporate this data into decisions to inform water quality improvement measures and to identify diffuse sources or water quality pressures	Supporting

Step 5 – Local Habitat Maps

FINAL Priorities and Measures SHORTLIST:

9 Themes
20 Priorities
115 Measures
for nature recovery

35 mapped measures

**LNRS Local habitat map**
(Step 5)

Jim Rouquette

Habitat basemap

Detailed habitat basemap
produced by classifying every land
parcel (>2.5M) using a range of
local and national datasets

Habitats

- Arable
- Uncertain agriculture
- Amenity grassland
- Improved grassland
- Marshy grassland
- Semi-natural grassland
- Fen, marsh and swamp
- Broadleaved woodland
- Coniferous woodland
- Mixed woodland
- Scrub
- Trees / Parkland
- Heathland
- Water
- Garden
- Built-up areas and infrastructure
- Rock, exposure and waste
- Mixed / other / uncertain
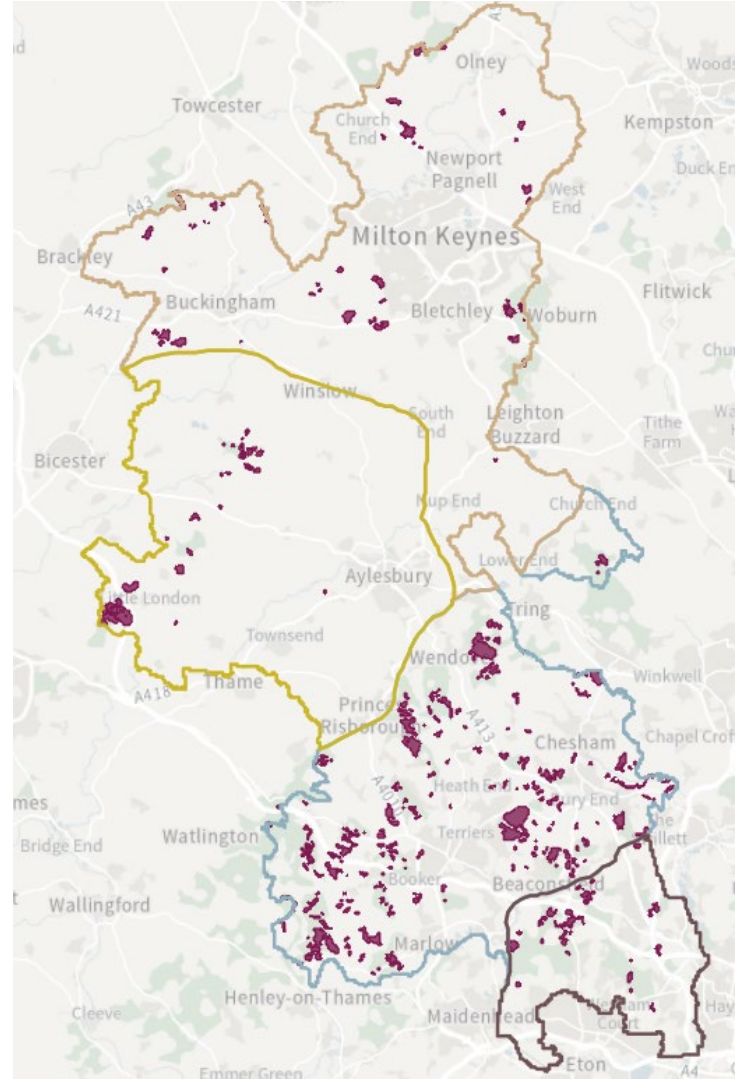- Unclassified

0.0   5.0   10.0   15.0 km
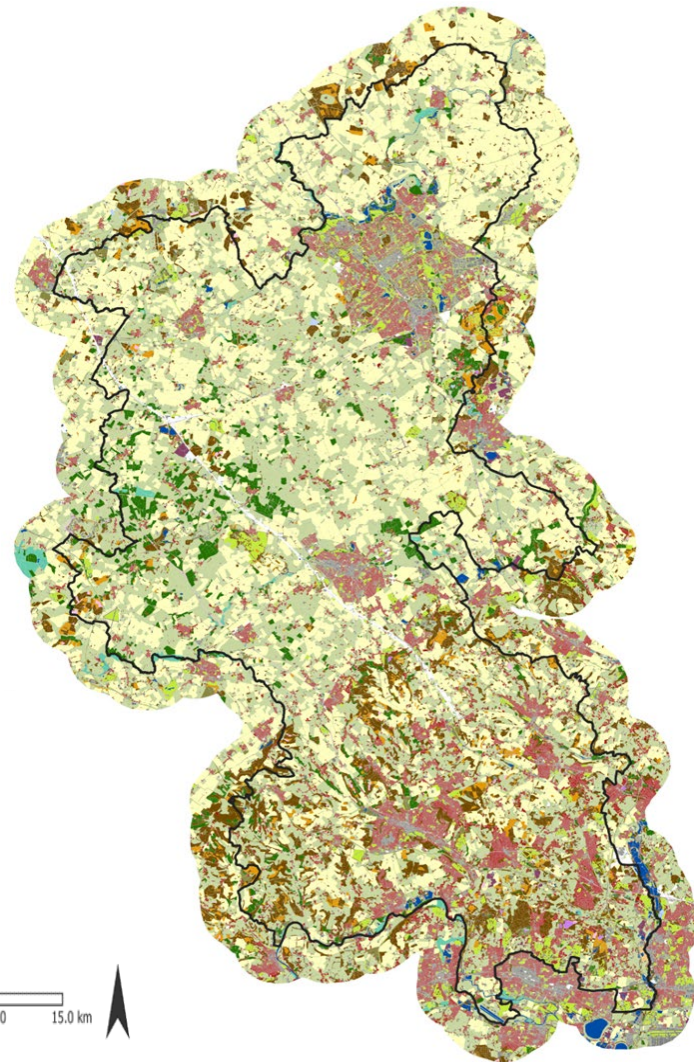
Mapping measures 1:
Restore / enhance / manage existing sites

Identified existing habitat features from the basemap or other data sources

Example: M3
Sensitively convert plantations on ancient woodland sites (PAWS) back to native broad-leaved woodlands where appropriate.
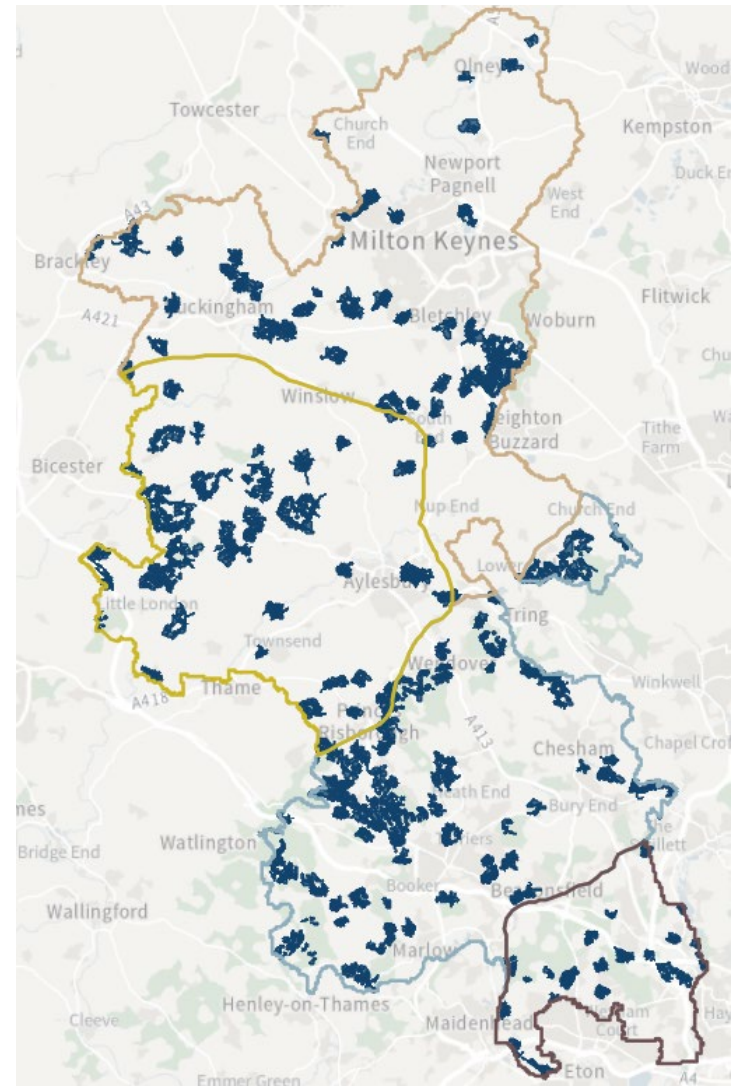
Mapping measures 2:
Create new habitats

Used opportunity mapping to map the best locations to expand and connect habitats, taking constraints (e.g. buildings and infrastructure, existing high quality habitats) into account.

Also mapped opportunities to enhance provision of ecosystem services e.g. water quality and air quality enhancement.

Example: M18
Create new species-rich grasslands (where possible to expand, buffer or connect existing species-rich grassland) and restore historical/remnant grassland areas.
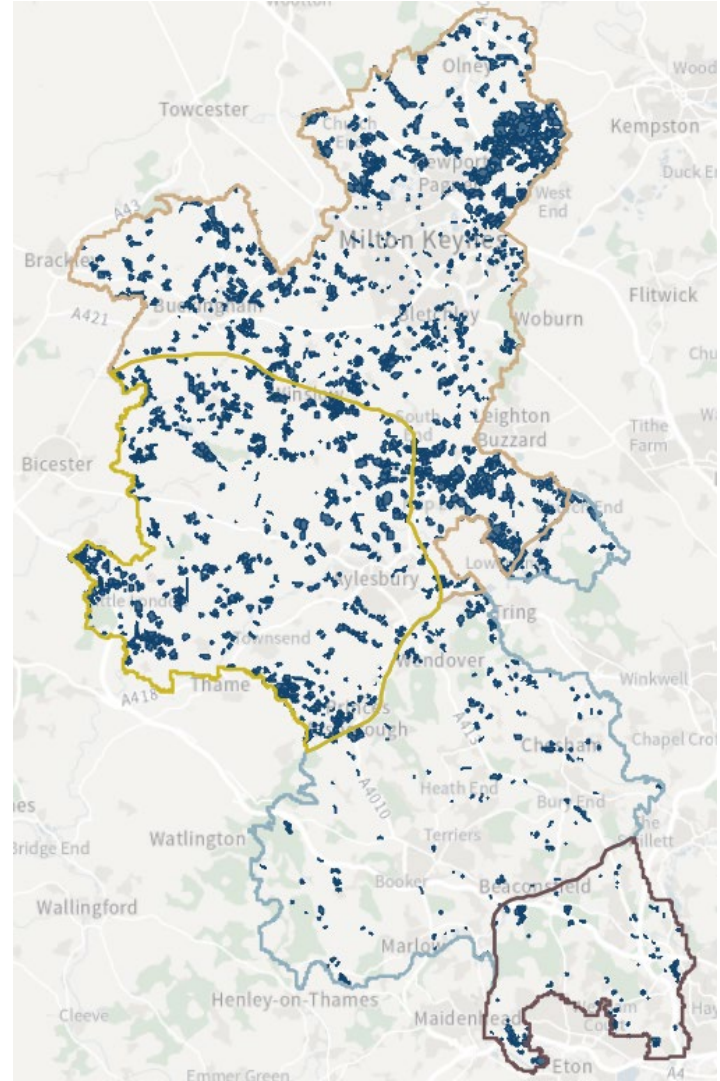
Mapping measures 3:
Prioritising locations

Prioritisation applied to some individual layers where large areas were identified, based on:

- Areas that expand the highest quality sites

- Size thresholds

- Delivery of additional benefits

Example: M47
Increase the area of woodlands where they can intercept the flow of surface run-off of water and capture sediment to improve water quality in rivers.

Interactive mapping tool now available

Sense checking the priorities and measures (actions) for nature recovery

- Some are mapped

- Some are un-mappable

Activity 1

Q : What would you focus on first + why?

A : BLUE POST-ITS and GOLD STARS

Activity 2

Q: What is already working well in relation to this priority and group of measures (actions)?

A: GREEN POST ITS

Q: What might be the greatest challenges?

A: PINK POST ITS

Activity 3

Q: Will the actions achieve the priorities?

A: Yes, GREEN / Maybe, ORANGE / No, RED

Place dots on map key to signal response

Add notes with YELLOW post its.

Activity 4

Q: Are the Priorities and Measures (actions) clear, do they give you enough information to know what to do?

A: STAR based review and anything you would like to say, written on back

Please visit other tables and leave your comments using post-its

STAGE

9

Species-rich grassland,

NORTH BUCKS & MK

10
Rivers and floodplains,
Trees and woodlands

NORTH BUCKS & MK

11
Green and blue spaces
New development
Trees and woodlands

NORTH BUCKS & MK

12
Trees and woodlands

CHILTERNS

13

Chalk grassland
Orchards

CHILTERNS

5

Trees and woodlands

NORTH BUCKS & MK

6
Trees & woodlands,
Wetlands,

AYLESBURY VALE

7
Farming
Rivers & floodplains
Soil health

NORTH BUCKS & MK

8

Chalk streams
Chalk grassland
Orchards

CHILTERNS

4

Trees and woodlands
Species rich grassland
Chalk grassland

SOUTH BUCKS

1

Rivers & floodplains,
River water quality,

AYLESBURY VALE

2

Rivers & floodplains,
Orchards,
Farming

AYLESBURY VALE

3

Trees & woodlands,
Orchards,
Farming

AYLESBURY VALE