



## Nature Recovery Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin

### Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS): A guide for community groups

Communities have a vital role in nature recovery. The [Local Nature Recovery Strategy](#) (LNRS) is designed to support and strengthen local action, not replace it. The LNRS is a tool to help local nature action go further, be better connected, and have greater impact.

This short guide explains how community groups can use the LNRS, and how the LNRS Coordinator can help.

If you'd like to talk about how the LNRS could support your work, the LNRS Coordinator would be very happy to hear from you ([lnrs@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:lnrs@shropshire.gov.uk), 01743 252546)

### What is the LNRS?

The LNRS is a long-term, county-wide strategy that:

- sets out priorities for recovering and improving nature
- shows where action could make the biggest difference – see the [LNRS map](#)
- helps join up efforts across towns, villages and landscapes

It has been shaped by landowners, community groups, councils, farmers, wildlife organisations, local species experts and many others.

### How community groups can use the LNRS

#### 1. Strengthen your projects

You can use the LNRS to:

- show how your work contributes to wider nature recovery
- explain why action in your area matters
- demonstrate that local projects form part of a bigger picture

This can be especially helpful when working with partners or decision-makers.

#### 2. Support funding bids and fundraising

The LNRS provides a strong strategic reference for funding applications.

Community groups can:

- refer to relevant LNRS priorities or themes in grant bids
- use the map to explain why a location is important
- show alignment with a published, statutory strategy

Funders often value projects that clearly connect local action to wider priorities.

#### 3. Identify practical opportunities

The LNRS can help groups think about:

- habitat creation or improvement (e.g. verges, ponds, grasslands, trees)
- making green spaces better for wildlife and people
- connecting small actions so they add up to bigger benefits

You do not have to be in a mapped area to take action—positive work for nature is encouraged everywhere.

#### 4. Work better with others

The LNRS gives community groups a shared language to:

- connect with nearby groups working on similar issues
- talk to parish councils, landowners or delivery organisations
- link local projects into larger landscape-scale initiatives

## 5. Build long-term momentum

Nature recovery takes time. Community groups bring:

- local knowledge and care
- continuity beyond short-term funding
- pride and ownership of local places

The LNRS recognises communities as central to lasting change.

## Elements of the LNRS of particular relevance

The [LNRS map](#) prioritises action in the places where the data suggests presents the best opportunities to focus energy for nature. Take a look at the map to see if land in your area has been prioritised and to see the type of suggested actions that have been mapped. Many actions are not mapped, for example the actions relating to hedgerows are unmapped. Some relevant actions include:

A5.2 Create new ponds

A9.4 Establish new, and safeguard traditional, orchards

A10.4 Restore species rich grassland on roadside verges and alongside paths and tracks

A14.2 Create wildlife-friendly gardens at homes and businesses

A14.3 Enhance wildlife value of multifunctional green space

A14.6 Increase tree canopy cover in the built environment

The strategy document includes additional information that provides helpful detail on the actions outlined above. Many other aspects of the strategy will also be relevant. While the strategy had to include a lot of information and is therefore a long document, it is easy to navigate between sections and it is written in language that is easy to understand.

To help you get started, please take a look at this [workbook](#) developed in partnership with the Shropshire Association and Middle Marches Community Land Trust for the LNRS.

## What the LNRS Coordinator can do for you

The LNRS Coordinator's role is to enable and support, not direct.

They can:

- explain relevant parts of the LNRS in plain language
- help you understand how your project fits into the strategy
- advise on how to reference the LNRS in funding bids
- connect you with partners, networks or opportunities
- help share and champion community-led success stories

They do not approve projects, control funding, or tell groups what to do.

What the LNRS does *not* do

It's important to be clear that the LNRS:

- does not force anyone to take action
- does not introduce new restrictions on land
- is not a funding pot or grant scheme
- does not limit action to mapped areas