



Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS):

A guide for town & parish councils

Town and parish councils play a vital role in caring for local places and shaping how communities respond to climate, nature and wellbeing challenges. Through your land ownership, decision-making, local influence and community leadership, you are well placed to make a real difference for nature.

The [Local Nature Recovery Strategy](#) (LNRS) is designed to support and strengthen local action, not replace it.) provides a shared, locally agreed framework to help support that role. This short guide explains what the LNRS is, how it relates to your biodiversity duty, and how town and parish councils can use it in practice.

If you would like to talk through how the LNRS could support your council, the LNRS Coordinator would be very happy to help (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

The strategy has been shaped by hundreds of local people and partners, including town and parish councils, and is now a published statutory document.

How town & parish councils can use the LNRS

1. Help you meet your biodiversity duty

Referring to the LNRS can help demonstrate that your council has had regard to biodiversity in a clear, transparent way. Under Section 40 of the Environment Act 2021, all public authorities in England – including town and parish councils – must “have regard to the purpose of conserving and enhancing biodiversity”. This is often referred to as the biodiversity duty.

In practice, this means that when you are making decisions or carrying out your functions, you should actively consider how your actions could support nature, where it is reasonable and proportionate to do so. The LNRS is intended to help you meet this duty in a locally relevant, proportionate and practical way.

It gives town and parish councils:

- A single, agreed source of local nature priorities
- Spatial evidence showing why particular places matter for nature
- Confidence that decisions are aligned with a statutory countywide strategy

2. Inform local decision-making

You can use the LNRS to:

- Consider nature when managing parish-owned land (e.g. verges, open space, cemeteries, allotments)
- Inform responses to planning consultations and neighbourhood plan work
- Support committee decisions with strong local evidence

- Even small choices, made consistently, can add up to meaningful impact.

3. Strengthen local projects and policies

The LNRS can help you:

- Show how local actions contribute to wider nature recovery
- Align parish plans, climate action plans or green space strategies with county priorities
- Identify practical opportunities such as meadow creation, tree management, hedgerows or ponds

Some LNRS actions are mapped; many can take place anywhere, regardless of whether land is shown on the map.

4. Support funding bids and investment

Funders increasingly look for projects that:

- Align with strategic priorities
- Are evidence-led and locally grounded
- Town and parish councils can use the LNRS to:
- Reference relevant priorities in grant applications
- Justify why a site or project location matters
- Demonstrate delivery of both biodiversity and community benefits

5. Work in partnership with your community

The LNRS supports collaboration by:

- Providing a shared framework for working with volunteers, community groups and schools
- Helping connect local enthusiasm with wider networks and expertise
- Supporting joined-up action between neighbouring parishes

Nature recovery is often most effective when it is community-led and locally owned.

How the LNRS Coordinator can help

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 also important to be clear about what the LNRS is not:

- It does not designate land
- It does not place new restrictions on parish councils or landowners
- It does not require specific actions to be taken
- It does not create new regulatory burdens
- It is not a funding pot or grant scheme

It is guidance and support, designed to help councils make informed, locally appropriate choices.

Getting started – simple next steps

Town and parish councils might choose to:

- Familiarise themselves with the [LNRS map](#) and priorities in the [document](#)
- Reference the LNRS in relevant reports, minutes or policies
- Start small – for example by reviewing management of one site
- Take a look at this [workbook](#) developed in partnership with the Shropshire Association and Middle Marches Community Land Trust for the LNRS.
- Talk to the LNRS Coordinator about opportunities or ideas
- There is no expectation to do everything at once – every positive step counts.