



Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS): A guide for developers

The [Local Nature Recovery Strategy](#) (LNRS) provides a shared strategic framework for delivering nature recovery across Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin. It is particularly relevant to developers in the context of Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) and high-quality place-making. The LNRS is a practical tool to support Biodiversity Net Gain delivery, reduce risk, and help create high-quality, nature-positive development in the right places. Early engagement with the LNRS can unlock both environmental and commercial value.

What is the LNRS?

The LNRS is a statutory, evidence-led strategy that:

- identifies local priorities for nature recovery
- maps areas where action would deliver the greatest benefit – see the [LNRS map](#)
- supports a more strategic, joined-up approach to delivery

It complements planning policy, BNG requirements and green infrastructure standards, rather than replacing them.

How developers can use the LNRS

1. Supporting Biodiversity Net Gain delivery

There is a clear and direct link between the LNRS and BNG.

The LNRS:

- identifies areas of strategic significance for nature recovery
- informs the [strategic significance multiplier](#) in the statutory biodiversity metric
- can result in a 15% uplift in biodiversity units when LNRS-aligned actions are delivered in priority areas

Using the LNRS can therefore help make BNG delivery more effective and more valuable.

2. Early site appraisal and scheme design

Using the LNRS at an early stage can help developers:

- understand local ecological priorities
- identify opportunities for on-site habitat creation and green infrastructure
- design layouts that integrate nature from the outset
- reduce late-stage design changes and uncertainty

This supports smoother scheme evolution and more resilient outcomes.

3. Strategic off-site BNG delivery

Where on-site BNG delivery is constrained, the LNRS offers:

- a strategic basis for identifying suitable off-site locations
- confidence that off-site interventions are well-targeted and locally beneficial
- a route to delivering BNG that supports wider connectivity and landscape-scale outcomes

The LNRS helps avoid piecemeal or poorly located offsetting.

4. Strengthening planning applications

Referencing the LNRS can help:

- demonstrate alignment with statutory nature recovery priorities
- show a strategic approach to mitigation and enhancement
- support planning statements, ecological reports and heads of terms

This can add clarity and credibility, particularly where schemes go beyond minimum compliance.

5. Delivering higher-quality places

LNRS-aligned development can contribute to:

- biodiversity-rich green infrastructure
- sustainable drainage with multiple benefits
- improved access to nature for residents
- healthier, more attractive places

Nature recovery is increasingly seen as a core component of good design, not an add-on.

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 resources for nature. Take a look at the map to see if your land has prioritised and to see the type of suggested actions that have been mapped. Many actions are not mapped, for example for the theme Built environment and amenity space (page 135-143) of LNRS, the only action that is mapped is A14.3 Enhance wildlife value of multifunctional green space – all the other actions are still relevant:

A14.1 Integrate nature recovery within new developments

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

A14.4 Effective water management in the built environment

A14.5 Reduce the adverse impact of light pollution on wildlife

A14.6 Increase canopy cover in the built environment

There is additional information within the strategy document that sets out the detail of what is expected to support the priority and actions listed above. Many other aspects of the strategy will also be relevant e.g. hedgerows (page 85-88).

What the LNRS Coordinator can do

The LNRS Coordinator's role is to support understanding and effective application, not to regulate or approve development.

They can:

- explain how LNRS priorities relate to a site or area
- help interpret mapping and opportunity areas
- advise on aligning proposals with LNRS actions
- help connect developers consider options for long term management of green space

The Co-ordinator does not replace statutory planning processes or decision-making.

What the LNRS does *not* do

For clarity, the LNRS:

- is not a planning designation
- does not allocate or remove land for development
- does not introduce new planning policy requirements
- does not determine planning decisions

It is a strategic tool, not a regulatory instrument.