

# North Yorkshire & York LNRS

## Draft Priorities for Recovering or Enhancing Biodiversity, November 2024

This document is the outcome of a series of thematic workshops held between 24th April and 9th May with contributions from 120 stakeholders from a range of organisations with expertise in biodiversity and wider environmental benefits across North Yorkshire and York. Stakeholders contributed to 107 opportunities and these were considered by a prioritisation panel on 22nd May. The 12 Panellists (representatives from the LNRS steering group) assessed each opportunity against 12 criteria (seven ecological and five co-benefits) and the scoring system devised a ranking list.

The top 25 priorities from the scoring process are listed below, with an additional 14 priorities completing the priority shortlist. The additional 14 priorities were included to provide broader representation across the themes and habitats for increased nature recovery in North Yorkshire and York. Additional priorities, along with a number of 'overarching' priorities, were added by recommendations from the validation workshop (on 11th June), or other workshop delegates via email.

**This document presents the overarching priorities first, followed by the priorities for different habitat types (the habitat priorities).**

# Contents

<b>Overarching Priorities . . . . .</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Habitat Priorities. . . . .</b>	<b>4</b>
Farmland. . . . .	4
Upland. . . . .	5
Grassland . . . . .	7
Woodland . . . . .	9
Water and Wetlands . . . . .	10
Urban . . . . .	12
Coast . . . . .	13

---

DRAFT

# Overarching Priorities

## **Priority OVR\_P01: Enhance habitat connectivity**

Enhance the connectivity between areas of good-quality existing habitat across North Yorkshire and York through the creation of appropriate new habitat between existing sites, to improve connectivity for key species.

---

## **Priority OVR\_P02: Undertake actions to benefit key species**

Undertake actions to benefit key species within North Yorkshire and York, particularly those requiring specific interventions.

---

## **Priority OVR\_P03: Control invasive non-native species**

Control and seek to eradicate invasive non-native species (INNS) throughout North Yorkshire and York.

---

## **Priority OVR\_P04: Enhance nature-related engagement, outreach and collaboration**

Work collaboratively with all sectors across North Yorkshire and York to enhance coordinated regional action to benefit nature and seek to increase public knowledge, awareness and understanding of nature and its wider benefits.

---

## **Priority OVR\_P05: Enhance the data and evidence base and share knowledge**

Enhance the ecological data and evidence base across North Yorkshire and York and share knowledge between all organisations and individuals undertaking actions to benefit nature.

---

# Habitat Priorities

## Farmland (FRM)

### Priority FRM\_P01: Enhance and expand arable field margins

Enhance and expand the floristic value of arable field margins to increase total biodiversity, reduce the need for inputs and support pollinator and farmland bird populations.

**Co-benefits:**

- Pollination
  - Soil health
  - Reduced chemical use
  - Water quality
- 

### Priority FRM\_P02: Expand trees outside woodlands

Expand the use of trees outside woodlands (e.g. agroforestry), to increase connectivity in the farmed environment and support farm productivity.

**Co-benefits:**

- Pollination
  - Carbon storage
  - Climate change adaptation
  - Climate change mitigation
  - Soil health
  - Animal welfare
- 

### Priority FRM\_P03: Promote high nature value farming practices

Promote farming practices that create greater business resilience and improvements for biodiversity.

**Co-benefits:**

- Reduced chemical use
  - Pollination
- 

### Priority FRM\_P04: Promote changes in grassland management

Promote changes in land use practices, including increasing the diversity of grass sward and improving soil health, to increase the resilience of farmland for livestock and wildlife.

**Co-benefits:**

- Pollination
  - Soil health
  - Reduced chemical use
  - Water storage
  - Water quality
  - Flood alleviation
  - Carbon storage
  - Climate change adaptation
  - Climate change mitigation
- 

### Priority FRM\_P05: Expand the hedgerow network

Enhance existing hedgerow structure and diversity through encouragement of traditional management practices and hedgerow tree establishment. Expand the network of hedgerows as wildlife corridors and connecting other habitats.

**Co-benefits:**

- Pollination
  - Sense of place
  - Climate change adaptation
  - Climate change mitigation
  - Carbon storage
  - Water storage
  - Animal welfare
-

## Upland (UPL)

### Priority UPL\_P01: Management and connection of limestone pavement habitats

Identify ideal management for different types of Limestone Pavement and associated habitats, to promote a diversity of the habitat and management approaches. Expand species-rich connecting habitat (species-rich upland calcareous grassland or scrub) between isolated parcels of Limestone Pavement to connect this fragmented habitat.

**Co-benefits:**

- Pollination
  - Soil health
  - Sense of place
  - Access to nature
- 

### Priority UPL\_P02: Enhance and restore upland calcareous grassland

Enhance the species richness of existing upland calcareous grassland sites and adjacent land. Increase the quality of calcareous grassland sites between these species-rich sites, to provide connectivity for upland specialist species.

**Co-benefits:**

- Pollination
  - Climate change adaptation
- 

### Priority UPL\_P03: Enhance upland hay meadows

Enhance the species richness of existing upland hay meadow sites adjacent land. Restore and create species-rich grasslands between these fragmented sites to provide connectivity for specialist species.

**Co-benefits:**

- Pollination
  - Access to nature
  - Sense of place
- 

### Priority UPL\_P04: Enhance acid grassland

Enhance the wetness and diversity of sward structure of upland acid grassland sites to increase connectivity for wading birds.

**Co-benefits:**

- Pollination
  - Soil health
  - Water storage
- 

### Priority UPL\_P05: Enhance upland dry heath

Enhance the diversity, height and structure of existing upland dry heathland sites. Restore and create new upland dry heathland using existing poor acid grassland and increased scrub to provide greater connectivity for specialist species.

**Co-benefits:**

- Pollination
  - Soil health
  - Reduced fire risk
-

## Priority UPL\_P06: Enhance wet heath

Enhance and expand wet heath adjacent to existing blanket bog to prevent drying out. Where appropriate rewet dry heath sites to reverse the decline of this increasingly rare habitat.

### Co-benefits:

- Carbon storage
  - Water storage
  - Water quality
  - Flood alleviation
  - Climate change adaptation
  - Climate change mitigation
  - Reduced fire risk
- 

## Priority UPL\_P07: Enhance blanket bog

Enhance the wetness and diversity of existing blanket bog sites and adjacent land to prevent drying out. Identify areas of deep peat and historic bog habitat and work with landowners to restore these to functioning peatland habitats.

### Co-benefits:

- Carbon storage
  - Water storage
  - Water quality
  - Flood alleviation
  - Climate change adaptation
  - Climate change mitigation
  - Reduced fire risk
- 

## Priority UPL\_P08: Expand moorland fringe habitats

Expand the range of habitats present along the moorland fringe, including woodland, scrub and rough grassland, to reduce fire risk and increase numbers of key species.

### Co-benefits:

- Carbon storage
  - Climate change adaptation
  - Climate change mitigation
  - Reduced fire risk
-

## Grassland (GRA)

### Priority GRA\_P01: Enhance species-rich grassland

Expand or buffer existing species-rich grassland sites through changes to management regimes.

**Co-benefits:**

- Pollination
  - Soil health
  - Carbon storage
  - Flood alleviation
- 

### Priority GRA\_P02: Enhance and connect strategically important grasslands

Enhance and connect strategically important grasslands, to provide benefits for a range of bird species and pollinators.

**Co-benefits:**

- Pollination
  - Soil health
  - Water storage
- 

### Priority GRA\_P03: Enhance lowland calcareous grassland

Enhance the species richness of existing lowland calcareous grassland sites and adjacent land. Increase the quality of calcareous grassland sites between these species-rich sites, to provide connectivity for specialist species.

**Co-benefits:**

- Pollination
  - Soil health
- 

### Priority GRA\_P04: Enhance and expand magnesian limestone grassland

Enhance the species richness of existing magnesian limestone grassland sites and adjacent land. Increase the quality of magnesian limestone grassland sites between these species-rich sites, to provide connectivity for specialist species.

**Co-benefits:**

- Pollination
  - Soil health
- 

### Priority GRA\_P05: Expand acid grassland

Expand acid grassland to buffer existing lowland heath sites.

**Co-benefits:**

- Pollination
  - Soil health
-

## Priority GRA\_P06: Restore and re-create lowland heath

Restore degraded lowland heathland sites and re-create this habitat at suitable locations.

### Co-benefits:

- Pollination
  - Soil health
- 

## Priority GRA\_P07: Enhance road verges

Enhance species-richness of road verges through better management to increase their biodiversity.

### Co-benefits:

- Pollination
  - Soil health
  - Reduced chemical use
  - Educational resource
- 

DRAFT



## Woodland (WLD)

### Priority WLD\_P01: Protect and expand veteran tree resource.

Protect individual veteran trees and plant trees to become future veterans to provide habitat and facilitate the movement of specialist species.

#### Co-benefits:

- Carbon storage
  - Sense of place
  - Educational resource
  - Access to nature
- 

### Priority WLD\_P02: Enhance and expand wood pasture, wood meadows and open mosaic habitats

Enhance and expand species-rich wood pasture, wood meadows and open mosaic habitats as an appropriate buffer and connecting habitat between woodland and grassland sites.

#### Co-benefits:

- Pollination
  - Carbon storage
  - Climate change adaptation
  - Climate change mitigation
- 

### Priority WLD\_P03: Enhance and connect ancient woodland

Buffer, enhance, restore and better connect fragmented patches of Ancient Woodland (including Plantations on Ancient Woodland Sites) by creating linkages with, and improving the management of, long-established woodland to increase the resilience of these sites and allow for species movement, including more specialist woodland species.

#### Co-benefits:

- Carbon storage
  - Climate change adaptation
  - Climate change mitigation
  - Sense of place
  - Access to nature
- 

### Priority WLD\_P04: Enhance, expand and connect new and existing woodland

Increase tree and woodland cover by enhancing all types of existing woodland and creating new species-diverse woodlands, which promotes good woodland structure, increases resilience, and produces sustainable woodland products and timber.

#### Co-benefits:

- Carbon storage
  - Climate change adaptation
  - Climate change mitigation
  - Water quality
  - Soil health
  - Access to nature
-

## Water and Wetlands (WET)

### Priority WET\_P01: Enhance and expand river habitats

Enhance and expand river and in-channel habitats to improve their quality and connectivity.

**Co-benefits:**

- Pollination
  - Water storage
  - Water quality
  - Flood alleviation
  - Access to nature
- 

### Priority WET\_P02: Restore natural river processes

Restore natural river processes to reconnect rivers and floodplains, and create space for nature, water and people.

**Co-benefits:**

- Water storage
  - Water quality
  - Flood alleviation
  - Access to nature
- 

### Priority WET\_P03: Expand and restore pond networks

Restore, enhance, and expand pond networks at different successional stages in rural and urban landscapes, to increase resilience and support the population dynamics of wetland species.

**Co-benefits:**

- Water storage
  - Water quality
  - Flood alleviation
  - Climate change adaptation
  - Climate change mitigation
  - Access to nature
- 

### Priority WET\_P04: Enhance, expand and connect fen habitats

Enhance, expand and connect areas of fragmentary fen by improving management of existing sites and using species-rich ditches to connect sites.

**Co-benefits:**

- Pollination
  - Water storage
  - Flood alleviation
  - Carbon storage
  - Climate change adaptation
  - Climate change mitigation
- 

### Priority WET\_P05: Restore, enhance and expand existing flushes

Restore and enhance existing flushes to support the needs of specialist plant species and make sites more resilient. Expand flush habitat and wet grassland areas to better accommodate wintering and breeding wetland bird populations.

**Co-benefits:**

- Pollination
  - Water storage
  - Flood alleviation
-

## Priority WET\_P06: Restore floodplain meadow

Buffer and restore poor-quality existing floodplain meadow sites to help protect and expand specialist species. Expand floodplain meadow habitat to increase resilience whilst remaining as a productive agricultural land use.

### Co-benefits:

- Pollination
  - Water storage
  - Water quality
  - Flood alleviation
  - Climate change adaptation
  - Climate change mitigation
  - Soil health
  - Carbon storage
  - Access to nature
- 

## Priority WET\_P07: Expand riparian woodland

Expand the amount of riparian woodland along all watercourses and at all elevations, including filling in gaps and increasing age structure, to increase the resilience of the natural habitats (both terrestrial and water).

### Co-benefits:

- Water quality
  - Water cooling/shading
  - Carbon storage
  - Flood alleviation
  - Climate change adaptation
  - Climate change mitigation
  - Access to nature
- 

## Priority WET\_P08: Restore, enhance and expand wet woodland

Restore and enhance existing wet woodland, and where possible expand the resource to increase resilience and support specialist species.

### Co-benefits:

- Carbon storage
  - Climate change adaptation
  - Climate change mitigation
  - Water storage
  - Water quality
  - Flood alleviation
-

## Urban (URB)

### Priority URB\_P01: Incorporate nature into the built environment

Incorporate green infrastructure into the built environment, to provide more habitat for nature.

#### Co-benefits:

- Pollination
  - Access to nature
  - Health and wellbeing
  - Carbon storage
  - Climate change adaptation
  - Climate change mitigation
  - Water storage
  - Water quality
  - Flood alleviation
  - Educational resource
- 

### Priority URB\_P02: Enhance urban nature-rich spaces

Buffer and enhance existing urban nature-rich spaces (e.g. Local Nature Reserves and churchyards) to maximise opportunities for nature, whilst reducing the impact of recreational pressure.

#### Co-benefits:

- Pollination
  - Access to nature
  - Health and wellbeing
  - Flood alleviation
  - Reduced chemical use
  - Educational resource
- 

### Priority URB\_P03: Modify the management of urban grassland

Modify the management of semi-natural urban grassland to improve biodiversity and connectivity.

#### Co-benefits:

- Pollination
  - Access to nature
  - Health and wellbeing
  - Flood alleviation
  - Reduced chemical use
- 

### Priority URB\_P04: Promote public action for better nature connectivity

Encourage and promote action from the public to create habitats for wildlife in public and private gardens, schools and other urban areas, to make more spaces for nature and enhance connectivity.

#### Co-benefits:

- Pollination
  - Access to nature
  - Health and wellbeing
  - Climate change adaptation
  - Climate change mitigation
  - Educational resource
-

## Coast (CST)

### Priority CST\_P01: Enhance rocky shore habitat

Enhance rocky shore habitat to support specialist species, improve its connectivity with other ecosystems and the services it provides to society.

**Co-benefits:**

- Flood alleviation
  - Carbon storage
  - Climate change adaptation
  - Climate change mitigation
  - Sense of place
  - Access to nature
  - Educational resource
- 

### Priority CST\_P02: Enhance habitats for seabirds

Enhance habitats for seabirds on the North Yorkshire coast, both on our cliffs and in our urban spaces, to help resolve pressures from human activities and the impacts of climate change.

**Co-benefits:**

- Sense of place
  - Access to nature
  - Climate change adaptation
  - Climate change mitigation
  - Educational resource
- 

### Priority CST\_P03: Enhance and expand existing saltmarsh

Enhance, expand and connect existing saltmarsh to increase resilience of this fragile and fragmented habitat.

**Co-benefits:**

- Pollination
  - Water quality
  - Carbon storage
  - Educational resource
-