

# Local Nature Recovery Strategy

APSE  
Northern Ireland

November 2024



North  
Northamptonshire  
Council



North  
Northamptonshire  
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



# The requirements

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



# 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



# 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**



# Simplified Timetable

Key Stages	Timings	
Focussed engagement	March – August '24	✓
Finalisation of the consultation draft	September '24	✓
Consultation with Natural England (28 days)	19 <sup>th</sup> September – 18 <sup>th</sup> October '24	✓
<b>Public consultation (6 weeks)</b>	<b>25<sup>th</sup> October – 9<sup>th</sup> December '24</b>	
Review responses received and make changes	December '24	
Consultation with Natural England (28 days)	January '25	
LNRS finalised for Scrutiny Committee	25 <sup>th</sup> 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/Inrs>
- 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



# Document example 1

## 2 NORTH NORTHAMPTONSHIRE PRIORITY

3  Increase environmental resilience of nature across North Northamptonshire

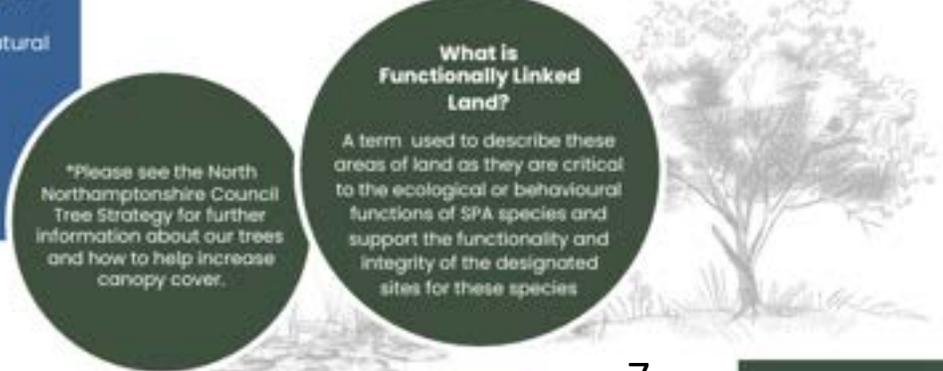
- 4 
- Practical Actions:**
- 009. Increase area of land managed for priority birds, including Lapwing and Golden Plover across functionally linked land in proximity to the Upper Nene Gravel Pits 
  - 010. Increase management of all woodlands to diversify the structure and increase species to support ecological and future climate resilience
  - 011. Create and restore wetland mosaics to increase climate resilience
  - 012. Increase land area of regenerative agriculture practices and management that maintains or improves soil quality health, biodiversity and water quality, and reduces flood risk.
  - 013. Restore and re-profile sections of watercourses that have been subject to past hard engineering
  - 014. Increase the tree canopy to 17%\* by both planting and encouraging natural regeneration. Add new trees to urban settings of streets, parks and public spaces; extend and connect existing woodlands and plant along watercourses to provide habitat, reduce urban heat islands, improve air and water quality and draw down carbon contributing towards climate change mitigation
  - 015. Enhance the network of habitats through corridor and stepping stone improvements

\* = Species practical actions     = Mapped practical actions



6

Building environmental resilience is vital in tackling climate change and other environmental challenges. In North Northamptonshire, this involves developing ecosystems that can cope with changing conditions, like extreme weather (floods and droughts) and shifts in species locations. Feedback from stakeholders highlighted the need for long-term planning and flexible management. Experts in ecology and climate offered guidance on improving habitat quality and supporting species at risk from climate impacts, helping to ensure the region's natural environments can endure and bounce back from future challenges.



**What is Functionally Linked Land?**

A term used to describe these areas of land as they are critical to the ecological or behavioural functions of SPA species and support the functionality and integrity of the designated sites for these species

\*Please see the North Northamptonshire Council Tree Strategy for further information about our trees and how to help increase canopy cover.

7  Explore the map 

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

# Document example 2

How to use

Strategic Priorities

Character Areas

Nene Valley Habitats

| 48

## NENE VALLEY PRIORITY

### Farmland

Maintain, restore and create priority habitats through effective engagement with farmers and landowners

#### Practical Actions:

- 074. Enhance farmed landscapes through creating semi-natural habitats like grassland, scrub, field margins and hedgerows. This would support species such as the Harvest Mouse +
- 088. Identify, protect and manage key areas of functionality linked land Δ
- 090. Promote stewardship options such as improved riparian habitat management along watercourses and the integration of fallow in crop rotation
- 091. Promote soil conservation practices that enhance fertility, reduce soil erosion, and increase carbon sequestration

+ = Species practical actions   Δ = Mapped practical actions



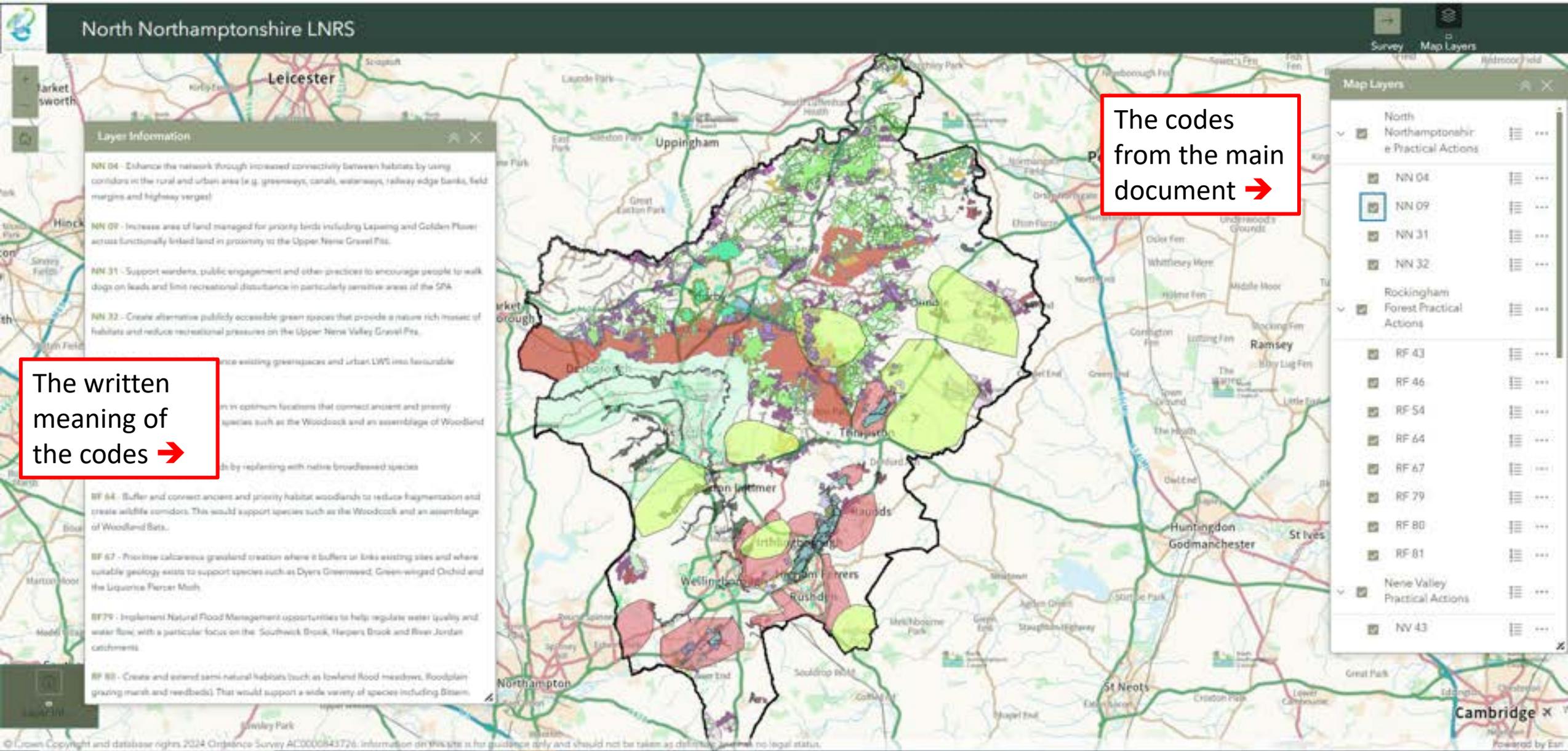
Engaging with farmers and landowners is crucial for the success of habitat restoration and creation efforts in the Nene Valley. This priority focuses on building strong partnerships to implement conservation practices that benefit both biodiversity and agricultural productivity. Stakeholder engagement highlighted the importance of collaborative approaches, and technical specialists provided guidance on specific habitat management techniques. These efforts aim to align biodiversity goals with the needs and interests of land managers, ensuring long-term sustainability.

*"I remember flocks of Sparrows in hedges"*  
Sheila Aged 85



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# Map example 1



The codes from the main document →

The written meaning of the codes →

# Map example 2

North Northamptonshire LNRs

Survey Map Layers

Layer Information

NH 04 - Enhance the network through increased connectivity between habitats by using corridors in the rural and urban area (e.g. greenways, canals, waterways, railway edge banks, field margins and highway verges)

NH 09 - Increase area of land managed for priority birds including Lapwing and Golden Plover across functionally linked land in proximity to the Upper Nene Gravel Pits.

NH 31 - Support wardens, public engagement and other practices to encourage people to walk dogs on leads and limit recreational disturbance in particularly sensitive areas of the SFA

NH 32 - Create alternative publicly accessible green spaces that provide a nature rich mosaic of habitats and reduce recreational pressures on the Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits.

NH 43 - Bring, restore and enhance existing grasslands and urban LWS into favourable ec

RF 43

RF 46

RF 54

RF 64

RF 67

RF 79

RF 80

RF 81

Nene Valley Practical Actions

NV 43

NV 46

NV 64

NV 70

NV 71

NV 86

NV 88

NV 100

NV64

Woodend Cottages

The Common

East Lodge

Slade

Ayton Wood

Blunstone Diver

Luton Dale Lowland

Luton New Common

Ecosystem Services

Clean Water Source

Carbon Sequestration

Soil Fertility

Air Quality

The codes from the main document →

The written meaning of the codes →

The polygon detail →

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

Stuart Aged 85



North  
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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



# 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



# 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



# 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.



# Any Questions?

- Contact me at:  
[naturerecovery@northnorthants.gov.uk](mailto:naturerecovery@northnorthants.gov.uk)

Thank you



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