

# Appendix 2

# Derbyshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy

## Preliminary Dialogue Learning Report

April – June 2024

## Setting the scene

Derbyshire County Council is working with The Young Foundation and The University of Derby to develop Derbyshire's Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS).

The LNRS will set out priorities for nature recovery and propose actions in locations that would contribute to achieving these priorities. This involves bringing together diverse perspectives from partners, communities, and citizens across Derbyshire to co-create a vision for nature recovery that responds to the needs of today and meets the challenges of the future.

This learning report is intended for internal use and presents the findings from the Preliminary Dialogue engagement work undertaken by The Young Foundation in April and May 2024.

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# Executive Summary

Throughout April and May 2024, The Young Foundation supported Derbyshire County Council in developing Derbyshire's first Local Nature Recovery Strategy, leading the preliminary dialogue with stakeholders, by convening a series of workshops, meetings and 1:1 calls. This report summarises the activities that took place in Phase 1 engagement, spotlighting tacit knowledge that has emerged alongside opportunities and challenges that will shape the next phase of engagement and consultation.

Phase 1 has provided a critical understanding of the diverse perspectives that will shape the ongoing development of the strategy. This executive summary outlines the foundational work carried out, highlighting both the collaborative spirit and ongoing challenges in developing a comprehensive nature recovery strategy. Across the activities, we established foundational principles for guiding the work, identified common ground amongst stakeholders and highlighted areas of tension that require continued dialogue to achieving a shared vision for nature recovery across Derbyshire.

In the initial engagement, The Young Foundation worked with stakeholders to co-create **principles for guiding the strategy in the right direction**. The principles are centred around **what** we collectively want to achieve with the LNRS and **how** we might go about achieving it.

## Principles: *what* do we want to achieve with the LNRS?

- Grounded in evidence and knowledge, with a clear vision
- Connecting and enhancing
  - Nature
  - Economy
  - People
  - Landscape... by building a framework that enables us to create healthy ecosystems that empower, protect (and recover) nature
- Ambitious but focused, realistic, scalable and sustainable for the future
- Contextual – the appropriate intervention into the appropriate landscape – who decides what's appropriate?
- Deliver benefits for people and communities – communities of place (locality) and communities of practice (e.g. farmers) providing support for people to navigate change and combat fear.

## Principles: *how* might we achieve it?

- Inclusive and collaborative whilst recognising and addressing power dynamics – “people own what they help create”, drawing experience both locally and nationally
- Listen to understand! Everyone has a valid view and contribution – “start anywhere and follow everywhere”
- Work at pace (balancing the sense of urgency with reflection)
- Practical, accessible and actionable with a clear call to action – provide frameworks, tools and mechanisms to maximise impact and reduce risk. Set out short-, medium- and long-term action plans
- Meaningful engagement (by appealing to people's motivations)
  - Build understanding: “if you don't know, you can't do anything about it”
  - Learn together
  - Shift mindsets/culture, acknowledging the systemic nature of the work

# Executive Summary: moving into Phase 2

The engagement activities have proved essential to building our tacit knowledge base. This includes the knowledge and experience of individuals, communities and organisations on the ground, who understand the make-up of the landscape and nature across Derbyshire. Through the Phase 1 engagement we began to explore the different perspectives and views held by actors across Derbyshire to surface the challenges and opportunities for nature recovery from the lens of those that know and understand the land. In doing so, we identified several **questions** that participants were holding in relation to the LNRS. It is key that the work in Phase 2 continues to address and factor these in.

Building on the principles, stakeholders in the Steering Group reflected first on where their shared priorities and beliefs overlapped, and then, on the areas of difference and contrasting priorities. Here, we were able to identify the **tensions** that need to be kept in mind and/or worked through when developing the next phase of the strategy.

## Tensions between the different views and perspectives

- Fear of the unknown
- Speaking many different languages whilst trying to shape a 'one voice' strategy
- Worries about implementation
- Feelings of misrepresentation
- Stereotypes, and oversimplified perceptions of 'what is important and to whom'
- *"If nature recovers, what people value is ruined – what some people value relies on nature, what others value in ruining nature"*
- Expectations on people to change their behaviours
- Not enough land to do everything everyone wants

## Questions that stakeholders are holding, that need to be considered and taken forward into the next Phase of engagement.

### Ambition

- What is the lowest hanging fruit?
- How might the LNRS encourage dynamic landscapes & natural processes (across boundaries)?

### LNRS Process

- How can we distil such a broad range of info and knowledge into the LNRS?
- How will we add new sites and data over time? When deciding on what & where, what will inform decisions?
- How are we measuring the effectiveness of the LNRS?
- How are we measuring outputs?
- What does good engagement look like and how will this be measured?
- How are you going to address the different characteristics of the county?
- How do we prioritise investment opportunities?

### Stakeholders

- How do we make this of value to deprived communities? How do we engage sceptical local members? How do we move beyond usual suspects?
- Who's not here?
- How do we harness the opinions of many stakeholders, and/or put priorities on different stakeholders' views/inputs?

### Other

- Are you confident you're going to meet the deadline?
- How confident does the responsible authority feel in the data used so far?
- How do we navigate conflict (LNRS, Defra, ELMs)?

# Purpose of the Phase 1 Engagement

To ensure the LNRS is co-produced, the preliminary dialogue set out in Phase 1 has been essential to testing and building on the initial knowledge gathering that colleagues at DCC have been working on. This has ensured diverse perspectives input into the LNRS from the base of the pyramid up, to ensure participation in the early-stage of the LNRS process can inform the strategy’s development as we move up towards the priorities and later, the vision. This is underpinned by the design principle that ***the process you use to get to the future is the future you get*** – mobilising people around the challenge so that each engagement becomes an opportunity to shift the system.

The early engagement has also been an opportunity to develop relationships with key stakeholders across Derbyshire – recognising that ***people own what they create***, with workshop spaces for co-creation and collaboration that build empathy, ownership and new possibilities.

Phase 1 has comprised of a series of Deep Dive workshops, on-going and targeted agriculture sector engagement (farmers/landowners), and facilitation at full-day Steering Group workshops.

The purpose of these engagements has been to:

1. Convey key messages from LNRS process and their user journey/touch points
2. Test knowledge and assumptions about levels of understanding.
3. Develop and test engagement principles – the what and the how.
4. Get stakeholders engaged, with a sense of ownership.
5. Create space for generative conversations and reciprocity in developing opportunities, outcomes and priorities.

A core component of this has been to ***meet people where they’re at***, to ensure that everyone can meaningfully participate in the work. This is in advance of a much broader LNRS engagement and consultative process leading up to December 2024.

**Phase 1 Engagement:** creating space to sense-check and challenge the assumptions we might be making and highlighting any gaps in our knowledge base, whilst contributing to the challenges and opportunities for nature recovery.



## In numbers: who participated in the Preliminary Dialogue work



**individuals  
took part**



**organisations  
were represented**



**workshops and  
meetings**

# Deep-Dive Workshops

17<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> April

# Attendees

Across the week, we hosted four workshops divided into the following key stakeholder groups. This initial engagement was an opportunity to share and test the LNRS knowledge gathering that has been going on so far, whilst building relationships with a wide cohort of individuals and organisations.

## LNRS Steering Group

This was a well-attended session, with a lot of energy and expertise in the room. It felt like there were a few representative voices missing from the steering group, namely the community.

### Learnings / Actions

- What is the role of the steering group? Have we got the right people in the room?

## Agriculture Sector

This was the lowest attended workshop, due to several factors, e.g., the business of lambing season, and the challenge of motivating the sector to come and join a session.

### Learnings / Actions:

- More time to distribute invites
- Need to go out to farmers – 1:1, at markets or other meetings

## LNRS Supporting Authorities

The sessions was attended by the majority of Supporting Authorities, with apologies from Bolsover Council, Derbyshire Dales District Council and Erewash Borough Council.

### Learnings / Actions:

- Engage with those who were unable to attend to join the scoop-up workshop.

## ENGOS and Communities

This session was the most well attended, with a cross-section of local community organisations including Green Spring, University of Derby and Denby Footpaths Group, as well as representatives from national ENGOS - National Trust, Woodland Trust, CPRE, and Canal and River Trust.





# You've Got Mail! – Questions people were holding

At the start of the workshops, we invited all participants to share the questions that they were entering the session holding. This allowed space for people to air concerns, frustrations and queries – some of which we were able to answer on the day, others that will be useful to hold on to as we progress through this work and return to.

This is a snapshot of the questions that recurred multiple times.

## Ambition

- What is the lowest hanging fruit?
- How might the LNRS encourage dynamic landscapes & natural processes (across boundaries)?

## LNRS Process

- How can we distil such a broad range of info and knowledge into the LNRS?
- How will we add new sites and data over time? When deciding on what & where, what will inform decisions?

## Data Confidence

- How confident does the responsible authority feel in the data used so far?

## Tensions

- How are you going to address the different characteristics of the county?
- How do we ensure LCA is a starting point rather than a constraint?
- Conflict (LNRS, Defra, ELMs)
- How do we prioritise investment opportunities when there is only one delivery mechanism?

## Evaluation

- How are we measuring the effectiveness of the LNRS?
- How are we measuring outputs?
- What does good engagement look like and how will this be measured?

## Stakeholders

- How do we make this of value to deprived communities?
- How do we engage sceptical local members?
- How do we harness the opinions of many stakeholders?
- Do we put priorities on different stakeholders' views/inputs?

## Timing

- Are you confident you're going to meet the deadline?

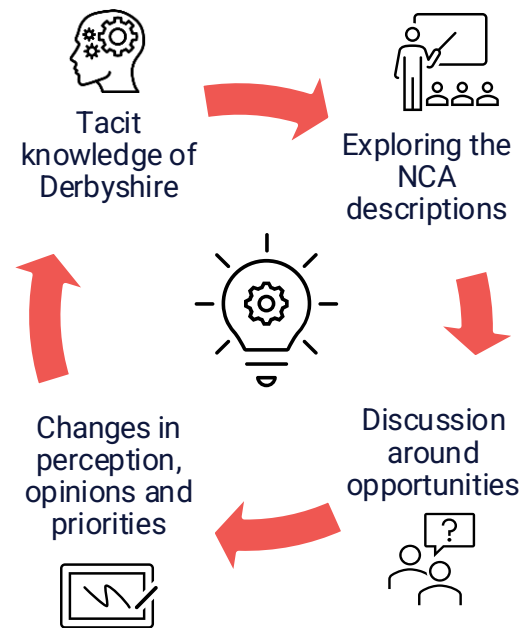
# Mapping Derbyshire

We asked people to imagine the room was a map of Derbyshire and stand somewhere that means something to them (e.g. where they live, work or play). This was an active way to hear and discuss what (and where) matters to people in Derbyshire, highlighting bright spots of opportunity and interest across the county direct from those in the room.

Following the initial mapping activity, we posed the question, based on gut feeling, as to where there is the greatest opportunity for Nature Recovery in Derbyshire. This raised some interesting reflections, with participants bringing their own *tacit knowledge* of their area and the wider county. As we progressed through the session, presenting the National Character Area descriptions, we found that people's opinions and priorities changed. This effectively, created a learning loop where their knowledge adds value to the Description of the Strategy Area, whilst they also change their perceptions through growing their own knowledge-base.

This was reflected in participants sharing that they would have moved somewhere else in the room – if they had seen the NCA descriptions prior to the mapping activity.

In many ways, this represented a microcosm for how the LNRS engagement might progress over the coming months – with knowledge increasing as we progress through our collective learning-loop.



# Mapping Derbyshire

Key moves, reflections and insights from the activity:

North-West (Castleton, Hope Valley) to South  
"There's less going on, less funding and hence more opportunity to think about ecosystems"

"There's a lack of voice and representation in the south".

North (Moss Valley) to North-West - "there are more opportunities in the West, in the Peaks".

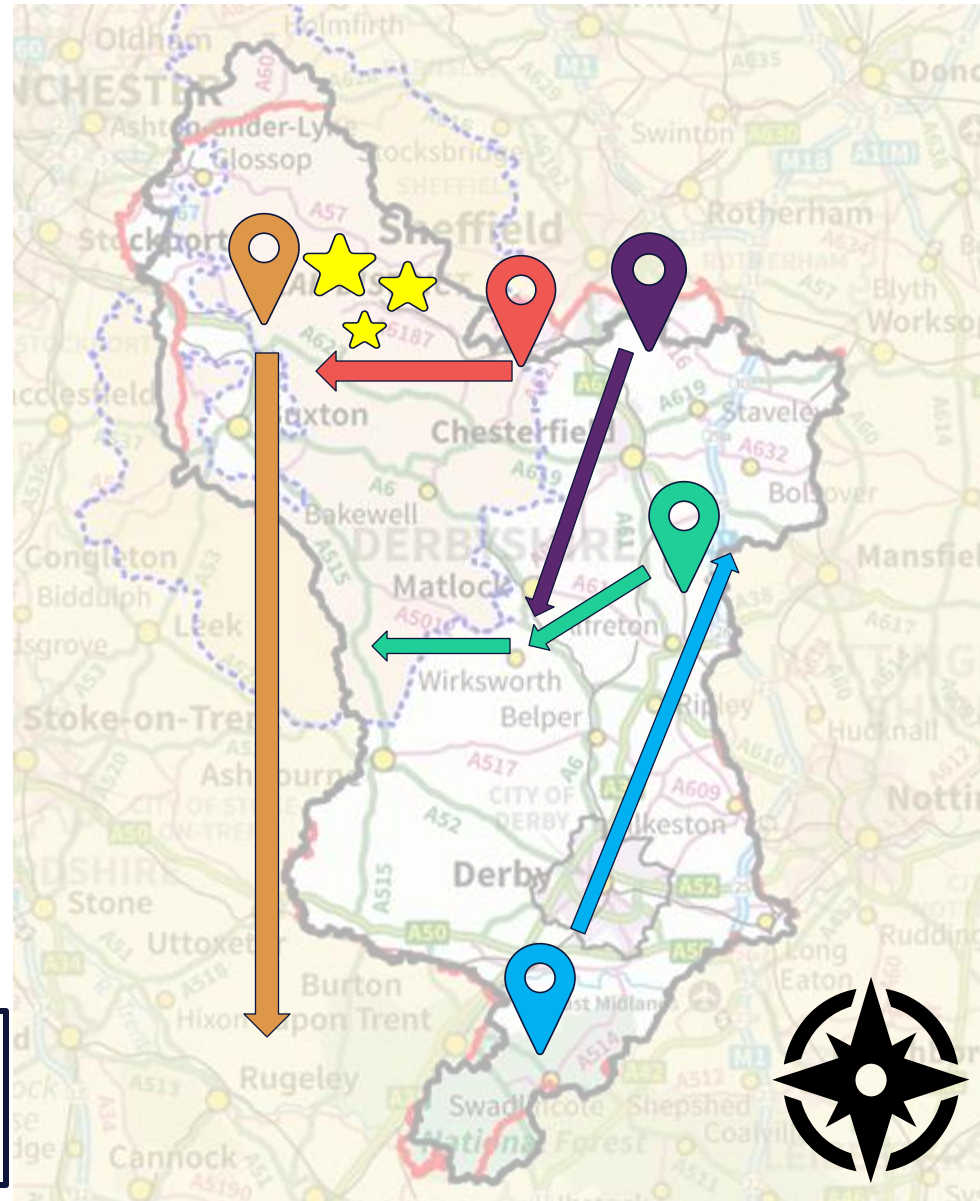
## "Conservation Hotspots":

The Peak District is the 'jewel in the crown', it is most famous with visitors and where there's most room for impact/engagement/change"



- Dark Peak
- White Peak
- Coalfields

*The population density and more urban environment of the South can be opportunistic for nature recovery to have the most impact, but others see this as a barrier...*



South and South-East to North-East "There's more inequality in these areas"

"Higher population, and with that comes higher deprivation".

North-East to more Central (Peak Fringe)  
"Wildlife is moving out and people are moving in."

"There's also something important about being central and the proximity/visibility/accessibility of other parts of Derbyshire."

East to Central "Where there are more people, there are more opportunities"

"...but after learning more and building a better understanding of the landscape, I see more opportunity in the West, the meadows and arable land of the White Peak".

*Areas on the map where there are gaps are representative of the areas we know less well, rather than a lack of opportunity it's a lack of knowledge.*

# Principles for the *what* and *how* of the Derbyshire LNRS

Over the week stakeholders co-created a set of principles for guiding the strategy in the right direction. The Steering Group created the initial framework, which we then iterated, adding and fine-tuning it with other stakeholder groups throughout the week. The principles are centred around *what* we want to achieve with the LNRS and *how* we might go about achieving it.

## What?

- Grounded in evidence and knowledge, with a clear vision
- Connecting and enhancing
  - Nature
  - Economy
  - People
  - Landscape
- ... by building a framework that enables us to create healthy ecosystems that empower, protect (and recover) nature
- Ambitious but focused, realistic, scalable and sustainable for the future
- Contextual – the appropriate intervention into the appropriate landscape – who decides what’s appropriate?
- Deliver benefits for people and communities – communities of place (locality) and communities of practice (e.g. farmers) providing support for people to navigate change and combat fear.

## How?

- Inclusive and collaborative whilst recognising and addressing power dynamics – “people own what they help create”, drawing experience both locally and nationally
- Listen to understand! Everyone has a valid view and contribution – “start anywhere and follow everywhere”
- Work at pace (balancing the sense of urgency with reflection)
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  - Build understanding – “if you don’t know, you can’t do anything about it”
  - Learn together
  - Shift mindsets and culture, acknowledging the systemic nature of the work

# Feedback on the knowledge

Clearly communicating the complex data and knowledge of the LNRS is a crucial part of this work. Stakeholder engagement is about bringing people along on the journey. The DCC team were challenged to condense the 'story of the data' into three slides to take through an iterative process and refine the content for the audiences. Individuals in each stakeholder group made a note whenever they were unclear or uncertain of what was being shared. Key feedback included:

## Visual communication and education

Make it visual!

Use diagrams, figures, clear maps and images – less words the better.

Careful with acronyms or references to reports/words/steps that aren't meaningful to the audience.

Use this as an opportunity to educate *"I'm less anxious now I understand"*

## Description

Give examples!

Remind people that the NCA is just a lens to look at the geology to break it down, not a value judgement.

Be transparent about tensions/choices/trade-offs between people and nature.

Is there too much of a rural focus? How do we ensure urban landscapes have a place?

## What's the story?

Start with the why!

We're not just doing this because the government told us to, bring it to life with feeling – why is it important to us as humans, as communities?

Emotional connection is key. This is urgent.

### What is the knowledge we have?

The data used in building towards the initial LNRS was, first, informed by Government guidance specifying the approach – **Statutory Knowledge**. To develop this further DCC have drawn on extensive existing data and information – **Legacy Knowledge**. Together this has informed the ongoing development of the strategy in the form of **Emerging Knowledge**.

**Statutory Knowledge**

- Step 1 Mapping work
- Government Guidance

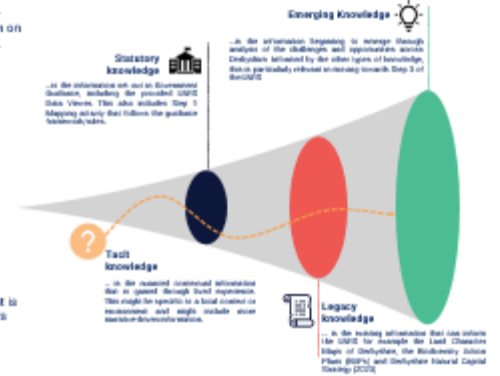
**Legacy Knowledge**

- Biodiversity Action Plans (BAPs)
- Derbyshire Natural Capital Strategy (2020)
- Landscape Character Assessments in Derbyshire
- Derbyshire Mapping Portal
- SSSI Citations, Local Wildlife Site data etc.
- Nature Recovery Plans/ Plans for Nature
- And more – but what do you have?

**Tacit knowledge** – stakeholder consultation and engagement is intended to tap into the knowledge and experience of partners and stakeholders, communities, landowners

**Leading us to... Emerging Knowledge**

- Description of the Strategy Area - (including National Character Area specific breakdowns)



### What does the knowledge/data tell us?

Across its 11 National Character Areas, Derbyshire is incredibly diverse in terms of its landscapes, habitats, species, ecologies, and land and farming uses. From the iconic landscapes in the Peak District; the upland bogs and heaths in the high peak; through ancient, wooded landscapes of the Derwent Valley, the broad floodplain of the river Trent; to the many nationally important historic parklands scattered through the county.

The natural environment of Derbyshire is one of the cornerstones of its economy. It encompasses all our natural assets – wildlife, water, woodland, farmland, and urban green space – supporting the basics we need to live – air, clean water, and food. These ecosystem services link and underpin human life and economic activity by cycling water, pollinating crops, regulating the climate, and contributing to health and wellbeing.

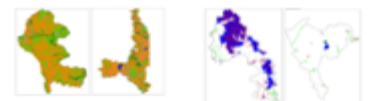
The diversity of the landscapes and environments across Derbyshire presents us with a range of different resources, challenges and opportunities in each NCA, which will affect the both the nature recovery 'needs' for each area, and the potential that can be delivered in that area. Considerations will include:

- The variety of the geology, topography and natural patterns of drainage, which contrast greatly across the county
- The resulting soils, and how this has influenced land uses
- The habitats and land cover that remains
- Areas with high levels of statutory designation vs those with very few
- Pressures for development and urban growth

These factors and more will determine the need and potential for nature recovery in each area, and the appropriateness of different interventions



11 National Character Areas



Areas where farming is vibrant and valuable | Areas with high levels of statutory designation vs those with very few

Activity

# Nature Café: Exploring the opportunities for each NCA



Shaping a fairer future

We are the UK's home for community research and social innovation

This activity presented the emerging opportunities and contextual information for each National Character Area on a 'Top Trump' style card. Each card was placed on a different table allowing participants to move around and engage with each of the place-specific information.

The workshop participants were encouraged to add post-it notes to feed into additional opportunities or challenges, and other relevant factors might need to be considered. In doing so, they contributed significant *tacit knowledge* to the descriptions whilst also providing useful feedback on the information.

Some of the key learning surfaced throughout the week included:

- There was a need for bigger diagrams, more images or visual aids to balance the text-heavy and technical approach
- More examples to showcase the opportunities and bring the strategy to life
- To use National Character Areas as a tool for describing the strategy area
- To look for opportunities for community engagement particularly in deprived areas to drive connection to nature

A detailed breakdown of the feedback can be found in the appendix at the end of this document.



# Steering Group Meeting

## Monday 13<sup>th</sup> May



# Steering Group Workshop – Monday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2024

The focus of the Steering Group workshop was to reflect on the stakeholder engagement so far, revisiting the principles and the approach for the next phase, whilst testing and developing the draft LNRS Opportunities, Priorities and Measures. The workshop was structured as follows:

## Process

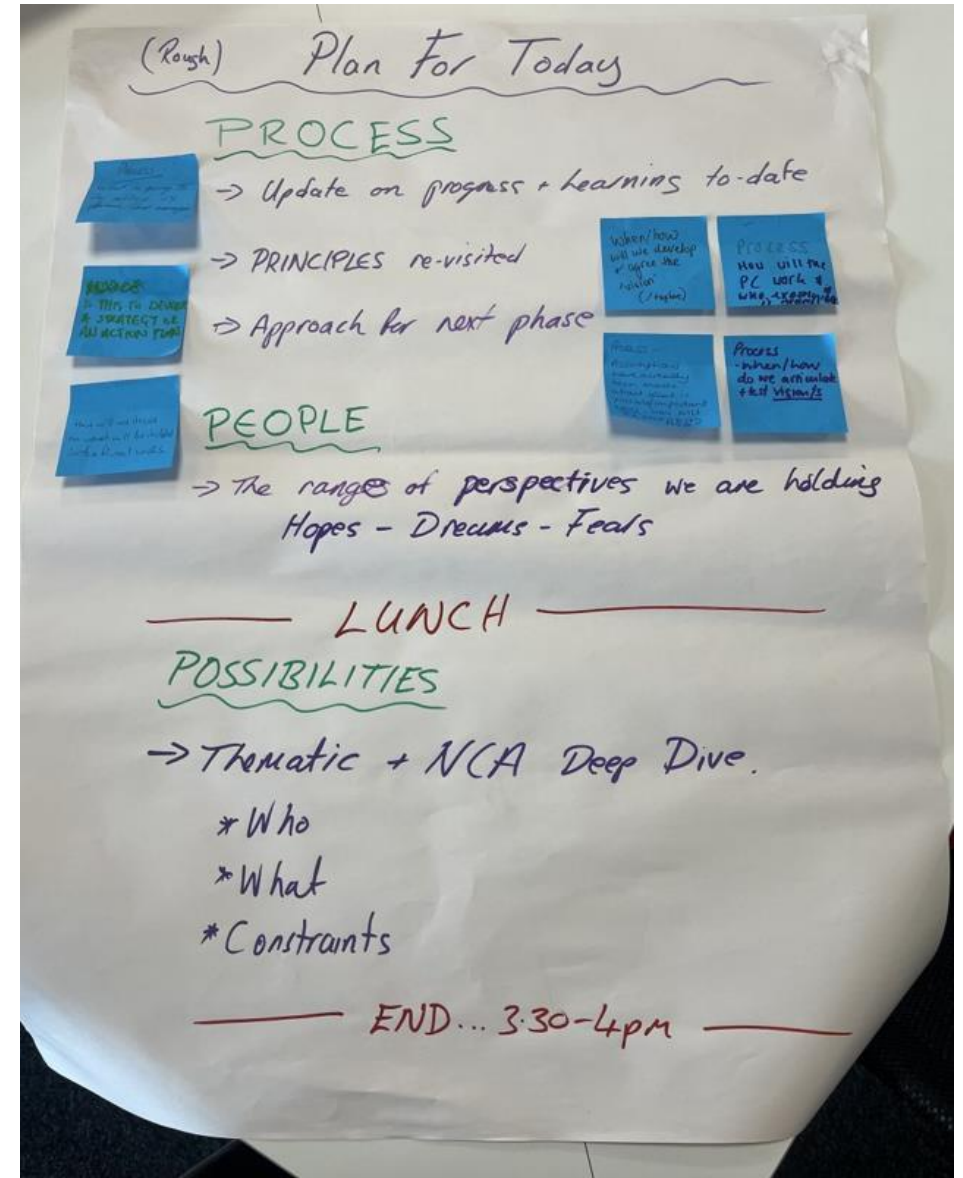
- Update on progress and learning to date
- Principles re-visited
- Approach for next phase

## People

- Exploring perspectives: hopes, motivations, fears

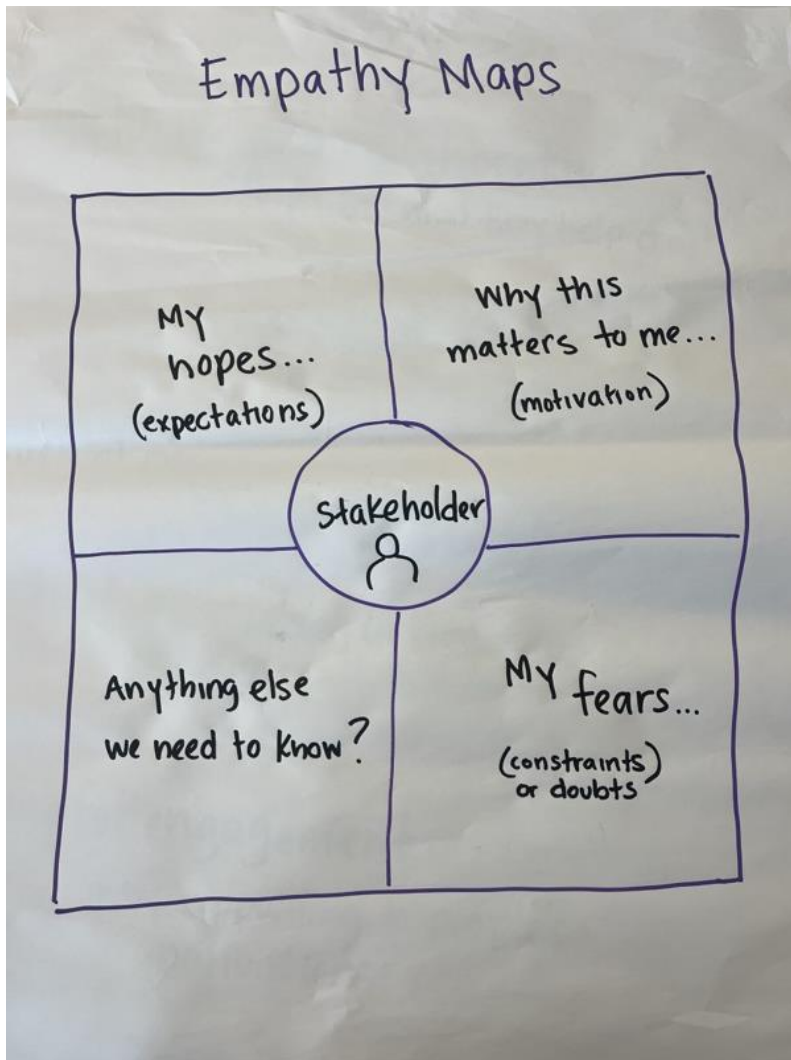
## Possibilities

- Thematic deep dive: who, what, constraints



# Empathy mapping – exploring the range of perspectives in the room

An empathy map is a quick digestible way to illustrate attitudes and behaviors of stakeholders, helping us to see things through the eyes of others, and reflect on own priorities. The group all created their maps for the stakeholders they represented, including a map specifically for nature as a key stakeholder in the process. These maps acted as the basis for activity to surface common ground and areas where there was less alignment.



**My Hopes**

- Ambition
- Financial
- Flexibility to exploit local opportunities

**Why?**

- Charitable purpose
- Strategy
- To help simplify an accelerated progress

**What else?**

- Inaccessibility
- Lack of knowledge
- Access for people

**My Hopes**

- Ambition
- Financial
- Flexibility to exploit local opportunities

**Why?**

- Charitable purpose
- Strategy
- To help simplify an accelerated progress

**What else?**

- Inaccessibility
- Lack of knowledge
- Access for people

**HOPES**

- Ambition
- Financial
- Flexibility to exploit local opportunities

**WHY**

- Charitable purpose
- Strategy
- To help simplify an accelerated progress

**What else?**

- Inaccessibility
- Lack of knowledge
- Access for people

**Cottontail Heritage**

**Hopes**

- Ambition
- Financial
- Flexibility to exploit local opportunities

**Why?**

- Charitable purpose
- Strategy
- To help simplify an accelerated progress

**What else?**

- Inaccessibility
- Lack of knowledge
- Access for people

**Accessible spaces where nature has been improved with a cafe.**

**Need to rescue the env. for our children.**

**Conical tax rises**

**Cost of living**

**Someone just get this done pls.**

**MIDDLE ENGLAND**

**FORESTRY SECTOR**

**Hopes**

- Funding
- Markets
- Investment

**Why matters?**

- Govt
- Inc. rises
- etc.

**Fears**

- Restrictions
- Loss of income

**Local Authorities (Supporting Forestry)**

**Hopes**

- Funding
- Markets
- Investment

**Why matters?**

- Govt
- Inc. rises
- etc.

**Fears**

- Restrictions
- Loss of income

**Local Authorities (Supporting Forestry)**

**Hopes**

- Funding
- Markets
- Investment

**Why matters?**

- Govt
- Inc. rises
- etc.

**Fears**

- Restrictions
- Loss of income

**HOPES**

- Ambition
- Financial
- Flexibility to exploit local opportunities

**WHY**

- Charitable purpose
- Strategy
- To help simplify an accelerated progress

**What else?**

- Inaccessibility
- Lack of knowledge
- Access for people

**Education & awareness.**

**Education & awareness.**

**Education & awareness.**

**Education & awareness.**

**Education & awareness.**

**Hopes**

- Strategic people
- Investment
- Innovation
- Economic growth

**Challenges**

- No challenge
- Innovation
- Economic growth

**Education & awareness.**

**Education & awareness.**

**NE - Natural England**

**Hopes**

- Nature recovery
- People + planet
- Laid to deliver

**Why?**

- Government's delivery body for nature
- We care about nature
- We know a better approach is needed

**Fears**

- Laid's doesn't help
- To deliver nature recovery
- Delivering loss, impacts of that

**Anything else?**

- An organisation in transition
- Not clearly on path
- Clear vision and strategy

**DCC**

**Hopes**

- Develop a robust of
- Action and united
- Cause vision with DCC

**Why?**

- Government's delivery body for nature
- We care about nature
- We know a better approach is needed

**Fears**

- Laid's doesn't help
- To deliver nature recovery
- Delivering loss, impacts of that

**NATURE**

**Hopes**

- Nature recovery
- People + planet
- Laid to deliver

**Why?**

- Government's delivery body for nature
- We care about nature
- We know a better approach is needed

**Fears**

- Laid's doesn't help
- To deliver nature recovery
- Delivering loss, impacts of that

**Forestry Grants + Jobs**

**Hopes**

- Funding
- Markets
- Investment

**Why matters?**

- Govt
- Inc. rises
- etc.

**Fears**

- Restrictions
- Loss of income

**IMPROVE DIVERSITY OF INSECTS**

**Hopes**

- Nature recovery
- People + planet
- Laid to deliver

**Why?**

- Government's delivery body for nature
- We care about nature
- We know a better approach is needed

**Fears**

- Laid's doesn't help
- To deliver nature recovery
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**Education & awareness.**

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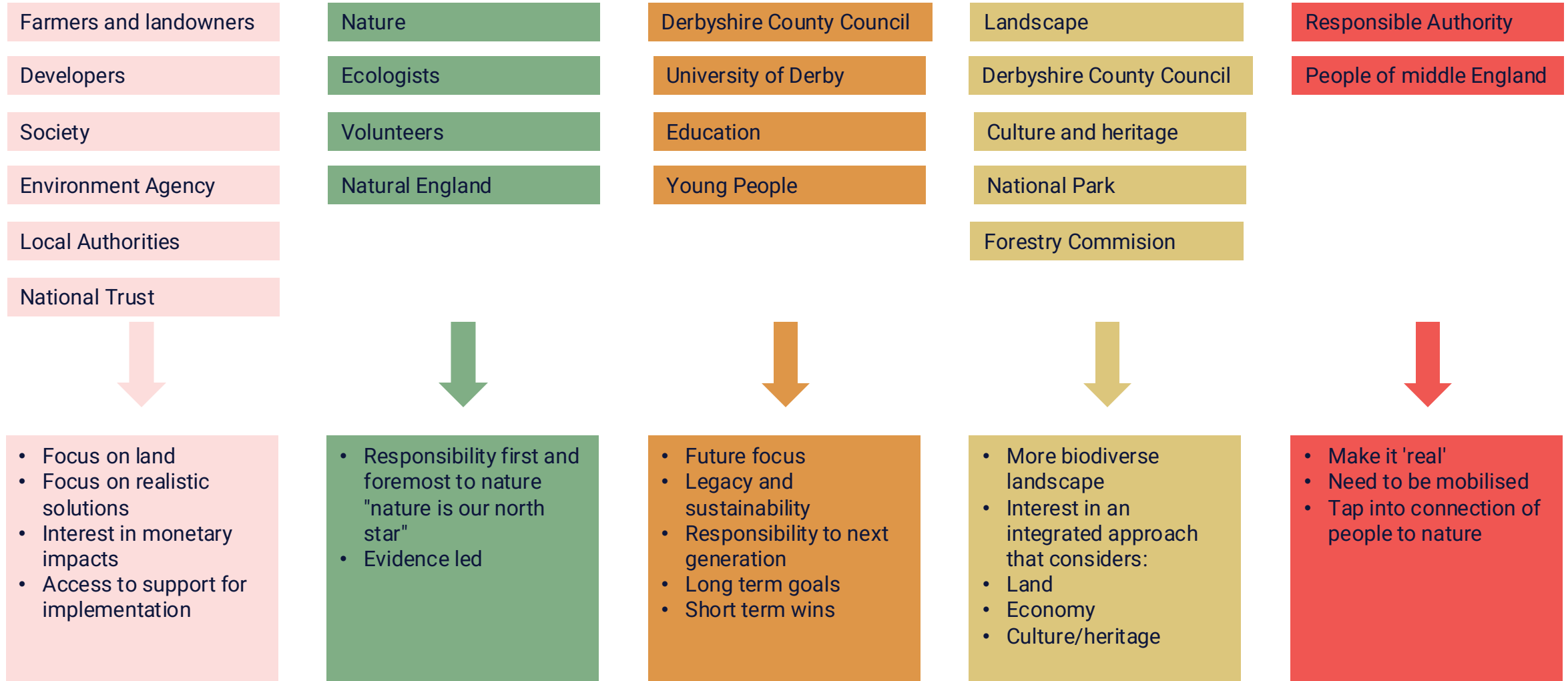
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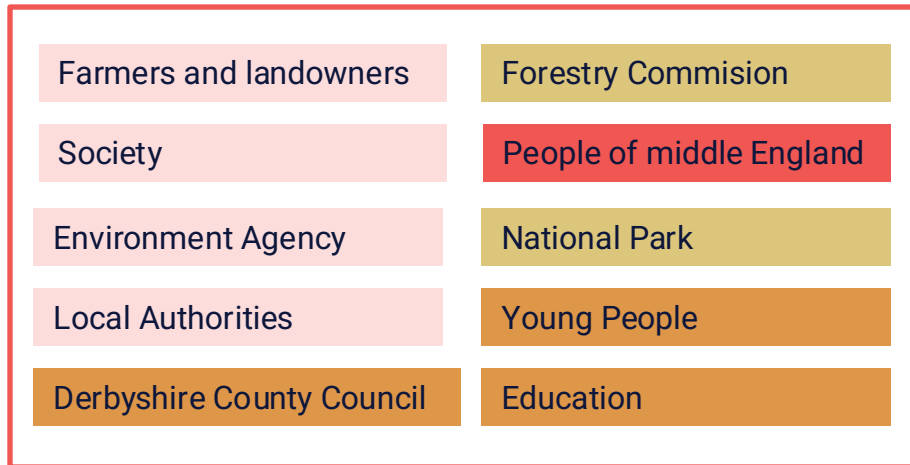
# Part 1: finding common ground

The steering group was asked to cluster with other stakeholders where they shared priorities and beliefs – the results are outlined below:

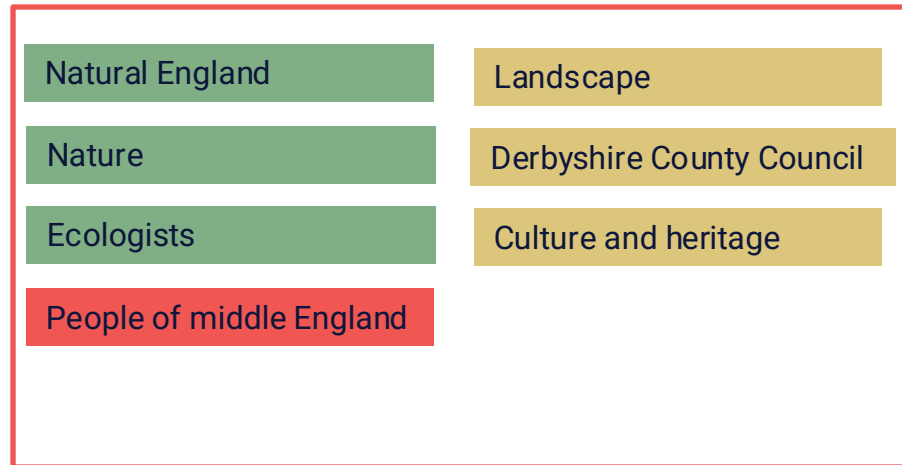


## Part 2: stepping towards the tension

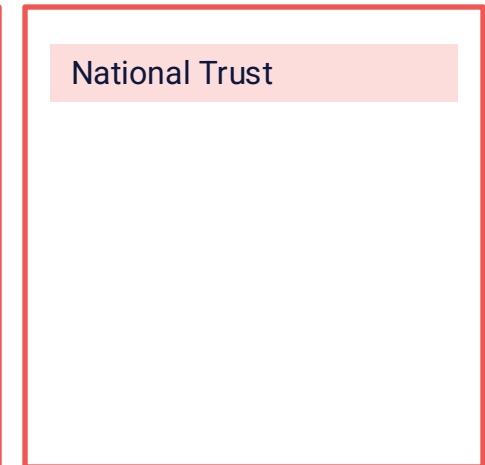
It is important to recognise and reflect on areas of difference and contrasting priorities so tension can be worked through together:



- Fear of the unknown
- Speaking many different languages whilst trying to shape a 'one voice' strategy
- Worries about implementation
- Feelings of misrepresentation
- Stereotypes
- Oversimplified perceptions of 'what is important and to whom'



- "If nature recovers, what people value is ruined – what some people value relies on nature, what others value in ruining nature"
- Expectations on people to change their behaviours
- Not enough land to do everything everyone wants



- The role of the organisation can/should play in nature recovery
- Large organisation that moves at a slower pace
- Opportunity to play a connect and convene role

# Thematic Deep Dive

Exploring the opportunities and priorities for each thematic area, we asked the Steering Group to identify who the key stakeholders are, what we need to ask them, and to detail the potential constraints. The information that surfaced can be grouped into the following recurring themes and will be key to informing the stakeholder engagement in Phase 2.

See the Appendix for a full breakdown of each Thematic Deep Dive.

## Who are the key stakeholders?

- **Agriculture:** Landowners, Land managers, Farmers
- **ENGOS:** Environmental Agency, Natural England
- **Specific to each area:** Moorland association, Forestry agents/operators/contractors, Carbon investors, Trent Valley Waters
- **Local Groups:** Derbyshire Ecological Research Centre, Parish and Town councils, local businesses, park maintenance teams, 'Friend groups', Derbyshire Amphibian and Reptile Group,
- **Other:** Utility companies, Catchment Partnerships, Developers, Mineral Industry, Serven Trent

## What do we need to ask?

- **Finance:** Where and what will it cost?
- **Measurement:** What is the baseline? How will this be measured? Are the targets realistic, and do they allow the journey to be on time?
- **Success:** What does good look like? Who defines this? How do we achieve it? What are the benefits?
- **Species:** What species are the priorities? What types of habitats and species are more desirable and realistic?
- **Motivations:** What incentives are needed? What can be more effective collaboratively? What is the appetite to do things differently?
- **Spillover benefits:** Are there opportunities to improve wider environmental benefits? How could improvements in upland habitats surrounding reservoirs improve water quality and quantity by increasing attenuation?
- **Design:** How do we ensure good design? What is appropriate, and where will conditions allow the work? How can we use nature-based solutions?

- Farmland
- Grassland
- Upland heath
- Accessible Semi-Natural Green Spaces
- People and Wildlife
- Species
- Blanket Bog
- Wetlands
- Rivers, river corridors and other water courses
- Woodland and trees

## Constraints

- **Education:** for the general public around the value of nature and how to protect; shifting mindsets, values, ideas; tradition vs new
- **Finance:** difficult accessing funding; lack of funding available; economically viable farming
- **Incentives:** for landowners / farmers; for public to support LNRS; lack of capacity to carry out the work
- **Tensions:** conflict with existing management plans and objectives; need for LNRS to focus on areas that often get overlooked - comms, education, engagement; range of stakeholders involved
- **Other:** overpopulation (deer); demands on the land; skills needed e.g. design

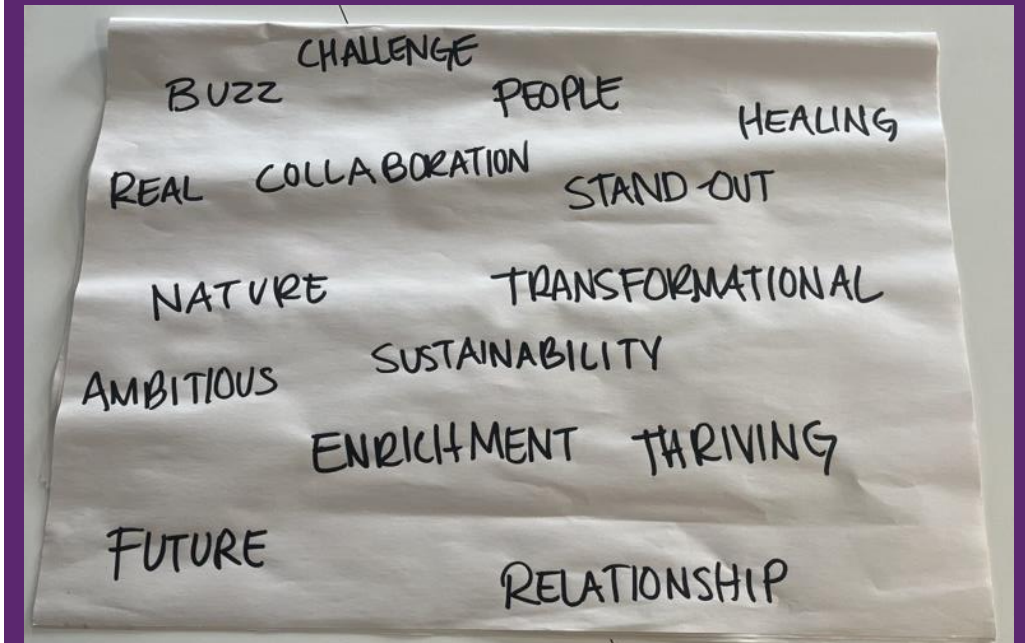
## Progressing to the next phase

In the next phase of the LNRS engagement process, the Steering Group's involvement in widening the engagement will be vital. The group has shared where they might be able to contribute to the next phase and one word that needs to be included in the final vision for the LNRS.

### Contributions

- Research, information, how else I can help? – Julie
- Time, Data, Maps – Gary
- Time and energy – Miles
- Time, enthusiasm and seeking DCC venues – Caroline
- Critical friend, networks and links through Natural England, spreading the word – Sami
- Help with public consultation via existing routes and across Supporting Authorities – Chris
- We can help with public consultation; outreach to local community groups i.e. Tideswell and District Environmental Group – Scott
- Data, Technical info, advice and knowledge about woodlands and trees – Sallie
- Woodland group which has most of the Peak District Woodlands represented - Tristian
- Conversations! Let's keep talking! – Tom F
- Strategic leadership – Rupert
- Time and energy; knowledge; engaging other young people; helping out with the public consultation – Abigail
- To be a conduit to the many Environmental Agency Teams and to enable their technical input – James
- Knowledgeable students who can make things happen – Elle
- Effort and communication
- Feedback from developers and corporates – Alex
- Core team morale, and to listen
- Venue / inspiration, visit for future steering group; a conversation about vision approaches if useful – Nikki
- Reviewing the draft against Peak District National Park Management plan / landscape strategy, wooded landscape plan, nature recovery plan – and discuss with DCC – Rhodri

### One-word to include in the vision



# Farmers, landowners and agriculture sector engagement (on-going)

## What we've heard so far...

The preliminary dialogue was designed to learn about both **WHAT** the LNRS should be, and about **HOW** to engage with key stakeholders, including farmers, landowners and the agriculture sector. Here's a snapshot of what we have heard about the 'how'.

*"I do think you'll struggle to get much interest in inputting into lengthy documents and descriptions if that's what you're currently looking for (?), so maybe that's not the right time/conversation to get farmer/landowner input?"*

*How you take that document and trim it down into bitesize, easily relatable messages and then start to engage and get input is the challenge!"*

*Neutral safe ground for meeting, or landowners and managers' own environments, meeting spaces, pubs etc are much more likely to work rather than new and different venues.*

*Frame all invites and comms to demonstrate farmers, landowners and managers are thought of as experts with deep knowledge that is crucial and hugely welcome.*

*Tag onto another event/reason people are meeting...*



*Individual target emails rather than group emails work better. Informal, zero jargon brings people in and makes it feel like a chat, rather than work*

*Make spaces for hopes, questions, worries and concerns as well as consulting with a 'we think this, do you agree' method.*

*Twilight sessions can sometimes be better timing wise.*



## What does this mean for future engagement?

### **An agile and responsive approach**

We need to be adaptive and responsive to the emerging needs of stakeholder groups. This is particularly true for farmers, landowners and the wider agriculture sector as multiple factors (place, space, time, interest) impact on their likely engagement.

#### **What does this look like in practice?**

- More informal semi-structured conversations in place of large documentation
- Emphasising that we would value their expertise and deep knowledge
- Distilling and defining the ask. What is the benefit to farmers?

### **Meet people where they're at**

This means meeting farmers and landowners where they are and allowing for more open-ended conversations to draw on rich tacit knowledge and build trust with the LNRS process.

With this, we are widening our approach to try different ways of engaging with the sector based on what we've heard so far.

#### **What does this look like in practice?**

- Bakewell Farmers Market, every Monday
- NFU Branch Meeting at the Red Lion Pub
- 1:1 calls targeting individuals across the sector
- Natural England / National Trust email lists to farmers
- Seeking other space at meetings via CLA, NFU etc.

# Summary of the NFU Branch Meeting

On Monday 13<sup>th</sup> May, colleagues from Derbyshire County Council and The Young Foundation attended a National Farmers Union (NFU) Branch Meeting at the Red Lion Pub in Hollington. Over the course of just under two hours, we had a generative conversation with the 8 farmers present.

## Attendees

- Andrew Critchlow, NFU and LNRS Steering Group member
- Tim Winder, NFU
- Farmers – mainly representing fringe farming (at the edge of urban areas):
  - Brian –Derbyshire Dales; 69 acres, farms cattle
  - John –Radbourne Area; 500 acres, arable farming, with 12,000 birds and beef
  - Ann – Ladburne Estate (tenant); 280 acres, dairy farm
  - Phillip – Kirk Langley; sheep, beef and arable crops (wheat and barley)
  - Angela – Retired farmer, but still involved giving talks etc.
  - Margaret – Duffield; mixed traditional farming, cow, sheep, grain



## What worked...

- Meeting farmers at their level, on neutral ground and joining their event helped remove barriers to participation.
- Following an informal semi-structured conversation allowed space for individuals to vent about wider issues and concerns, whilst opening the dialogue to understand the problems they are facing around balance in nature and public access to land.
- Andrew Critchlow played a crucial bridging role as a trusted representative, by inviting and welcoming us to the NFU branch meeting, introducing the LNRS, and playing 'devil's advocate' to challenge some of the initial resistance from the group.

## Learnings...

- Positioning the LNRS to get buy-in – with the possibility of shaping policy and future funding opportunities feels key with the ending of the Basic Payment Scheme.
- Challenge of continuing the conversation beyond the short 90 minutes we had together.
- The initial response to a government scheme for nature was negative, stemming from fatigue with the media pointing the finger at farmers. There is a need to be mindful of this.

# Challenges and Opportunities

The NFU farmers identified 5 key challenges and opportunities for nature recovery. These were recurring themes throughout the evening.

## Lack of payments / incentives

With the Basic Payment Scheme coming to an end, there are shared concerns around finance and the risk to livelihoods.

With nature recovery, this is reflected in the frustration around lack of payments on offer for looking after hedges and public foot paths, or wider land access. Those planting new hedges get payments but not farmers who spend time maintaining existing hedges.

Because of this finance is a major incentive for farmers who face challenges due to shift in BPS to SFI (Sustainable Finance Incentive).

## Balance in the ecosystem

A recurring theme was the need for balance in the ecosystem – that culling large populations of species to a sensible level creates balance.

This point was underpinned by the wider debate around badgers and deer, and the risks they pose to livestock through spreading TB. They also shared that they had seen an increase in honeybees and other insects as a result of the cull. It was felt that greater badger testing is needed to make this sustainable.

## Building regulations

The group highlighted the need for increased building regulations on greenfield sites to assess what wildlife exists on the site.

There have been instances of builders cordoning off badgers found on sites, which moves them on and creates turf war on farmers land – putting cattle and livestock at risk.

## Education for the public

The group expressed frustration with people in villages and towns that don't see themselves as part of nature – either using large amounts of weed killer, whilst farmers are under strict regulations; or not treating access paths with respect.

It was agreed across the group that more education for the public is needed to ensure that nature recovery and increased biodiversity is a shared pursuit – not placing the onus only on farmers.

## Access to land

A recurring theme of the conversation was the challenge of providing public access to land.

It is felt that too many people do not show respect – with farmers complaining of litter, dogs not on leads, and general noise.

It was felt that maintaining footpaths that increase wellbeing by creating access, keep the public safe and protect the land should come with benefits (e.g. payment).

Given that the group was made up of fringe farmers, close to urban areas, this was particularly relevant.

# Overview of 1:1 calls

By tapping into the existing networks from Steering Group members and recommendations from both the Supporting Authorities and ENGOs stakeholder groups, we reached out to 'warm' farmers and landowners contacts to undertake one-to-one calls.

## Karen Davies, Bagshaws, Farm Office Services – Thursday 16 May

**Engagement is key – the right offer for them;** from a farmer's perspective what are they going to get out of it, and what do they have to put into it that isn't too much labour/effort. Farmers are wary of bureaucracy so meeting them on their turf – like the NFU meeting is a massive step. DCC LNRS team coming to Bakewell market would be great, would be a real help – but consistency is key; sticking about – don't just leave if no one is around – gain trust.

End of **basic payment scheme** puts a lot of farmers in trouble. Sustainable farming is no use to a lot of farmers: those working unimproved grassland (meadows) or improved grassland (farmed grassland) have options available to them through SFI but **those working on semi-improved grasslands fall through the gaps**. What might be available to support the rich habitats there without stopping them from being farmers?

Dairy farmers must be high input grassland but that stops them from accessing a lot of funding schemes – **increasing the perception that funding is geared towards arable sector** who have greater payment options than upland farmers (where the margins are so tight).

Feeling that food production schemes are geared to reducing production – SFI had to put a cap on eligibility for food production

**Balance with species is essential:** conflict with high levels of certain species that have negative impacts – badgers, deer, corvid (crows), red kites.

Public perception / access is challenging – **lack of respect for farms** – rubbish, dogs, Duke of Edinburgh kids.

Grants are currently not fair. They need to be increased.

## Alex Cooke, Devonshire Group, Head of Natural Capital – Monday 20 May

**Everyone has a vision for what Chatsworth Estate could be** – communities locally are really supportive, but different people have different perspectives on perfectly kept lawns, access etc. Need for more education on what nature recovery means, what is needed, and how the public can support.

**Education piece is key** – to ensuring that the public know what their role is.

**Challenge of monitoring existing nature, natural resources and biodiversity.** The Devonshire Group and other landowners work across diverse landscapes – from moorland to grassland to woodland, where there is lots of opportunity for nature recovery. The challenge is in monitoring what is already there in order to benchmark any efforts to increase/improve.

**Appetite for rewilding or less well kempt approach exists** – but how to go about it is the challenge, need for consultation vs doing it and educating people. **Their estate has a plan in partnership with Peak District National Park and DCC.**

**Need for greater empathy** – “to be nicer to our neighbours” – in recognising that nature recovery is a shared effort, and that behaviour has an impact further downstream. It feels particularly important to build empathy with challenges that are not immediately present on the land, in order to change behaviour and support others. This is in light of local flooding – and the need for interventions in moorland and upland areas where the impact and appreciation is felt downstream.

# What next?

While the Preliminary Dialogue work has concluded, there is momentum in the system and the relationships formed through the early engagement are still very much live.

The final slide presents a stocktake of invites and opportunities to be actioned in the next phase of the work.

# Invites and opportunities to connect

Who?	Update / Invite / Opportunity
<b>Andrew Critchlow, NFU</b>	Has invited LNRS colleagues to NFU meeting - farm walk and social (chat and hog roast) on Monday 17th June – and has also said he'll also be at Bakewell market that day for the last time for several weeks.
<b>Bob Marsden, Natural England (via Jo Birch)</b>	Bob is running face-to-face sessions to introduce and discuss SFI payments, at Bakewell Market. I've requested dates for these and whether we could drop in, or any other meetings spaces we might be able to join. Jo was on cc and got back to me (05/06) saying Bob is best placed for this, but yet to hear from Bob. Will chase again later this week.
<b>Tina Bardill, Trent River Trust – oversees Derbyshire CaBa Agri-Advisor Group</b>	Tina facilitates the CaBa group and has all the contacts for the people who sit on that specific agriculture group. We've requested either contact information for key agriculture people, or that she shares the general 1:1 request and Calendly with them. She responded (08/06) saying that she will be in touch over the next couple of weeks. I've also asked Tina if we can book in a call to further discuss engagement.
<b>Elise Beatson, Dove Catchment</b>	White Peak Farmers are holding a farm walk at Oldfields Farm in Grindon, on Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> June, 11:30am until 2:30pm
<b>Sami Lawson – Natural England</b>	Sami has shared (11/06) email of Craig Best from the National Trust to ask to use their email list. She also shared that we are not going to be able to contact Natural England's list as it is sensitive. Has shared invite to Bakewell market via her colleague Sophie who is there on a weekly basis. Though Sophie has suggested we may want to tee up farmers that we'll be there somehow.
<b>Una Maycock and Margaret Baile, Severn Trent Water Agriculture Advisors</b>	We've been speaking on email and they said (on 30/05) they are going to share some LNRS info and a 1:1 request with their Certified Small Farm Operations (CSFO) list.
<b>Derby College of Agriculture</b>	We have been put in touch with the curriculum manager for Agriculture, and are arranging a call. What is the ask – would we want to visit college students for their input? Or do we want to speak with teachers/department?
<b>Dr Kara MacRae, Organic Farmer</b>	Introduced via Caroline, on 11/06. We have emailed to arrange a call.
<b>Claire Teeling, PhD. Director/project lead, Grow Outside</b>	Emailed The Young Foundation directly: <i>We were at a community event on Saturday and I was talking to a local landowner about the LNRS, of which he knew nothing. He's very switched on in terms of increasing biodiversity and shifting land use to be more sustainable, and is part of a local land owner alliance, although he himself faces challenges in influencing their thinking. He said he'd be happy to be linked in to the LNRS work; who or what is the best way of connecting him? I'm slightly wary of emailing his contact details to DCC and it getting lost, and for him to feel it's a fruitless line of enquiry, especially if he's able to engage with other significant land owners.</i>

# Appendix

# What is the knowledge we have?

The data used in building towards the initial LNRS was, first, informed by Government guidance specifying the approach – **Statutory Knowledge**. To develop this further DCC have drawn on extensive existing data and information – **Legacy Knowledge**. Together this has informed the ongoing development of the strategy in the form of **Emerging Knowledge**.

## Statutory Knowledge

- Step 1 Mapping work
- Government Guidance

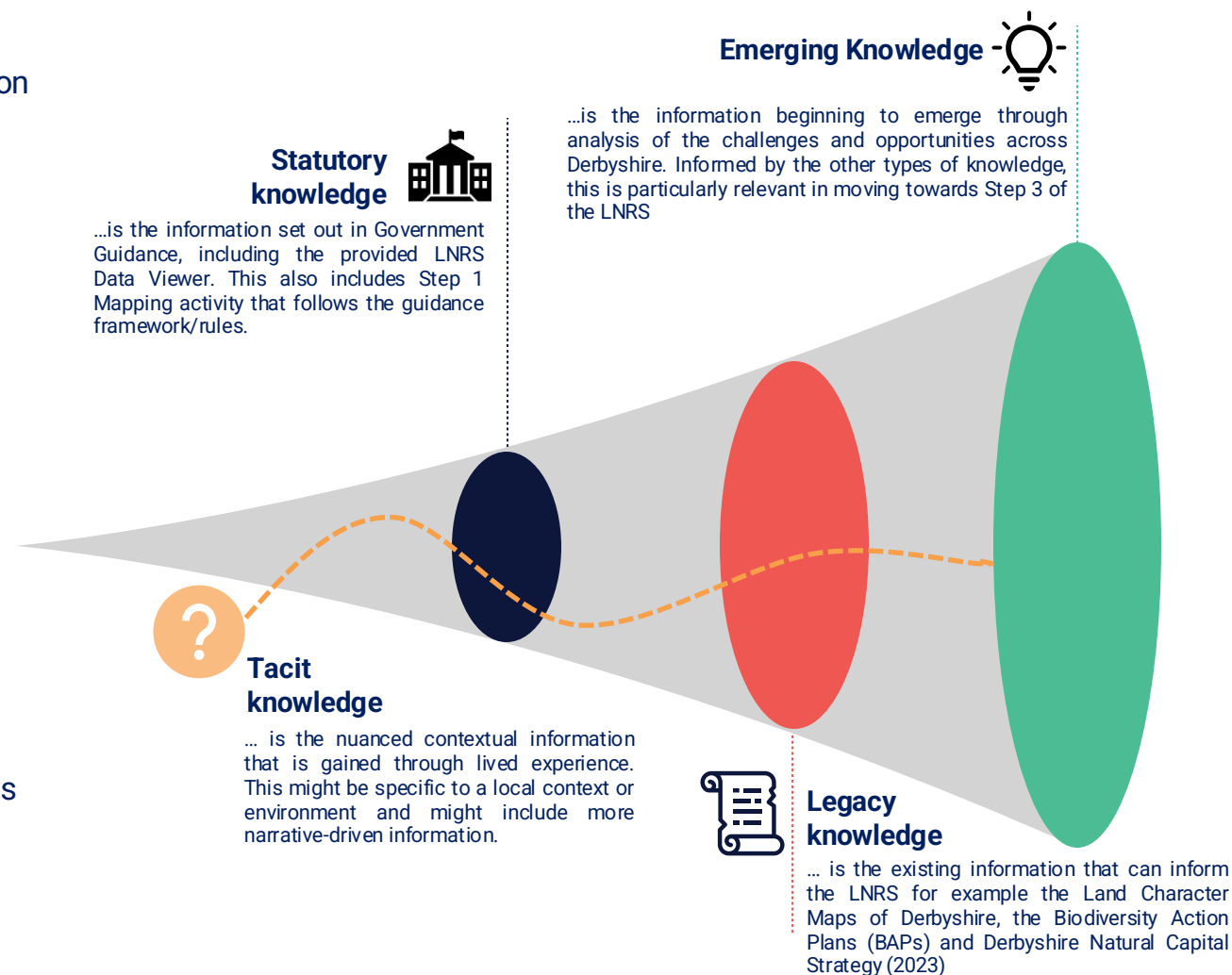
## Legacy Knowledge

- Biodiversity Action Plans (BAPs)
- Derbyshire Natural Capital Strategy (2020)
- Landscape Character Assessments in Derbyshire
- Derbyshire Mapping Portal
- SSSI Citations, Local Wildlife Site data etc.
- Nature Recovery Plans/ Plans for Nature
- And more – but what do you have?

**Tacit knowledge** – stakeholder consultation and engagement is intended to tap into the knowledge and experience of partners and stakeholders, communities, landowners

## Leading us to... Emerging Knowledge

- Description of the Strategy Area - (including National Character Area specific breakdowns)







# Why do we think it is important?

We want to develop nature recovery as part of a balanced approach:

- We need to get the right solutions in the right place. Nature recovery action will be most successful where it is targeted to the appropriate geologies, soils and environments, where it is associated with other habitats, strengthening habitat networks and connectivity
- We need to be ambitious to address the challenges ahead, understanding and reflecting the needs and priorities of stakeholders and partners from a variety of sectors
- But we also need to understand the constraints of each area, understanding and respecting the needs of other stakeholders, recognising the importance of heritage and culture, and supporting the delivery of increased ecosystem services



# You've Got Mail - Questions

# You've Got Mail! – Steering Group

## **Ambition**

How to include dynamism landscapes & natural processes?

What is the lowest hanging fruit?

Apart from biodiversity, what are the main county objectives?

## **LNRS Process**

Are there any doubts with this project?

How can we distil such a broad range of info and knowledges?

## **Tensions**

What is the priority habitat area?

## **Evaluation**

How are we measuring the effectiveness of the LNRS?

How to monitor updates and info?

## **Stakeholders**

Have we got the right people or enough of us for such a big challenge?

## **National**

How will Derbyshire approach work with other NLRS's?

## **Timing**

What is the deadline?

# You've Got Mail! – Supporting Authorities

<b>Ambition</b> What will make people come back?	<b>Evaluation</b> How will we measure outputs?	<b>Stakeholders</b>  How do we make this of value to deprived communities?  How do we engage sceptical local members?  What can planners bring to the process?  How do we harness the opinions of many stakeholders?  How often & in which format will the supporting authorities meet?
<b>Data Confidence</b> How confident does the responsible authority feel in the data used so far?	<b>LNRS Process</b> Has everyone had a look at step 1 mapping? any feedback?  Core values of LNRS for Derbyshire?  How will we add new sites and data over time?	
<b>Tensions</b> How to differentiate opportunities for nature recovery?  How are you going to address the different characteristics of the county?	<b>Timing</b> Are you confident you're going to meet the deadline?	

# You've Got Mail! – Farmers and Landowners Sector

## Ambition

How can we make farming sustainable?

## Tensions

Conflict (LNRS, Defra, ELMs)

It's part of so much change

## Policy

Is it just the latest strategy?

## Evaluation

What does good engagement look like? How will this be measured?

## Stakeholders

Do we put priorities on different stakeholder's views/inputs?

How do we move beyond usual suspects?

What is the incentive for farmers/landowners to be involved?

What can LNRS offer to farmers/landowners?

# You've Got Mail! – ENGOs and Communities

<b>Ambition</b>  How might the LNRS encourage dynamic landscapes & natural processes (across boundaries)  Improving access to blue/green spaces?	<b>LNRS Impact / Aims</b>  Will the LNRS impact/affect local planning policies?  What is the key aim of the LNRS?	<b>Stakeholders</b>  How can we maximise community engagement?  How might the LNRS support green ambitions of local communities?  How will I be able to present info to town and parish councils?  Who's not here?  How do we involve grass roots communities & citizens?  Why is this so white/middle class?  How will this be 'representative' inclusive?  Can young people factor in this and how?
<b>Data Confidence</b>  Confidence in data used so far?	<b>Tensions</b>  How do we ensure LCA is a starting point rather than a constraint?  How to manage the increase in access against the need to improve biodiversity  How do we prioritise investment opps when there is only one delivery mechanism?  Are we going to complete this in time?	
<b>LNRS Process</b>  Are there specific target locations?  How will all of the info and views be distilled into the LNRS?  When deciding on what & where, what will inform decisions?		

# Nature Café: Exploring the opportunities for each NCA



# Southern Magnesian Limestone (Character Area 30)

## LNRS Steering Group

- More on hedgerow improvement
- Heathland restoration on Sandy ?

## LNRS Supporting Authorities

- Pockets of deprivation increasing access to nature - community organising approaches.
- Opps around landfill (funding for communities affected e.g. Poolsbrook)
- Expand on more opps for farmers + landowners - could mention ELMS, other schemes and funding

## ENGOS and Community

- "What we've got is what we should do more of" - NCA is dictating and constraining

**Southern Magnesian Limestone (Character Area 30)**

The Southern Magnesian Limestone covers an area of 5,026ha.

The Southern Magnesian Limestone area is a gently rolling plateau dominated by mature oak valley and moor grassland. The landscape is characterised by large stable fields, enclosed by predominantly low hedgerows. An open landscape on a broad scale. A ridge in the northeast of the county as a narrow belt of elevated land, approximately 10km wide by 20km in length, running between Featherstone in the north to Huddersfield and Threlkley in the south. The Magnesian limestone geology weathers to form a light, grey, karstic, feature rich which supports intensive arable farming.

**Land use Mapping and Habitat Distribution**

- **Cropland** - 65% of total land coverage. The clay, fertile soils and gently undulating nature has encouraged arable farming to be the dominant land, mostly cereal cropping.
- **Grassland** - 27% of total land coverage although this is dominated by intensively managed grassland.
- **Woodland and forest** - 1% of the area, there are relatively few but they are very large in size.
- **Heathland and moor** - almost exclusively by the hedgerow that enclose the areas landscape.
- **Water**
- **Waterways regulated land** - 1% of the area, relating to the five large limestone quarries of Bradford, Ilkley and Ilkley.
- **Rivers and lakes** - water is not a prominent feature of this five large limestone plateau, confined to the low adjacent streams.
- **Urban** - large, expanded settlements are becoming an ever increasing feature of the limestone plateau and now comprise 8% of total land coverage.

**Land use pressures, constraints and other factors affecting nature recovery**

The deep, fertile soils and landscapes of this area have led to widespread intensive farming, which has left little space for nature. Coal mining facilitated the growth of the settlements in this area and continued land for collieries and coal processing, further expanding nature into ever smaller areas, although some of these former colliery areas and industrial sites have since been restored to nature conservation sites.

Given the productive nature of the farmland in this area and the current focus on domestic food production and food security, it would seem likely that the competition for intensive arable farming in this area will persist. Similarly, the continued need for housing will likely mean ongoing pressure for the settlements throughout this area to grow and expand, encroaching habitat fragmentation and potentially impacting directly on biodiversity.

However, the new statutory requirement that development should deliver a 'net gain' for biodiversity could offer a mechanism for investment in biodiversity in this part of the county, particularly given the requirement that biodiversity offsetting should be delivered close to the development site or within the NCA in which the development impact occurred. There will also be a need to provide enhanced access to green open spaces, both to address current shortfalls for existing populations, and to meet the needs of new residents, and this could be achieved through the delivery of well-planned green infrastructure.

**Potential opportunities for nature recovery across the Southern Magnesian Limestone**

- **Maintain, restore, enhance, and expand key habitats in this area** - this should focus on calcareous grasslands and deciduous woodlands, as well as improving protected ancient woodland sites. This should include opportunities to create where appropriate.
- **Ecological connectivity** - improving ecological connectivity through the farmland landscape, by restoring the hedgerow network and enhancing biodiversity through landscape and highway design.
- **Protected sites** - conservation measures to improve the value of the farmland landscape for bird species, targeting characteristic and threatened bird species previously more common in this area.

**Key sites for nature:** 11% of the area is protected by international, national and local designations.

# Needwood and South Derbyshire Claylands (Character Area 68)

## LNRS Steering Group

- Hedgerow trees
- Minerals noted as a pressure but not in the landscape map - % would be useful
- Is agroforestry a potential opportunity? Cropland is dominant land use, and it already says tree expansion is a necessity.

## LNRS Supporting Authorities

- Include more "how" e.g. work with farmers, landowners, NHOs, communities
- Agricultural support - trials, innovation, champions & green finance support. Recognising opps lie largely with farmers/landowners

## ENGOS and Community

- Area could benefit from more woodland to connect up habitats

**Needwood and South Derbyshire Claylands (Character Area 68)**

The South Derbyshire Claylands covers an area of 3,043ha.

This is a well settled area of gently undulating rolling pastoral landscape with mature woodlands, meadows and local hills to the west of Derby that stretch beyond the county boundary into Staffordshire.

**Land use Mapping and Habitat Distribution**

- **Cropland** - arable farming is becoming an increasingly more prominent landscape 45%, whilst over half of this land, due to cereal cropping, the remainder is associated with intensively managed grass and clover leys.
- **Grassland** - 24% of the land coverage. This category is improved and modified pasture, and a total of 10% is recorded as natural grassland.
- **Woodland and forest** - recorded only comprises 4% of total land coverage.
- **Rivers and lakes** - water is not a prominent feature of this area comprising 1% of land coverage and confined to the tributary streams that flow into the River Dove.
- **Urban** - the South Derbyshire Claylands is a gently settled area of small villages, hamlets and scattered farmsteads, ensuring it retains a deeply rural character. Although the area has 9% urban land coverage this significantly under-represents the extent of built-up areas.

**Land use pressures, constraints and other factors affecting nature recovery**

Disturbance of Derby City, large parts of this area are generally characterised by low levels of urbanisation, with settlements generally consisting of small, scattered villages. Indeed, Derby City, this area has been largely settled in the middle ages than that are today. It would seem unlikely that these areas will face significant urban growth pressures, as is understood that Derby City is likely to be in a generally southerly, rather than westerly direction. Locally however, increased urbanisation may continue to exert a development pressure.

The comparatively productive farmland in this area is likely to result in continuing pressure for agricultural production, and likely agricultural intensification. Agricultural land in this area may previously identified as predominantly pastoral, although there is evidence of areas where growth in arable farming has taken place. This indicates that the well continues where soils and landforms allow. Agricultural intensification could impact on existing mature hedgerows and lead to the longer term loss of associated hedgerow trees, undermining the apparent broad character of this area.

**Potential opportunities for nature recovery in Needwood and South Derbyshire Claylands**

- **Maintain, restore, enhance, and expand key habitats in this area** - this should focus on protecting and restoring wood pasture and parkland, as well as wetland and natural and grasslands where these occur.
- **Enhancing the resilience of the managed network** - ecological assets in this area are generally both small and isolated - restoration could be improved by creating and enhancing links and improving connectivity between them.
- **Tree and woodland expansion** - although woodlands are not especially common in this NCA, locally, woodlands can be important and contribute to a well wooded landscape. The area would benefit from the incorporation of existing hedgerow trees and the planting of replacement, supported by some additional woodland planting to appropriate areas.
- **Increased biodiversity in the farmland landscape** - focusing on biodiversity improvement in less productive areas. Intention of improved grasslands to species rich meadows, and the protection of and re-vegetation of the hedgerow network. Measures which improve the potential for the farmland landscape to recover where broad-scale is supported.

**Key sites for nature:** 1% of the area is protected by international, national and local designations.

# South-West Peak (Character Area 53)

## LNRS Steering Group

- Make pie chart bigger & remove some text and bullets
- Remove 'protection, conservation & enhancement'

## LNRS Supporting Authorities

- Reference to specific species initiatives is good as provides a focus (indicator species?)

## ENGOS and Community

- I think the quality of the habitats is more important than the type? Where can we make the most difference/impact?

**South-West Peak (Character Area 53)**

The South-West Peak covers 6,700ha in Dorsetshire.

The South-West Peak is an area of varied and associated habitats in south-west Dorsetshire, centred in character on the Dark Peak, with a large part within the administrative boundaries of the Peak District National Park. In Dorsetshire, the landscape comprises a variety of rural areas to the east and west of Dorset, surrounding the Stone Valley and extending as far north as White Bay where it meets the Dark Peak.

**Land use Mapping and Habitat Distribution**

- **Woodland** - comprises 20% of the South-West Peak area, important for blanket bog with cotton grass and patches of heather, bilberry, and crowberry.
- **Heathland and ash** - covering 11% of the area - on shallow peat and thin mineral soils, dominated by a mixture of dwarf shrubs including heather and bilberry.
- **Grassland** - the predominant land use covering 30%, and comprising arable, meadow, and wet grassland. Existing meadows support a range of grasses with creeping, creeping, giant brome, and red fescue.
- **England** - 17% of the landscape primarily related to improved grasses with clover swards, supporting livestock farming. Crop production is largely constrained by the topography and soils.
- **Woodland and heath** - associated with the lower valley slopes of the enclosed farmland, sometimes extending along watercourses and into moorland fens, including Shroton's Clough and Stone Clough.
- **Rivers and streams** - many glacial streams with rocky beds. Large watercourses such as Eggleston and Cripps are often associated with marshes around river streams.

**Land use pressures, constraints and other factors affecting nature recovery**

A significant proportion of land within the South-West Peak in Dorsetshire - and particularly the majority of the designated sites and important habitats - is located within the Peak District National Park.

Within this area, the National Park Directorate will have helped control urban growth and expanded the services of recreation and tranquility, although this entire NCA in Dorsetshire is generally sparsely settled, except in the vicinity of Bokerly. However, this does not mean that the South-West Peak is without some pressure for change, primarily through broader climatic effects, agricultural intensification, tourism and recreational demand, and the localized effects of urban growth around Bokerly.

**Potential opportunities for nature recovery in the South-West Peak**

- **Protection, conservation and enhancement of existing high and associated habitats** - focusing on improving the condition of the existing resources to ensure functioning and species diversity within long habitats that store carbon, reduce flood risk, and improve water quality.
- **Protection, conservation, and enhancement of natural wet and dry habitats** - improving the condition and function of existing ones, and creating opportunities for expansion where conditions allow. Aim to realise the wider environmental benefits associated with wetlands, including carbon and storage of carbon and improvements in flood risk.
- **Grasslands** - Protection and enhancement of permanent grassland, and the conservation, restoration, and enhancement of other grasslands, including wetlands, heath and lowland grasslands. The objective is to deliver natural resources of grasslands diverse locally appropriate, functional and biodiversity rich grassland that support pollinators and other invertebrates, as well as to provide improved and better-connected habitats for farmland birds, including raptors, lapwings, and other.
- **Rivers, streams, and wetlands** - Naturally functioning and resilient water environments and their catchments, leading to aid for the benefits of climate change and reduce the risk of flooding, and provide habitat rich with water plants and animals such as water voles, water and willow. Land management decisions within the catchment should seek to deliver downstream improvements in water quality and natural flood management benefits.
- **Restoring lost habitats** - focusing on restoring and restoring populations of **valley breeding bird species** (black grouse, heath, red goshawk, golden plover, and others), **birds of prey**, and **river birds** such as dipper, grey heron, and common gull.
- **Species recovery** - identify further opportunities for species recovery, including the potential to expand white-throated dippers, to support the recovery of higher plants, bilberry and heather, as well as meadow and wetland invertebrates.

**Key Sites for Nature:** 40% of the area is protected by international, national, and local designations.

# Mease/Sence Lowlands (Character Area 72)

## LNRS Steering Group

- Key criteria to compare - less text. Top trumps style. More bullets and headlines
- traffic light approach
- Repetition between land use mapping & land use pressures sections - reduce this

## LNRS Supporting Authorities

- Refer to a few place names to help understand locality - most won't know NCS names
- As 59% of total land coverage is farming, this should be expanded (what opps in addition to hedgerow creation?)
- Very technical language and format difficult to follow

## ENGOS and Community

- Agree with woodland planning to bolster woodland resource.
- Opportunity to connect woodlands across the middle of the NCA

**Mease/Sence Lowlands (Character Area 72)**

The Mease/Sence Lowlands covers an area of 6,500ha within Dorsetshire.

The area lies at the southernmost limit of Dorsetshire, being bounded to the east by the River Stour and to the north and east by the South Dorsetshire Coalfield. It is an area of lowland agricultural land, with a high proportion of grassland, and a high proportion of grassland. The area is a mix of lowland agricultural land, with a high proportion of grassland, and a high proportion of grassland.

**Land use Mapping and Habitat Distribution**

- **Grassland** - with the generally brown earths subject to some seasonal waterlogging but the gently rolling nature of the landform allows for agricultural improvements across that avoids farming in low demand land, comprising 59% of total land coverage. Within this landform 7% is arable cropping.
- **Woodland** - 17% of the area and half of this relates to improved and modified grassland.
- **Woodland and heath** - 15% of total coverage dominated by trees, recent planting predominates as part of the National Forest estate.
- **Woodland and ash** - relates exclusively to hedgerows that enclose this mixed arable farmland.
- **Rivers and lakes** - open water is not a prominent feature of this landscape but it occurs and particularly along the river Mease forming the county boundary it is important for a range of aquatic plants, animals and fish water birds.
- **Urban** - 5% is urban, consisting of small, evenly distributed, nucleated villages with occasional scattered farmsteads and country houses, but overall retaining a rural character.

**Land use pressures, constraints and other factors affecting nature recovery**

As a largely rural, sparsely settled NCA, this area has previously experienced limited urban growth, and this lack of development pressure is likely to continue in the future. The obvious exception to this has been the development of the Eggleston power station site, although this sort of large scale development is unlikely to be repeated in this area in the future, given the absence of previously developed land here to come forward for redevelopment. Great care is being taken to ensure that housing growth within South Dorsetshire District does not affect water quality within the River Mease SAC.

Arable farming and agricultural intensification have already affected some parts of the hedgerow network, although it is unclear whether this deterioration is continuing.

The National Forest initiative has been effective in promoting new woodland planting in this area, as well as providing new recreational and outdoor opportunities, most notably at the Recreation Family Centre.

**Potential opportunities for nature recovery in the Mease/Sence Lowlands**

- **Woodland** - This area has the most suitable potential woodland expansion in this part of the county. The focus should be on protecting and restoring the existing woodland, and creating new woodland wherever possible. This should include the restoration of lost woodland, and the creation of new woodland. Effort should also be made to create new woodland wherever possible, and to create new woodland wherever possible. This should include the restoration of lost woodland, and the creation of new woodland.
- **Woodland** - New woodland planting has followed the previous woodland recovery, and further woodland planting could continue this trend. Management of existing woodland should be improved to ensure they are in good condition and can contribute to the function of the woodland network.
- **Hedgerow network** - although parts of the hedgerow network remain intact, particularly around the centre of the NCA, effort should be made to restore and recreate hedgerows including hedgerow trees outside of the area, where they have been adversely affected by agricultural intensification. This would help provide connectivity between woodlands in the Mease river new woodland planting by linking new areas of productive agricultural land.

**Key Sites for Nature:** 25% of the area is protected by international, national and local designations.

# Nottingham, Derbyshire & Yorkshire Coalfield (Character Area 38)

## LNRS Steering Group

- Connecting people with nature opportunities
- Cross boundary opportunities
- Links to Notts woodland & east-west connections
- Pollution & contamination water quality NFM etc - try not to categoris opportunities
- Social impact of restoration
- What will happen to the farmers with land use charges?
- Focus on processes & objectives rather than habitat types
- Land use proportions

## LNRS Supporting Authorities

- Brownfields open mosaic sites - pockets of nature 'stepping stones' within urban areas
- Chesterfield canal - both in terms of water body enviro + as a key network route connections area of habitat
- Land in green belt presents an opp due to its restraint of built development
- Natural flood management opps - Hipper & Chatsworth road corridor
- Riparian buffers making space for water
- Community involvement + education in deprived areas

## ENGOS and Community

- Local landmarks - maybe reference approx. along M1 throughout the county
- Railside work
- Use of trees/woodland to use as flood protection along rivers
- Erewash canal - towpaths, hedgerows

**Nottingham, Derbyshire & Yorkshire Coalfield (Character Area 38)**

The Nottingham, Derbyshire & Yorkshire Coalfield covers an area of 400km<sup>2</sup> within Yorkshire. The area is strongly influenced by its underlying coal geology comprising alternating bands of sandstone, shale, mudstone, and coal, collectively referred to as Coal Measures.

**Land use Mapping and Habitat Distribution**

- **Openland** - 40% of the area is a mix of openland with 4% low coverage. Within this land use just over 80% is central cross with the remainder intensive grass leys supporting livestock farming as part of a mixed agricultural system.
- **Openland** - 38% of the area but the history and industrial legacy of the coalfield has resulted in some of the lowest amounts of planting planted in the county.
- **Woodland and forest** - 9% of the area and is a combination of Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland, secondary woodland, and more recent plantation woodland created through the reclamation of former colliery sites.
- **Meadow and shrub** - mainly the many hedgerows that enclose farmland with scattered patches of scrub often found on benches or neglected land in areas where the field enclosure has been modified due to mining. Hedgerows are often missing or fragmented.
- **Rivers and lakes** - there are three notable rivers within the area: the rivers Rother and Don in the north flowing through Chesterfield, and the river Erewash in the south.
- **Lakes** - 1% of the area, down to both post-mining, but also more recent development delivered through regeneration schemes to bring employment following the closure of the coal mines.

**Land use pressures, constraints and other factors affecting nature (2020/21)**

Nature in this area has historically been under pressure from: dense population and industry, although its industrial past has also shaped current habitats. Today it faces pressures from housing and industrial development.

The eastern side of the county along the Nottinghamshire border has traditionally been the focus of much settlement and urbanisation associated with mining and industrial growth, and the Derbyshire Coalfield NCA continues to be one of the most urbanised and populous areas of the county. With a continued national focus on the delivery of new housing, there will be further pressure for the settlements throughout this area to grow and expand, exacerbating existing fragmentation and potentially impacting directly on biodiversity. Conversely, the new statutory requirement that development should deliver a 'net gain' for biodiversity could offer a mechanism for investment in biodiversity in this part of the county, particularly given the importance that biodiversity offsetting should be delivered near the development site, or within the NCA in which the development impact occurred.

Whilst farming will remain an important sector for landowners, it's limited profitability in this area will facilitate land-use change - whether for residential development, energy generation (particularly large scale solar), or more for the delivery of biodiversity and ecosystem services.

Transport corridors are also a consideration in the area, with the M1, A26, A610, A61 and A517 just some of the more major routes through the NCA, and with railway lines adding to the picture running from both Nottingham and Derby to Chesterfield and onwards to Sheffield. Proposals for H2 would also have impacted significantly in this area, highlighting the importance of this corridor for generally low lying and gently sloping habitats for north-south transport links.

**Potential opportunities for nature recovery in Nottingham, Derbyshire & Yorkshire Coalfield**

- **Rivers, river meadows and oaks** - The river corridors are especially important for connectivity in this NCA. The Rother, Rother and Don in the north of this area are important environmental assets and corridors, but to date the river is greatly restricted by the presence of adjacent urban habitats, historic areas of peatling meadows and other construction habitats, which collectively restrict a river's natural habitat types and important services. Connectivity along these corridors could however be improved through management of the intervening land and the creation of additional wetlands.
- **Woodlands** - although ancient woodlands in broadly scattered across the NCA, woodlands generally are a fragmented and scattered resource. Further woodland creation could be encouraged, including new woodland in some parts of the area, and would help to increase the woodland resource and woodland connectivity in the area.
- **Bank-side management** - This is a largely urbanised area with villages and towns dispersed throughout. Despite the presence of a significant number of local wetlands, oaks and an almost average number of local Nature Reserves, many communities across the area are poorly connected with accessible semi-natural green spaces. Such spaces could make a significant contribution to the health and wellbeing of these communities, as well as help to reduce drainage following the effects of climate change and increased flood risk. Investment in such spaces could also help to improve the amenity and health of communities, as well as provide an opportunity to increase the resilience of the area to climate change and green infrastructure deficits. Biodiversity that has been lost could be used to secure environmental environments in this area, especially in the adjacent areas of high biodiversity potential.
- **Peatlands** - peatlands are generally lower quality peatlands with grade 2, with traditional grade 1 and 3 peatlands predominantly in the area. However, peatlands in this area are still in relatively good condition on the land, but could also contribute significantly to environmental improvement, improving water quality by reducing agricultural runoff, or by providing improved carbon sequestration. Nature-based solutions could be further by nurturing the benefits provided, improving the environment while also supporting farming within this area to remain viable, providing alternative income streams and providing nearby communities.

**Key Sites for Nature: 6% of the area is protected by international, national and local designations**

# Derbyshire Peak Fringe & Lower Derwent (Character Area 50)

## LNRS Steering Group

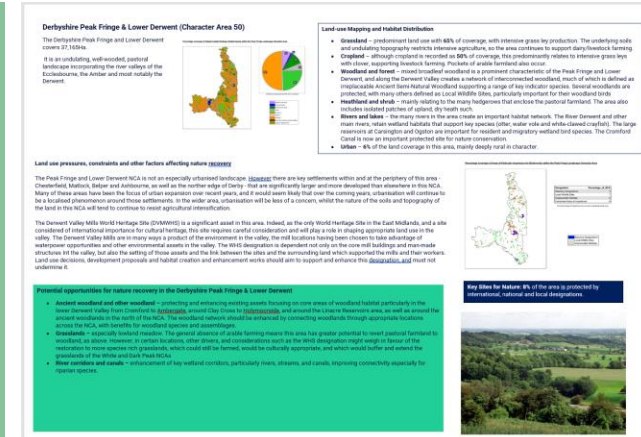
- Assuming that the low carbon percentage is because it doesn't include Derby
- Agree about the development pressures in this area
- Map too small - what are designations for and why designated?
- Opportunities - names based solutions?
- More focus on nature context (urbanisation & heritage / landscape very heavy as focus area)
- Connectivity

## LNRS Supporting Authorities

- Any opportunities arising within urban areas?
- Possible conflict between woodland creation & imposing views in WHS.
- No mention of cropland opportunities. The area is 50% of land coverage.

## ENGOS and Community

- What orgs are present in the area that we can involve?
- Maps of quality - based on what criteria?
- Can we link to local wildlife sites?
- What are people currently doing?



**Derbyshire Peak Fringe & Lower Derwent (Character Area 50)**

The Derbyshire Peak Fringe and Lower Derwent covers 27,126ha. It is an undulating, well-wooded, pastoral landscape incorporating the river valleys of the Ecclesbourne, the Amber and most notably the Derwent.

**Land use mapping and habitat distribution**

- **Grassland** - predominant land use with 48% of coverage, with extensive grass ley production. The underlying soils and undulating topography restricts extensive agriculture, so the area continues to support dairy livestock farming.
- **Cropland** - although reported to account for 26% of coverage, this predominantly relates to extensive grass ley.
- **Woodland** - supporting broadleaf forests, the area is a rich natural asset.
- **Woodland and forest** - mixed broadleaf woodland is a prominent characteristic of the Peak Fringe and Lower Derwent, including the Derwent Valley which is a network of interconnected woodlands, much of which is defined as important Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland supporting a range of key indicator species. Several woodlands are protected with many others defined as Local Wildlife Sites, particularly important for their woodland birds.
- **Woodland and shrub** - mainly relating to the main hedgerows that enclose the pastoral farmland. The area also includes isolated patches of arable and heath.
- **Rivers and lakes** - the many rivers in the area create an important habitat network. The River Derwent and other main rivers, which are well-wooded, that support key species like water voles and white-clawed crayfish. The large reservoirs at Cragg and Ogton are important for resident and migratory wetland species. The Cranford Canal is now an important protected site for nature conservation.
- **Urban** - 6% of the land coverage in this area, mainly deep rural in character.

**Land use pressures, constraints and other factors affecting nature systems**


The Peak Fringe and Lower Derwent NCA is not an especially enhanced landscape. It is a rural landscape with a mix of settlements within and at the periphery of this area. Over the last 20 years, there has been a significant loss of agricultural land to urban development, particularly in the Amber and Ecclesbourne valleys. Many of these areas have been the focus of urban expansion over recent years, and it would seem likely that over the coming years, urbanisation will continue to be a significant constraint on nature systems. In the wider area, urbanisation will be less of a concern, while the nature of the soils and topography of the land in the NCA will tend to continue to limit agricultural intensification.

The Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site (WHS) is a significant asset in this area, located on the only World Heritage Site in the East Midlands, and a site considered of international importance for cultural heritage. This site requires careful consideration and will play a role in shaping appropriate land uses in the valley. The Derwent valley mills are in many ways a product of the environment in the valley, the mill locations having been chosen to take advantage of waterpower opportunities and other environmental assets in the valley. The WHS designation is dependent not only on the core mill buildings and man-made structures in the valley, but also the setting of these assets and the link between the sites and the surrounding landscape which supported the mills and their workers. Land use decisions, development proposals and habitat creation and enhancement works should aim to support and enhance this setting.

**Potential opportunities for nature recovery in the Derbyshire Peak Fringe & Lower Derwent**

- **Woodland and other woodland** - protecting and enhancing existing woodlands, creating new areas of woodland habitat particularly in the lower Derwent valley from Cressford to Darkeholme, around Clay Cross to Darkeholme and around the Lower Reservoirs area, as well as around the Amber Reservoirs in the north of the NCA. The woodland network should be enhanced by connecting woodlands through appropriate corridors.
- **Woodland** - especially broadleaf woodland. The general absence of public footpaths means this area has greater potential to meet national targets for woodland, as shown. However, in certain locations, other sites, and considerations such as the WHS designation might weigh in favour of the restoration to more open rural grasslands, which could still be farmed, would be relatively easy to manage, and would benefit and restore the grasslands of the White and Dark Peak NCAs.
- **River corridors and water** - enhancement of key wetland corridors, particularly rivers, streams, and canals, improving connectivity especially for riparian species.

**Key Sites for Nature 6% of the area is protected by international, national and local designations**



# Dark Peak (Character Area 51)

## LNRS Steering Group

- Should we include other stationary designations that impact nature recovery delivery? Such as locations of scheduled ancient monuments -lots of these in the Dark Peak.
- Role of wider landscapes
- Addressing low bird of prey populations
- Knotty issue of legal predator control needs considering
- Additional tree & shrub cover but not limited to woodland.
- Land management issues
- Clarity on joint approach
- Recognition of value & potential beyond boundaries of NCA
- Linking this to other NCAs

## LNRS Supporting Authorities

- Areas/towns outside PDNP eg. parts of high peak are not sparsely settled.
- Maps & graphs difficult to interpret
- Eco tourism potential?
- More defined paths across moor lands to reduce erosion
- Improving quality of green space locally to avoid as much "driving out"
- High peak areas nature groups can help deliver more locally - focus on community projects
- Supporting coordinated efforts, especially in comms to the public
- Reference needed to key stakeholders inc landowners/farmers, PDNPA etc
- Glossop and other towns provide good opps for urban greening & enabling connectivity corridors
- Reference to peak district nature recovery plan
- Mixing strategic, tactical and local opportunities better to theme.

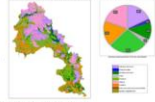

## ENGOS and Community

- What are the most important habitats in the area?
- Protected sites doesn't mean they are in good condition
- What quick wins are there?
- There is significant nature recovery underway though partnership working to link into

**Dark Peak (Character Area 51)**

The Dark Peak covers a total area of 81,500ha in Derbyshire.

It is a specially selected area of primeval uplands that extends over a large part of north-west Derbyshire and south of the administrative boundaries of the Peak District National Park. In Derbyshire, the Dark Peak extends from Glossop and New Mills in the north and east, to the edge of the Chatsworth estate in the west, and as far south as Matlock.

**Land use Mapping and Habitat Distribution**

- **Grassland** - 27% of the area, the predominant land use including acidic, coastal and wet grassland
- **Woodland** - 25% of land coverage, comprises of blanket bog in deep gullies
- **Heathland and scrub** - covering 18% of the area, on lower moorland summits and slopes, where the lower moor vegetation has been removed or grazed
- **Congested** - 17% of the area - intensive crop production is largely constrained by the topography and soil
- **Woodland and forest** - 15% of the area including ancient woodland
- **Rivers and streams** - including the River Don and the Erewash, large reservoirs of the Derwent Valley and Loughborough and fast flowing streams of upland catchment

**Land use pressures, constraints and other factors affecting nature recovery**


Much of the Dark Peak - and particularly the integrity of the designated sites and important habitats - is located within the Peak District National Park. Within the area, the National Park designation has largely prevented the area from large scale developmental change seen in other parts of the county, helping maintain a sense of remoteness and tranquillity.

However, this does not mean that the Dark Peak habitats and species are without some pressures for change, generally through broader climatic effects, agriculture intensification, tourism and recreational demand and the localized effects of spreading issues such as heave and drainage. Some habitats within the area (SSSIs) have also been impacted by past industrial legacy and other expansion.

**Potential opportunities for nature recovery in the Dark Peak**

- **Protection, conservation and enhancement of Dark Peak and associated habitats** - focussing on improving the condition of the existing reserves to ensure functioning and species driven upland landscapes that store carbon, reduce flood risk, and improve water quality
- **Protection, conservation, and enhancement of upland heath** - improving the condition and function of existing sites, and seeking opportunities for expansion where conditions allow. Seek to maximise the wider environmental benefits associated with heathland, including carbon storage and regulation of flooding
- **Ancient woodland and other broadleaved woodland** - the protection, conservation and enhancement of existing ancient semi-natural woodland sites, and the restoration of potential ancient woodland sites, to ensure that historic and largely abandoned woodland becomes an appropriate location, taking account of cultural, recreational and economic. Woodland action should facilitate nature recovery as well as wider environmental benefits to capture and store carbon, improve flood risk and provide better connected habitat for woodland birds, invertebrates, reptiles, and small mammals
- **Openlands** - Protection and enhancement of unimproved grassland, and the restoration, reinvention, and enhancement of other grasslands, focussing on public access and wet grassland as conditions allow. The objective is to deliver robust networks of structurally diverse, locally appropriate, functional and biodiversity rich grassland that support predators and other specialists, as well as provide improved and better connected habitats for heathland birds, including curlew, lapwing, and ring-necked pheasant
- **Rivers, streams, and reservoirs** - Naturally functioning and resilient water environments and river catchments, helping to adapt to the impacts of climate change and reduce the risk of flooding and ground failure on both riparian plants and animals such as otter, water vole, and trout. Local management decisions within the catchment should seek to deliver downstream improvements in water quality and enhance flood management benefits.

**Key Sites for Nature: 42% of the area protected by international, national, and local designations**



# White Peak (Character Area 52)

## LNRS Steering Group

- Protected species recovery pilot is ongoing
- More visuals needed
- Dewpond restoration
- Need consistent approach across the LCAs to define grassland & cropland
- Connecting shelter belts is necessary to enhance the ecological connectivity of the landscape

## LNRS Supporting Authorities

- Buffering, expanding the dales - plateau borders
- Supporting innovation, trials & nature champions, namely in sustainable farming
- Opening opps to mosaics/dynamic landscapes e.g. wood pasture
- Green finance support for farmers e.g. hosting a shared learning group
- Lots of similarities between green boxes - perhaps to assist with context could reference some larger nature sites

## ENGOS and Community

- Support target to protect ancient woodland. Key is ensuring any unmapped AW/irreplaceable habitats are picked up and protected
- Calcareous Heath recovery - how can the 1% be linked up?
- Need bigger maps within Derbyshire

**White Peak (Character Area 52)**

The White Peak covers 291,100 ha in Derbyshire. An upland landscape comprising a mixture of plateaus and dales.

**Land use Mapping and Habitat Distribution**

- Grassland** - maintains the predominant land use, combined with extensive grass for production comprising 46% of the land coverage. Agriculturally productive pastures on rich heavy soils predominate, although limited number of these rich high moorlands remain in place.
- Cropland** - 40% of cropland primarily relates to extensive grass leys with clover, supporting livestock farming. Intensive crop production is not characteristic of the landscape.
- Woodland and Forest** - Semi-natural softwooded, much of it ancient, is a localized habitat which defines extensive areas of open slopes. These habitats are ecologically important and recognized through a range of international and national designations.
- Water** - villages contribute 4% of land coverage, with buildings constructed from the local limestone.
- Openly Vegetated Land** - large scale quarrying occurs at discrete locations across the limestone plateau. Quarrying occurred since the 17th century for lime production, but later for aggregate and cement production.
- Heathland and shrub** - although only covering 1% of the total land area, these small areas of upland heath are a relic of a once more widespread habitat type across the limestone plateau particularly on higher land, as these more elevated areas climate favours the development of heath soils with eroded drainage.

**Land use pressures, constraints and other factors affecting nature recovery**

Although there are villages scattered across the White Peak area - and indeed this area also contains or abuts some larger settlements and towns such as Matlock, Wirksworth, Belper and Buxton - this NCA is generally rural in character. Furthermore, much of the White Peak NCA falls within the Peak District National Park and the designation has helped control urban growth and maintained the rural nature of the area. Across the NCA, there is a need to ensure that development pressure and generally continue to be relatively low. Though potentially higher outside the Peak Park around Buxton, Matlock and Wirksworth. The road network - including relatively major roads such as the A415, A421 and A423 - is a visible pressure on the extensive rural landscape. The National Park designation, and the underlying reasons for that designation, will continue to be a key consideration in the NCA, raising development and promoting rural and pastoral land uses, especially where they strengthen the character, amenity of the area, and support the national park objectives.

The White Peak NCA comprises a low-mountainous number of 200m - adjacent hills of the Derbyshire fells within the area. It is notable however that many of these sites fall within the same broad dale, where the limestone and topography have created a cultural environment allowing these habitats to persist. This is in contrast to the majority of the NCA, where more agricultural landforms and deeper soils have allowed agricultural improvement and intensification, leading to the reduction of many valuable habitat types. Nevertheless, there are some notable examples of moorland 200m fells and a significant number of volcanic gullings, LPS sites and the plateau that host all what the ecological value of this area might have been before, or perhaps could be again. It is likely that the remaining species-rich grasslands will continue to persist thanks to stability pressures and/or their location in landscapes that will resist agricultural improvement, whereas across the majority of the rest of the area, farming and agricultural intensification have eroded and are well-irreversible sites. There are however numerous factors that could support the re-establishment of more species-rich grasslands across the area, which would greatly assist in buffering, restoring and connecting between existing high quality grassland sites, and deliver habitats that would contribute strongly to the character of the area. The presence of open and heathland features would be critical in enabling this transition, provided this could be made financially viable.

**Potential opportunities for nature recovery in the White Peak**

- Protection, conservation and enhancement of existing high-quality sites** - focusing on the extensive 200m fells and the habitats and species they support. The key objective would be to ensure these sites are in optimal condition to become the cornerstone of nature recovery across the landscape. Land adjacent to these designated areas would be a focus for habitat creation and enhancement to extend buffer and connective sites.
- Recreation** - creation of publicly accessible sites. These are predominantly intensively managed and specific past. Large scale restoration or conversion of these grasslands to open 100 meadows would provide recreational ecological gains, promoting biodiversity at the landscape scale and buffering and recovering rare sites. The conversion of grasslands to more species-rich grassland types would require a lengthy process and deliberate change, and one that would be appropriate to - and beneficial to - the landscape, preserving and enhancing the character and environment.
- Restoration** - the restoration potential for new areas would be based on protecting, restoring, and enhancing open moorland sites in the dale systems and ensuring they are able to meet the objectives of Great Grassland Sites, with a focus on soil to stimulate change. Wholesale afforestation will likely be inappropriate in the cultural context. Carefully targeted plantation should be supported where appropriate in the cultural landscape.
- Wildlife** - the White Peak NCA is suitable for the opportunity of great natural areas, and of wildlife, present in the area, although these species are often very localized in their distribution. Targeted habitat creation and enhancement should be used to buffer and address existing sites and areas of wildlife habitat, such as increase habitat connectivity between areas and across the NCA. Wetland habitat protection and enhancement could also be used to support the restoration and recovery of any systems such as fish ponds that have been a progressively, water ways, and white-water courses.
- Habitat and landscape links** - restoration and enhancement of farmland to provide enhanced habitats for the species, and links to a continued setting.

**Key Sites for Nature 100** - the sites protected by international, national and local designations.

# Melbourne Parklands (Character Area 70)

## LNRS Steering Group

- Legend difficult to read (green)
- Land use pressure/constraints could be bulleted for speed
- Examples of the negative change in the land use, pressure and constraints.
- Seven Trent and national trust in their large land holdings in this area - job of the land is protected (though not designated). Should STW be on the steering group?

**Melbourne Parklands (Character Area 70)**

The Melbourne Parklands covers an area of 7,800ha.

The Melbourne Parklands is an outstanding mixed farming landscape on the southern side of the Trent with some lowland landscape parks, and estate plantations to the north of Charnwood Forest and Leicestershire. Large areas are intensively farmed for arable crops with low fragmented hedgerows and few hedgerow trees. A complete package has resulted in an established landscape with many valleys, few of which have been damaged to create remnants of Cromwell and Elizabethan Herald. Relative to the Trent valley the area is elevated and allows for connectivity across north and west to the landscapes beyond.

**Land use pressures, constraints and other factors affecting nature recovery**

The Melbourne Parklands NCA retains its predominantly rural, undeveloped character and is unlikely to be a focus for significant development pressure in the long future. Established areas of ecological value consist of large, recognized sites often under statutory protection, or more frequently under sympathetic ownership and management, along these sites and the habitats they contain some security. Many of these sites are well used and appreciated by visitors, providing further impetus for positive management. A significant proportion of this NCA falls within the National Forest area, which will provide a focus for protecting and enhancing established woodlands, and mechanisms for supporting the creation of new. Charnwood, moorland and meadows are providing a unique farming in having some impact on existing hedgerows, weakening this network.

However, this area is generally under limited pressure for negative change, whilst also benefiting from layers of protection, policy, and environmental initiatives likely to benefit the natural environment.

**Potential opportunities for nature recovery in the Melbourne Parklands**

- Protecting the relatively high proportion of biodiversity-rich sites in the NCA, maintain and enhance existing sites of biodiversity interest, focusing on the ones large and strategically important sites in this area.** Small nature parks, listed locations, woodlands, wetlands, and ancient woodlands should be a particular focus for protection and enhancement. Potential are ancient woodlands should be the focus of restoration, woodland and structural diversification to improve their value for biodiversity, as well as supporting other nature recovery action in these areas should also be used to secure the wider environmental benefits provided by these habitats, particularly in terms of carbon sequestration and soil health, recreation and tourism, together with other locally important opportunities.
- Improving connectivity between existing sites** - by restoring and re-creating hedgerows including the planting of long land hedgerow tree species would improve habitat connectivity. Creating new habitat adjacent to and in-between existing sites would build robustness into the network and allow the spread of beneficial species.

**Land use Mapping and Habitat Distribution**

- Cropland** - intensive arable farmland is the dominant land-use occupying 41% of land coverage and comprising mostly of cereal crops with some temporary grass leys.
- Grassland** - grassland accounts for 20% of the land coverage and whilst most of this land use is improved and modified pastures, 2% is still recorded as neutral grassland with particular concentrations.
- Woodland and Forest** - a very characteristic covering 17% of the area. Woodlands tend to occur on small estate plantations, the large and small woodlands formerly managed by the estates in the area. Most of the area is also located within the National Forest.
- Heathland and shrub** - largely restricted to hedgerows that enclose this mixed farming landscape.
- Water and lakes** - water in the form of streams is not a prominent feature as this land use type covering of the area relies primarily to the two large reservoirs at Foremark and Staveley Reservoir.

**Key Sites for Nature 100** - the sites protected by international, national and local designations.

# Trent Valley Washlands (Character Area 69)

## LNRS Steering Group

- Most value out of investment in biodiversity projects
- Land use pressure - maybe a main threats approach
- Should beavers be mentioned here?
- Connecting north to Shipley, beyond to Notts
- What we have now vs what we had before
- Mineral extraction could be a land use - mentioned as a land use pressure
- Connected ponds & wetlands
- Cross county partnership potential
- Derwent Trent corridors provide cross NCA connections

## LNRS Supporting Authorities

- Too technical, generic, needs visual aid
- Supporting landscape recovery partnerships & schemes for larger scale wetland/floodplain restoration

## ENGOS and Community

- Landscape scale partnerships for floodplain restoration, wetlands habitats & watercourse based corridors + connectivity (support for this)
- Is there an urban character area?
- Trent & Mersey canal

**Trent Valley Washlands (Character Area 69)**

The Trent Valley Washlands covers an area of 18,800ha.

This is a mixed farming landscape associated with the floodplains of the river Trent and Don, although grassland habitat is more prevalent within the Trent valley. It also includes the lower reaches of the river Don as it passes through Derby. The landscape is flat to gently rolling and is characterised by areas of pasture and semi improved flood meadows enclosed by predominantly beechwood hedgerows.

**Land-use Mapping and Habitat Distribution**

- **Cropland** - arable farming is dominant land use at 47% of total land coverage. Within this, 40% is cereal cropping
- **Grassland** - grassland accounts for 27% of the land coverage and within most of this land use is improved and modified pasture, 20% is still recorded as rough grassland.
- **Woodland and Scrub** - 2% of the land coverage and occurring mainly as fragmented blocks across the area.
- **Rivers and lakes** - open water including the rivers covers 1% of the area and has increased significantly in recent years through the reallocation of land and grassland to large open waterbodies.
- **Heathland and scrub** - this land cover type occurs almost predominantly in the hedgerows that enclose this mixed farming landscape. Patches of these scrub can be found on steep land or other areas of former grassland settings.
- **Mires** - urban land uses are a prominent characteristic of the Trent valley covering 17% of the total area, associated with the southern edge of Derby, several other expected settlements along the valley such as Retford and Ilkeston, transport infrastructure such as the A50, A38 and the Midland Mainline railway.

**Land use pressures, constraints and other factors affecting nature recovery**

**Urban growth** - whilst significant growth has been planned for Derby City, this cannot be accommodated within the City itself due to current levels of development and lack of available space. It is therefore understood that the growth will likely be directed south of the city and into the Trent valley, and large amounts of housing are already being delivered within south Derbyshire. High levels of residential development will also likely stimulate demand for employment land uses leading to further land take, whilst both existing and new communities will need access to green and blue infrastructure, and recreational landscapes.

The Trent Valley is also an important area for **mineral extraction**, particularly for sand and gravel, and whilst there is a constant need for these materials, extensive residential and other developments in Derby is likely to demand for sand and gravel still further. Whilst development for housing and employment uses tends to lead to the permanent loss of land and associated habitats, mineral extraction is a temporary operation that leaves opportunities for habitat creation and enhancement, delivering biodiversity gains as well as recreational and other opportunities in the longer term.

In addition, **Derby** is currently a significant sector within the Trent Valley, and the ongoing drive for domestic food production and self sufficiency is likely to maintain the need for farming within the valley. At the same time, land take through housing development and mineral extraction could lead to fragmentation of farming units, making some areas less viable for farmers.

**Potential opportunities for nature recovery in the Trent Valley Washlands**

- Trent Valley, focusing on floodplain grazing marsh, wetland, well established lakes, streams, and fen habitats. Ideally, this work should aim to enhance ecological connectivity between wetland areas within the area, provide habitats for breeding and overwintering birds, and contribute to a vibrant beaver recreation and tourism offer in the Trent Valley.
- Increase connectivity of other more natural habitats within the area.
- **Beaver reintroduction** - The Trent valley is managed with certain materials in mind, removing and addressing barriers to their movement along the river network, and building dams, to support and restore water-only ecosystems.

**Key Sites for Nature:** 1% of the area is protected by international, national and local designations.





# Leicestershire & South Derbyshire Coalfield (Character Area 71)

## LNRS Steering Group

- Less text, bigger maps!
- Low designation potential, get more done.
- Social impact?
- Nature friends farming systems
- Learning lessons from national forest & partnering opportunities, esp. access, nature, biodiversity balances

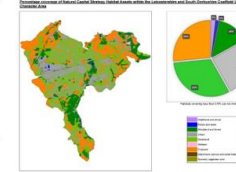
## ENGOS and Community

- Opportunity to increase urban canopy in towns & settlements
- Needs to foster a wider cultural change
- Historic local area knowledge has declined - pertaining to wildlife & habitat
- Working with organisations already doing outreach work with farmers & landowners
- Farmers need to sell to benefit farm business
- Question to row 104 - what about food production? There needs to be balance
- Local schools always looks for opps for their students to give purpose to take pride in local area

### Leicestershire & South Derbyshire Coalfield (Character Area 71)

The South Derbyshire Coalfield covers an area of 2,820Ha.

The South Derbyshire Coalfield is part of a much more extensive landscape that extends into north-west Leicestershire. It covers a relatively small area around Swadlincote extending from Hartshorne in the north to Overseal in the south. There has been extensive post-war development round Swadlincote, which now dominates the area. Similar to the Derbyshire coalfield in the north-east of the county, the underlying Coal Measures geology gives rise to an undulating landform with gentle ridges and shallow valleys.



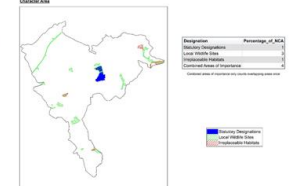
#### Land-use Mapping and Habitat Distribution

- **Grassland** – the dominant land-use with 32% land coverage but in this intensively farmed area, much of the grassland is modified primarily relating to that found within domestic gardens and urban green space.
- **Cropland** – intensive arable farmland occupies 46% of land coverage, comprising an almost equal mix of cereal cropping with temporary grass leys reflecting the mixed livestock farming in the area.
- **Woodland** – woodland is a prominent feature of this landscape covering 14% of the area. Most of this land-use relates to woodland creation delivered as part of the National Forest but there are pockets of Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland.
- **Heathland and shrub** – relates almost exclusively to hedgerows that enclose this mixed farming landscape.
- **Rivers and lakes** – open water is not a prominent characteristic and is confined to small streams in the area and some localised ponds.
- **Urban** – urban land-use dominates the area accounting for 25% of total land coverage. Swadlincote is the main town located centrally but this has merged with the neighbouring areas of Newhall, Woodville, Church Gresley, and Castle Gresley to create a larger urban area.

#### Land use pressures, constraints and other factors affecting nature recovery

The high levels of development and urbanisation already present within this NCA suggest that there will be ongoing pressure for urban growth and the continued development of former industrial sites. The National Forest will continue to incentivise new woodland planting and the creation of other habitats within this area.

Estimated coverage of Areas of Potential Importance for Biodiversity within the Leicestershire and South Derbyshire Coalfield Landscapes Character Area



#### Potential opportunities for nature recovery

- **Creation of new habits** – given the relative paucity of habitats and designated sites in this area, effort should be focused on enriching the area through the creation of new habitats. Ideally, these should aim to deliver additional benefits – providing accessible semi-natural greenspace for resident, providing replacement habitats for species such as dingy skipper or grass snake where these are at risk of being lost from urban areas, or by delivering ecological permeability through this otherwise impermeable landscape.

**Key Sites for Nature:** 4% of the area is protected by international, national and local designations.





# Steering Group: Thematic Deep Dives

# Thematic Deep Dive: Blanket Bog

Priority	Measure	Priority NCAs for action	Who are the other stakeholders?	What do we need to ask?	Constraints
1. Improve the condition of upland peatland in the strategy area to increase carbon sequestration	In the Dark and South-west Peaks, rewet blanket bog by using natural materials to block drainage channels, re-establish sphagnum cover and control over-dominant and invasive plant species, working towards further restoration creating a more attractive habitat for breeding bird species.	Dark Peak, South-West Peak	Peak District National Park, Moors for the future, NT, United utilities, Moorland association, RSPB, Carbon Investors, Enviromental agency, Natural England	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How much work left to do?</li> <li>• Where + What will it cost?</li> <li>• What stage do we want to get bogs to? (See moors for the future "states of blanket bogs") How do we safeguard against wildfire?</li> <li>• What does good look like?</li> <li>• Nfm + water quality</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ££</li> <li>• Priority - rephrase (not just about carbon sequestration)</li> <li>• Land ownerships + Management</li> <li>• Difficulty for particular landowners to access funding component</li> </ul>
2. Improve abundance of breeding bird species in upland peatland		Dark Peak, South-West Peak	As above	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What impact does reparation pressure have on bog birds?</li> <li>• Ask them on the ground what works.</li> </ul>	
3. Improve the abundance and distributions of species associated with blanket bog, including lower plants, lichens, bryophytes, and invertebrates		Dark Peak, South-West Peak	As above	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Which species are priorities?</li> <li>• Transitional habitats - Trees +peat webinar</li> <li>• What can be more effective collaboratively?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NE/SSS regulations too restrictive</li> <li>• Actions + impacts/ benefits not always in same location.</li> <li>• Limits of LNRS in terms of existing management plans/ objectives within designated sites – so focus on surrounding areas; comms/ education/ engagement.</li> </ul>

# Thematic Deep Dive: Upland Heath

Priority	Measure	Who are the other stakeholders?	What do we need to ask?	Constraints
<p>1. Protect and improve the condition of upland heath in the strategy area, including for the benefit of associated breeding birds and other dependent species (upland heath assemblage - lower plants, lichens and bryophytes, moorland and moorland edge invertebrates, regionally scarce higher plants and animals, adder and common lizard)</p>	<p>Ensure appropriate management is implemented including controlling grazing, ensuring a diversity of heathland structure, controlling scrub and invasive species, and managing fire risk</p>	<p>Farmers/ organisations. Local owners, NE - (SPA), Public - Access</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Why are we limiting this priority to one benefit?</li> <li>• What are these?</li> </ul>	
<p>2. Expand the upland heathland resource into appropriate areas where conditions allow, providing expanded habitat for breeding birds and other dependent species (upland heath assemblage)</p>	<p>Identify areas with suitable substrate, manage to ensure nutrient status is appropriate and use heathland establishment (seeding, brash etc) measures, ideally using local sources</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What is appropriate? - Where conditions allow.</li> <li>• Opportunity for woodland heath lands rather than open habitat.</li> <li>• Is it structurally + Fundamentally diverse and resilient?</li> <li>• Is it connected?</li> <li>• Are there opportunities to improve wider environmental benefits?</li> <li>• Nature based solutions.</li> <li>• What does good look like? Who defines this? (the what is appropriate question) + not limiting the benefits</li> <li>• What are the benefits?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Habitats vs Mosaic</li> <li>• Dynamic landscape</li> </ul>

# Thematic Deep Dive: Woodlands Part 1

Priority	Measure	Who are the other stakeholders?	What do we need to ask?	Constraints
1. Ancient woodland, woodland SSSIs and veteran trees are protected, managed and in good ecological condition	Sites are identified and in positive management to maximise their biodiversity value and ensure their longevity	Landowners, estates farmers, NT, LA's, FE, FC grants +Regs, NE utility Co's, WT...DWT, Forestry Agents RFs/ICF, Confor RSPB, Forestry Operators/Contractors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Can they be exfunded + connected better?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deer</li> </ul>
	Specialist tree management techniques are used to extend the life of veteran and ancient trees			
	•Restore Plantations on Ancient Woodland sites to native, locally appropriate broadleaved species			
2. Existing broadleaved woodland is well managed and better for wildlife	Introduce woodland management plans where possible and appropriate, bringing woodlands into active management to promote biodiversity		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sector to support them.</li> <li>• Support for small woodland owner.</li> <li>• When is greying woodland good?</li> <li>• What does good look like?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deer</li> <li>• Funding for small woodland</li> <li>• Hard lines (mapped) between forestry + farming.</li> <li>• Needs more flexibility</li> </ul>
	Reduce grazing pressures and harm from invasive species including grey squirrel			
	Allow species and structural diversification by natural processes where possible, or through planting where necessary			
3. New woodland creation delivers more, better and better connected woodland	Create new semi-natural broadleaved woodland following sound ecological principles and bring in to positive management.	Landowners, FC grants + Regs, RSPB, NT, Utility Cos, EA/NE, WA's - Finding + own land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Capacity for the sector locally: trees, contractors.</li> <li>• Don't lose sight of productive woodland.</li> <li>• Good design is key.</li> <li>• Transitional habitats. Lost woodlands (historic maps).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Skills/ design</li> <li>• Aging environment scheme</li> <li>• Deer</li> </ul>
	Buffer existing woodland sites with new woodland creation, to protect core sites from impact, extend their benefit and provide edge habitats			
	Identify areas for new woodland creation specifically to improve connectivity between woodlands at the landscape scale where appropriate			
	Allow new woodlands to generate naturally where possible (i.e. adjacent to or close to existing high value woodland) or use planting where necessary			
	Planting should use locally appropriate species and local provenance/climate resilient stock			
	Take opportunities to create new woodlands for example around new residential developments, new employment land use, and sand and gravel sites, as part of managed change to improve the area for people and wildlife			

# Thematic Deep Dive: Woodlands Part 2

Priority	Measure	Who are the other stakeholders?	What do we need to ask?	Constraints
4. Wood pasture parkland habitats within SSSIs or other designations are protected, managed and in good ecological condition	Sites are identified and in positive management to maximise their biodiversity value and ensure their longevity		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Are they not already protected?</li> <li>• Current condition?</li> </ul>	Genuine Knowledge of management - Grazing regiment
	Specialist tree management techniques are used to extend the life of veteran and ancient trees			
	Species assemblages associated with historic wood pasture parkland - saproxylic invertebrates and fungi, bats etc - should be carefully considered, and their populations enhanced including through specific interventions where necessary			
5. Increase the resource of wood pasture and parkland habitats where appropriate, taking account of their historic origin and cultural associations	Target wood pasture parkland restoration to historic, neglected and relict wood pasture parkland sites, planting replacement parkland trees and bringing into active management to ensure their survival and longevity		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quantifying resource.</li> <li>• When would this be the best management method?</li> </ul>	
6. Increase trees in the wider landscape, including field trees, fruit trees, hedgerow trees and watercourse trees, especially where they can reinforce the local character as well as contributing to biodiversity	Plant locally appropriate hedgerow and in-field trees to diversify hedgerows and reinforce the wooded character of suitable landscapes		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use this to blend existing woodland + new woodland into the L' scope.</li> <li>• Agroforestry - trees in fields hedgerows.</li> </ul>	
	Protect and manage existing hedgerow trees positively, to support their retention and longevity			
	Identify and restore existing and derelict traditional orchards			
	Create new community orchards where appropriate, particularly in association with new development, for the benefit of people and wildlife			
7. Ancient and veteran trees are protected and managed	Protect and manage existing ancient and veteran trees in the wider landscape, including considering fencing or root protection measures, to support their retention and longevity		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Succession planning + Planting</li> </ul>	
8. Urban trees become more common throughout towns and cities, for amenity, urban shading and air quality benefits as well as biodiversity	Existing street trees are managed positively to promote their longevity and are replaced at the end of their life		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What does 'good' look like? (incl right tree right place) and how do we achieve it?</li> </ul>	
	New developments incorporate street trees wherever possible			

# Thematic Deep Dive: Grassland Part 1

Priority	Measure	Who are the other stakeholders?	What do we need to ask?	Constraints
<p>1. Protect and enhance grassland habitats in statutorily designated sites (SSSIs etc) including calaminarian grassland and other areas of unimproved grassland</p>	<p>Sites are identified and in positive management to maximise their biodiversity value as grasslands and for their associated species</p>	<p>Landowners + Land managers, PDNPA, Enviromental Agency, Natural England</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Are EIA (Agriculture) regulations thresholds adequate enough given ambition for nature recovery, let alone reducing loss?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Low moor areas need more of meep at certain times of the year</li> </ul>
<p>2. Outside of protected sites, existing semi-natural grasslands are restored and enhanced to support greater levels of biodiversity including pollinators and other invertebrates</p>	<p>Existing moderate quality and neglected sites are enhanced through biodiversity-focussed management with appropriate cutting and/or grazing</p> <p>Species poor semi-natural grasslands are diversified through seeding, plug planting, the use of green hay or other measures, and grasslands are subsequently managed to maintain and enhance their species diversity</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What is coherent? Importance of habitat Mosaic e.g. scrub grassland mosaics.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Different mowing rapport different wildlife</li> <li>Insufficient landowners incentives</li> </ul>
<p>3. The grassland resource is increased through the creation of new semi-natural and species rich grassland sites</p>	<p>Take opportunities to create new species rich grasslands for example around new development, through enhanced green infrastructure</p> <p>Create new species-rich grasslands through the reversion of intensive grassland and arable farmland</p> <p>Create high quality, species rich calcareous grassland particularly though the targeted restoration of limestone quarry sites</p> <p>Create high quality, species rich lowland meadow and wet grassland, including through quarry restoration</p> <p>Create high quality grasslands, particularly wet and acid grasslands, through other opportunities including quarrying and land restoration</p>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Not enough people understand importance of Meep area as most of the life aside them is small e.g. insects + small mammals.</li> <li>Insufficient landowner incentives.</li> </ul>

# Thematic Deep Dive: Grassland Part 2

Priority	Measure	Who are the other stakeholders?	What do we need to ask?	Constraints
<p>4. Buffer and extend existing grassland sites, to create bigger sites and allow movement and spread of species, and to protect core sites from impact</p>	<p>Target grassland creation and enhancement to locations adjacent to existing high-quality grasslands sites</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Derbyshire Ecological Research Centre</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What species, where are they?</li> <li>How much benefit to biodiversity do herbal leys provide?</li> </ul>	
<p>5. Grassland sites are better connected through the landscape, particularly to facilitate robustness and the movement of species</p>	<p>Target grassland creation and enhancement to locations where they can contribute to or enhance connectivity within the grassland network</p> <p>Road verges are managed to improve biodiversity, supporting habitat connectivity across the landscape</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Parish + Town Councils, Businesses</li> </ul>		

# Thematic Deep Dive: Rivers, river corridors and other watercourses (part 1)

Priority	Measure	Who are the other stakeholders?	What do we need to ask?	Constraints
1. Naturally functioning and resilient water environments and river catchments that help us adapt to the impacts of climate change and reduce the risk of flooding	Naturalise river channels restoring natural banks, beds and flows and introducing natural features where necessary	Environmental agency (James Fretborough Hobson), Catchment partnerships (Derbyshire Dement), Farmers + Landowners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For plans and reports identifying opportunities</li> <li>Water quantity data</li> <li>Natural flood management mapping data</li> <li>Incentive required</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No funding for flood stages</li> <li>Range of stakeholders involved to create change, lack of evidence for what water to reduce</li> </ul>
	Connecting rivers to their floodplains by lowering berms and banks			
2. Protect and enhance rivers and watercourse habitats in statutorily designated sites (SSSIs etc) including watercourses in dale systems	Protect and enhance watercourse habitat and water quality in the White Peak, including for the benefit of white clawed crayfish, water vole, and otters	Farmers and Land owners, Catchment partnerships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Of the regulators - how the targets have been written as.</li> <li>Are targets realistic &amp; allow journey to be on time.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lack of knowledge how targets have been set.</li> </ul>
	Protect and enhance watercourse habitat, water quality and species diversity and assemblages in other designated sites, including canals and reservoirs			
	Protect and enhance watercourse habitat and water quality in the River Mease for the benefit of spined loach, bullhead and white clawed crayfish			
3. Create, maintain and restore high quality and connected habitats along watercourses	Buffer strip creation and management - create natural habitats (grassland, scrub or woodland) within 10m from the bank top of rivers and watercourses	Farmers and Land owners, Catchment partnerships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What is required?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Incentive insufficient</li> </ul>
	Create and protect ponds, wetlands, backwaters and associated habitats close to the river, particularly where they contribute to natural flood management			
	Identify and address both point- and diffuse sources of pollution, including sources of silt and agricultural run-off			
	Establish programmes for the eradication of invasive non-native species in watercourses, including mink control for the benefit of water vole			



# Thematic Deep Dive: Rivers, river corridors (part 2)

Priority	Measure	Who are the other stakeholders?	What do we need to ask?	Constraints
<p>4. Ensure riparian habitats support healthy and viable populations of native plants and animals characteristic of rivers, including riparian mammals and enabling fish passage etc</p>	<p>Ensure connectivity for species throughout the length of the river, including addressing barriers to fish passage, allowing the free-movement of otters and providing connected habitat for water vole</p> <p>Identify remaining, viable populations of white clawed crayfish and protect from non-native species</p> <p>Create ark sites for white clawed crayfish where populations are threatened</p>	<p>As above, Catchment partnership, Utility companies</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What/How much invasive non-native species do they have?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Incentive insufficient, Sewage + waste pollution</li> </ul>
<p>5. Reservoirs are managed for biodiversity and public access and enjoyment whilst protecting their vital role in water supply</p>	<p>Whilst water supply function is prioritised, seek opportunities to enhance biodiversity, including ornithological interest and management of the surrounding land, whilst also facilitating appropriate public access and enjoyment</p>	<p>Farmers and Land owners where greater</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How could improvements in upland habitats surrounding reservoirs improve water quality and quantity by increasing attenuation?</li> <li>• How do farmers use the water table &amp; how this affects said quality &amp; diversity of botany/trees?</li> </ul>	

# Thematic Deep Dive: Accessible semi-natural green spaces

Priority	Measure	Who are the other stakeholders?	What do we need to ask?	Constraints
<p>1. Habitat creation and enhancement seeks to deliver an improved network of locally appropriate accessible semi-natural green spaces, for the benefit of people and wildlife</p>	<p>Opportunities are sought to deliver new semi-natural green spaces in locations that will benefit existing and new communities, improving accessibility when measured using the ANGSt standards</p> <p>New accessible semi-natural green spaces are located adjacent to existing sites of biodiversity value and public access, to create larger and better connected sites for people and wildlife</p>	<p>Farmers + Landowners, Environmental Agency, Public open spaces (teams, parks, maintenance), Town &amp; Parish councils, sports, leisure and hospitality, Supporting authorities, Public, Developers, 'Friend groups'</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Impact on farming/ Land management - How can we mitigate this?</li> <li>• Opportunity mapping, data, evidence already captured/developed which highlights opportunities.</li> <li>• How can the space be maximised for biodiversity &amp; resilience (nature and people) - diverse spaces offering more benefits?</li> <li>• What incentives are needed?</li> <li>• What types of habitats and species are more desirable and realistic? What understanding do they have of benefits across health + wellbeing for all?</li> <li>• Accessibility via public transport.</li> <li>• What future plans do they have for their land holdings?</li> <li>• Wider environmental benefits i.e. flood mitigation.</li> <li>• Will sufficient funding be available for these local community spaces?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Finance &amp; create access.</li> <li>• How to manage the land once access is created- Open access can affect the livestock.</li> <li>• Access vs diversity + resilience.</li> <li>• Inherent lack of understanding around the value of nature.</li> </ul>

# Thematic Deep Dive: Farmlands

Priority	Measure	Who are the other stakeholders?	What do we need to ask?	Constraints
1. Improve ecological connectivity through the farmed landscape	<p>Existing hedgerows are brought into good ecological management, including gapping up to improve connectivity</p> <p>Opportunities are sought to replant hedgerows on former alignments, or to create new native, locally appropriate hedgerows to improve connectivity</p> <p>Field margins are used to improve habitat connectivity and landscape permeability for species</p>	Farmers and large landowners, Environmental Agency (James Fretborough Hobson)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What appetite to do things differently?</li> <li>• What incentives would be required?</li> <li>• How much land are you willing to give to biodiversity?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Economically viable farming</li> <li>• Lack of existing ecological value</li> <li>• Tradition</li> </ul>
2. The farmed landscape is more favourable and permeable to wildlife, particularly pollinators and farmland birds	<p>Seek opportunities to improve the farmed landscape for pollinators, including through the establishment of flower-rich grass margins, in-field strips, nectar strips and/or herb rich arable leys, or leaving unsprayed areas in arable fields</p> <p>Establish beetle banks and other areas for natural predators within arable farming</p> <p>Deliver interventions for the benefit of farmland birds including skylark plots, sowing of wild bird seed mix for winter cover crop, leaving stubble on cropped fields</p>	Environmental agency (James Fretborough Hobson), Catchment partnership (EA), Local government, Utilities, Agaway Authority?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Is land sparing (land + nature) preferred or is land sharing preferred?</li> <li>• Biological control instead of pesticides/herbicides?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Not enough education surrounding the importance of farmers + the land they have as well as biodiversity.</li> </ul>
3. Land use practices are modified to avoid adverse impacts on the wider environment, including freshwater habitats	<p>In sensitive areas, farming practices seek to reduce agricultural run-off, particularly to watercourses, where they are affecting habitats downstream</p> <p>Where grazing occurs on land adjacent to streams and rivers, access by animals is controlled to prevent sediment entering the watercourse</p> <p>Where evidence demonstrates agricultural land is at risk of becoming a net emitter of carbon, practices are modified to deliver greater carbon sequestration</p>	Farmers and landowners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Willing to change to low moor?</li> <li>• Or different methods of grazing?</li> <li>• Pesticides, herbicides + Pollution</li> <li>• Ask landowners/farmers what they wouldn't be prepared to do?</li> <li>• Focus on key 'no-go's'.</li> </ul>	

# Thematic Deep Dive: Wetlands

Priority	Measure	Who are the other stakeholders?	What do we need to ask?	Constraints
1. Protect and enhance wetland habitats in statutorily designated sites (SSSIs etc) including ponds, lowland fen, swamp, marsh, reedbed etc	Sites are identified and in positive management to maximise their biodiversity value as wetlands and for their associated species	Utility companies, River catchment partnerships, Environmental Agency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mapping/plans/ opportunities for environmental + flood risk projects can also help with catchment partnership plans/ideas.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>LNRS can't override/ conflict with existing management plans/objectives for designated sites.</li> </ul>
2. Outside of protected sites, existing wetlands are managed and enhanced to support greater levels of biodiversity, for example for amphibians and invertebrates	<p>Existing moderate quality and neglected ponds and wetlands are enhanced through biodiversity-focussed management</p> <p>Investigate and improve water quality (for example through use of buffer strips) where this is having a detrimental effect on the condition of wetlands</p>	Trent valley waters, Towns/cities, DWT, Land owners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Current condition of wetlands</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sewage &amp; pollution, water consumption &amp; waste</li> </ul>
3. The wetland resource is increased through the creation of new semi-natural wetlands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Take opportunities to create new ponds and wetlands for example around new development, through enhanced green infrastructure or SUDS</li> <li>Create new field ponds in appropriate locations and in areas of complementary habitat</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>How can we use nature-based solutions?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Demands on land.</li> </ul>
4. Buffer and extend existing wetland sites, to create bigger sites and allow movement and spread of species, and to protect core sites from impact	Target new pond and wetland creation to locations adjacent to existing high-quality wetland sites and use other complementary habitats (grasslands, rough margins, tree planting) to buffer and protect sites from impact			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Degraded habitats.</li> </ul>
5. Wetland sites are better connected through the landscape, particularly to facilitate robustness and the movement of species	Target wetland creation and enhancement to locations where they can contribute to or enhance connectivity within the wetland or riparian networks		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>How will this be measured?</li> <li>What is the baseline?</li> </ul>	

# Thematic Deep Dive: Species

Priority	Measure	Who are the other stakeholders?	What do we need to ask?	Constraints
1. Birds of prey	Where habitats could support populations of birds of prey, identify and address causes for their decline/absence	Landowners, Derbyshire England Records centre, RSPB, Peak District Natural park, Raptor groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What habitats do they depend on to survive &amp; how does that affect those species?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Persecution from grouse moors owners.</li> </ul>
2. Reptiles	In the White Peak, support the reptile populations centred in the key daleside SSSI complexes	Derbyshire Amphibian & Reptile group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Where/how many species? Record data, relevant landscape.</li> </ul>	
3. Great crested newts	In the White Peak, support GCN populations through the protection and enhancement of dewponds, positive pasture management and reversion, and provision of refugia/dry stone walls <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Focusing on existing GCN populations and core habitat, seek to enhance and connect the network through strategic habitat delivery</li> </ul>	Natural England, Peak District Natural Park Authority, Landowner, Farmers, Residential	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Record data.</li> <li>Predators</li> <li>Number of historical translocations.</li> <li>What has affected reduction in numbers?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lack of contractor capacity to carry out dewpond restoration.</li> <li>££ for dewpond restoration.</li> </ul>
4. Black poplars	Existing black poplars are identified, protected and managed to ensure their retention Seek to replant black poplars grown from locally sourced stock/plant material, to secure their long-term survival	Woodland trust, Local authorities, Trent River Trust, Serven Trent, Landowner, Farmers, Residential, Mineral industry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What native trees have been "farmed" reduced?</li> <li>What habitat do these trees bring to other species?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sourcing native stock/ Nursery in Willington ask delays WT.</li> </ul>
5. Willow Tit				
6. Upland/Lowland woodland Bird Assemblages				
7. Lamprey				
Those species which haven't historically had protection and have declined as a result. Common species e.g. wood mice that support other species.				

# Thematic Deep Dive: People and wildlife

Priority	Measure	Who are the other stakeholders?	What do we need to ask?	Constraints
<p>1. People across Derbyshire are more engaged with the natural environment and are able to better engage with biodiversity issues.</p>	<p>Environmental education equips children with knowledge to be able to understand the natural environment and care about local issues</p> <p>Volunteering opportunities increase, and there are more people engaged with local green spaces</p>	<p>Public, Landowners, Farmers, Conservation organisations, Businesses, Green finance, Schools, Colleges, Universities, Environmental Agency</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understand landscape - Why you see what you see?</li> <li>• How they engage with nature?</li> <li>• Understanding preferencing in our relationship with nature.</li> <li>• Level of understanding what is available.</li> <li>• Understanding the value of nature?</li> <li>• Are they prepared to support? Voluntary vs mandatory.</li> <li>• Does spending time in nature impact your mental health?</li> <li>• How is the LNRS answering the question?</li> <li>• What can I/we do for 'wildlife/nature'?</li> <li>• What would improve your relationship with nature/ green spaces/wildlife?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• People's mindset / values/ ideas.</li> <li>• Ensuring demographic representation for public consultation.</li> <li>• Resources - skills/money.</li> <li>• Lack of incentives to support LNRS.</li> <li>• Conflicts between recreational preserve and wildlife. Disturbance to breeding birds - dogs -wildfire.</li> <li>• Erosion - Transport +Carbon.</li> <li>• Education system.</li> <li>• Understanding the link between food and nature i.e. pollination id very soon Apples will be £5 each.</li> <li>• Food security.</li> <li>• Not achieved by intensive agriculture relying on fertiliser of which we import 60%. Avoiding eco-anxiety.</li> <li>• Balancing access and biodiversity recognising the greater benefits to people of more diverse and resilient landscapes and green spaces.</li> </ul>



# Thank you.