Local Nature Recovery Strategy

APSE
Northern Ireland

November 2024

North Northamptonshire Council

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Together with Nature

LNRS

- A new approach to setting priorities for nature at a local level. A statutory requirement in the Environment Act for England.

- The main purpose is to identify locations to create or improve the habitat most likely to provide the greatest benefit for nature and the wider environment.

- It won't force landowners and land managers to make any changes, but will help identify areas and opportunities for a wider natural network.

The North Northamptonshire story so far

- Governance structure agreed
- Oversight group – meets monthly
- Key partners to support the LNRS development
- Delivery Advisory Group
- Significant stakeholder engagement over the spring and summer –site tour, workshops
- Background information and data
- Focus groups and resource on drafting and mapping

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The requirements

- Consists of
  - The Strategy
  - Mapping

- Background information
  - Statement of Biodiversity
  - Species Methodology
  - Mapping Methodology
  - Stakeholder Engagement report

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The Strategy

- The strategy includes
  - The vision
  - Links to wider environmental benefits
  - North Northamptonshire wide priorities
  - Character area based priorities split into habitat type
  - Practical actions to support delivery of the priorities
  - Where these relate to important species
  - Where the actions have been mapped

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Mapping

- The mapping portal includes
  - All the existing areas of biodiversity importance
  - All the areas that action could make a positive difference for nature
  - All the areas that could become of importance for biodiversity
  - This is known as the **Local Habitat Map**

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Simplified Timetable

Key Stages	Timings	
Focussed engagement	March – August ‘24	✓
Finalisation of the consultation draft	September ‘24	✓
Consultation with Natural England (28 days)	19th September – 18th October ‘24	✓
Public consultation (6 weeks)	**25th October – 9th December ‘24**	
Review responses received and make changes	December ‘24	
Consultation with Natural England (28 days)	January ‘25	
LNRS finalised for Scrutiny Committee	25th February ’25	
Adopt and publish final LNRS	March ’25	
Delivery	Ongoing and onwards	

Consultation material

- The main strategy and mapping
  - Accessed via https://www.northnorthants.gov.uk/lnrs
- The required background information and evidence
- Delivery Options
  - Makes suggestions for how planners, developers, land managers, farmers, foresters, individuals and communities, and environmental organisations can support delivery
- Case Studies
  - 5 so far, have more to add

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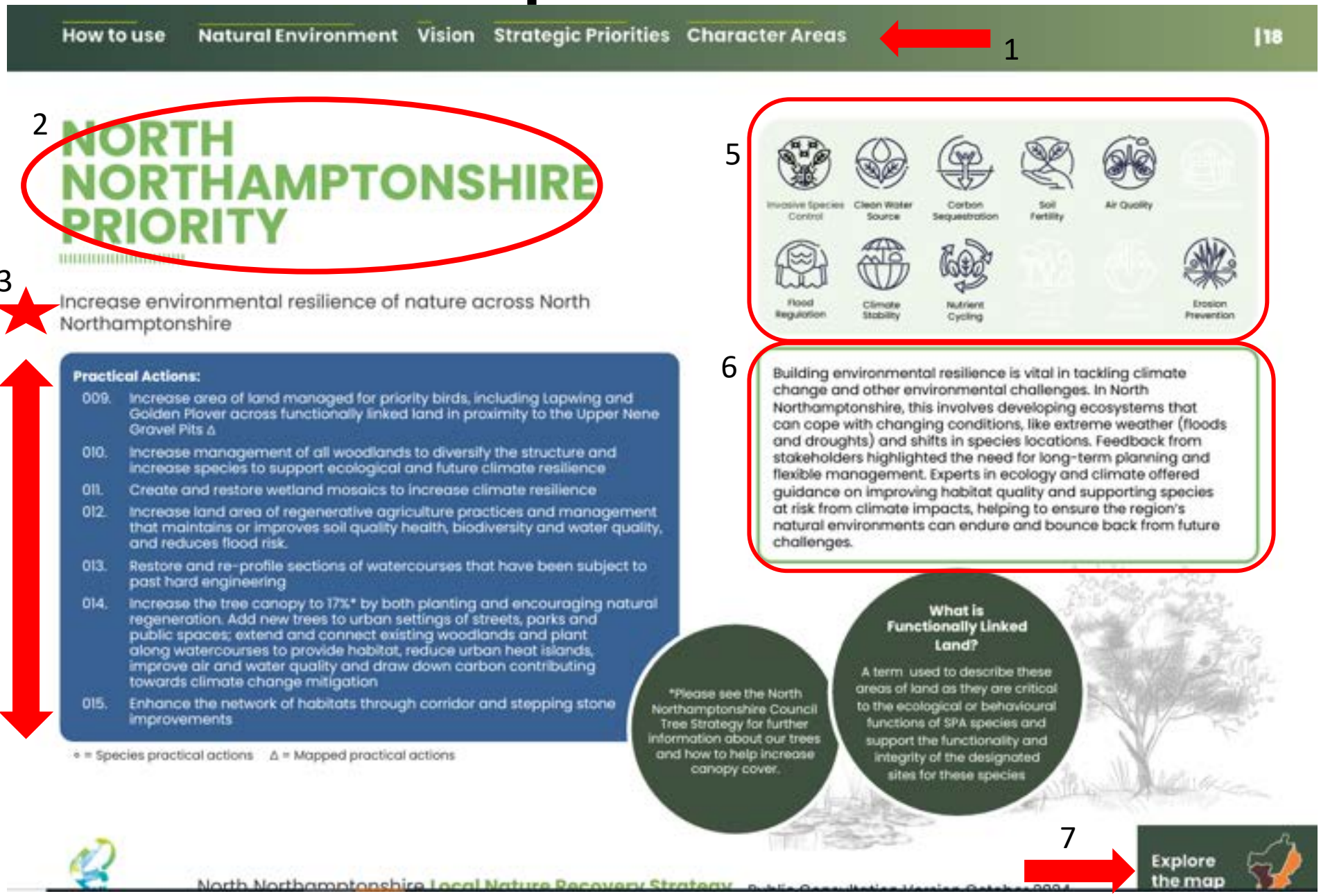
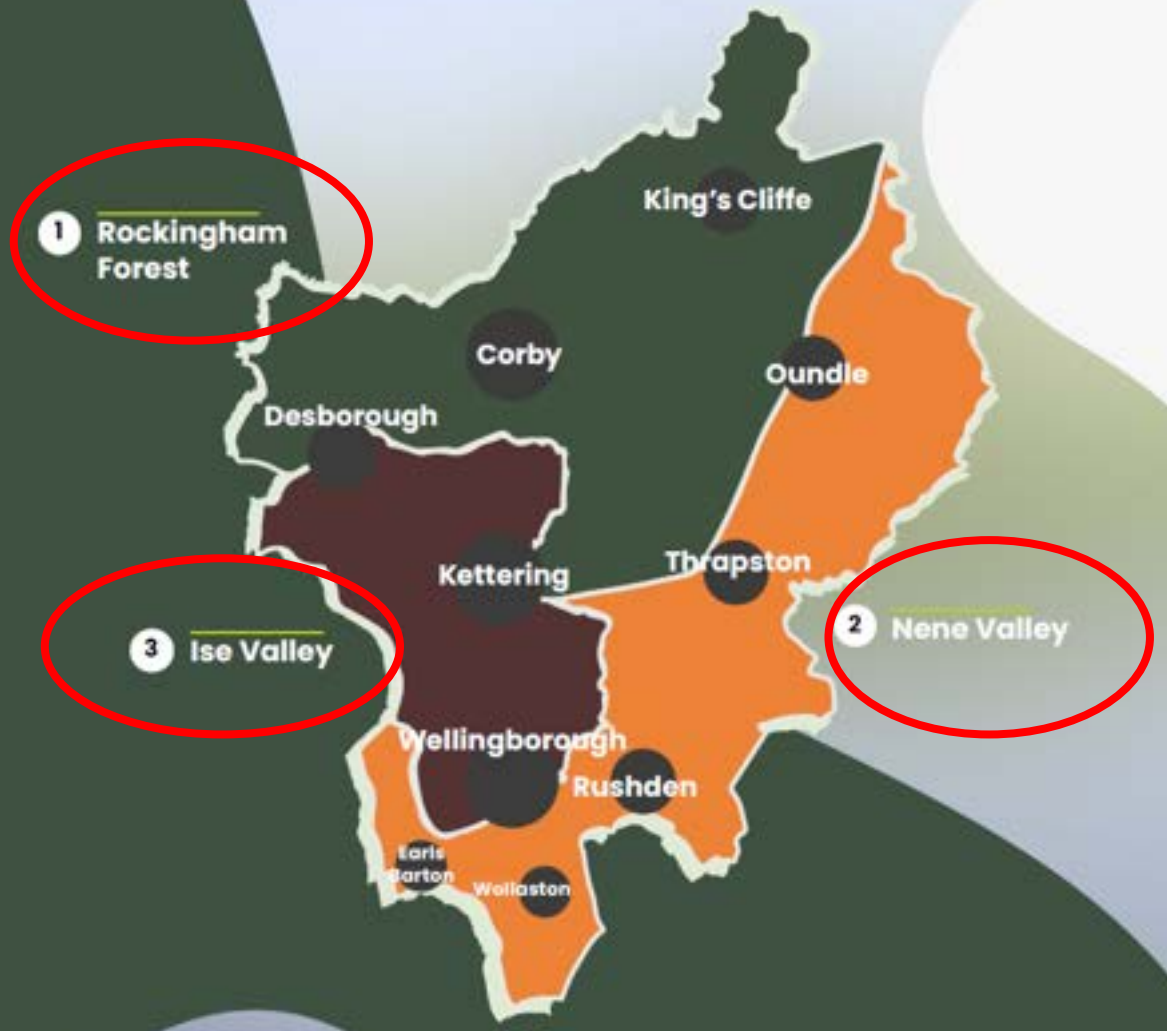
Document example 1



1. Top tabs to move through the document
2. The area of focus
3. The priority ★
4. The range of practical actions to support delivery of the priority
5. The wider natural capital benefits that could be achieved
6. The rational for the priority
7. Click to go to the mapping portal



Character Areas

North Northants is divided into three landscape areas, these are loosely based on the Natural England's defined 'National Character Areas' but have then been informed by local understanding and geography.

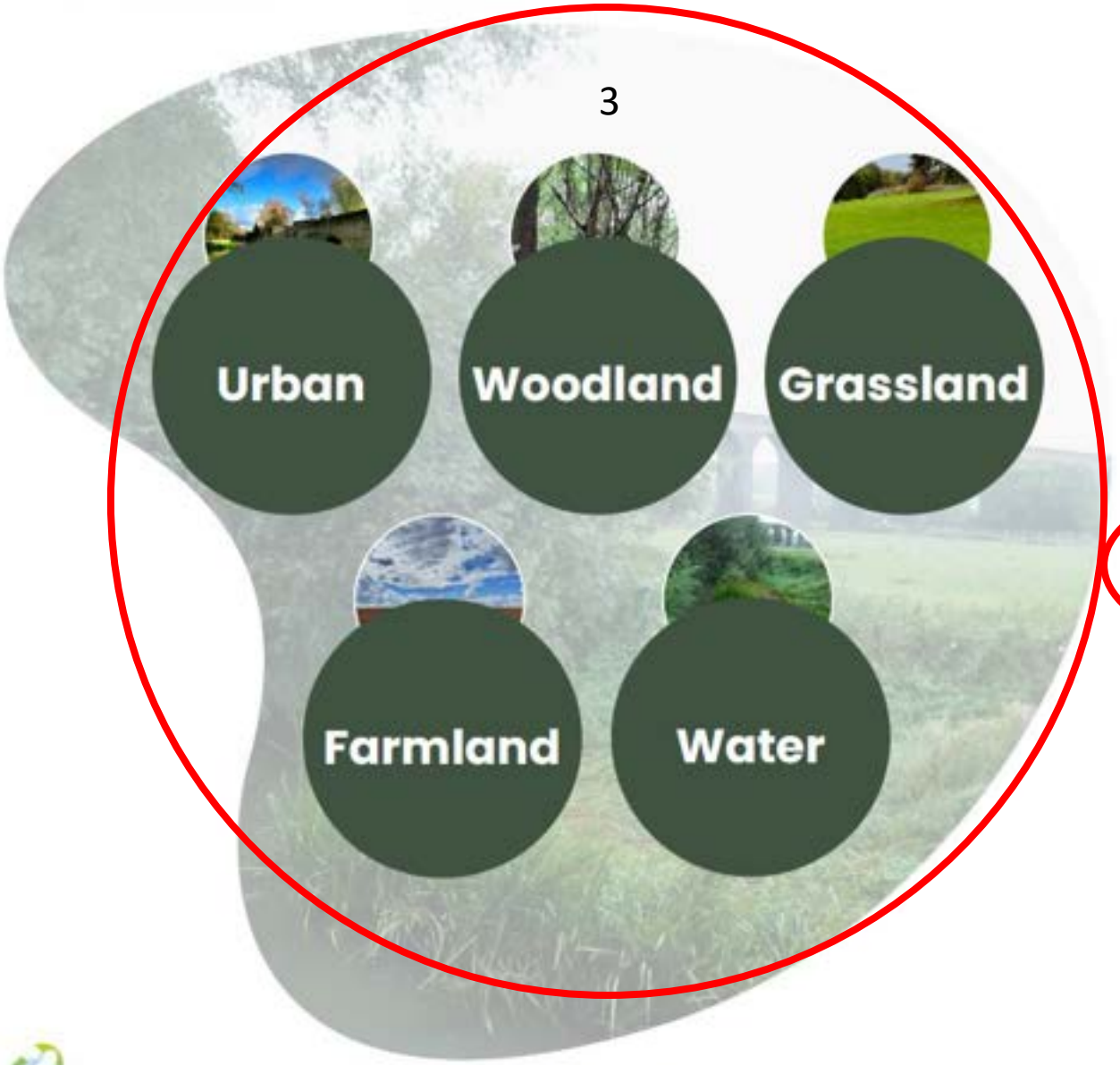
1. **Rockingham Forest**
   A historic area of ancient woodland, rolling farmland, and villages. Once a royal hunting ground, it's rich in wildlife and biodiversity.

2. **Nene Valley:**
   Following the River Nene, this area has wide floodplains, wetlands, and historic towns. It's known for its scenic views and diverse birdlife.

3. **Ise Valley:**
   A rural valley shaped by the River Ise, with gently hills, farmland and a network of villages. It's a key wildlife corridor with scenic walking routes.

1. Top tabs to move through the document
2. The character areas

1



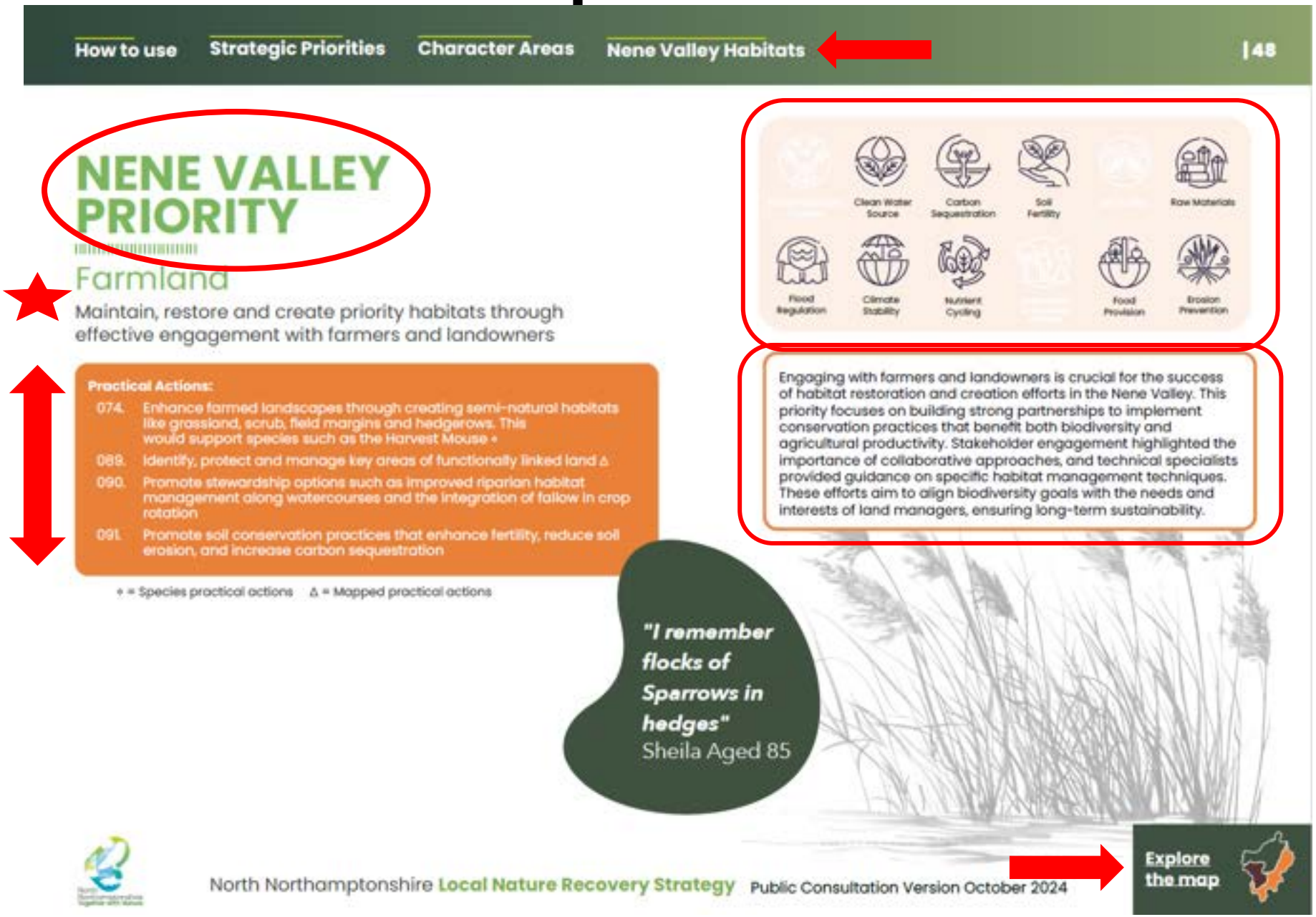
2

KEY HABITATS
Rockingham Forest

1. Top tabs to move through the document
2. The character area
3. The key habitats

Explore the map

Document example 2



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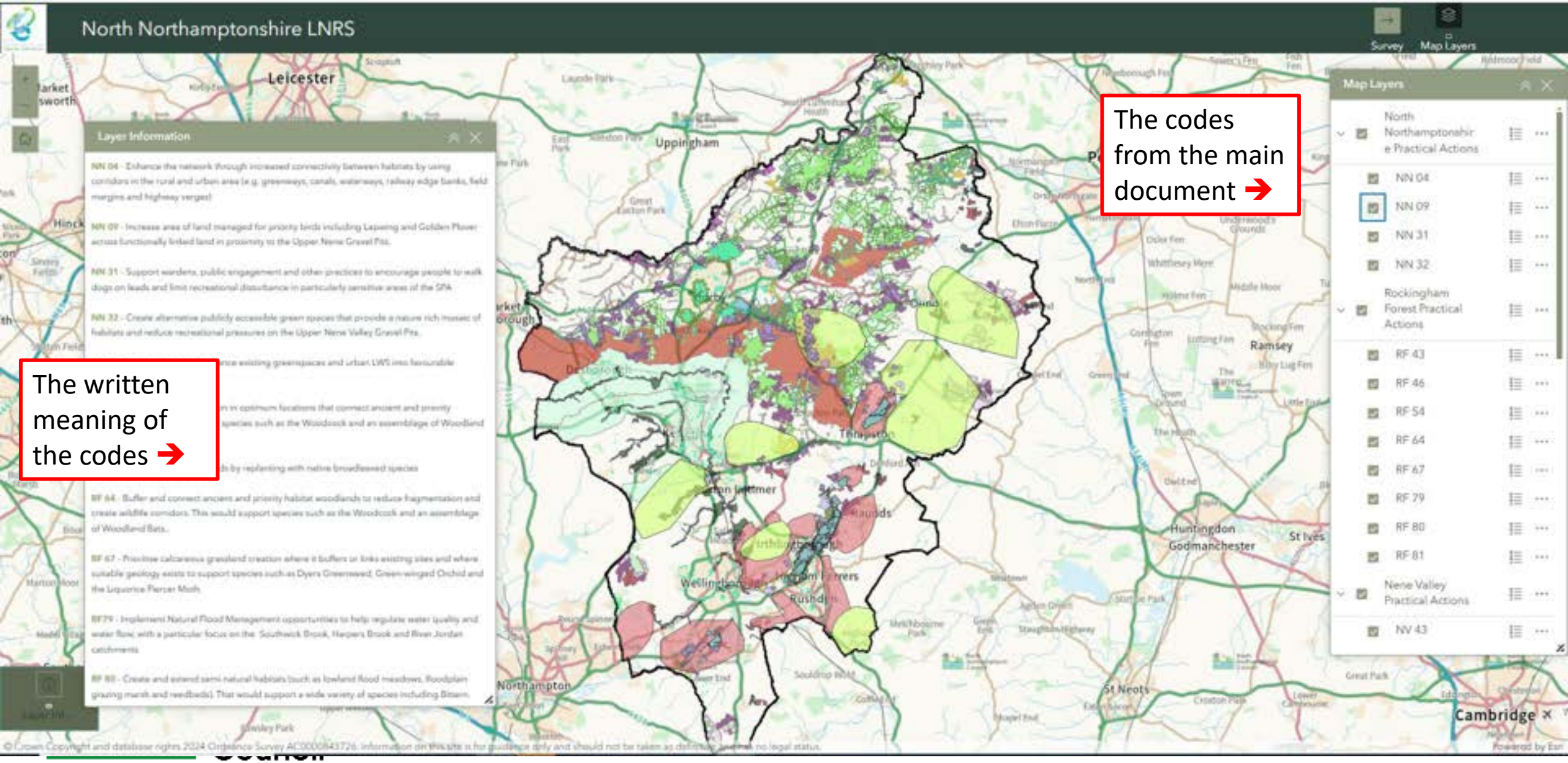
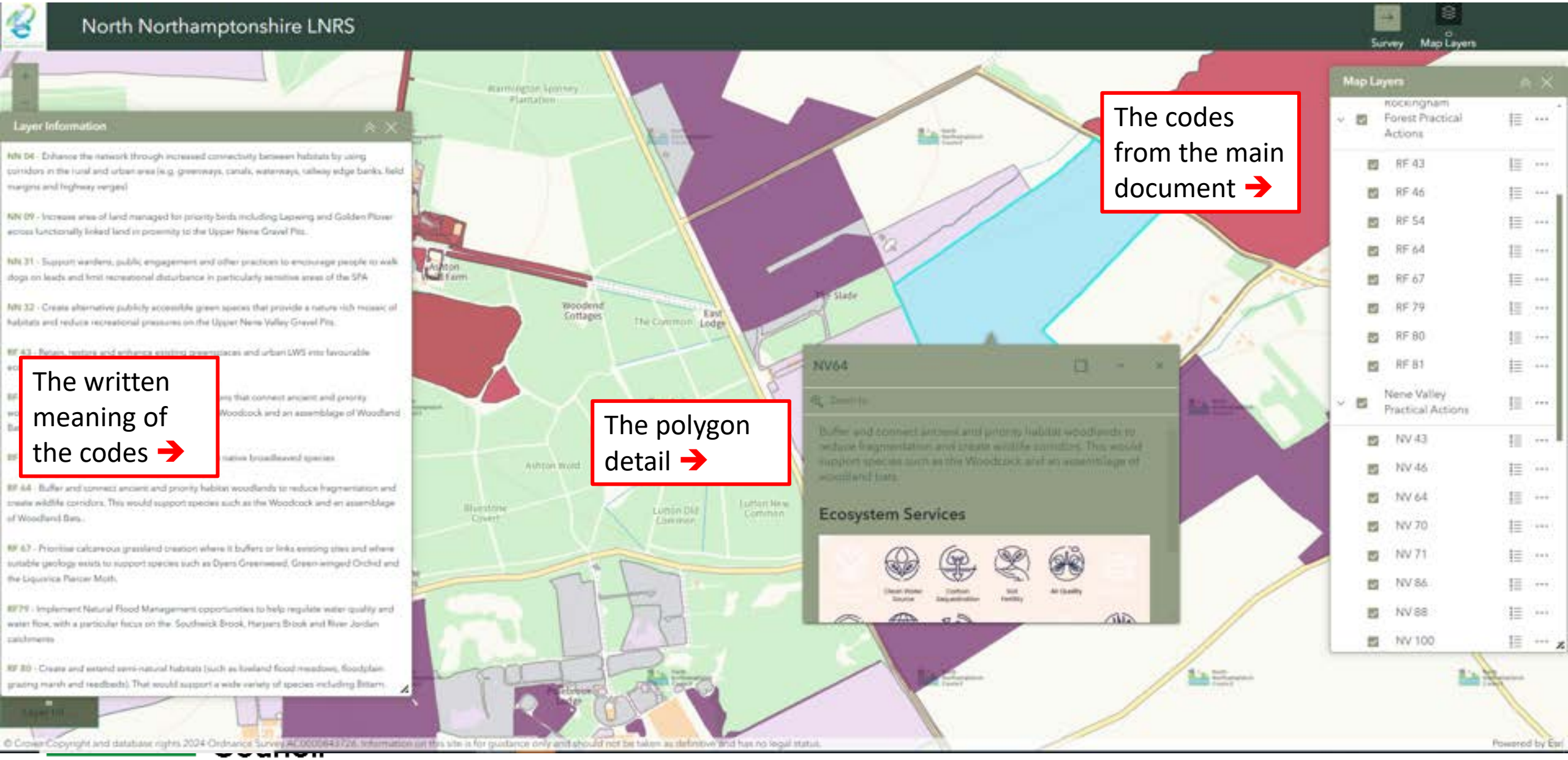
Map example 1



Map example 2



"Nature will love you back if you look after it"

Stuart Aged 85

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"Its fun and sometimes a bit messy but that's what makes it so amazing, if we didn't have nature the world would just be boring."

Isla Aged 10

Lennox age 7

Delivery Options

- They can use the mapping to see what options would have the best impact for nature
- Species specific support throughout the document
- Management of existing assets to enhance for nature, eg cutting regimes
- Produce a detailed management plan or a Parish level Nature Recovery Plan

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Planning

- This can include through the assessment of sites, guiding policies on biodiversity and locations
- Ensure that new projects enhance and protect local wildlife and green spaces
- Ensure new development contribute to larger, better connected and better managed natural areas

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Other tools

- Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) – 10% now mandatory in England

- The LNRS can support
  - Onsite design of landscaping and natural areas to ensure linkages with the wider environmental network
  - Support multifunctional use of land alongside biodiversity
  - The location of Habitat Banks for offsite delivery

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Next Steps

- Assess the comments received through the consultation and make any updates to the document and mapping.

- Once agreed as the final LNRS for North Northamptonshire focus should move to delivery through supporting our work programmes, working with various partners and applying for funding.

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Any Questions?

- Contact me at: naturerecovery@northnorthants.gov.uk

Thank you

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