

5ddYbX]l '3

# Derbyshire's Local Nature Recovery Strategy

## Phase 2 Engagement

October 2024

Shaping a fairer future

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

# Purpose

Between June 2024 and September 2024, The Young Foundation has been working in partnership with Derbyshire County Council and the University of Derby to engage with key stakeholders across the county. This builds on our work from Phase 1, taking us through to the second, broader LNRS engagement and consultation.

The work has involved **bringing together diverse perspectives from partners, communities, and citizens across Derbyshire** to begin to **co-create a vision for nature recovery that responds to the needs of today and meets the challenges of the future.**

The things we have learnt, both from listening to local stakeholders but also from the process itself, are reflected in this report and aim to **provide a crucial step towards supporting Derbyshire County Council to create a well informed and locally rooted Local Nature Recovery Strategy.**

This report is intended for internal use, for the Design Team and Steering Group and captures insights from conversations that have taken place throughout Phase 2, it includes subjective opinions that aren't necessarily shared by all Derbyshire residents, and some of the challenges raised are issues of a national scale and so, will fall outside the remit of the LNRS in practice. But these are topics that were important to those that we engaged with and do play into the wider fabric of nature recovery and the local stakeholders understanding of it.

# Contents



1. Context – The Local Nature Recovery Strategy (p3)
2. Executive summary (p4)
3. What did we do? What did we hear? (p5)
  - Engagement roadmap (p6)
  - Our approach (p7-9)
  - LNRS Steering Group (p10-15)
  - LNRS Workshops in person (p16-26)
  - LNRS Workshops online (p27-34)
4. What have we noticed? (p35-37)
5. What does this mean for the Local Nature Recovery Strategy? (p38)
  - Opportunities (p39-40)
  - Concepts for the future (p41)
6. Appendix (p42)
  - Organisations who took part (p43)
  - NCA feedback (p44-49)

# Context

## The Local Nature Recovery Strategy

Local Nature Recovery Strategies are a new system of plans for nature recovery and environmental improvement across England. They aim to expand, improve and connect natural places across towns, cities, countryside and coast to help deal with three of the biggest challenges we face today: biodiversity loss, climate change and wellbeing.

The purpose of these plans is to establish priorities and proposals to help nature to thrive and provide wider environmental benefits in the future:

- Map our most valuable existing habitats
- Agree priorities for reversing the decline in biodiversity
- Map opportunities for nature recovery and wider environmental goals

The Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) for Derbyshire will be specific to the county of Derbyshire and all eleven landscape character areas that fall within it. It will set a long-term plan that is formed and delivered in partnership with a range of organisations as well as local people. It aims to help farmers and landowners, as key stakeholders, to see where and what action to recover nature in their area would be most effective and help to funnel investment such as Biodiversity Net Gain money to areas where nature recovery could have the most impact.

The strategy aims to be published by Summer 2025.



# Executive summary



This phase of the LNRS development process and stakeholder engagement has focused on the following priorities:

1. Developing the draft LNRS vision and narrative, initially with the steering group, which is set to be refined through ongoing stakeholder engagement in the next phase.
2. Identifying the priorities and measures to be addressed by the LNRS.
3. Continuing to refine, update and sense-check the knowledge base through gathering tacit knowledge through the engagement process, and ongoing validation of the knowledge base.

Whilst the focus has been on generating content towards the LNRS strategy outputs listed above, our intention was to create a dynamic **feedback loop** to the knowledge base, to help validate and challenge the tensions, ideas and opportunities as they emerge through the engagement and consultation process:

1. Vision – how are we framing this work?
2. Opportunities – how do we turn our insights into action?
3. Strategic approach – non-linear with a foundation of knowledge.
4. Principles – values and ways of working as we progress to the next phase of work on the LNRS.
5. Engagement – who have we collaborated with so far?

1. **Vision**  
*Thriving with nature*  
 Working collaboratively with nature and people to deliver ambitious changes for a thriving natural environment in Derbyshire. Achieving a bigger, better and more joined up wildlife system, to deliver a sustainable future that we all can enjoy.

- 2.
- OPPORTUNITIES
  - COLLABORATION
  - EDUCATION
  - ITERATION
  - CONNECT SYSTEM



- 4.
- CONCEPTS TO GUIDE US INTO OUR NEXT PHASE OF WORK
  - A SYSTEMIC APPROACH TO NATURE RECOVERY
  - WORKING IN COMPLEXITY REQUIRES HOLDING MULTIPLE TRUTHS
  - WE ACTIVELY REFUSE TO GUILT, BLAME OR SHAME EACH OTHER
  - ECOLOGICAL AND BIODIVERSITY EDUCATION IS AN IMPORTANT PART OF THIS WORK

5.

## Part 1

---

# What did we do?

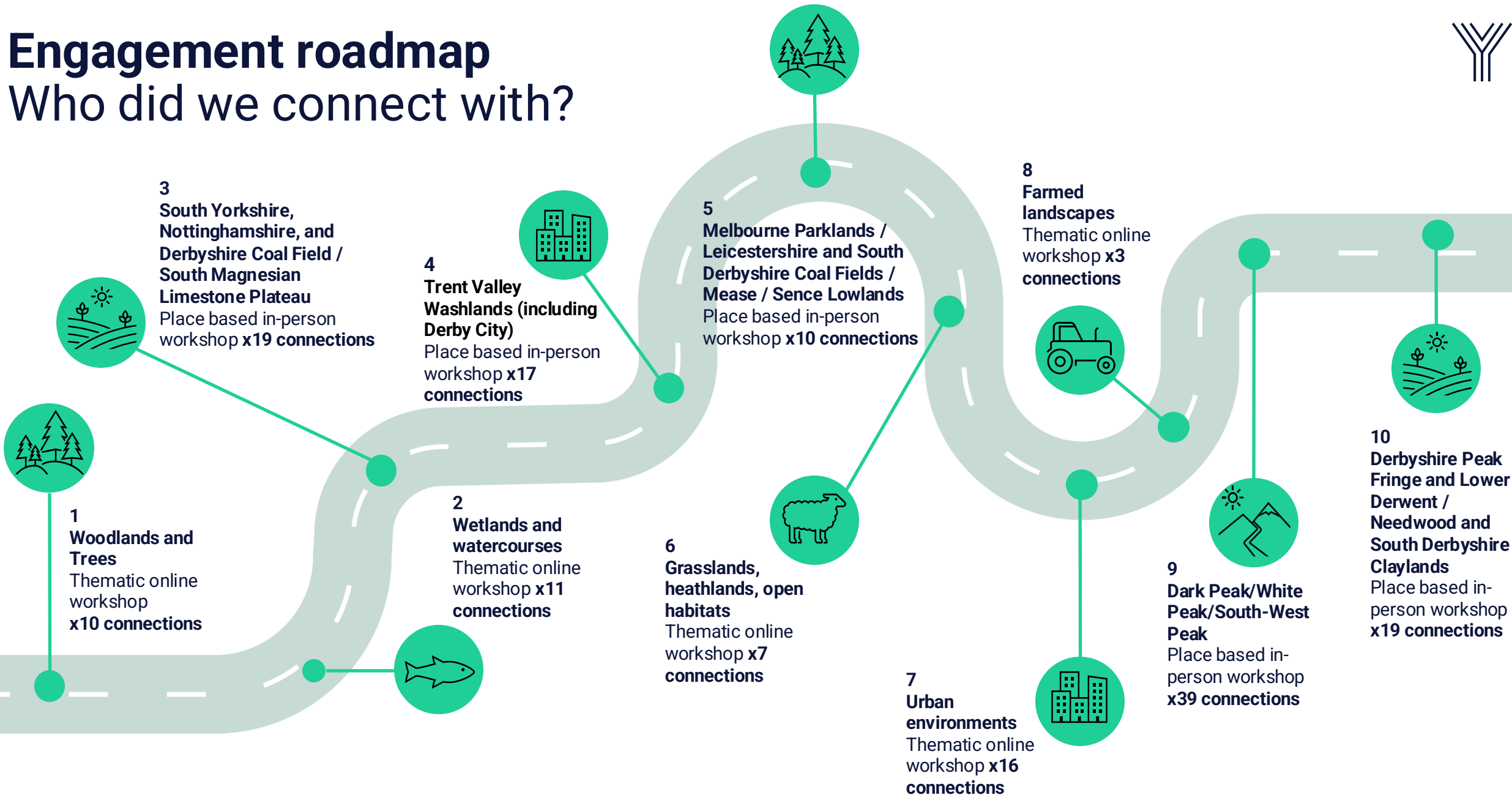
What did we hear?





# Engagement roadmap

## Who did we connect with?



# Our approach to engagement

## Working reflectively, inclusively and collaboratively

The Young Foundation is the UK's home for community research and social innovation, we have a long and a proud history of community-led innovation. The Innovation and Practice team believe that a fairer and sustainable future is only possible through deeper participation between communities, public services, private and charitable institutions. This is a time of great transition of our social, economic, and environmental systems, which demands creative ideas, new ways of working, and a focus on impact.

To continue co-producing the LNRS, we invited organisations across Derbyshire to a series of place-focused workshops in September. These sessions centred around **priorities** and potential **measures** for biodiversity and nature recovery, helping shape future policy, investment and action across the county.

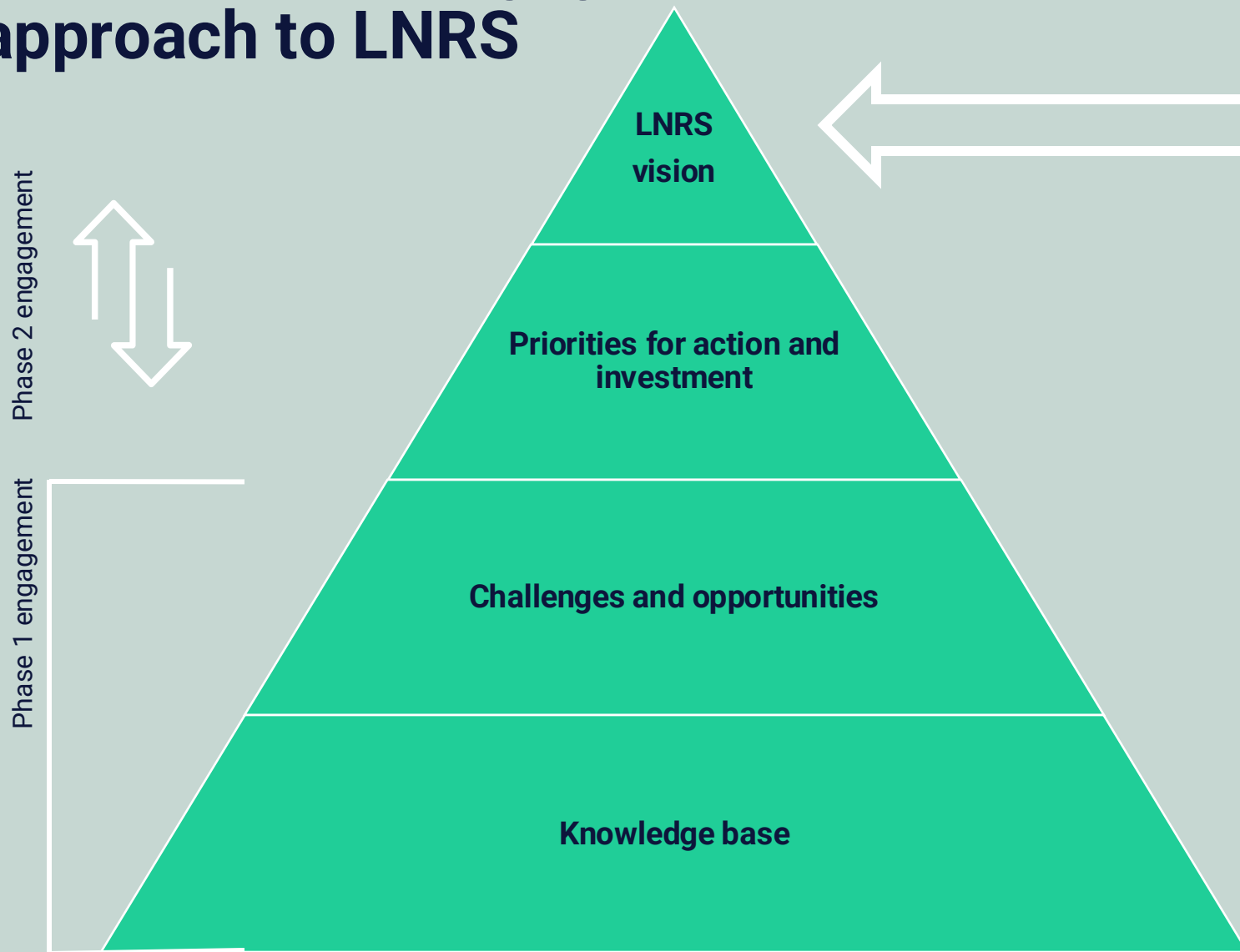
To ensure the LNRS is co-produced, Phase 2 of this work has built on the preliminary dialogue undertaken in Phase 1 (testing different engagement approaches alongside, building and validating on the initial knowledge gathered and required by the LNRS development guidance). The overarching design (and system change) principle that has informed our work throughout is ***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.

Phase 2 has comprised of 10 stakeholder workshops, on-going and targeted agriculture sector engagement (farmers/landowners - see separate report) and ongoing facilitation at Steering Group workshops. Whilst the focus has been on generating content towards the LNRS strategy outputs, the intention has been to create a dynamic **feedback loop** to the knowledge base, to help validate and challenge the tensions, ideas and opportunities as they emerge through the engagement and consultation process.





# Phase 1 and 2 engagement – a non-linear approach to LNRS



## **Vision: Thriving with nature**

*Working collaboratively with nature and people to deliver ambitious changes for a thriving natural environment in Derbyshire. Achieving a bigger, better and more joined up wildlife system, to deliver a sustainable future that we all can enjoy.*







# How Phase 1 of this work informed Phase 2

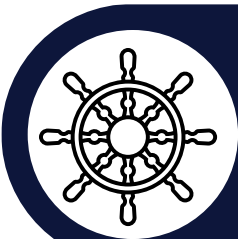
Phase 1 (also led by The Young Foundation) provided a critical understanding of the diverse perspectives that have gone on to shape the ongoing development of the LNRS strategy. We created space to sense-check and challenge the assumptions we might be making and highlighting any gaps in our knowledge base, whilst contributing to the challenges and opportunities for nature recovery.

Across the activities, we established foundational principles (the refined iteration of these can be seen on page 12) 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.

The initial engagement activities 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, Phase 2 has continued to address and factor these in.

The initial relationships seeded in Phase 1 with Supporting Authorities, ENGOs and communities have grown considerably since Phase 1 and will need to be maintained throughout the following stages of work to keep momentum.



LNRS Steering Group



LNRS Supporting Authorities



Agriculture Sector



ENGOs and communities

What did we do? What did we hear?

# LNRS Steering Group



# Steering Group

Building on the work and learning from the preliminary dialogue process (Phase 1), we have worked towards taking a more integrated and iterative approach, understanding that the steering group's role needs to be more than to simply 'check and challenge' DCC's work. We have tested ways for the steering group to meaningfully develop, test and shape the process, vision and narrative as our engagement process evolves and expands.

To fully **mobilise their networks** in support of the LNRS's development and implementation, the group needed to have a clear way to feed in and shape the approach:

- Balance of being collaborative and human-centred, but also working to a defined evidence base.
- Activities designed to move towards answers and not just surface problems/challenges.
- Explore how to frame the work and co-create a public narrative.

## Building a vision statement for the LNRS

The steering group has developed a vision statement for the LNRS, following an iterative approach to add, adapt and re-word collectively as the weeks progressed. The iterations are captured here:

- *Version 1:* Working together to deliver a thriving natural environment for Derbyshire, with bigger, better, more joined up wildlife sites for the benefit of all.
- *Version 2:* **Thriving with nature: Working collaboratively with nature and people to deliver ambitious changes for a thriving natural environment in Derbyshire. Achieving a bigger, better and more joined up wildlife system, to deliver a sustainable future that we all can enjoy.**

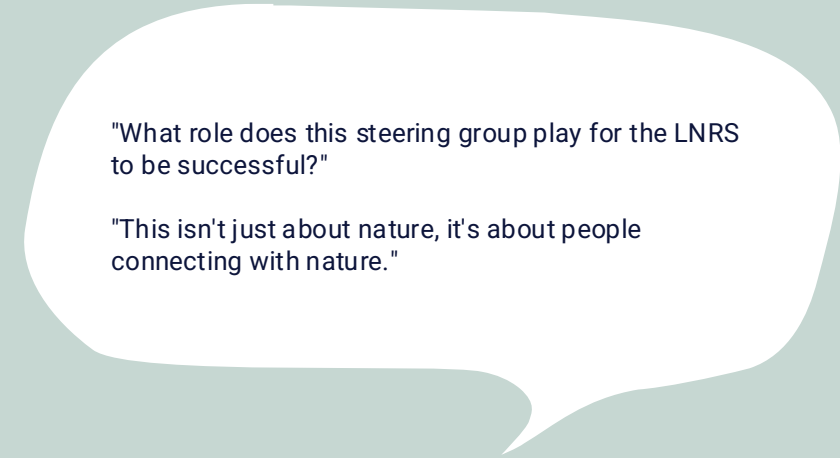
## Principles

Setting principles helps alignment with shared goals, communication, accountability and enhanced adaptability to promote better informed decision making. In Phase 1 of this work, the steering group designed a set of principles to guide both 'what' the LNRS is about, and 'how' the development process and implementation is achieved. These principles have been re-visited and refined through facilitated discussion and embedded in the steering group activities.

Please see over the page (p10) for the principles.

Shaping a fairer future

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



**Vision**  
Working together to deliver a thriving natural environment for Derbyshire, with bigger, better, more joined up wildlife sites for the benefit of all.

**Principles**

- Bigger, better, more joined up
- Right Habitat: Right Place
- Connecting people and nature
- Maximising nature's benefits
- Inclusive and collaborative
- Ambitious, deliverable and realistic
- Evidence led
- Balances competing needs

**Priority Themes**

- Blanket bog
- Upland heath
- Woodlands and trees
- Grassland
- Rivers, river corridors and other watercourses
- Accessible semi-natural areas
- Farmland
- Wetlands
- Biodiverse urban environments
- Transport networks positively to biodiversity
- Species - Birds of prey, Reptiles, Great Crested Newts and Black Poplars

**Benefits from nature**

- Surface water regulation and natural flood management
- Water quality regulation
- Carbon storage and sequestration
- Leisure and tourism
- Recreation, health and wellbeing
- Agriculture and food production
- Water supply

Polemonium caeruleum (wild bluebell) is the county flower of Derbyshire in 2022.

# What do we want to achieve with the LNRS?

## Principles

1. Grounded in evidence and knowledge, with a clear vision
2. Connecting and enhancing...
  - Nature
  - Economy
  - People
  - Landscape... by building a framework that enables us to create healthy ecosystems that empower, protect (and recover) nature.
1. Ambitious but focused, realistic, scalable and sustainable for the future.
2. Contextual – the appropriate intervention into the appropriate landscape – who decides what’s appropriate?
3. 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 might we achieve it?



## Principles

1. Inclusive and collaborative whilst recognising and addressing power dynamics – “people own what they help create”, drawing experience both locally and nationally.
2. Listen to understand!
3. Everyone has a valid view and contribution – “start anywhere and follow everywhere”.
4. Work at pace (balancing the sense of urgency with reflection).
5. 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.
6. Meaningful engagement (by appealing to people’s motivations).
7. Build understanding: “if you don’t know, you can’t do anything about it”.
8. Learn together.
9. Shift mindsets/culture, acknowledging the systemic nature of the work.



# How do we frame this LNRS work?

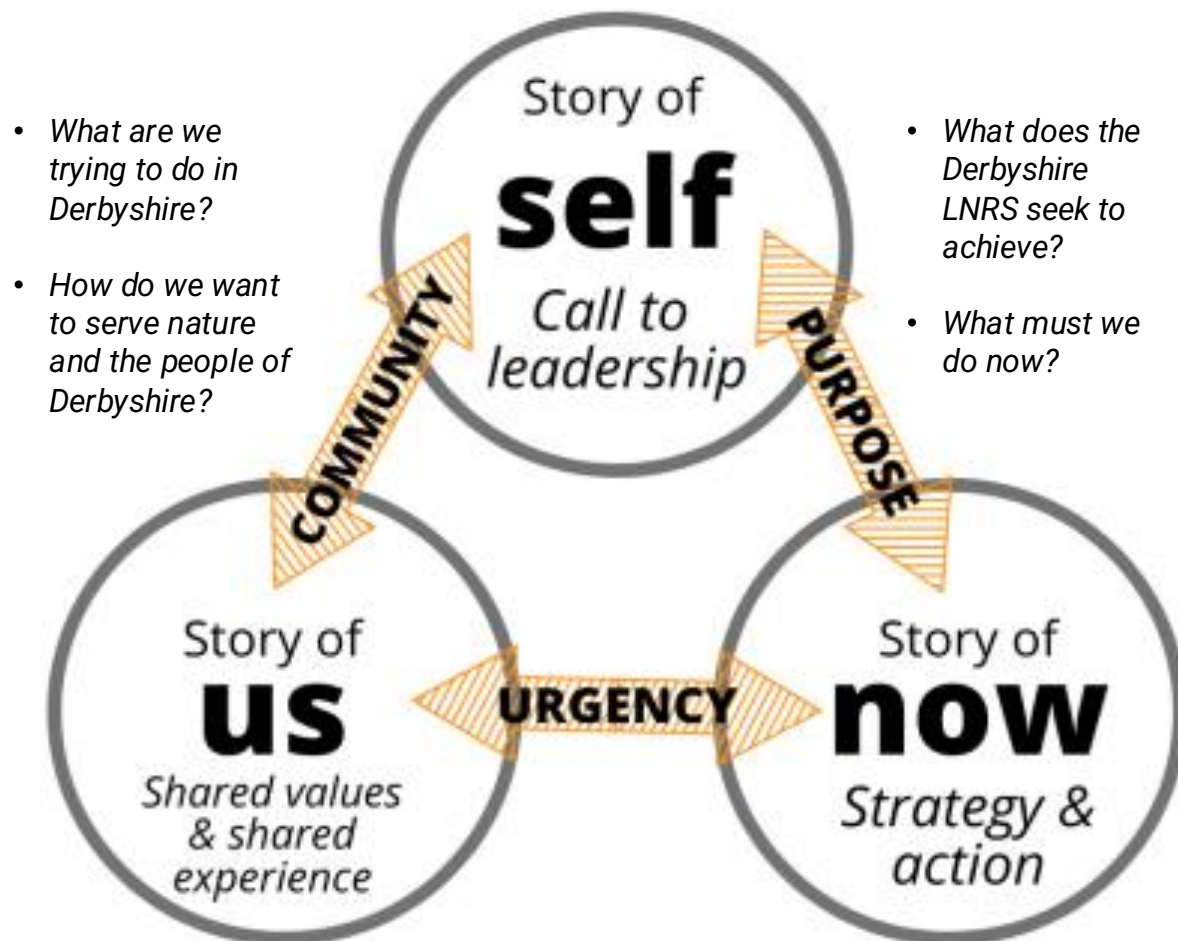
## Talking about the LNRS so people understand – the power of story:

One of the key roles of the steering group is to mobilise networks and talk about the LNRS in a way that others can connect with. Stories can communicate our values and motivate people to act. The Public Narrative framework is made up of three components: a Story of Self, a Story of Us, and a Story of Now. A Story of Self communicates the values that have called you to leadership; a Story of Us communicates the values shared by those in action; a Story of Now communicates an urgent challenge to those values that demands action now.

## Story of Self

- We live here. We want to leave the county and the world a better place. We feel a responsibility and a desire to work better together to ensure that the natural world is protected.
- We all recognise the importance of wildlife to people, services and life. We have a passion for the potential in the diversity of landscapes in Derbyshire. We recognise that there are also a diversity of values in Derbyshire and that we need to find a way to both protect nature and support necessary extractive industries and people's livelihoods.
- We are pragmatic. We know what it takes to make things happen, that nature recovery requires technical, strategic, cultural and evidence-based approaches, and know that it is an active practice.
- We want to advocate for nature, and influence others with stewardship roles. We want to experience connection with nature and other like-minded people, to collaborate, learn and dream with them to ensure a thriving Derbyshire.

- What calls me to be part of the Steering Group?
- What values do I hold?



# How do we frame this LNRS work?



## Story of Us

- Derbyshire is iconic in its scale and diversity of landscapes. We know the value of nature – it is all around us, and we are motivated by how much it enriches our lives.
- Across Derbyshire, there is common ground and there are new relationships budding. We all want to do the right thing.
- Here, people are focused on local priorities and what they mean for local people.
- We want to look back with pride at how we let our love and care for nature guide our nature recovery work.



## Story of Now

- Derbyshire's LNRS is ambitious. We know that we must make choices that will impact day to day life, but we also recognise the potential impact of the LNRS – that our approach can serve as a global call to action!
- Practically, the LNRS must also be accessible, with priorities and measures that are realistic and actionable.
- We aim to create a vehicle through which focused and targeted resources can flow to deliver for a thriving natural environment.



# Questions the Steering Group is holding moving forward



As we move into public consultation, and the initial roll-out of the LNRS, we need to consider the following questions, to progress towards a first draft of the LNRS the next task is for the Steering Group to work together to develop some responses and ways forward relating to these questions:

How can we ensure that the **language of the LNRS is accessible and consistent**, while also providing the necessary technical guidance?

**Who are we creating the LNRS for, and how will they use it?** What does this mean for how we communicate and disseminate it?

What **sectors and areas of the county have been most engaged in the strategic design of the LNRS** so far? How do we broaden the cross-section of people we engage with?

How can the **LNRS be different to what's come before** (BAP's, for example)? What do people need the LNRS to do and how can it meet those needs – both technically and culturally?

How do we present the LNRS to **different audiences**?

What did we do? What did we hear?

# LNRS Workshops

Place-based, in person



# Co-producing the LNRS

To continue co-producing the LNRS, we invited organisations across Derbyshire to a series of place-focused workshops. Each session lasted 3 hours and centred around surfacing priorities and potential measures for biodiversity and nature recovery in the named cluster areas, helping shape future policy, investment and action across the county.

## Purpose and intentions

- Capture participants' vision of nature recovery in Derbyshire in 2044 and beyond.
- Validate the National Character Areas (NCA) summaries, as prepared by DCC.
- Start by generating localised opportunities and then move towards area-wide opportunities for nature recovery, based on participants' desires, unique expertise and area knowledge.
- Prioritise opportunities with the help of participants' desires, knowledge and experience.
- Build a nuanced data-set around identified priorities to inform potential measures.

## Design considerations

- How can we have nature present in the room?
- How do we create space for everyone to be heard in the room and begin to level the power dynamics?
- How do we make the experience meaningful for any repeat attendees?
- Will people in the room know each other? How do we organise activities so that we separate people from the same organisations etc to encourage partnerships and 'out of bubble' experiences?
- How can we present the lived experience of people's nature recovery measures so that they're useful?



# Phase 2 Stakeholder Engagement

In-person workshops  
(cluster based)

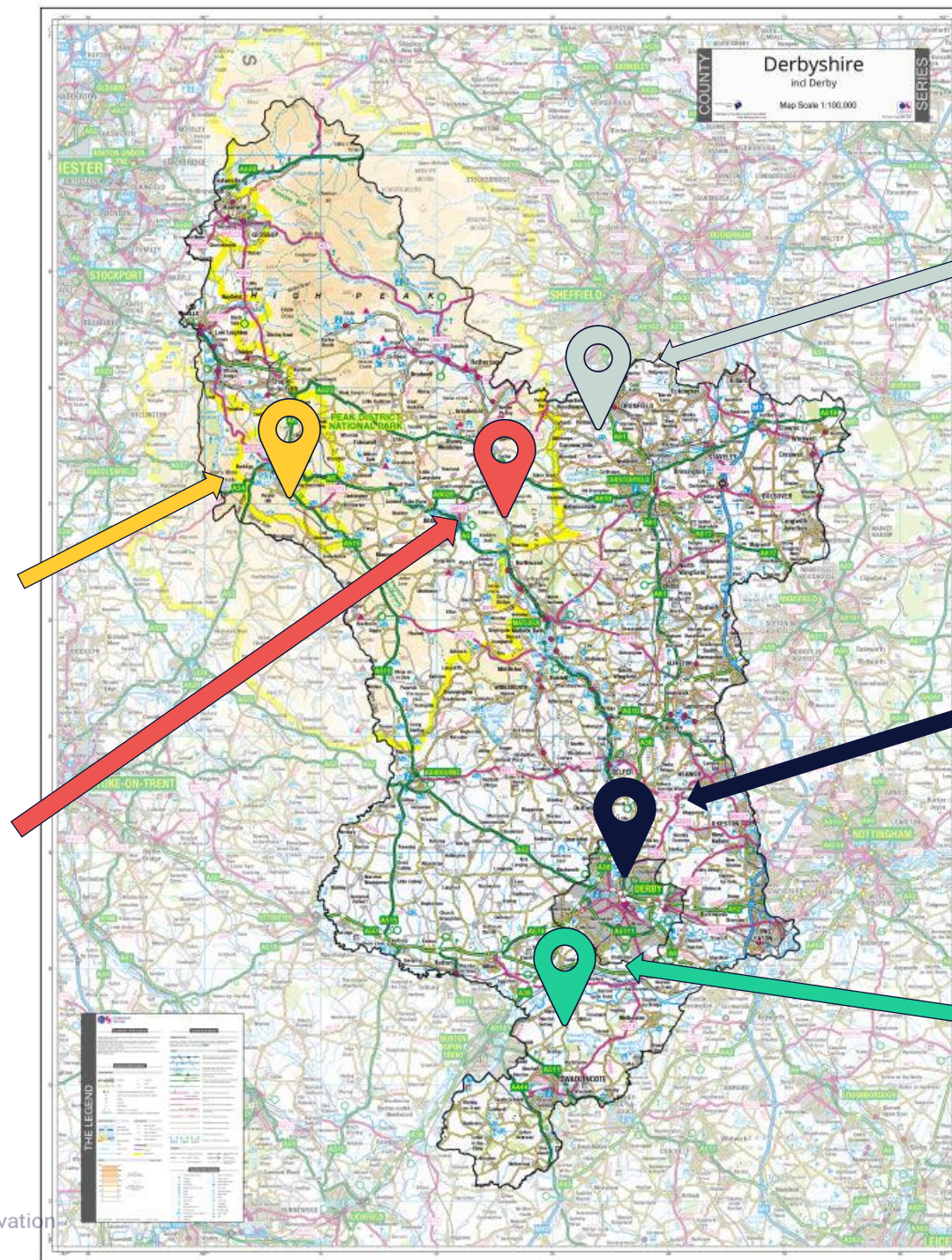


## Workshop 4, Cluster 1: Dark Peak / White Peak / South-West Peak

- Where: Octagon Lounge, Pavilion Gardens
- When: 18th September, 12:30-4pm

## Workshop 5, Cluster 3: Derbyshire Peak Fringe and Lower Derwent / Needwood and South Derbyshire Claylands

- Where: Ashover Parish Hall
- When: 19th September, 12:30-4pm



## Workshop 1, Cluster 2: South Yorkshire, Nottinghamshire, and Derbyshire Coal Field / South Magnesian Limestone Plateau

- Where: Hasland Village Hall
- When: 9th September, 12:30-4pm

## Workshop 2, Cluster 4: Trent Valley Washlands (including Derby City)

- Where: Lonsdale House Learning Lab
- When: 10th September, 12:30-4pm

## Workshop 3, Cluster 5: Melbourne Parklands / Leicestershire and South Derbyshire Coal Fields / Mease, Sence Lowlands

- Where: Newhall Village Hall
- When: 11th September, 12:30-4pm



# National Character Area (NCA) maps

To enable participants to operate from the same baseline data and have an opportunity to influence upcoming iterations of these documents (which will form part of the LNRS), we asked people to review the NCA maps of the areas they know best.

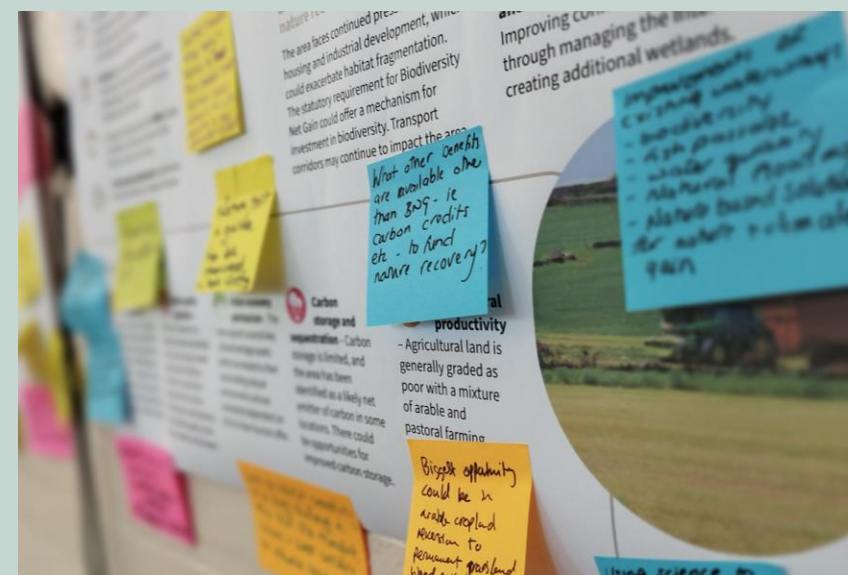
This was a helpful mechanism to jump start ideas and thinking about opportunities for nature recovery for the main bulk of the workshop.

Participants were asked to answer/comment on:

- Do you recognise your area? What resonates with your experience of the area?
- What is missing from this snapshot?
- What is happening already – either exactly or similar?
- What potential for nature recovery do you see in this area?

## Key feedback

- Stakeholders felt strongly about making the maps clearer to understand, especially for those not familiar with the NCAs – the LNRS needs to be easy for people to recognise their own areas and engage. Ways to improve this included adding a few place names and places of interest to each map to provide more meaningful spatial context.
- Stakeholders also surfaced lots of missing detail of habitats and potential opportunities that were missing from the pages, which will be incorporated into the next iterations of these NCA summaries.
- Full feedback on the area descriptions can be found in the Appendix of this report, on page 44.



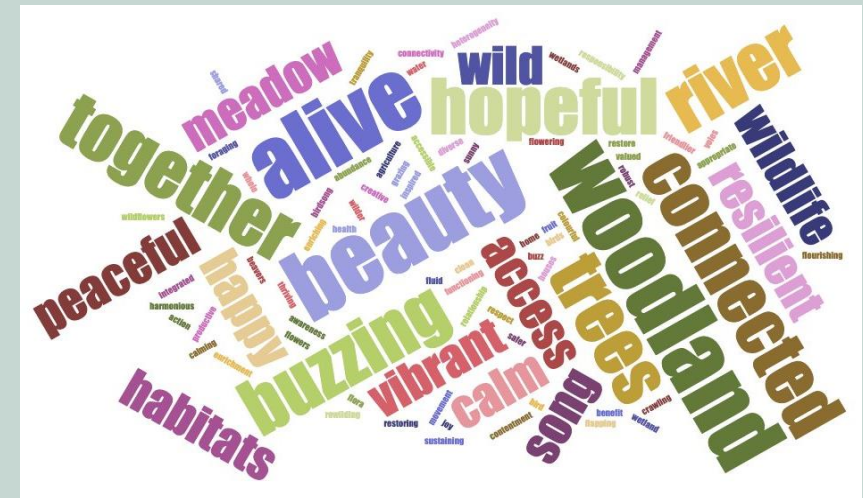
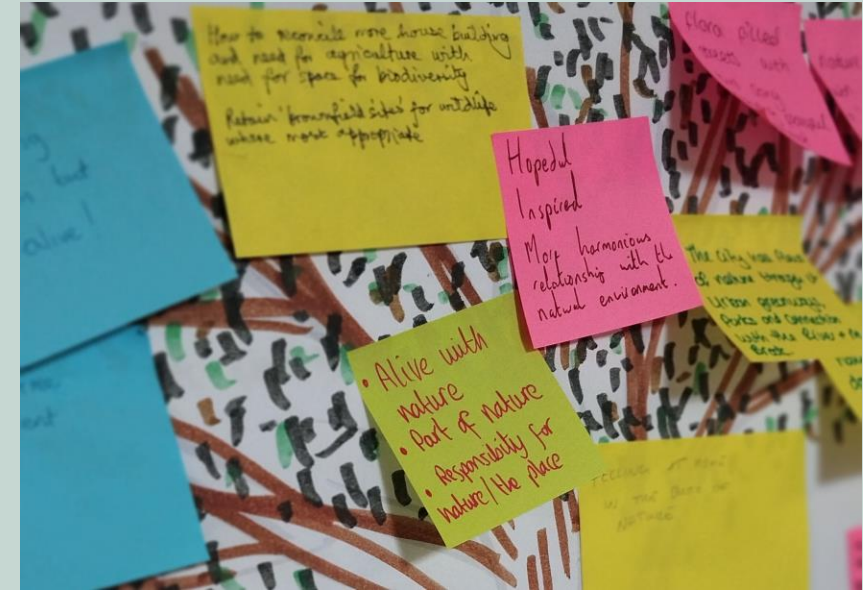
# Visioning the future of Derbyshire nature recovery



We wanted to provide an opportunity for participants to get into an **idealistic and optimistic mindset** before they moved to generating opportunities. When brainstorming new ideas, we have found that people tend to be realistic and pragmatic. They are bound by the current reality when it comes to opportunity generation, so this felt like a way to introduce some idealism and optimism, to allow for some reflection and to **bring nature into the room**. An excerpt from the meditation is included below:

*"Imagine it is 2044, and nature recovery efforts have taken off in Derbyshire! It couldn't be going better and, in fact, has surpassed all expectations of what was thought could be achieved. Different interest groups who had before been divided are working together and nature recovery across the region is setting the standard for all other counties in the UK. Imagine that, working together, we have delivered a thriving natural environment for Derbyshire, with bigger, better, more joined up wildlife sites for the benefit of all. You open your door. What are the impacts of Derbyshire's nature recovery that you can see – in your front or back garden, on the streets around your house, or the spaces adjacent to your home?"*

*As you move through your community, what impact has Derbyshire's nature recovery had there? How has it impacted your neighbours, neighbouring farms and fields, common spaces and the ways that your community interacts with species, natural habitats and woodlands, grasslands, waterways, semi-natural, managed and agricultural land?"*



# Surfacing priorities and measures



We designed the workshops so that participants would surface priorities and measures\* for nature recovery in Derbyshire based on their intimate knowledge of the landscape and that reflect what is important to them. Given the insight and information, they had surfaced in the workshops thus far, we asked them to think about the most important priorities for nature recovery in Derbyshire at different geographical scales - their back garden, their community, their national character area, as well as any other priorities from existing strategies and spatial plans. This intervention meant encouraged them to think about different scales of impact, where they might naturally think only at one particular scale.

Based on their knowledge of the area and the National Environmental Objectives, we then asked them to select their top five priorities from the long list they had just brainstormed. This meant that groups had conversations about which priorities needed to happen first, which priorities had multiple benefits or knock-on effects, which priorities focussed on vulnerable habitats and/or species, etc. The conversations around what and how to prioritise were often very rich.

Once each group had chosen their top five priorities, we had them plot them on a matrix that helped the groups surface measures that would achieve each priority. Instead of asking groups to simply identify measures for each priority, we asked them to think through and answer the following questions:

- What's stopping this from happening now?
- What is already happening that is similar / relevant?
- What is a measure(s) that would achieve this priority?
- Why is it strategic? How does it contribute to nature recovery and the principles outlined in the NEO's?
- What specific places do you know of where this measure could take place? Why do you think this place will work well?

These questions structured conversations that were more nuanced and in-depth, and supported participants to identify measures that addressed the priorities systemically – i.e. measures that addressed the barriers to a priority happening as well as the opportunities that priorities present.

\*Participants found the terms 'priorities' and 'measures' confusing, and we noticed that people were interpreting the terms in ways that contradicted the strategic guidance and what DCC was looking for. Therefore, after the first workshop, we changed the wording to ensure more clarity for participants. We called priorities '*outcomes*' and measures '*actions*'.



# South Yorkshire, Nottinghamshire, & Derbyshire Coal Field/ South Magnesium Limestone Plateau



Key takeaways from workshop 1 at Hasland Hall, Chesterfield  
**Top outcomes the group would like to see in the LNRS:**

- 1** Unpolluted Watercourses and Healthy Rivers *Focus Areas:* water quality, natural river processes, river connectivity, wetland conservation.
- 2** Habitat Connectivity through Hedgerows, Woodlands, and Wildlife Corridors *Focus Areas:* Hedgerow and woodland planting, linking green spaces, creating wildlife corridors.
- 3** Nature-Friendly Urban Development and Green Space Creation *Focus Areas:* Green urban spaces, rewilding, wildlife-friendly infrastructure (bird/bat boxes, green roofs).
- 4** Nature Education and Community Engagement *Focus Areas:* School and community education, practical opportunities for nature connection, citizen science.
- 5** High-Quality Habitats and Farmland Management for Nature *Focus Areas:* Farmland biodiversity, habitat quality in rural areas, sustainable farming practices.
- 6** Public and Community Ownership of Green and Blue Spaces *Focus Areas:* Community access, management of local green/blue spaces, volunteering.
- 7** Protection of Ex-Industrial and Brownfield Sites for Nature *Focus Areas:* Rewilding industrial areas, protecting brownfield and greyfield sites for biodiversity.

## Discussions that stood out

New policy is needed to facilitate nature recovery

Discussions around natural processes that can enhance nature recovery – letting nature do its thing

An emphasis on empowering people at the most local possible level

“Derbyshire is also a post-industrial landscape... there’s not just farmed areas but other areas that offer potential too”



**Workshop attendance highlights:** A good mix of representation including District Councils, National Trust, Community Trusts, Volunteer Groups and Heritage Trust.

- 19 participants
- NFU County Advisor
- +2 keen but didn't make it on the day

# Trent Valley Washlands (Including Derby City)



Key takeaways from workshop 2 at Lonsdale House  
Top outcomes the group would like to see in the LNRS:

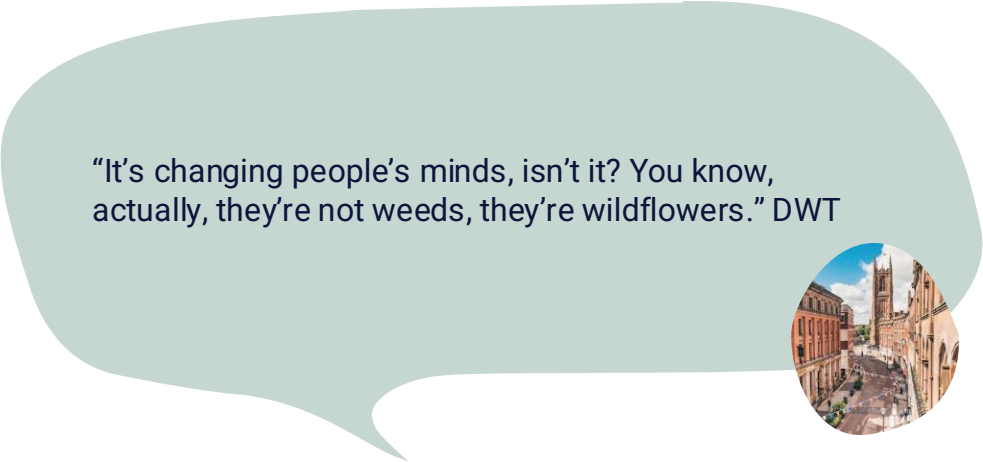
- 1** Increased Biodiversity *Focus area:* Restore and create wildlife-friendly habitats in urban and garden settings.
- 2** Nature-Friendly Gardening Practices *Focus area:* Encourage gardening practices that enhance biodiversity and support natural processes.
- 3** More Connected and Accessible Green Spaces *Focus area:* Ensure green spaces and wildlife corridors are accessible and connected.
- 4** Community Engagement in Nature Conservation *Focus area:* Engage and empower communities in biodiversity conservation.
- 5** Improved Climate Resilience *Focus area:* Enhance flood and climate resilience through natural infrastructure.
- 6** Healthy Wetlands and Waterways *Focus area:* Restore and maintain healthy, connected wetland ecosystems.
- 7** Connected and Diverse Habitats *Focus area:* Improve habitat connectivity and diversity across landscapes.

## Discussions that stood out

Lack of easy access to green spaces for nearby residents

The need to balance intervention with nature's ability to progress on its own

Limiting ability to get volunteers in and train volunteers effectively



"It's changing people's minds, isn't it? You know, actually, they're not weeds, they're wildflowers." DWT



**Workshop attendance highlights:** Good representation from Derby City Council alongside Walk Derbyshire Workforce Lead, Forestry Commission, Natural England and Countryside Rangers.

17 participants

Landscape Architects

+4 keen but didn't make it on the day

# Melbourne Parklands, Leicestershire & South Derbyshire Coalfields, Mease/Sence Lowlands



Key takeaways from workshop 3 at Newhall Village Hall


Top outcomes the group would like to see in the LNRS:

- 1** Increased Biodiversity in Urban and Rural Areas *Focus Area:* Biodiversity through habitat creation and species management.
- 2** Community Engagement in Nature Recovery *Focus Area:* Eco-literacy and community stewardship of local ecosystems.
- 3** Sustainable Land Management Practices *Focus Area:* Sustainable agriculture and long-term land management.
- 4** Improved Connectivity of Habitats *Focus Area:* Ecological connectivity and species movement.
- 5** Climate Resilience and Water Management *Focus Area:* Climate resilience through natural water management and habitat restoration.
- 6** Valuing Untidiness and Natural Processes *Focus Area:* Cultural shift towards valuing biodiversity and natural ecosystems.
- 7** Integrated Nature Recovery Strategies *Focus Area:* Integrated, collaborative strategies for nature recovery.

## Discussions that stood out

- Encouraging people to have a little bit of a messy garden
- Feasibility studies needed to determine need for nature partnership, self-sufficiency, etc
- Need to manage biodiversity with farming practices – find a balance between the two

“Most farmers would be glad to see an increase of the smaller animals that don’t eat their crops.”  
– NFU



**Workshop attendance highlights:** Lowest attended session, but still a mix of Planning Managers, National Trust, Forestry Commission and NFU.

- 10 participants
- Steering Group Chair
- +1 keen but didn't make it on the day



# Dark Peak, White Peak, & South-West Peak



Key takeaways from workshop 4 at Octagon, Buxton  
Top outcomes the group would like to see in the LNRS:

- 1** Biodiverse, Wildlife-friendly Gardens *Focus area:* rich biodiversity in gardens supporting wildlife, including insects, birds, and small mammals.
- 2** Healthy, Sustainable Food Production *Focus area:* gardens and communities balance sustainable food production with biodiversity.
- 3** Cleaner, Healthier Rivers and Waterways *Focus area:* rivers and water bodies are clean, healthy, and support diverse wildlife.
- 4** Connected and Accessible Habitats *Focus area:* wildlife habitats are interconnected, allowing species to thrive.
- 5** Nature-Friendly Farming and Land Management *Focus area:* agriculture supports biodiversity through sustainable practices.
- 6** Increased Community Engagement with Nature *Focus area:* communities are more engaged in managing and conserving nature.
- 7** Protected and Enhanced Natural Spaces *Focus area:* protected areas and species-rich habitats are expanded and enhanced.


## Discussions that stood out

Dependency & lack of decent public transport in rural areas

Current schemes have conditions that stop farmers claiming funding

Initial conversation about the LNRS showed concern about the lack of connection between ongoing projects that contribute to nature recovery and action plans

“This year we had 30 ground nesting birds, it was amazing. They laid eggs in the ground, we let the cows through and about 30 flew off, so they are coming back and it’s amazing.”  
– Farmer



**Workshop attendance highlights:** We were aware this was a more affluent area of Derbyshire, so conversations around lower economic status were less present. There was a high attendance here, this session had been heavily promoted by NFU.

37 participants

Agronomist

+8 keen but didn't make it on the day

# Derbyshire Peak Fringe and Lower Derwent , Needwood and South Derbyshire Claylands



Key takeaways from workshop 5 at Ashover Parish Hall  
**Top outcomes the group would like to see in the LNRS:**

- 1** Increased Biodiversity and Habitat Creation *Focus Area:* wild gardens, wildlife corridors, more trees, and water management.
- 2** Wildlife-friendly Communities *Focus area:* education, community gardens, rewilding, and nature-friendly farming.
- 3** Pollution Control and Reduction of Chemical Use *Focus area:* ban fake grass, reduce pesticides/herbicides, clean rivers.
- 4** Sustainable Infrastructure and Government Policy *Focus area:* green spaces in developments, regenerative farming, flood management.
- 5** Greater Public Engagement and Nature Education *Focus area:* schools, community involvement, long-term nature recovery strategies.

## Discussions that stood out

Citizen science being used to map rivers and species

Pollution considered unnecessary; resources offered are not effective in reducing pollution for land managers

Bureaucracy being an issue for farmers and strings attached, with deals made by government bodies and the forestry commission

**Workshop attendance highlights:** There was a good spread of representation across sectors ranging from Wildlife Trust, Forestry Commission and Friends of groups alongside farmers and Planning Policy Officers. This is a more affluent region of Derbyshire and there was noticeably more representation from regenerative farming, rewilding and net-zero farming

19 participants

Leader of the council

+9 keen but didn't make it on the day



What did we do? What did we hear?

# LNRS Workshops

Thematic, online

# Flexible engagement opportunities, offering online workshops

To maximise engagement opportunities over a short space of time, the team also offered a series of five online sessions, hosted on Zoom. Rather than covering a geographical area, these sessions were thematic and aimed to gather people with expertise in five specific landscape types:

- Workshop 1: **Woodlands and trees** (4th September, 1-2:30pm)
- Workshop 2: **Wetlands and watercourses** (5th September, 1-2:30pm)
- Workshop 3: **Grasslands, heathlands and open habitats** (12th September, 1-2:30pm)
- Workshop 4: **Urban environments** (17th September, 10-11:30am)
- Workshop 5: **Farmed Landscapes** (12th September, 6pm – 7.30pm)

The content was largely the same as the in-person workshops, to allow for continuity of data collected, the activities were just slightly simplified to better suit the online conditions.

## Design considerations

- These sessions were only 1.5 hours each (focus and engagement online is a lot harder).
- We used an online collaboration tool called Miro which allowed for participants to make notes and participate independently using a virtual whiteboard and post-it notes.
- Accessibility is very important when using any online technology, so we also offered low-tech options for participants whose laptop, phone or digital literacy was not best suited to Miro, allowing people to simply offer ideas verbally, or via the chat function. To allow for this, we had more facilitators running the sessions to support with live notetaking and tech support.
- Breakout rooms were set up to allow for smaller group discussions, with facilitators in each room to support and note-take.

## Brainstorming outcomes



## Measures for our top priorities

The Young Foundation

Actions for our top outcomes

Place your top 5 outcomes in the column below	What's stopping this from happening now? What are the barriers?	What already happening that is similar / relevant?
<p>Ecotone connectivity between habitats</p>	<p>Fragmentation of habitats</p> <p>Lack of connectivity between habitats</p>	<p>Ecotone connectivity between habitats</p> <p>Ecotone connectivity between habitats</p>
<p>Ecotone connectivity between habitats</p>	<p>Fragmentation of habitats</p> <p>Lack of connectivity between habitats</p>	<p>Ecotone connectivity between habitats</p> <p>Ecotone connectivity between habitats</p>
<p>Ecotone connectivity between habitats</p>	<p>Fragmentation of habitats</p> <p>Lack of connectivity between habitats</p>	<p>Ecotone connectivity between habitats</p> <p>Ecotone connectivity between habitats</p>
<p>Ecotone connectivity between habitats</p>	<p>Fragmentation of habitats</p> <p>Lack of connectivity between habitats</p>	<p>Ecotone connectivity between habitats</p> <p>Ecotone connectivity between habitats</p>
<p>Ecotone connectivity between habitats</p>	<p>Fragmentation of habitats</p> <p>Lack of connectivity between habitats</p>	<p>Ecotone connectivity between habitats</p> <p>Ecotone connectivity between habitats</p>

# Woodlands and Trees



Key takeaways from online workshop 1

## Top outcomes the group would like to see in the LNRS:

- 1 Creating more robust, diverse, and connected woodlands with the right species in the right places, ensuring mixed-age structures and overall ecosystem health.
- 2 Greater public understanding and appreciation of woodlands, promoting community involvement in woodland conservation and management.
- 3 Implement long-term strategies for the restoration, creation, and management of woodlands, focusing on species diversity, climate resilience, and natural processes.
- 4 Support agroforestry by providing advice, guidance, and funding to agricultural tenants, enabling the integration of trees into productive farmland.
- 5 Prioritise the protection, restoration, and expansion of woodlands, including ancient woodlands, riparian areas, and the creation of networks and corridors across landscapes.
- 6 Incorporate green infrastructure and nature-based solutions into planning and development, ensuring a connection between urban and rural areas for enhanced ecosystem services.
- 7 Manage and control invasive species, with a focus on linking efforts to national initiatives, while enhancing the protection and reintroduction of native species.

## Discussions that stood out

There are currently insufficient financial resources to support large-scale biodiversity projects and ongoing management.

Discussions around developing educational programs to enhance public understanding and appreciation of woodlands.

How can we have access to saplings, planting equipment, and labour for large-scale woodland creation?

"We need better tools and networks to facilitate collaboration among community groups, such as the Midlands Forest Network."



**Workshop attendance highlights:** Representation from Squirrel Accord, National Trust, Wildlife Trust, Forestry Commission and Derbyshire Ornithological Society.

10 participants

+2 keen but didn't make it on the day

# Wetlands and Watercourses



Key takeaways from online workshop 2

**Top outcomes the group would like to see in the LNRS:**

- 1 Better connectivity to floodplains and watercourses, allowing for natural flood management and species movement across the landscape.
- 2 Wetland (re)creation and embracing importance of wetlands in other habitats. Natural flood management measures, such as wetland creation and restoration.
- 3 Recovery of species like Atlantic salmon, lamprey, and burbot through improved habitat connectivity and creation of functioning fish passages.
- 4 Control invasive species such as mink and Japanese Knotweed, which disrupt native ecosystems and watercourses.
- 5 Restoring natural processes and habitat mosaics, making the catchment more resilient to future environmental changes and species reintroductions.
- 6 Enhance water quality by promoting land management practices that protect watercourses and improve buffers, ensuring clean, healthy waterways.
- 7 Engage communities in understanding and preserving the complexity of ecosystems, ensuring that watercourses and wetlands are seen as valuable, interconnected parts of the landscape.

## Discussions that stood out

There has been acknowledgement that people are disconnected from nature, seeing it more as a resource but not necessarily understanding how nature can thrive.

Interesting points brought up around the purpose of the LNRS – is it supposed to be THE plan or can this include the creation of species-specific management plans?

Rivers and canals seen as 'in the way' to developers, thus often neglected, rather than seen as a part of nature

“It’s important to think about vertical connectivity with climate change, considering obstacles such as rain and drought”

– Wildlife Trust



**Workshop attendance highlights:** Environment Agency, Trent Rivers Trust, Landscape Architect and Derbyshire Amphibian and Reptile Group.

11 participants

+4 keen but didn't make it on the day

# Grasslands, Heathlands and Open Habitats



Key takeaways from online workshop 3

Top outcomes the group would like to see in the LNRS:

- 1 Enhanced connectivity between habitats, creating functional ecosystems that support biodiversity.
- 2 Broad public and farmer participation in habitat restoration and LNRS initiatives.
- 3 Fully restored and functioning blanket bogs, improving flood resilience and water quality.
- 4 Restoration and better management of existing grasslands and open habitats for enhanced biodiversity and carbon storage.
- 5 More grasslands and habitats integrated into strategies and spatial plans, enhancing biodiversity and ecosystem services.
- 6 Creation of connected wet woodlands and water-rich habitats to support biodiversity and flood resilience.
- 7 Habitats designed to balance species needs, especially in response to climate change.

## Discussions that stood out

Discussion around communication and process – cutting and clearing up, not cutting and dropping when making pathways to the public.

Consideration of the need to maintain existing habitats to start with, then later enabling them to contribute to ecotones.

Education not to be about people stopping mowing their lawns, but for lawns to be seen for their habitat value.

"Sometimes we tend to pigeon-hole things a bit too much, but nature likes things to be a bit scruffy."  
– National Trust



Workshop attendance highlights: RSPB, Wildlife Trust, Volunteer Groups and Glorious Grasslands.

7 participants

+5 keen but didn't make it on the day



# Urban Environments

Key takeaways from online workshop 4

**Top outcomes the group would like to see in the LNRS:**

**1** Increase street and urban tree cover, protect existing green spaces, & reduce mowing for pollinator-friendly environments.

**2** Form community groups to care for local areas, enhance wildlife habitats, & create foraging opportunities.

**3** Integrate nature-friendly measures in new developments (e.g. living roofs, bird and bat boxes, tree planting), & restore waterways.

**4** Ensure all residents live within 15 minutes' walk of green or blue spaces and develop active travel routes through green corridors.

**5** Manage and remove invasive species while enhancing biodiversity with pollinator habitats, wildlife corridors, and robust ecosystems.



**Discussions that stood out**

How might we see larger urban areas and settlements, such as towns and cities, as opportunities for wildlife corridors rather than barriers?

Difficulties for local authorities to justify setting space aside for green space due to pressure 'from above'.

Stewardship could be used to develop a relationship with nature and encourage design that contributes to BNG.

Workshop attendance highlights: Ramblers Association, Wildlife Trust, The Coal Authority, Chesterfield Canal Trust, Derbyshire Swift Conservation and bordering councils.

**16**  
participants

+6 keen  
but didn't  
make it on  
the day

"We seem to have this line where the countryside is one area, and the city is another. It's about trying to make people see that the countryside is everywhere... A little each day can make a difference."

– Wildlife Trust





# Farmed Landscapes



Key takeaways from online workshop 5

**Top outcomes the group would like to see in the LNRS:**

- 1 Linking woodland, creating woodland corridors, and having manageable wildlife habitats.
- 2 Reducing pollutant run-off into watercourses and protecting aquatic life.
- 3 Promotion of more sustainable farming practices.
- 4 Promotion of sustainable practices and wider benefits available to farmers & public at-large.
- 5 Reducing atmospheric carbon production.
- 6 Incentivising alternative use of land.

**Workshop attendance highlights:** This workshop had a high drop-out rate, due to the conflicting schedules of farmers at this time of year. The session was run as more of a conversation.

3 participants

+13 keen but didn't make it on the day

## Discussions that stood out

Moving to more sustainable farming practices is a long-term gain, but farmers are focussed on the short-term. So, the short-term could be subsidised to allow farmers' transition.

Better environmental education is needed in farming – agricultural college will focus on profit and maximum gain, how can we get people learning about nature?

Eliminating synthetic fertiliser – profitability will suffer at first, but it will stabilise and there is the benefit of more species rich grass.

"The big issue from a livestock point of view – a lot of people like the outdoor rustic approach, but you have no control over methane production or whatever, but indoor you can utilise the heat and that sort of stuff."

– Farmer





# Live feedback samples collected at sessions: *Reflecting on nature recovery in Derbyshire, what are you most hopeful about?*

Hopeful that this process may support a more cohesive approach

A connected landscape supplying important ecosystem services which include woodlands and trees.

potential for woodland creation and management to be a high priority in Derbyshire to help deliver a robust and resilient landscape across the county.

I'm not hopeful

I feel that we are all focusing on connectivity and habitat heterogeneity and restoring diverse habitats so we have brilliant biodiversity where it should be.

It shouldn't be beyond the wit of man to maintain river and wetland water quality sufficient to sustain life

I am hopeful that the LNRS will help pull together all the great work already being done and encourage stakeholders to work in a strategic way to achieve more for nature recovery in Derbyshire.

I am hopeful that the right people are being included in the conversation and the decision making and we have a collective drive and vision for our watercourses and wetlands.

## Part 2

---

# What have we noticed?

Key insights from the process and sensemaking



# Tensions and themes that came out of the engagement workshops



Developing the LNRS to guide nature recovery in ways that support people's livelihoods and lifestyles surfaced some **perceived** tensions as we heard from people all over the county, representing a diversity of areas and sectors. It's important to note here that this feedback and thinking doesn't necessarily represent all parties in Derbyshire, it is simply a capture from discussions at the workshops and should not be read as absolutes or inevitable conflicts, but rather kept in mind as the strategy is developed.

Misunderstanding the realities of farming and food production

There is a tension between mass rewilding or other recovery practices and self-sufficient food production in the UK.

Protection of natural spaces versus accessibility

There is a tension between providing people access to natural spaces and the protection of those habitats and the species that live in them (eg people will spray tick repellent which is toxic for animals)

Conflicting data and opinions on land use

There is a slew of conflicting evidence on 'best practice' for land use when it comes to supporting nature, food systems, society and planet.

Perceived boundaries of the LNRS vs how the LNRS will operate

What will the boundaries on the NCA maps, as well as the classification of characteristics and natural spaces, mean for funding, and for people wanting to deliver the priorities and measures of the LNRS?

Feelings of guilt, shame and blame

The farming community feels vilified and blamed for the state of the natural environment, when they believe they have been protecting nature and serving their communities.

LNRS and other schemes

How might BNG, as well as other strategies and schemes, contribute, impact, feed into, and reinforce the LNRS? How do we structure the strategy when we don't know what we don't know?

Conflicting values on nature

What's good for a natural habitat (e.g. 'no mow May') conflicts with how people want to engage with and use that land (mowed paths/fields to walk and play in).

LNRS as a carrot and not a stick

The LNRS won't compel people to act in a certain way but provide opportunities and guidance for viable nature recovery and ways to contribute to the priorities and measures that are important to the people of Derbyshire.

# The workshop experience – what did we notice?



Insights from the process of hosting and facilitating workshops with stakeholders

There's a knowledge gap between aspirations and activity – participants struggled more to suggest measures that would lead to their desired priorities.

Participants tend to arrive with their own passion areas and sometimes struggle to zoom out and step outside of their 'bubble' to think strategically at a systemic level.

Participants really valued getting to speak with other organisations that they don't usually get time with, breaking down siloes and understanding from different perspectives and finding new ways to collaborate.

Many stakeholders, including special interest groups and farmers/landowners, don't feel heard by the government, and spent a lot of time stating their positions rather than engaging in the tasks.

The guided visualisation exercise proved challenging for some, while others took to it. Our role was to push people into unreasonable optimism, and people often are resistant to that space.

There were many repeating participants from organisations (National Trust, Natural England, Forestry Commission, Wildlife Trust, etc.) which showed impressive engagement and care, but we must acknowledge that conversations may be skewed towards their interests.

If we were to run these workshops again, we would want to spend a little more time on strategic thinking at the top of the session and helping people to make the most of the prioritisation activities.

## Part 3

---

# What does this mean for the Local Nature Recovery Strategy?

Next steps: opportunities for the next phase of work



# LNRS – what next?

## Opportunities - 1

Our engagement activity throughout Phase 2 has surfaced several opportunities for Derbyshire County Council to consider as they move into the next phase of wider public engagement with the University of Derby, taking the next steps to create a well informed and locally rooted Local Nature Recovery Strategy.



### 1. OPPORTUNITIES FOR COLLABORATION

Continue to offer opportunities for stakeholders to come together, listen and support each other in a peer setting. By strengthening connection, organisations and individuals can find common ground, fill knowledge gaps and increase their understanding of the system as a whole, which in turn, will provide more joined up thinking in the LNRS.

**Recommended action:** Follow up with all workshop attendees and suggest localised nature recovery network meet-ups.



### 2. OPPORTUNITIES FOR ITERATION

A 'perfect' LNRS doesn't exist. The next stage of this work provides the perfect opportunity to begin to test and trial the LNRS priorities and measures with the public, being comfortable in sharing, receiving feedback, making changes and then sharing again – the process of iteration will get us closer to a LNRS that serves Derbyshire to the fullest.

**Recommended action:** Share parts of the upcoming LNRS in draft form throughout the public engagement phase and be open to feedback from stakeholders.



### 3. OPPORTUNITIES FOR EDUCATION

So much of what we've heard has been about working towards a shared set of values around the natural environment. The upcoming public engagement phase offers a brilliant opportunity to level the playing field with the general public through awareness raising, creative, accessible education activities, and building a movement through storytelling and network building.

**Recommended action:** Ensure the public engagement offers interactive opportunities for people to learn.



### 4. OPPORTUNITIES FOR A SYSTEMIC APPROACH

There have been different schemes over the years, from BAPs (Biodiversity Action Plans) and IFS (Integrated Farming Systems) to more recently BNG (Biodiversity Net Gain). They have all worked well – in certain situations and for certain stakeholders – and not for others.

**Recommended action:** This is an opportunity to take a systemic and joined up approach to nature recovery across Derbyshire and the UK, to connect with and/or fill in the gaps of other existing initiatives to get more stakeholders incentivised to work towards nature recovery.

# LNRS – what next?

## Opportunities - 2

Our engagement activity throughout Phase 2 has surfaced several opportunities for Derbyshire County Council to consider as they move into the next phase of wider public engagement with the University of Derby, taking the next steps to create a well informed and locally rooted Local Nature Recovery Strategy.



### 5. OPPORTUNITIES FOR BRIDGING THE KNOWLEDGE GAP BETWEEN ASPIRATIONS AND ACTIVITY

A lot of the outcomes (priorities) and challenges raised throughout this engagement activity have centred around surfacing challenges and problems, and what outcomes the sector would like to see, but less about what the sector could do ('actions') in order to get to those desired outcomes.

### ❖ SUGGESTED NEXT STEPS FOR THE DCC LNRS TEAM

If we are to have meaningful input from stakeholders, we need to put in place extra resource to support them in making sense of what tangible action might look and feel like. We would recommend some small group sessions (up to 10 people) for engaged individuals where they can dig deep into what actions are needed to reach their desired outcomes.

### ❖ EXAMPLE WORKSHOP CONTENT

Start with a pre agreed batch of 5 outcomes.

Take time to ensure everyone is fully clear on what the outcome means and work through a series of activities that help them to put down in writing what actions would look and feel like for them to reach those outcomes.

Repeat with smaller groups as necessary to cover off all prioritised outcomes, as agreed by the Steering Group.







# LNRS – what next?

## Concepts to hold close as we move towards the next phase of wider public engagement and the roll-out of the LNRS



### **Concept 1 A SYSTEMIC APPROACH TO NATURE RECOVERY**

While nature recovery is an important priority for Derbyshire, the UK and the world, a focus on nature recovery efforts will necessarily impact other social and economic systems. An increase in land used for nature recovery could mean a decrease in land available for livestock and crops, impacting the capacity and self-sufficiency of the UK's food production.

In a time of multiple intersecting crises, including national food insecurity, a precarious healthcare system, and the threat of unpredictable trade relationships, we must take a systemic approach to any adaptations we make to ensure that we don't create unwanted results in other interconnected systems.



### **Concept 2 WORKING IN COMPLEXITY REQUIRES HOLDING MULTIPLE TRUTHS**

There are many different perspectives on land use and what nature recovery looks like in practice, all backed by data and research.

Working towards nature recovery is going to require that we all are willing to have our views and perspectives challenged and changed by people, contexts and evidence.

We cannot solve this challenge from one point of view and will need to work together and pool our knowledge and understanding to move in the direction of nature recovery.



### **Concept 3 WE ACTIVELY REFUSE TO GUILT, BLAME OR SHAME EACH OTHER**

We take it as a given that everyone wants to protect our natural environment and the people and places we love. Vilifying each other, using guilt, blame and shame is not productive, and only damages our ability to work together and our momentum for nature recovery initiatives.



### **Concept 4 ECOLOGICAL AND BIODIVERSITY EDUCATION IS AN IMPORTANT PART OF THIS WORK**

We recognise that people want to interact with nature in ways that might be counter-productive to nature recovery – having access to paths for dog-walking which could upset wildlife, for example.

We want to encourage and provide spaces for people to get out into nature, and we recognise that we may need to engage in education as to why this isn't always possible.

## Part 4

---

# Appendix

1. Organisations and individuals involved
2. In-depth National Character Area feedback



# Organisations that took part



A log of all organisations represented through this Phase 2 engagement work.

Active Partners Trust	Derbyshire Amphibian and Reptile Group	Glorious Grasslands	Peak District National Park Authority
Agronomists	Derbyshire County Council	High Peak Borough Council	Ramblers Derbyshire Dales Group
Amber Valley Borough Council	Derbyshire CPRE	Just Good Friends Club	Rosliston Forestry Centre
Bolsover District Council	Derbyshire Dales Climate Hub	Land Development and Permitting UK - WEM	RSPB
Breedon Group	Derbyshire Dales District Council	Long Cliffe Quarries Limited	South Derbyshire Council
Catchment Partnerships	Derbyshire Ornithological Society	Marston on Dove Estates Limited	South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority
Chapel-en-le-Frith Parish Council	Derbyshire Swift Conservation	Monyash Parish Council	Squirrel Accord
Chesterfield Borough Council	Derbyshire Wildlife Trust	Moors for the Future	Staffordshire Moorlands District Council
Chesterfield Canal Trust	Yew Tree Farm	National Forest Company	Sustainable Hayfield
Clowne Wild	Elvaston Castle Country Park	National Trust	Tarmac
University of Derby	Environment Agency	Natural England	The Coal Authority
Creswell Heritage Trust	Forestry Commission	NFC	Transition Chesterfield
Darley & Nutwood Local Nature Reserve	Friends of Allestree Park	NFU	Trent Rivers Trust
Derby City Council	Friends of Little Eaton Canal	Northeast Derbyshire Council	University of Derby
			Yew Tree Farm

# National Character Area (NCA) Feedback

This appendix provides an overview of feedback on the NCA maps provided at the area-based engagement workshops hosted at various locations across the county. There were 5 in-person workshops at the following venues:

Venue	Date	NCA Focus
Hasland Village Hall	9 September 2024	Derbyshire Coalfield/Mag Lime
Lonsdale House, Derby	10 September 2024	Derby City and Trent Valley
Newhall Village Hall	11 September 2024	South Derbyshire NCAs
Octagon Lounge, Buxton	18 September 2024	Peak District NCAs
Ashover Parish Hall	19 September 2024	West Derbyshire NCAs

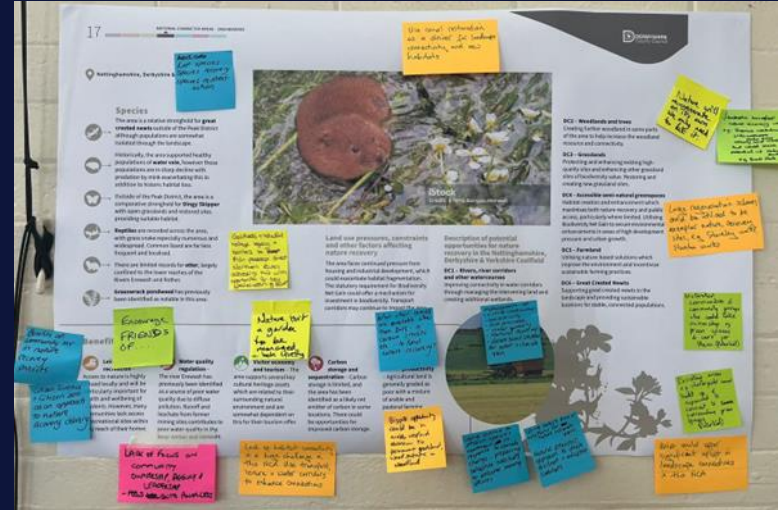
The purpose of these in person events was:

- To capture participants' vision of nature recovery in Derbyshire in 2044 and beyond.
- To validate the NCA summaries, as prepared by DCC.
- To start by generating localised opportunities and then move towards area-wide opportunities for nature recovery, based on participants' desires, unique expertise and area knowledge.
- To prioritise opportunities with the help of participants' desires, knowledge and experience.
- To build a nuanced data-set around identified priorities to inform potential measures.

The following pages primarily focus on the feedback received in validation of the National Character Area summaries and the opportunities afforded by each NCA. The NCA summaries have been prepared by consultants and are an abridged version of the main spatial description prepared by the County Council. Delegates were invited to read these descriptions and comment on their accuracy in terms of their understanding of these areas and to highlight any opportunities that these areas might provide for nature recovery based on the information presented.

Any comments were recorded by pinning post-it notes to the enlarged summary sheets attached to the walls at each venue. This report shows the feedback received at these sessions using photographs and then reflects on this feedback in terms of information that could inform the revised spatial description forming Step 3 in the development of the LNRS strategy.

# Sample worksheets



# Derbyshire Coalfield & Southern Magnesian Limestone



## Derbyshire Coalfield

Key issues/opportunities identified:

- Strong emphasis on the need for urban rewilding and connecting people for natural green space for the benefits of health and wellbeing. Development of 'Friends of' groups.
- Think about nature connections through urban areas and particularly the importance of brownfield and former industrial land.
- Connecting existing sites of interest eg. SSSI's to LWSs to nature reserves, etc using rivers, canals, and railways as linear connections.
- Connections to other ecosystem services such as water quality and protecting against diffuse pollution.
- The opportunity for regeneration projects to deliver nature recovery such as the Staveley Regeneration Corridor
- The potential opportunities around green financing such as BNG and carbon credits and their role in nature recovery
- Education – better understanding of nature so that people recognise the changes that need to be made to benefit wildlife.

## Southern Magnesian Limestone

Key issues/opportunities identified:

- The area is the principal aquifer for the Trent and Don Catchments.
- Much of the grassland is now degraded.
- Coal mines still important to some residents.
- Many isolated patches of good habitat that need connecting and creation of new habitat in areas of poorer quality farmland.
- Improve management of greenways more for wildlife than people – eg. Clowne Greenway
- Dingy skipper butterfly last seen in Markland Grips in 2022.
- Pressure for new housing growth in neighbouring areas, not just BDC.
- Opportunity to focus on local sites for local people – leave larger sites for tourists.
- Opportunity for arable reversion at Hardwick to create permanent grassland, woodland and wood pasture.
- Opportunity to use derelict rail corridors to connect woodlands and enhance existing stations along the Robin Hood Line for wildlife.

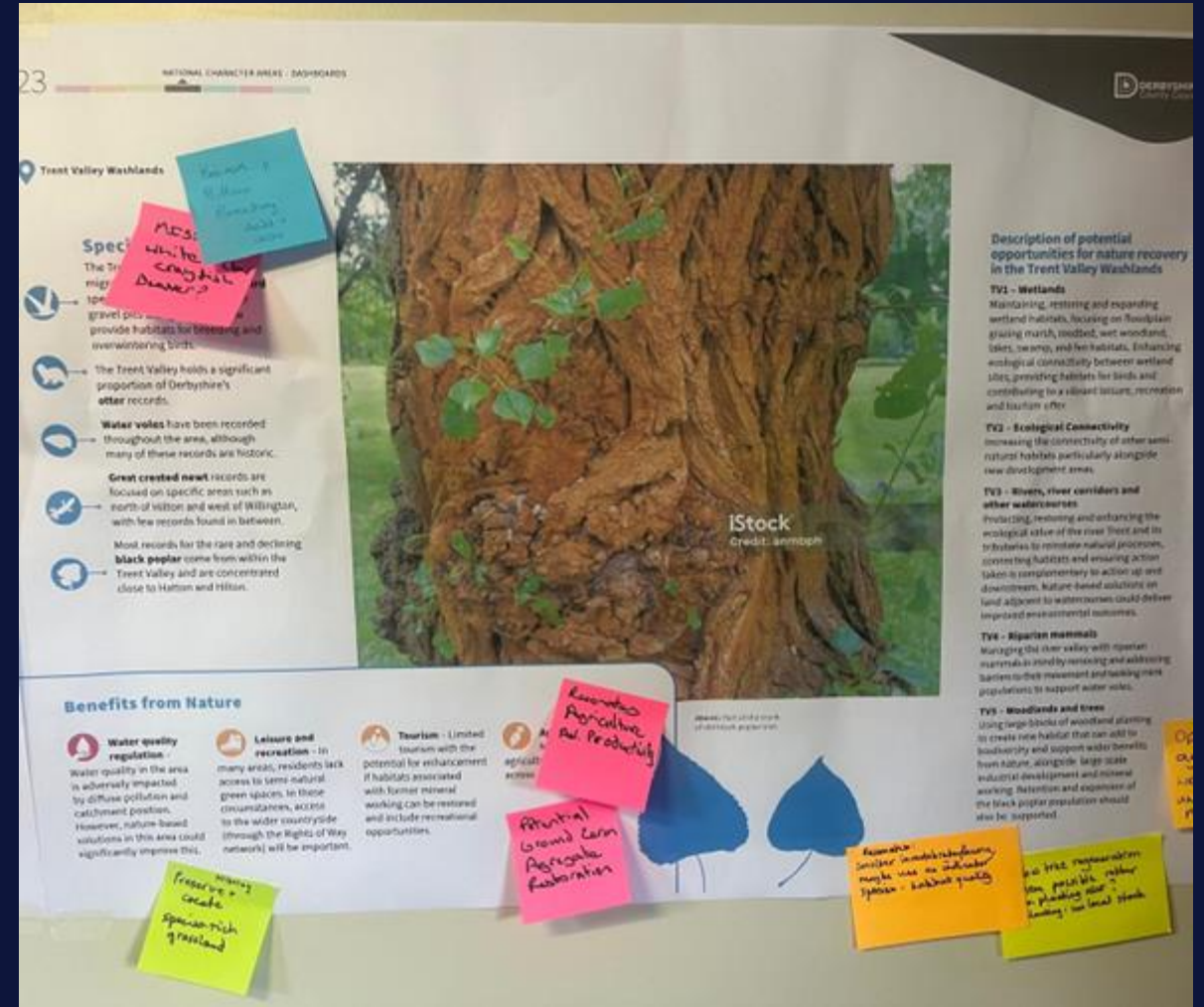
# Derby City and Trent Valley



## Trent Valley Washlands

### Key issues/opportunities identified:

- Other potential species of note – White-clawed crayfish, bittern and beaver.
- Suggestion that the mapping should have an 'emotions and meaning' layer to show peoples relationship to different land-use types/habitats.
- It was felt that there would be opportunities for agroforestry and wood pasture in areas away from the river and that woodland development would be better through natural regeneration rather than planting.
- Opportunities for natural flood management and re-connecting the river to its floodplain and creating wetland habitat along the river corridor.
- Opportunities around new development such as the development of greenways and wildlife corridors as well as improved water quality.
- Protect and enhance farmland around nature reserves and look to develop partnerships with local people.



# National Forest Area



## Melbourne Parklands

Key issues/opportunities identified:

- Some concerns about the scale of mapping and the lack of reference to place names to aid with orientation and some colours too similar
- Calke Abbey is a National Nature Reserve and not Local.
- Suggested that dormouse is a notable species in the area.
- Opportunities for enhanced wetland corridors through re-ditching and removing culverts and creating wet ephemeral vegetation and wet woodland.
- Possible wetland linkages into the Trent Valley.
- Opportunities for hedgerow and scrub corridors through the farmed landscape.
- Opportunities around landscape scale wood pasture creation and creating linkages into the Charnwood area of Leicestershire.

## South Derbyshire Coalfield

Key issues/opportunities identified:

- It was felt that the conservation and enhancement of former industrial sites was important and open mosaic habitat that supports several rare invertebrates.
- Continued woodland planting was seen as an opportunity to support the aims of the National Forest allied to good public access to these green spaces.
- Connectivity was seen as important through more woodland creation or through hedgerow planting and management.
- Management of existing habitat, including young ash woodlands, was seen as a crucial element for this area.
- New development should be viewed as an opportunity to improve nature.

## Mease/Sence Lowlands

Key issues/opportunities identified:

- Criticism of maps which required some place names to help with orientation and confusion between some of the habitat types shown on the maps – eg. woodland and grassland.
- Potential to enhance for some county scarce moths such as red-belted and yellow-legged clearwings.
- Opportunity to buffer the main rivers and streams in the area to protect against sediment and chemical pollution.
- Opportunity to reconnect rivers to their floodplains including more pond creation.
- Improve management of young ash woodland.
- Consider habitat connectivity along field margins and grass verges (roads?).

## Dark and South-West Peak

Key issues/opportunities identified:

- Key settlements need marking on plan for better orientation.
- Need better management of tourism and the impacts it is having on nature (erosion, litter, parking) and there is a lack of alternative transport options (buses) to help reduce this impact.
- Some issues identified around the weight of designations – does the PDNP really protect land? LWS numbers are misleading because none recorded in PP.
- SW Peak linked to Dark Peak in the north and shares many habitats with it and extends beyond the county boundary into Staffordshire.
- Land-use mapping should mention the importance of post-industrial habitats.
- Think about cross boundary working particularly in relation to re-naturalising watercourses.
- Mountain hare, brown hare, hedgehog, and water vole are important species in this area.
- Several important bird species were noted – red & black grouse, wheatear, stonechat, reed bunting, curlew, skylarks, marsh harriers, and snipe.
- Opportunity to manage areas of existing value such as SSSIs.
- Opportunity to connecting existing habitat through wildlife corridors and along road verges.
- Opportunities to improve water quality and create nature corridors along rivers and streams.
- Opportunities afforded by new development particularly new housing numbers.
- Opportunities for more marsh habitat around Errwood and Todbrooke Reservoirs.
- Improve education, particularly young children, so that they better understand environmental issues.
- Better control of invasive species – mink, grey squirrel, rhododendron, red deer, etc.

## White Peak

Key issues/opportunities identified:

- Should be recognised as most nature depleted part of the UK.
- Extraction sites offer greater opportunities than just peregrine falcons.
- White Clawed Crayfish face pressure from crayfish plague and not just Signal Crayfish.
- Many more species than those suggested in the text.
- Farming and nature are interdependent in this landscape, so nature recovery needs to be integrated with successful farming.
- Issue around 'Food Production' text in 'Benefits' section – suggestion that the area doesn't contribute to food production is incorrect – beef, lamb and dairy.
- Recreation doesn't recognise 'Nature Tourism'.
- Suggestion that the area has a large potential for natural flood management.
- Possible of conflicts between cultural landscape and biodiverse landscapes – danger of trying to preserve in time.
- Some queries around SSSIs – how many for geological purposes? How many in good condition?
- Refers to land-use change BUT change has not been that significant in the last 50 years.
- Suggestion that quarrying is already contributing to adding sites for nature.
- Lots of potential for nature recovery and initiatives like Wild Peak Farmers are already contributing.
- Reference to 'species rich grassland' could be dangerous wording and perhaps should refer to 'multi-species productive leys'.
- Diffuse pollution is a problem particularly in the upper Wye Valley and impacting on high designation wildlife sites.
- Opportunity to extend daleside woodland over the dale brow onto the plateau in the form of trees, scrub, and hedges – suggestion that walls are too sacrosanct.
- The opportunity for large-scale meadow creation is unlikely due to the highly productive nature of the farmland.



## Peak Fringe & Lower Derwent

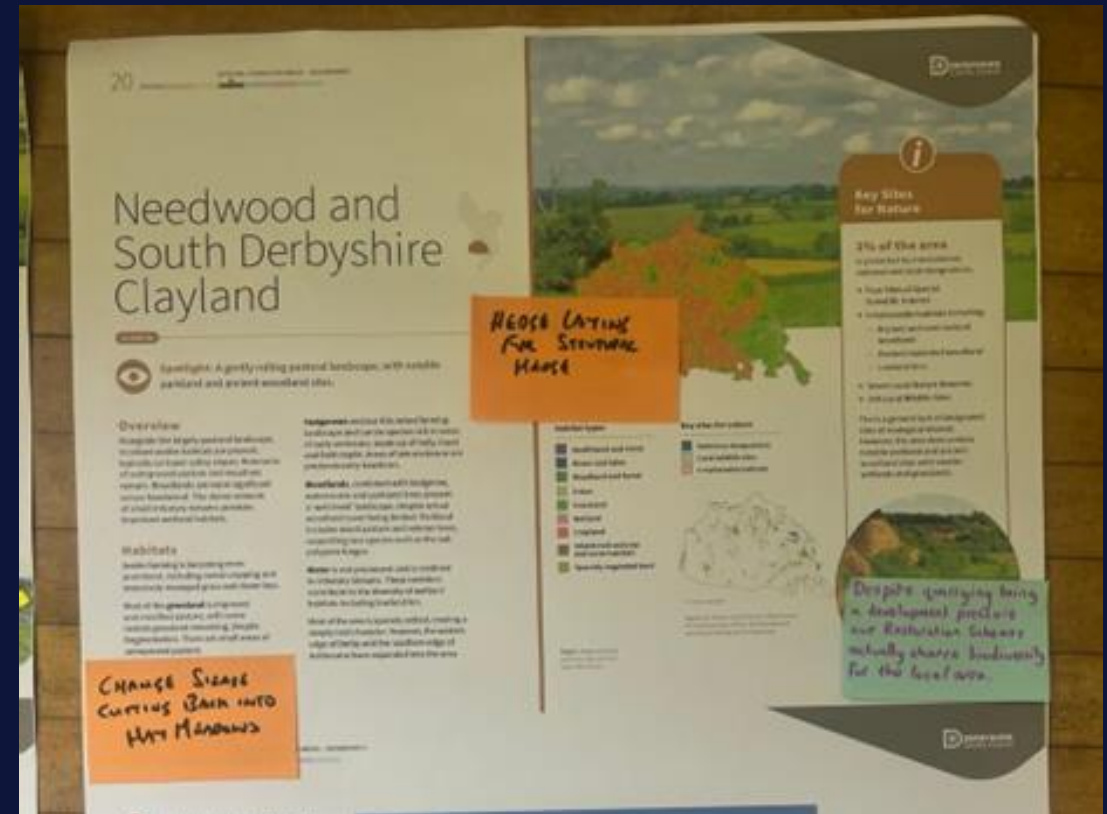
### Key issues/opportunities identified:

- Number of important species noted – frogs, toads, hedgehog, common lizard, slow worm, glow worm, dippers, kingfisher, swallows, sparrow, yellow hammer, and peregrine falcon (Ashover Quarry).
- Fish species returning to the River Ecclesbourne.
- Issue around water quality particularly in some of the smaller streams.
- Decline in large individual trees seen as an impact.
- Recognised as a beautiful landscape with some species rich habitats.
- Nature friendly farming is already happening in this area.
- Heritage site can be seen as a restriction.
- Think about connections between NCAs.
- Opportunity to increase tree cover on council owned land including along the road network and create better connectivity through the landscape.
- Significant opportunity for natural flood management and water storage.
- Access and recreation are already important but semi-urban/rural communities have untapped potential.
- Potential for this area to be a large wild area – long-term vision.

## Needwood & South Derbyshire Claylands

### Key issues/opportunities identified:

- Suggestion that silage production should change back to hay meadow management.
- Promote hedge laying for better hedge structure.



# Derbyshire's Local Nature Recovery Strategy

## Phase 2 Engagement

End