



Nature Recovery Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin

Context

Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRSs) are being developed for each county of England. Shropshire Council has been asked by the UK Government to work closely with Telford & Wrekin Council and Natural England to develop the LNRS for Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin.

This statutory strategy (a legal requirement of the Environment Act 2021) will aim to make more nature rich areas and connect the many natural spaces with each other through a network of natural byways and recovered spaces, allowing species of plants to thrive and wildlife to move freely from one habitat to another, uninterrupted on a joined-up nature network.

Strategy development

As we develop the strategy, we want to bring together landowners and farmers, nature organisations, conservation groups and other interested parties, to make sure it's relevant and fit for purpose. The LNRS will be a plan for how to enhance nature in Shropshire and will include a map showing where the best sites are currently, and also where the best opportunities are to enhance nature. We want the strategy to be owned by the people who live and work in Shropshire. LNRS will not require farmers and landowners to take specific action but instead, by providing relevant information, our intention is that the LNRS will help those who own or manage land to decide whether and how they want to manage their land to enhance the benefit for nature, alongside food production.

Why does it matter to me?

The LNRS will provide a framework to help bring together all the different strategies and initiatives in the county. It will also help target effort and funds in the place where there is most interest from landowners and where actions can have the most benefit for nature. It therefore has the potential to impact on peoples' businesses, for example there is a direct link between BNG and land mapped as a priority in the LNRS, as it will attract a premium of 15%. There are currently no additional explicit funding links but as its purpose is to direct funds for nature work, and there are numerous relevant targets the government is working towards, it is likely that the LNRS will be used to inform the future distribution of funds. It is therefore imperative that landowners and farmers are aware that this new statutory strategy is coming and take an interest in its development.

The LNRS will not require landowners to take any action, it will provide guidance on what actions to take for nature should landowners / managers be interested in this as part of their business.

What the strategy will look like

The LNRS will be both a document that can be downloaded and an interactive map. The map will show the areas of the county that are already good for nature and those areas where additional effort is likely to have the most benefit for nature's recovery. The strategy will also provide guidance on the most appropriate actions to take in each area.

Timescales

We are aiming to have a draft strategy ready by spring 2025. We are planning to have an outline priorities and a draft map by the end of the year to provide a structure to get feedback from interested people around the county. We will be organising various mechanisms (meetings / workshops / online) to gather input to assist with the strategy development. If you would like to be added to our mailing list, please email lnrs@shropshire.gov.uk.