

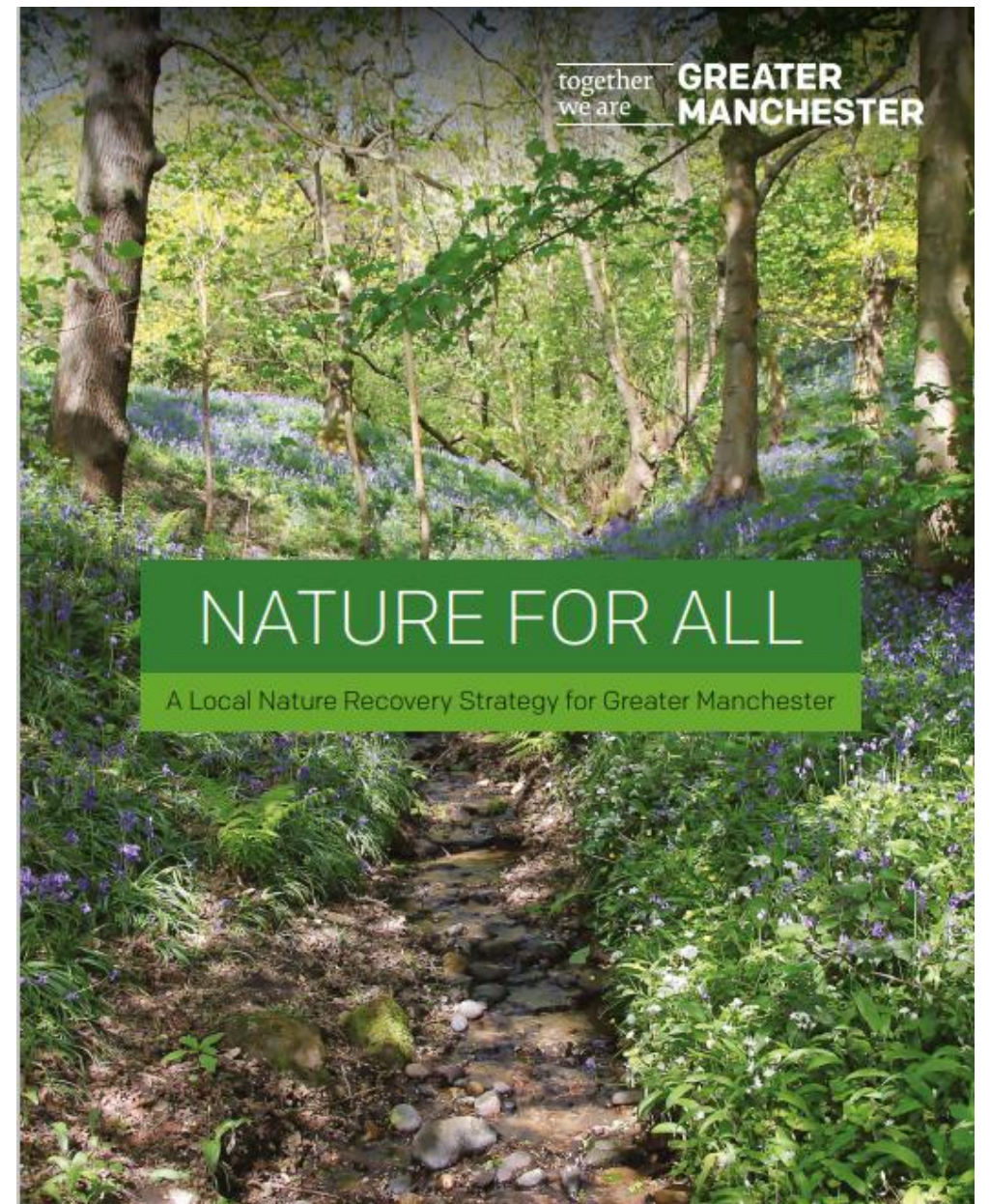
Bringing Local Nature Recovery Strategies to Life

Nature For All - Greater Manchester's Local Nature Recovery Strategy

APSE Parks Seminar 2026

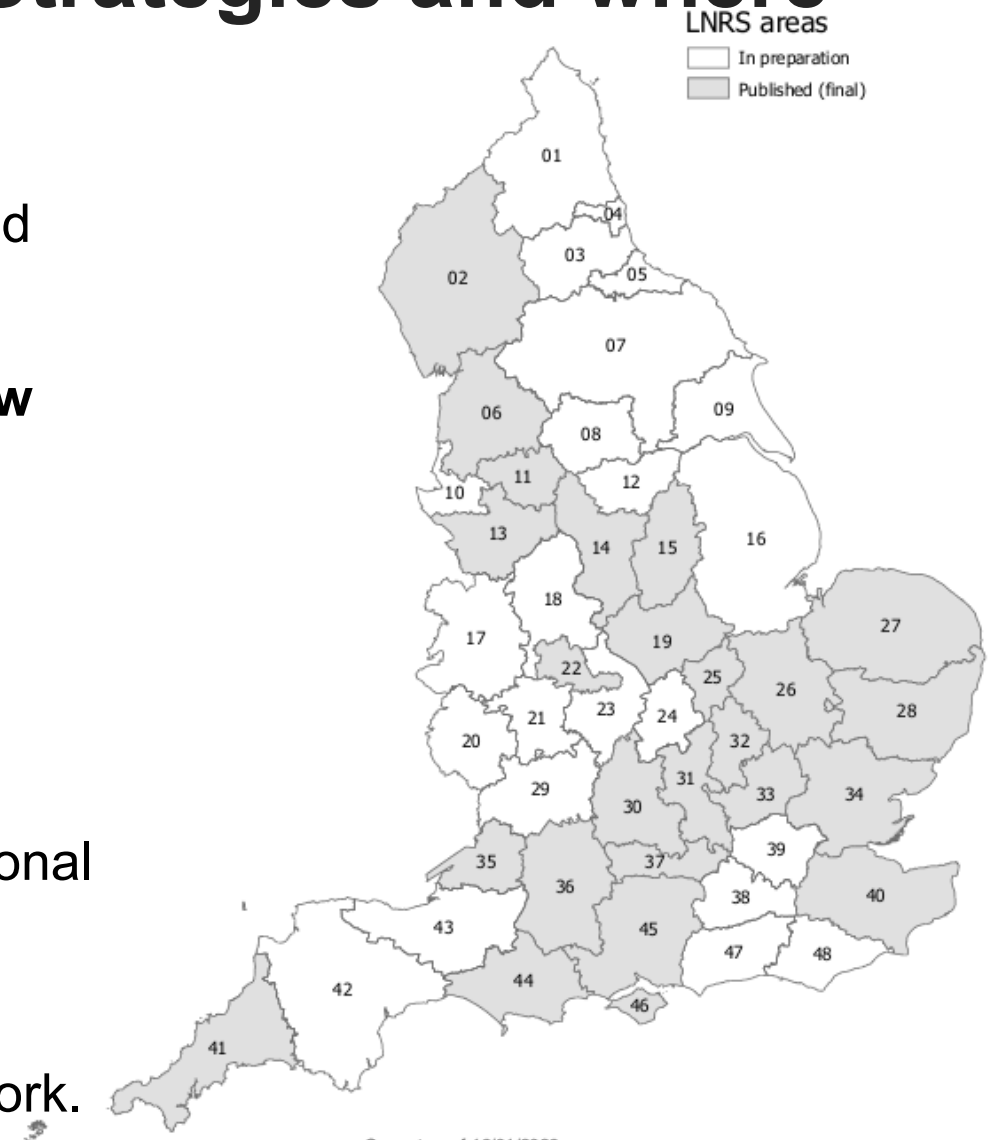
Overview

- What are Local Nature Recovery Strategies?
- What do they mean for parks managers?
- How can you use your Local Nature Recovery Strategy?



What are Local Nature Recovery Strategies and where have they come from?

- New **statutory strategies** for nature recovery introduced under the Environment Act 2021.
- Long-term spatial plan for nature recovery - sets out **how** and **where we can all work together to help nature recover locally**.
- Drive more **collaborative action**.
- **Locally led, evidence based, co-produced**.
- **Monitor and report** on progress to Defra, linked to national targets.
- Linked to the NERC Biodiversity Duty, Planning and Infrastructure Act and National Planning Policy Framework.



BAPs – Biodiversity Strategies - LNRS

Introduction


Greater Manchester Biodiversity Action Plan

Greater Manchester incorporates ten local authorities; these are Bolton, Bury, Manchester, Oldham, Rochdale, Salford, Stockport, Trafford, Tameside and Wigan. The Greater Manchester Biodiversity Action Plan (GM BAP) aims to provide an overarching document for biodiversity across all ten districts. The overall aim of the Greater Manchester Action Plan is:

"To promote the conservation, protection and enhancement of biological diversity in Greater Manchester for current and future generations"

Whilst it provides an overview of biodiversity concerns and actions for the county, some districts have created their own local action plans to focus biodiversity conservation to meet particular needs for their local area.


Habitat Action Plan 2009




greater manchester

AN ECOLOGICAL FRAMEWORK FOR GREATER MANCHESTER

Frame-work def. a support used as a basis for something being constructed



- They are a priority habitat or species within the UK BAP and occur in the Greater Manchester area, or
- They are considered to be of conservation concern locally within Greater Manchester.



Biodiversity Strategy 2022-2030

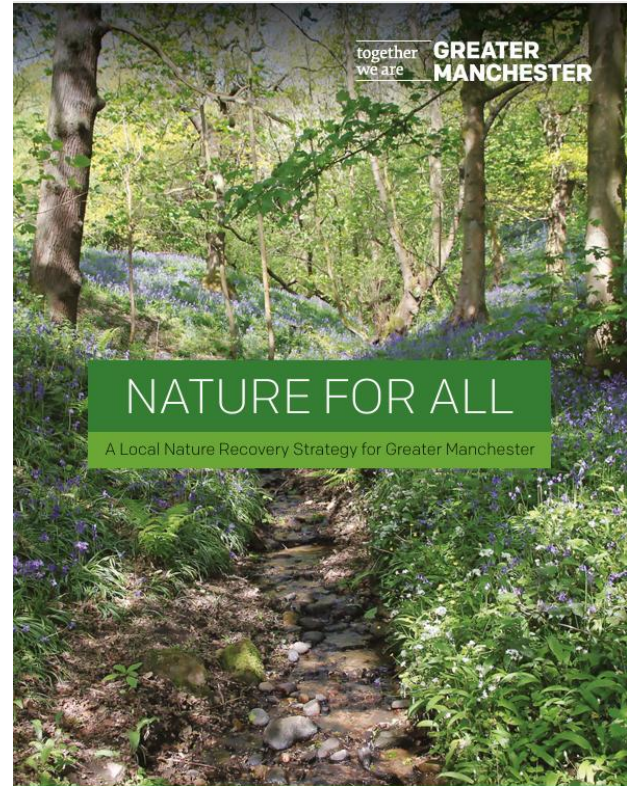
The City of Manchester's Nature Recovery



together we are **GREATER MANCHESTER**

NATURE FOR ALL

A Local Nature Recovery Strategy for Greater Manchester



Delivering for nature also means:

- **A more liveable city region:** access to nature improves physical and mental health.
- **A thriving city region:** attractive to business, more green jobs and nature-based tourism.
- **A more resilient city region:** natural flood management and carbon sequestration.
- **A fairer city region:** ensuring all communities benefit from greenspace provision and access to nature.

Co producing the strategy in partnership

Steering group



Co-produced

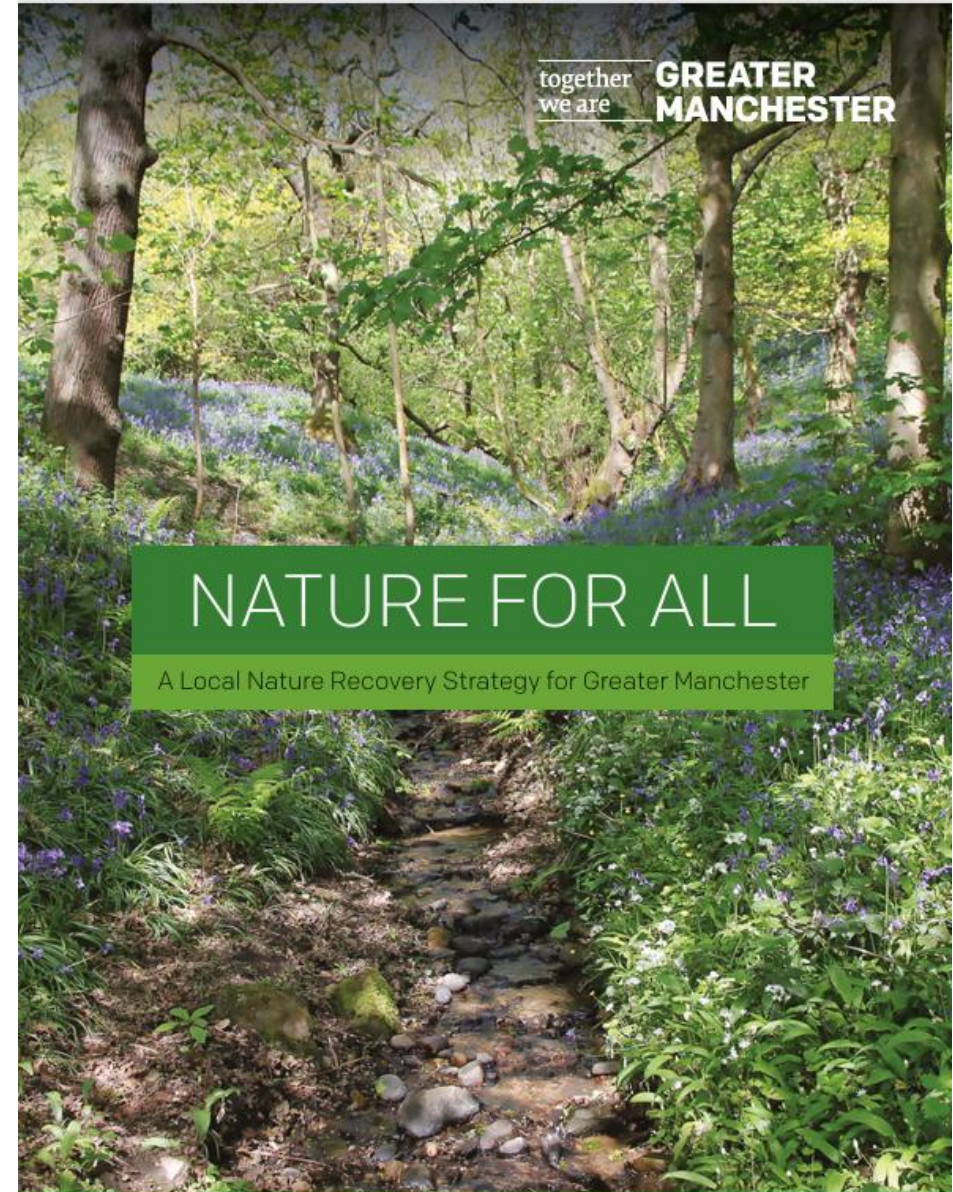


Collaboratively agreed

-
- Local authority officers
 - Residents, community groups and businesses (over 1000 residents inputted)
 - Experts and environmental NGOs
 - Statutory bodies and utilities (EA, FC, UU)
 - Local Authorities
 - Farmers and landowners
- Adopted by all 10 Greater Manchester Local Authorities and the GMCA
 - Signed off by Natural England, Forestry Commission, Environment Agency

GM LNRS

- Adopted and launched September 2025
- First LNRS published in the North of England



A blueprint for tackling the biodiversity emergency in GM

The Local Nature Recovery Strategy is made up of a number of key components that come together to set out how and where we need to take action for nature.

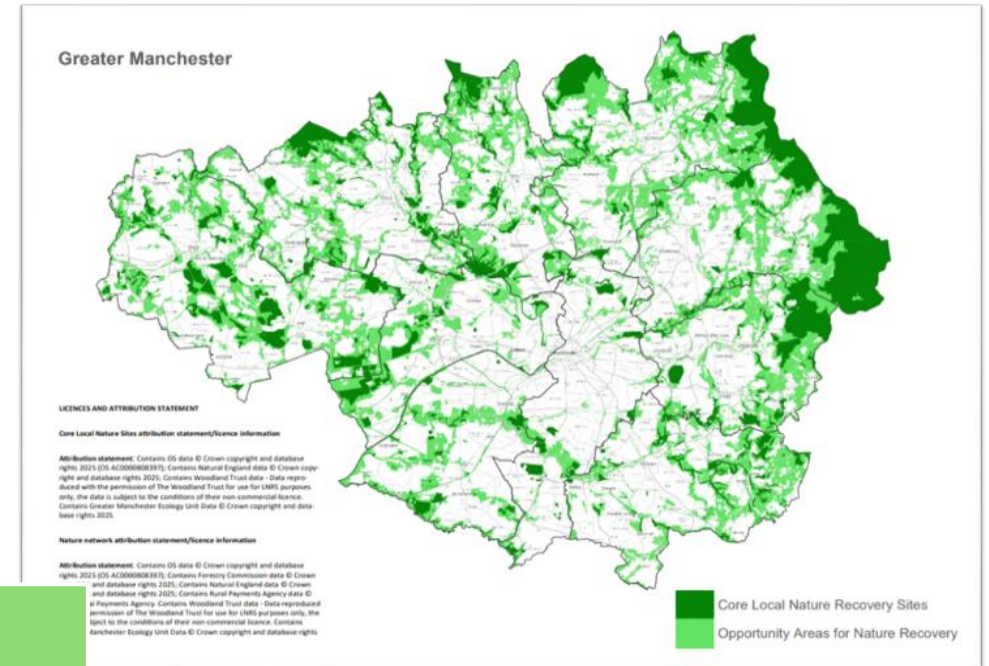
Vision – what GM looks like if the strategy is delivered

Aims – the high level aims required to achieve that vision

Targets – GM-specific quantitative targets, set to help us track progress

Priorities - long-term end results that the strategy is seeking to achieve

Practical actions that, if taken, would make positive contributions to delivering the priorities.



Headline Targets



Aim 1 – ENHANCE AND PROTECT:

Safeguard, enhance and restore wildlife-rich spaces

Target 1: To increase the amount of land designated for nature by 5,000ha by 2035, growing this from 11% to 15% of the city-region.

Target 2: To bring 50% of sites designated for nature into active management for nature conservation by 2035.



Aim 2 – CREATE AND CONNECT:

Create more wildlife-rich resilient spaces, where they will expand and connect spaces for wildlife and people

Target 3: To restore or create 1,800ha of new wildlife-rich land by 2035, and target delivery within the Nature Network.

Target 4: To provide at least 3ha of accessible green space per 1,000 residents by 2035.



Aim 3 – BUILD RESILIENCE:

Manage and reduce pressures on our environment and waterways, and maximise nature's role in adapting the city-region to climate change

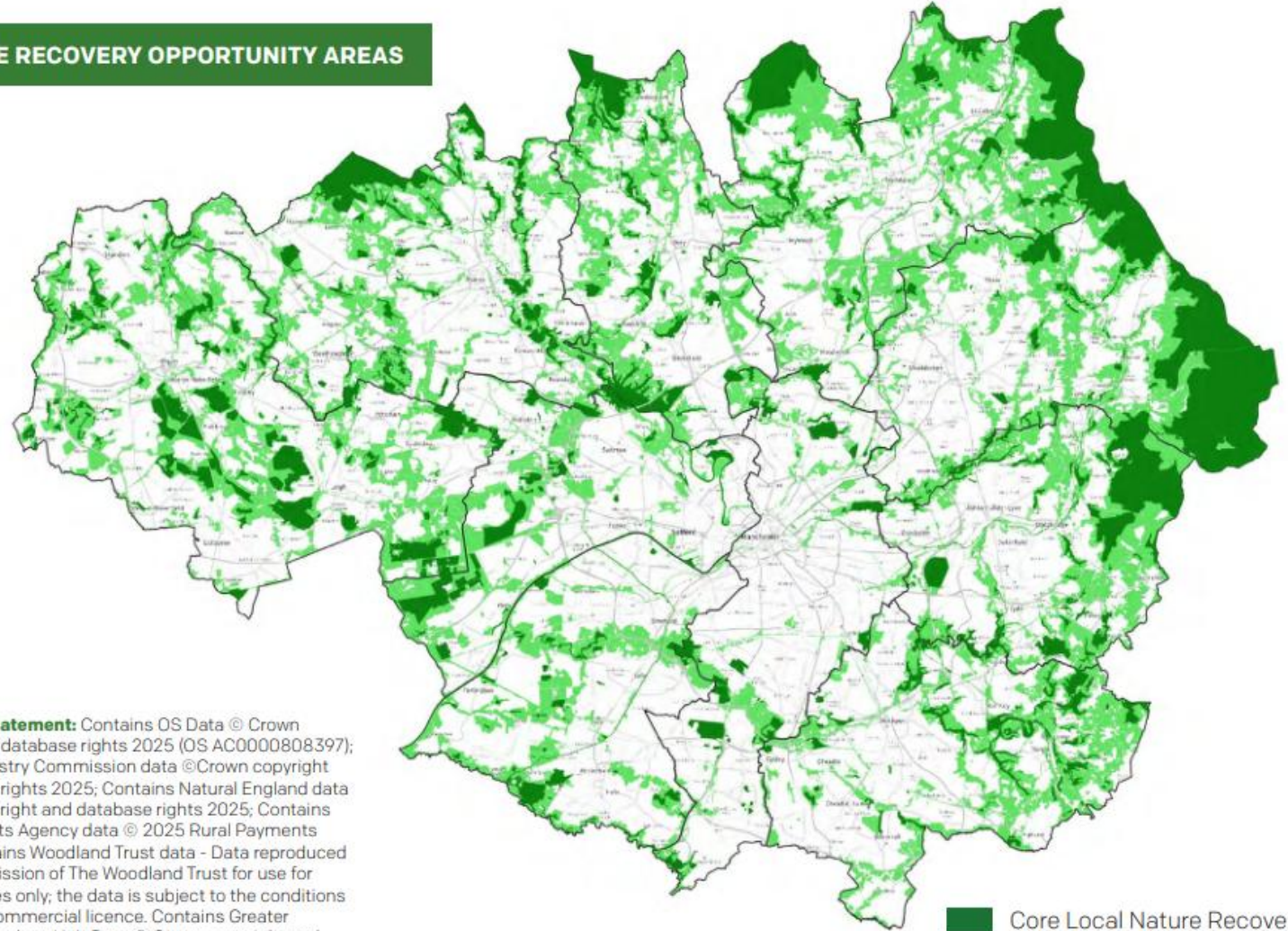
Target 5: To reduce spills from combined sewer overflows into our waterbodies by disconnecting 150ha of land from our drainage network by 2030.

Target 6: To better adapt the city-region to the impacts of climate change by expanding our tree canopy cover from 15% to 17% of the city-region by 2035.

GM Nature Network - Spatial vision for nature recovery

- **Core local nature sites:** designated and selected sites for nature conservation. They are the best remaining wildlife sites across the city-region and are often fragmented, isolated and poorly connected.
- **Nature Recovery Opportunity Areas:** areas where there are opportunities to enhance, restore or create different types of habitats which would expand and better connect our core local nature sites.

NATURE RECOVERY OPPORTUNITY AREAS

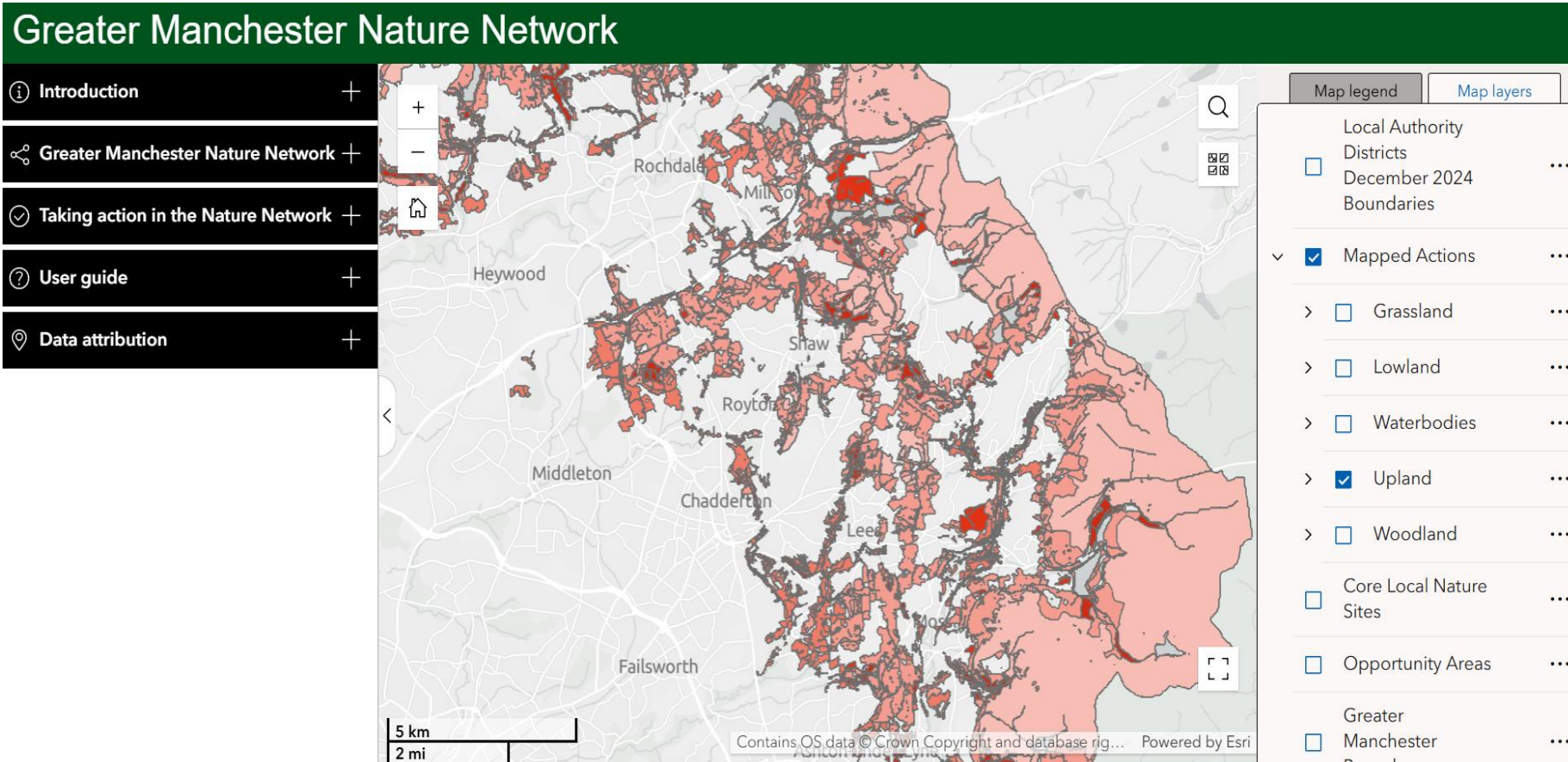


Attribution statement: Contains OS Data © Crown copyright and database rights 2025 (OS AC0000808397); Contains Forestry Commission data © Crown copyright and database rights 2025; Contains Natural England data © Crown copyright and database rights 2025; Contains Rural Payments Agency data © 2025 Rural Payments Agency. Contains Woodland Trust data - Data reproduced with the permission of The Woodland Trust for use for LNRS purposes only; the data is subject to the conditions of their non-commercial licence. Contains Greater Manchester Ecology Unit Data © Crown copyright and database rights 2025.

■ Core Local Nature Recovery Sites
■ Opportunity Areas for Nature Recovery

Nature Recovery Opportunity Areas

To help guide delivery and fulfil statutory requirements, we have identified and mapped locations where action to enhance, restore or create different types of might be possible and most beneficial.



5 habitat types:

1. Woodlands, Trees, Scrub & Hedgerows
2. Grasslands, Farmlands & Lowland Heath
3. Rivers, Canals & Waterbodies
4. Lowlands, Wetlands & Mosslands
5. Upland moorlands

Habitat priorities and practical actions



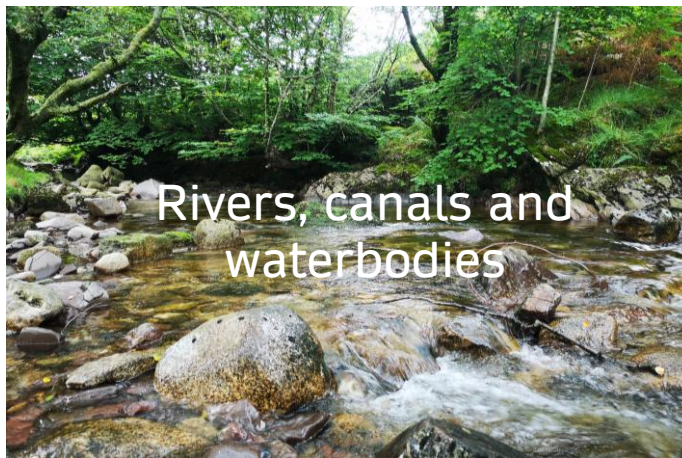
Upland moorlands



Lowland wetlands and mosslands



Woodlands, trees and hedgerows



Rivers, canals and waterbodies



Grassland, farmland and heath



Urban greenspaces and buildings

Priorities

- More schools, hospitals, public, commercial and community buildings have nature-rich accessible green spaces, better for wildlife and people.
- Better parks and open spaces, enhanced and managed to be nature-rich and climate-adapted, with a range of habitats for wildlife supported by local communities.
- More streets, roads, pedestrian and cycle routes greener, nature-rich and tree-lined, acting as corridors for nature and adapted to climate change.
- Town and city regeneration and development of enhanced nature-rich green space creating more biodiverse, accessible and climate-adapted spaces and buildings.
- More nature-friendly and climate-adapted gardens, balconies, yards and driveways.
- More community-led creation of new nature-rich spaces and increased opportunities for local food production.

Priority	Practical actions
<p>More schools, hospitals, public, commercial and community buildings have nature-rich accessible green spaces, better for wildlife and people</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhance and increase the diversity of existing green spaces and create dedicated wilder set-aside areas for nature. • Create more nature-friendly multi-use spaces, such as wellbeing gardens, community grow spaces or orchards, that provide habitats for urban species and benefit people. • Increase or expand nature-rich green spaces, where they will provide stepping stones or corridors that better connect existing green spaces and reduce barriers to species movement. • Support species by installing homes for wildlife. • Create or allow more space for water and install sustainable drainage, providing water for wildlife and adaptation to climate change. • Support and involve local communities in the creation and maintenance of spaces for nature.
<p>Better parks and open spaces, enhanced and managed to be nature-rich and climate-adapted, with a range of habitats for wildlife supported by local communities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhance and increase the diversity of existing green spaces and create dedicated wilder set-aside areas for nature. • Create and maintain longer grasses and wildflower strips. • Increase or expand nature-rich green spaces, where they will provide stepping stones or corridors that better connect existing green spaces and reduce barriers to species movement. • Support species by installing homes for wildlife. • Create or allow more space for water and install sustainable drainage, providing water for wildlife and adaptation to climate change. • Create more nature-friendly multi-use spaces, with improved access for all, such as pocket parks and community grow spaces that benefit urban species and people. • Support and involve local communities in the creation and maintenance of spaces for nature and improve public awareness of the benefits of nature recovery.

Transitioning from preparation to delivery

How can parks managers use Local Nature Recovery Strategies?

- **New evidence base** to support parks managers with existing and future programmes for nature – statutory basis linked to the NERC act.
- Resource to help **inform priority actions on parks** to for nature
- **Connects individual actions** taken on parks to **wider city-region nature recovery** efforts
- **Supports applications for funding and business cases.**
- Helps to consistently **inform and direct** engagement and actions taken by community **groups and volunteers on parks.**
- **Inform collaborative project development** between parks teams and eNGOs.
- **Uplift offsite BNG units** in the LNRS mapped areas ‘strategically significant’
- Helps to make the case for more resources, focused effort – small grants, S106

Accelerating delivery in GM

Using
partnership to
drive delivery

Embedding the
LNRS in local
decision making

Identifying
priority strategic
projects to meet
targets

Monitoring and
reporting

Accelerating delivery in GM

Year 1

- New LNRS Delivery Group and new networks for actions
- Working with our GM Parks Network to accelerate action
- New designated sites
- Developing delivery guides and awareness raising
- Focusing available resources and efforts on our headline targets
- Support project development – pipeline mapping and support
- Small grants and funding for HMMPs
- Supporting BNG delivery on Local Authority owned land
- Strategic project promotion

National Environmental
Improvement Plan

The Kunming-Montreal Global
Biodiversity Framework

National Nature Recovery Network
Partnership

Local Nature Recovery Strategies

Areas of Particular Importance
for Nature (Core areas)

Nature Enhancement Areas

Landscape Scale Projects

Landscape
Recovery
Schemes

Nature Recovery
Projects

Nature Cities and
Towns

Other place-
based projects

Thank you

naturerecovery@greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk