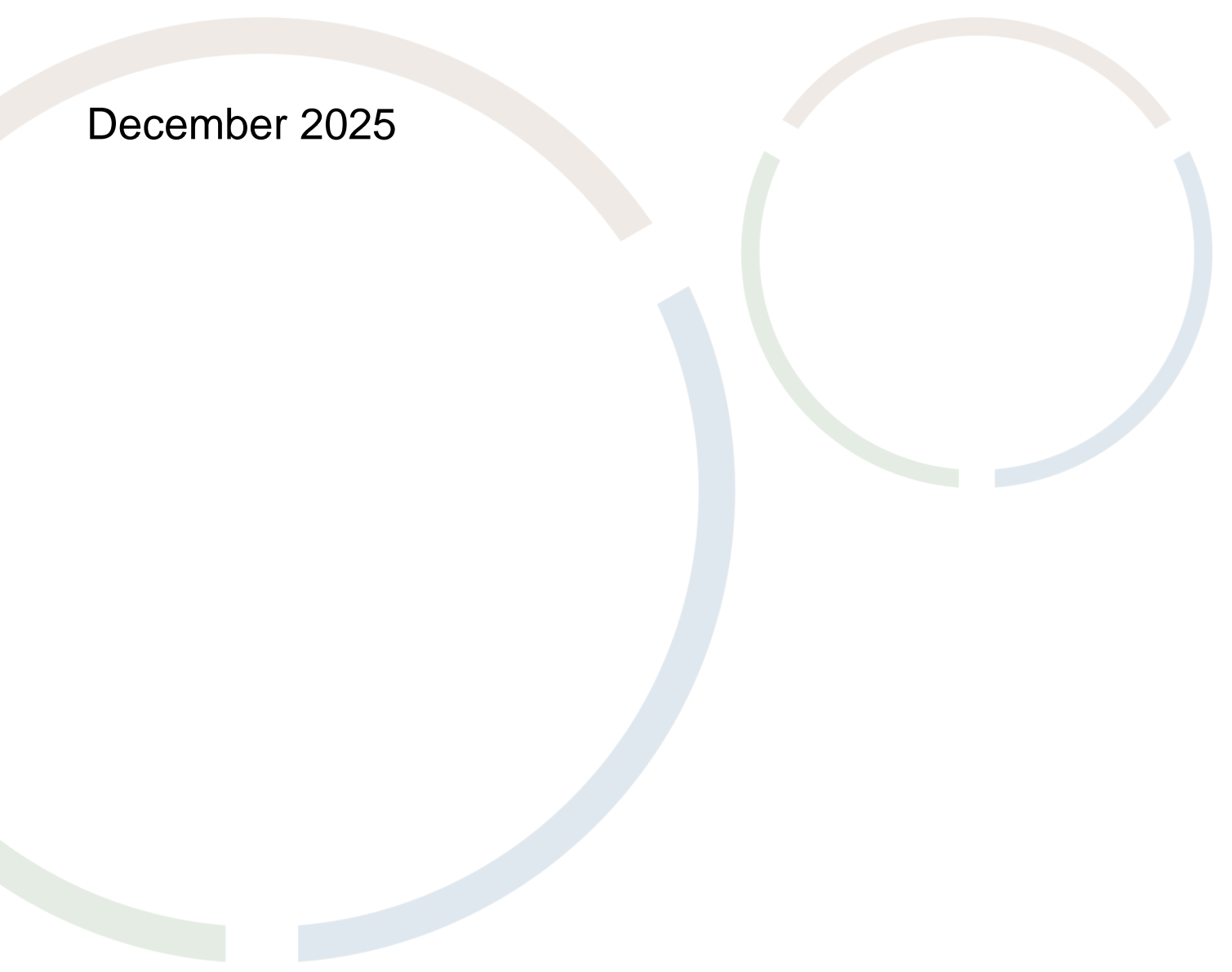




North Yorkshire and York Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS)

Report on Public Consultation
(June to August 2025)

December 2025



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1. Introduction

North Yorkshire Council is the Responsible Authority (RA) for the preparation of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) for North Yorkshire and York. As part of the production of this LNRS, North Yorkshire Council ran a public consultation from 30th June to 12th August 2025 to allow residents and stakeholders to provide their views on the draft strategy. The consultation consisted of several elements, including an online survey, and a draft version of the online Local Habitat Map which the participants could add their comments to. All responses given in the consultation have been read in detail and analysed to inform revisions to the draft LNRS before its publication, expected to be in early 2026.

2. Outline of public consultation approach

The public consultation was primarily held online, with all consultation materials being available through the North Yorkshire Council (NYC) website. The consultation materials that were available for consultees to review were drafts of the below:

Main LNRS documentation and Local Habitat Map:

- Document 1: Thriving Nature in North Yorkshire and York – Short Summary
- Document 2: Thriving Nature in North Yorkshire and York – Our Local Nature Recovery Strategy
- Document 3: Statement of Biodiversity Priorities, Part I – Description of our Strategy Area
- Document 4: Statement of Biodiversity Priorities, Part II – Priorities and Measures
- Local Habitat Map (online mapping platform)

LNRS appendices:

- Appendix 1: Local Nature Recovery Strategy Prioritisation Methodology and Scoring Criteria
- Appendix 2: Local Nature Recovery Strategy Species Prioritisation Methodology
- Appendix 3: Local Nature Recovery Strategy Mapping Methodology and Datasets
- Appendix 4: Local Nature Recovery Strategy Opportunities Longlist
- Appendix 5: Local Nature Recovery Strategy Species Longlist
- Appendix 6: Local Nature Recovery Strategy Online Survey Responses Summary, February 2024

A range of response channels were made available to consultees, these were:

- Completion of a short online survey
- Download and completion of a more detailed feedback form (Microsoft Word pro-forma)
- Adding 'pinned comments' to the online draft Local Habitat Map

Each response channel is covered in more detail below.

Online Survey

The online survey was intended as the main channel by which most consultees would respond to the public consultation, including residents of North Yorkshire and the City of York. Access to the online survey form was provided via a link on the main NYC LNRS consultation web page. The survey was intentionally kept short (a total of 10 questions, including demographics questions). A copy of the survey form and questions is included at Appendix A1.

The online survey form covered the following aspects:

Respondents' views on the draft LNRS:

- The nature recovery priorities included within the draft LNRS
- The species, and groups of species, included within the draft LNRS
- Which of the draft consultation documents respondents had viewed
- To what extent respondents agreed the draft LNRS had created a helpful set of priorities and measures (actions) to improve biodiversity in North Yorkshire and York
- If respondents had any other comments on the draft LNRS they would like the Responsible Authority (RA) to consider

Demographics:

- Respondent type e.g. North Yorkshire resident, City of York Resident, Community organisation
- Respondent postcode (this allows the RA to identify where responses are coming from and highlights any areas in North Yorkshire and York where engagement may be lower)
- Respondent age category

Staying in touch:

- Whether respondents would like to be kept informed on the development of the LNRS with provision to provide their name and email address

The end of the online survey form directed respondents to the draft Local Habitat Map where they could add their comments directly into the online map.

Feedback Form

In addition to the online survey, the RA provided a more detailed feedback form, which consultees could complete and return to the RA by email. The feedback form was provided as a downloadable Microsoft Word pro-forma, accessed via a link on the main NYC LNRS consultation web page. The feedback form allowed consultees to provide more detailed feedback on any of the draft LNRS documents (Documents 1, 2, 3 and 4) and the draft Local Habitat Map. The format and structure of the feedback form followed the structure of the draft documents, allowing consultees to comment on any section of the documents as required. A copy of the survey form and questions is included at Appendix C1.

It was anticipated that the feedback form would be used by more technical stakeholders, or those consultees with more specialist knowledge of habitats, species, or land management, who may wish to comment at greater length or in more detail than the online survey form permitted.

Pinned comments in the Local Habitat Map

The RA provided a 'pinned comment' system within the draft online Local Habitat Map. This allowed consultees to 'pin' a comment anywhere on the draft Local Habitat Map by selecting the 'Click Here to Comment' button at the top of the map window. When adding their comments, consultees were asked to select from one of the four categories below:

- I agree with or like something here
- I disagree with or don't like something here
- I would like to suggest an action that's not currently mapped
- General observation or comment

Once submitted, comments went through a 'screening' process, in which they were reviewed by the LNRS project team, before being published on the public-facing online map. The screening process was

primarily to ensure that no personal identifiable information was included in the comment, or that the nature of the comment would allow the commentor to be identified. Any comments where this was the case were not published on the public-facing map.

Once screened and published, comments became visible to all map users as coloured symbols contained under the 'LNRS Comments' layer of the draft Local Habitat Map, which could be turned on and off by map users (on by default). Clicking on one of the coloured symbols produced a pop-up dialogue containing the comment itself and the comment type (selected from the list above). No information about the commentor was included in the public-facing map.

Drop-in sessions

The RA provided a series of 'drop-in' sessions at North Yorkshire Council (NYC) and City of York Council (CYC) offices during the consultation period. These were open sessions that did not require attendees to book. Drop-in sessions were provided at the venues listed below between the 14th and 24th of July 2025 (one date at each venue):

- County Hall, Northallerton (NYC)
- Harrogate Civic Centre (NYC)
- Scarborough Town Hall (NYC)
- Ryedale House, Malton (NYC)
- Selby Civic Centre (NYC)
- Belle Vue Square, Skipton (NYC)
- West Offices, York (CYC)

Drop-in sessions generally ran from 10am until 3pm, with a morning session running from 10am to 12pm and an afternoon session running from 1pm to 3pm. A member of the LNRS project team was on site at each venue between these times to discuss any aspects of the draft strategy and public consultation with any attendees.

One-to-one sessions for landowners, land managers and farmers

The RA provided a number of 30-minute one-to-one sessions during the public consultation period, intended for landowners, land manager and farmers. These were offered as both in-person sessions at a range of venues and online sessions via Microsoft Teams. Sessions could be booked by attendees via Eventbrite. The RA offered a total of 65 online sessions and 37 in-person sessions (combined total of 102 sessions) as pre-defined 30-minute timeslots between the 15th of July and 8th of August 2025.

In-person one-to-one sessions were held at the venues listed below (one date at each venue):

- Yorkshire Dales National Park offices, Bainbridge
- Selby Auction Mart
- Thirsk Auction Mart
- North York Moors National Park Centre, Danby
- North Yorkshire Council offices, Malton
- Skipton Auction Mart

There was a modest take up of the available one-to-one sessions, with 16 online attendees and 15 in-person attendees.

Promotion of the LNRS public consultation

The public consultation was promoted through various channels during the consultation period, including:

- North Yorkshire Council and City of York Council's social media accounts;
- Social media accounts of partner organisations (e.g. North York Moors National Park Authority);
- Leaflets and posters in North Yorkshire Council libraries and digital hubs;
- Two evening webinars – one for the public and one for land managers and farmers;
- an email update to all those on the LNRS mailing list
- an email update to partner organisations such as National Farmers' Union (NFU) and Country Land and Business Association (CLA) for distribution to their own networks

3. Summary of online survey responses

The public consultation online survey was open for responses between 26th June and 11th August 2025 to gather public views on the draft LNRS. In total, 91 responses were recorded. The survey included a mix of closed questions, requiring selection from pre-defined answers e.g. 'Yes' or 'No', and a number of open 'free text' response boxes where respondents could add their own comments (see Appendix A1). A full copy of all 'free text' responses received is included at Appendix A2. Key findings from the online survey responses are summarised below.

Key findings

- A total of **91 responses** were collected between 26 June and 11 August 2025.

Survey insights:

- **67%** of respondents felt no nature recovery priorities were missing from the draft LNRS.
- **98%** of respondents agreed that no priorities should be removed from the draft LNRS.
- **77%** of respondents either agreed or strongly agreed that the draft strategy and Local Habitat Map provide helpful priorities and measures to improve biodiversity in North Yorkshire and York.

Demographics:

- **54%** of respondents were North Yorkshire residents.
- **13%** of respondents were City of York residents.
- After North Yorkshire and City of York residents, the three largest groups of respondents were environmental professionals (10%), community organisations (10%), and landowners (9%).
- **74%** of respondents were aged between 50-84.

Key themes from 'free text' responses

The 'free text' responses to the online survey questions were analysed and the key themes listed below were identified:

- Comments relating to biodiversity and habitat
- Comments relating to water and pollution
- Comments relating to health and wellbeing
- Comments relating to species protection
- Comments relating to governance and delivery
- Comments relating to land use and agriculture
- Comments relating to planning and development
- Comments relating to climate and environment
- Comments relating to education and engagement
- Comments relating to urban nature
- Comments relating to public access to green spaces

Please see Appendix A for the detailed report on the online survey responses.

4. Summary of consultation responses relating to the draft LNRS documents

Consultation responses relating to the draft LNRS documents were received via the feedback form pro-forma that was available as part of the public consultation. A total of 26 feedback forms were returned, including responses from 20 organisations. Feedback covered the four draft LNRS documents below:

- Document 1: Thriving Nature in North Yorkshire and York – Short Summary
- Document 2: Thriving Nature in North Yorkshire and York - Our Local Nature Recovery Strategy
- Document 3: Statement of Biodiversity Priorities Part I – Description of our Strategy Area
- Document 4: Statement of Biodiversity Priorities Part II – Priorities and Measures

Key themes from consultation responses

Document 1: Thriving Nature in North Yorkshire and York – Short Summary

- General support for the document's content
- Request for mapping to be made more legible
- Suggestion that the urgency for species recovery needs conveying more clearly
- Requests for an executive summary in the suite of documentation
- Suggestion for inclusion of reference to the UK's '30 by 30' target
- Request for clarification on the role of citizen science in the LNRS
- Request for clarification on governance and delivery responsibilities

Document 2: Thriving Nature in North Yorkshire and York – Our Local Nature Recovery Strategy

- Request for clarification on stakeholder engagement during the LNRS preparation
- Suggested refinements to vision statement and supporting principles
- Query on farm participation in agri-environment schemes
- Water and wetland 'habitat' theme – request for referencing of canals and riparian habitats
- Request for clarification on alignment of LNRS with other plans and strategies
- Request for clarification on governance and delivery responsibilities

Document 3: Statement of Biodiversity Priorities Part I – Description of our Strategy Area

- Suggestion for additional referencing of species and habitats
- Suggestion of a lack of emphasis on urban areas
- Suggestion of a lack of reference to links between nature recovery and health and wellbeing
- Suggested minor amendments to the statement of environmental opportunities (SEOs) and sub-area descriptions

Document 4: Statement of Biodiversity Priorities Part II – Priorities and Measures

- Suggestions to expand the wording of the overarching priorities
- Suggested amendments to the wording of some priority and measure descriptions across all seven 'habitat' themes
- Suggested minor amendments to the focus species listed for some priorities
- Suggested minor amendments to overview sections at the start of each 'habitat' theme
- Suggested minor amendments to the 'focus species' and 'species recovery projects' lists

Cross-cutting themes across all documents

- Request for clarity on governance and funding
- Request for clarity on integration of the LNRS with the planning system
- Suggestion that a skills pipeline into jobs involving nature recovery needs to be conveyed
- Suggestion that monitoring of nature recovery needs more consideration
- Request for greater clarity on the transition to delivery

Please see Appendix B for the detail of the comments received under the above themes, along with the RA's response to comments.

5. Summary of consultation responses relating to the draft LNRS Local Habitat Map

Consultation responses relating to the draft Local Habitat Map were received through the feedback form and pinned mapped comments system. Consultees were asked to submit any comments relating to the spatial content of the map via the pinned comments system, so that they were spatially located. A small number of comments were also received via direct email to the LNRS central email mailbox.

A total of 158 pinned map comments were received during the public consultation period. These were divided amongst the four comment categories as shown below:

- I agree with or like something here – **2 pinned comments**
- I disagree with or don't like something here – **31 pinned comments**
- I would like to suggest an action that's not currently mapped – **93 pinned comments**
- General observation or comment – **32 pinned comments**

Key themes from consultation responses

The Responsible Authority (RA) undertook analysis of the consultation comments received and grouped similar comments into themes. The themes identified are outlined below, with the channels through which comments were received shown in brackets:

- Comments on the general functionality of the Local Habitat Map and presentation of the map layers (comments via feedback forms only)
- Requests for additional areas to be included within the Areas of Particular Importance for Biodiversity (APIB) layer (comments via feedback forms only)
- Requests for additional areas to be included within the strategic nature network (ACB and Mapped Measures layers) (comments via feedback forms, direct email and pinned map comments)
- Requests to remove areas from the strategic nature network (ACB and Mapped Measures layers) (comments via direct email and pinned map comments)
- Requests to change the mapped measures identified for a particular hexagon (comments via pinned map comments only)
- Requests for additional map layers to be included in the Local Habitat Map (comments via feedback forms and pinned map comments)
- Comments providing additional information about a specific location (comments via pinned map comments only)
- Comments providing additional information about species present in a specific location (comments via pinned map comments only)
- Comments relating to the use of 20ha hexagons in the ACB and Mapped Measures layers (comments via feedback forms and pinned map comments)
- Comments on multiple mapped measures being provided for each hexagon within the Mapped Measures layer (comments via feedback forms only)

- Other general comments (not in one of the above categories) (comments via feedback forms and pinned map comments)

Please see Appendix C for the detail of the comments received under the above themes, along with the RA's response to comments.

Appendix A: Report on online survey responses

This report provides a detailed summary of the responses received to the online survey element of the public consultation. The survey included a mix of closed questions, requiring selection from pre-defined answers e.g. 'Yes' or 'No', and a number of open 'free text' response boxes where respondents could add their own comments (see Appendix A1). A full copy of all 'free text' responses received is included at Appendix A2.

Method

The public consultation online survey was open for responses between 26th June and 11th August 2025 to gather public views on the draft LNRS. In total, 91 responses were recorded. The survey could be accessed via North Yorkshire Council's website and was promoted in a variety of ways:

- North Yorkshire Council and City of York Council's social media;
- leaflets in libraries and digital hubs;
- two evening webinars – one for the public and one for land managers and farmers;
- an email update to all those on the LNRS mailing list;
- drop-in sessions across North Yorkshire and York.

The survey design was informed by a previous survey run in November 2023 which asked the public in North Yorkshire and York about their thoughts on the importance of different habitats and wildlife species and if they had seen examples of projects restoring or protecting nature in their local area. The responses to that survey informed the draft strategy and this consultation survey included the responses from three of the previous survey's questions.

The survey (found in Appendix A1) consisted of 10 questions which covered the following topics:

- The nature recovery priorities – whether anything was missing or should not be included;
- The focus species list – whether anything was missing or should not be included;
- The extent to which the draft LNRS and Local Habitat Map have created a helpful set of priorities and measures;

There was also an opportunity for respondents to add other feedback they wanted to give on the draft LNRS. The survey included two demographic questions on people's backgrounds (e.g. North Yorkshire resident, Environmental professional) and age group as well as a question asking which consultation documents respondents had read.

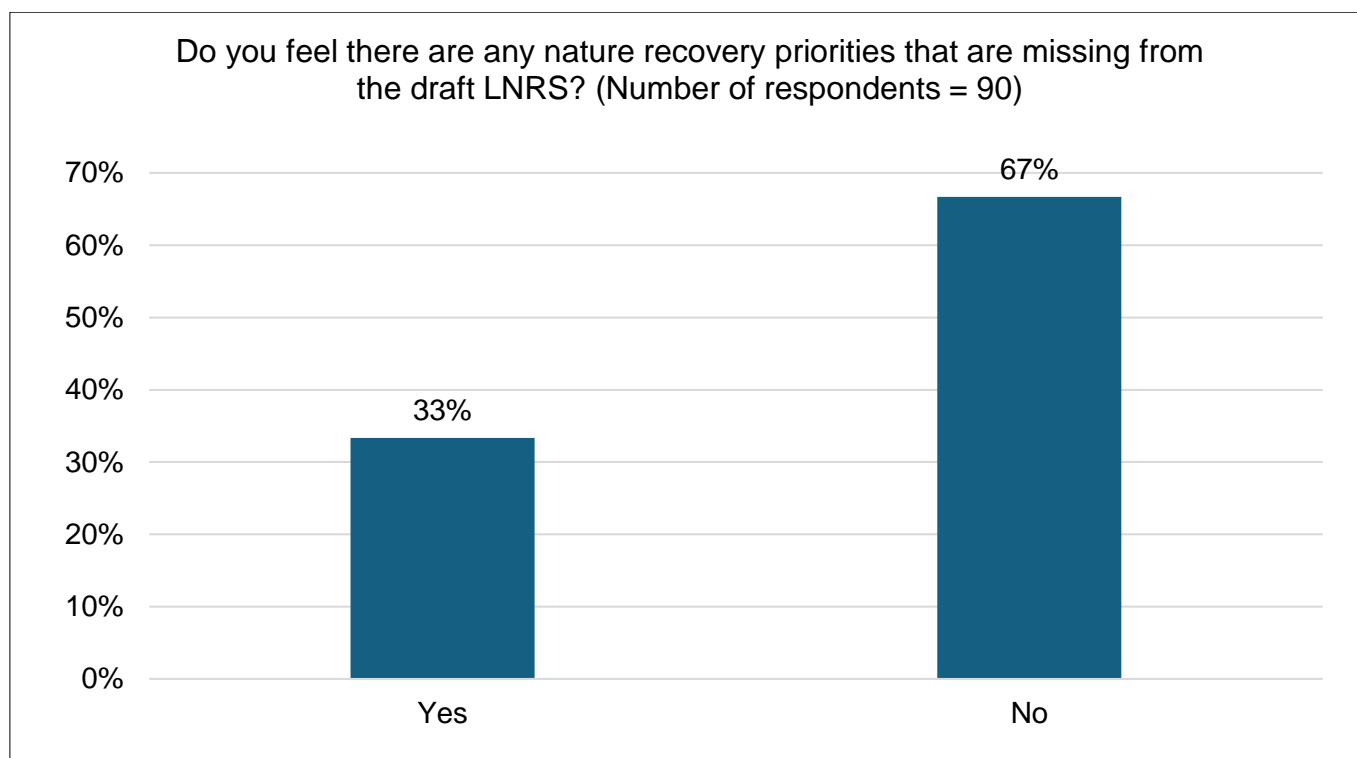
Once the survey closed, every response was read in detail. These responses have been summarised in this report.

Summary of responses

Section 1: Nature recovery priorities

Q: Do you feel there are any nature recovery priorities that are missing from the draft LNRS?

Two thirds of respondents (67%) felt that there were no nature recovery priorities missing from the draft LNRS.



29 comments were received from respondents who felt that some nature recovery priorities had been missed (see Appendix 1 for the full list of comments). The comments were collated into themes; these are described below and illustrated using comment excerpts.

Habitats: Comments from 15 respondents highlighted a range of habitats that were felt to be missing from the draft LNRS's nature recovery priorities. The most mentioned of these were urban sites including brownfield sites, new developments, and former industrial sites (6 comments), and scrub (2 comments).

"Former industrial sites remaining un(re)developed. There is plenty of wildlife on such sites."

Developments/planning: Developments were highlighted in 6 comments as a key potential risk and opportunity for improving nature. Many comments described the necessity of joined up thinking to ensure new developments support nature recovery.

"New developments including the many taking place around Scarborough. These could be highly valuable if landscaped in a nature in mind way. Unfortunately, many new developments lack any trees or any native species."

Existing governance approaches: 3 respondents reflected on how the LNRS could improve the ways that nature protection is currently governed. This included addressing siloed thinking between different authorities and ensuring that activity was not only reactive to government funding opportunities.

"Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation. Because North Yorkshire planning disregards this and grants planning permission to build on such sites. Join up your policies."

Being active in nature: 2 respondents felt that the LNRS could include more about the value of nature for getting people active and how connection to nature can be a motivating factor to staying active. Respondents highlighted the opportunities to align the LNRS with regional health, wellbeing, and physical activity strategies.

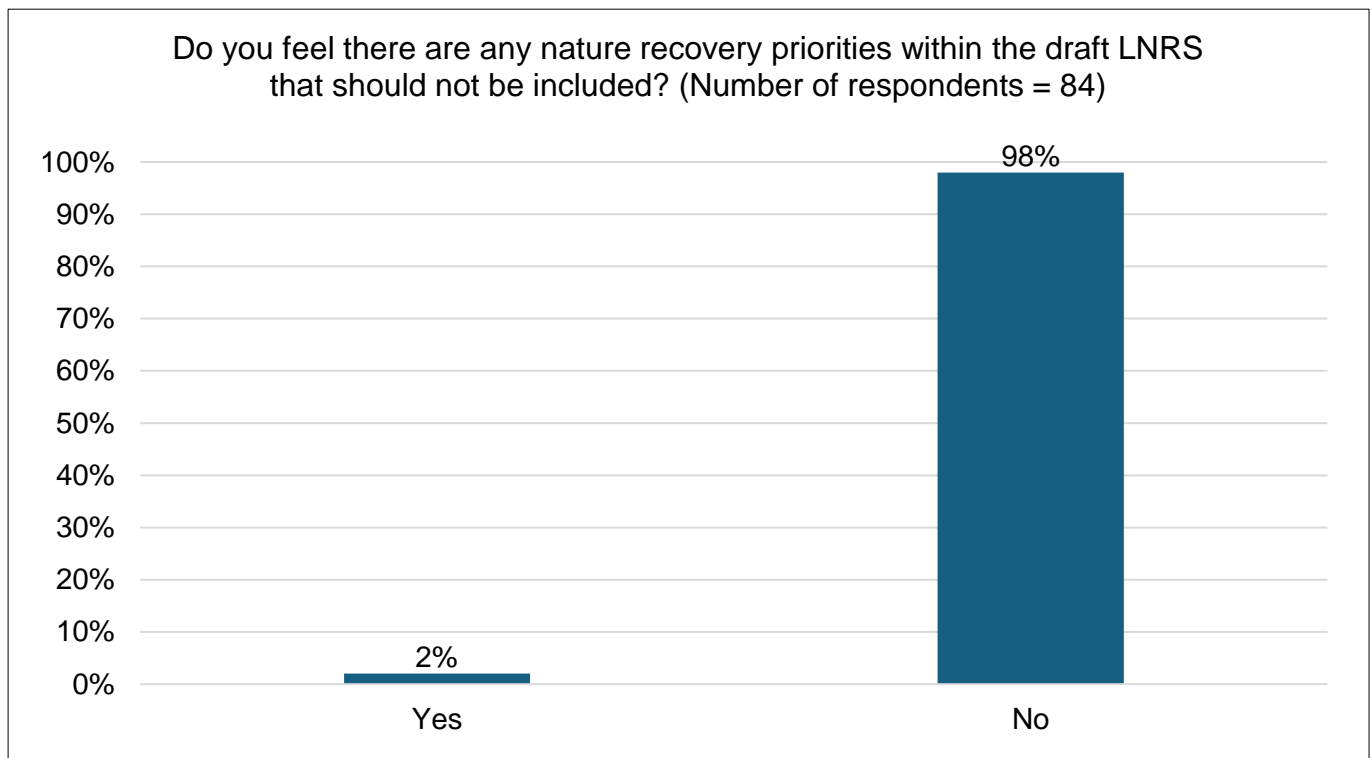
“While the draft LNRS makes strong reference to public access and the social value of nature, there is limited explicit recognition of the role that sport and physical activity in natural environments can play in supporting nature recovery objectives and wider societal benefits.”

Other comments: 7 comments did not fit into any broader theme, instead covering a range of issues including ensuring that predator control was not used to persecute birds of prey, linking the LNRS to food strategies and growing your own food, climate adaptation, geodiversity, not letting solar farms damage nature, and addressing littering.

“Help nature to adapt to climate change, supporting dynamism and natural ecosystem function, including allowing habitats to change and directing them to new forms where retaining their existing form is not possible. Utilising the 'Resist-Accept-Direct' framework can support these efforts.”

Q: Do you feel there are any nature recovery priorities within the draft LNRS that should not be included?

Almost all respondents (98%) felt that all the priorities within the draft LNRS should be included.



Only 2 comments were made with regards to what should not be included.

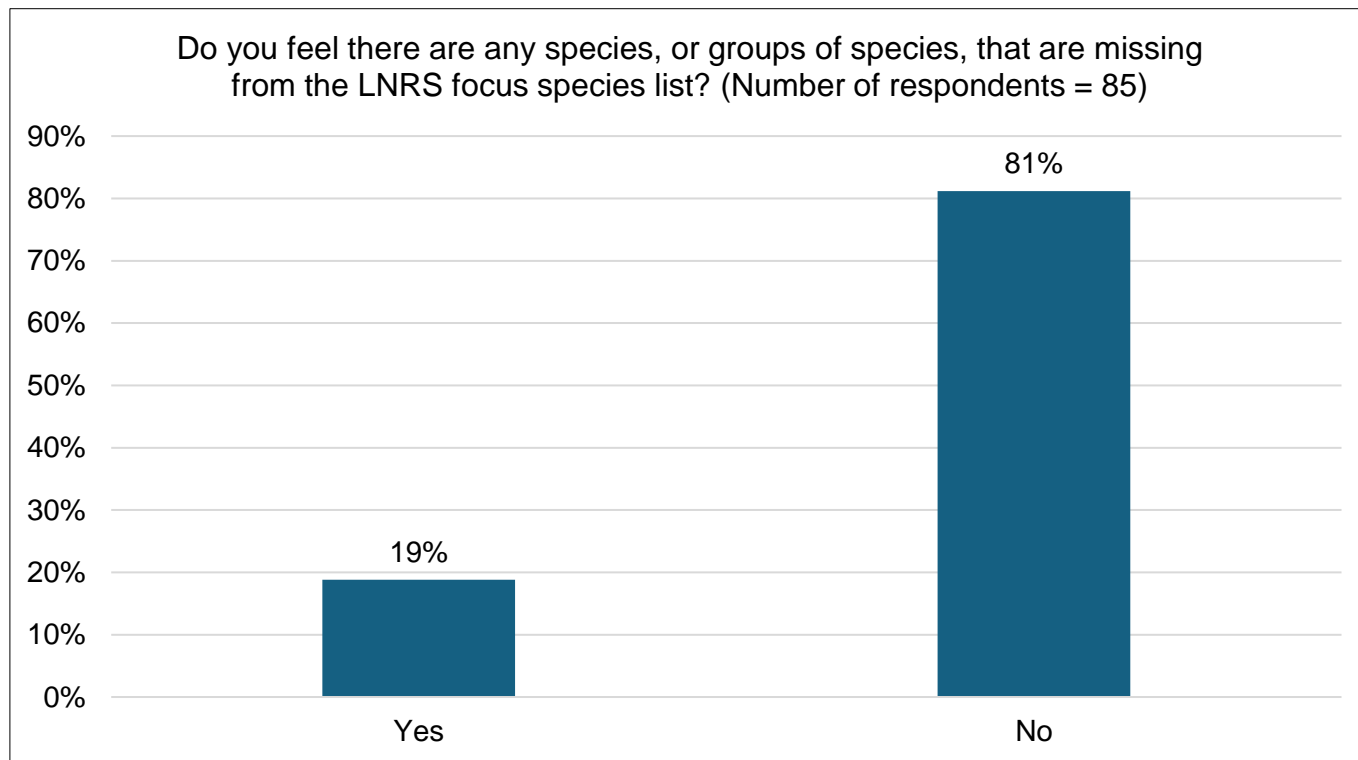
“Everything except Rivers, lakes and streams. We need to get back to simply caring for our environment and stop all the climate change nonsense. Our climate has always changed and always will. Throwing more taxpayers money at ridiculous ideas like Carbon Capture and Net Zero will bankrupt this country.”

“Providing nesting gaps in brickwork in newbuilds for returning Swallows.”

Section 2: Species

Q: Do you feel there are any species, or groups of species, that are missing from the LNRS focus species list?

When asked if there were any species or groups of species that were missing from the LNRS focus species list, 16 respondents (19%) felt that there were.



Of these 16 respondents, 15 gave further detail about the species they felt were missing. All the species mentioned in these comments were categorised into the below themes (full comments can be found in Appendix 2).

Invertebrates

Aquatic and marine invertebrates (including marine), butterflies (Duke of Burgundy, Pearl & Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary, Small Blue, Grayling and Dingy Skipper), marine crustacea, moths, and pond life.

Birds

Barn owls, bull finches, cuckoos, house martins, linnets, merlins, puffins, red kites, siskins, and skylarks.

Mammals

Large predators, livestock, lynx, and otter.

Amphibians and fish

Burbot, common toad (as an indicator species for habitat loss), and sturgeon.

Non-animal

Fungi, plants, and soil organisms.

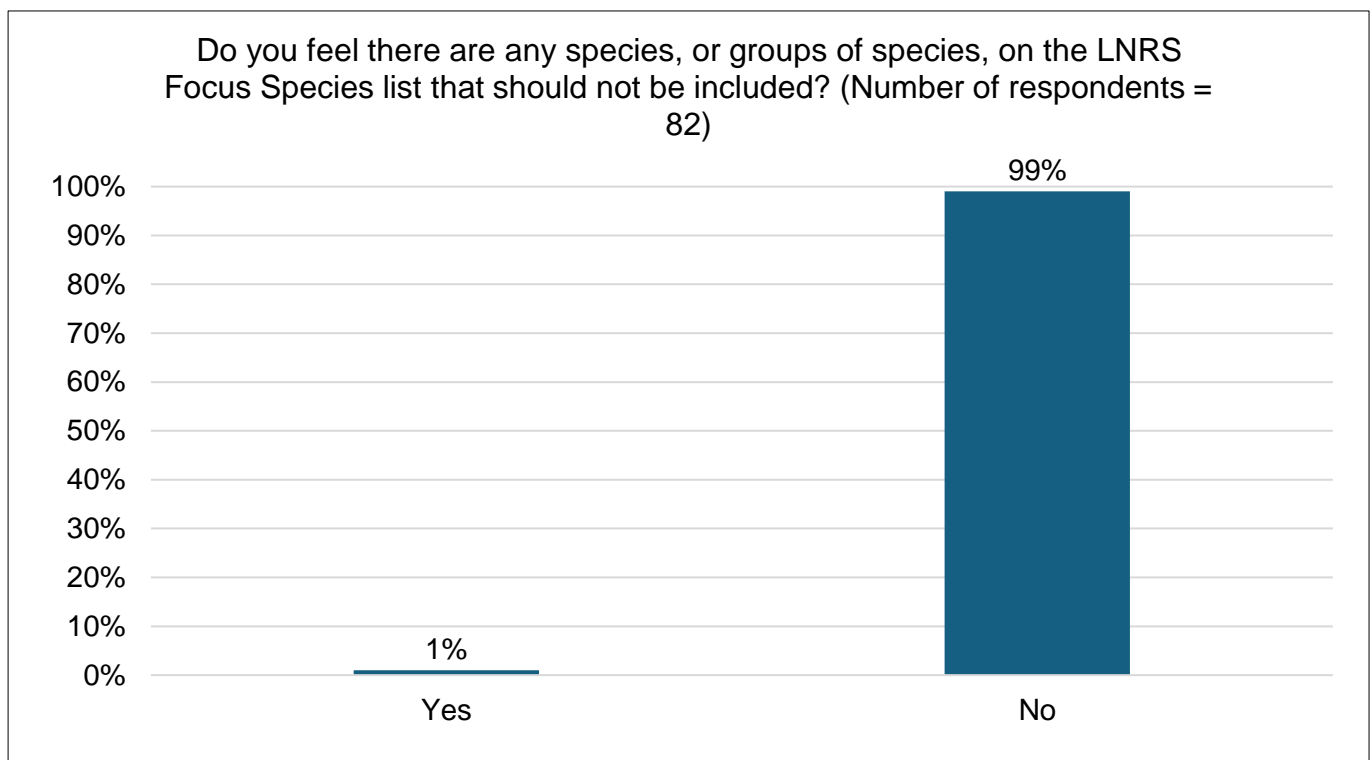
Other

“Protected species”

“Listing a small number of birds, insects and amphibians ignores the huge variety of endangered species in our area. Most bird species are in decline, and it is important we recognise the wider variety of species in danger.”

Q: Do you feel there are any species, or groups of species, on the LNRS focus species list that should not be included?

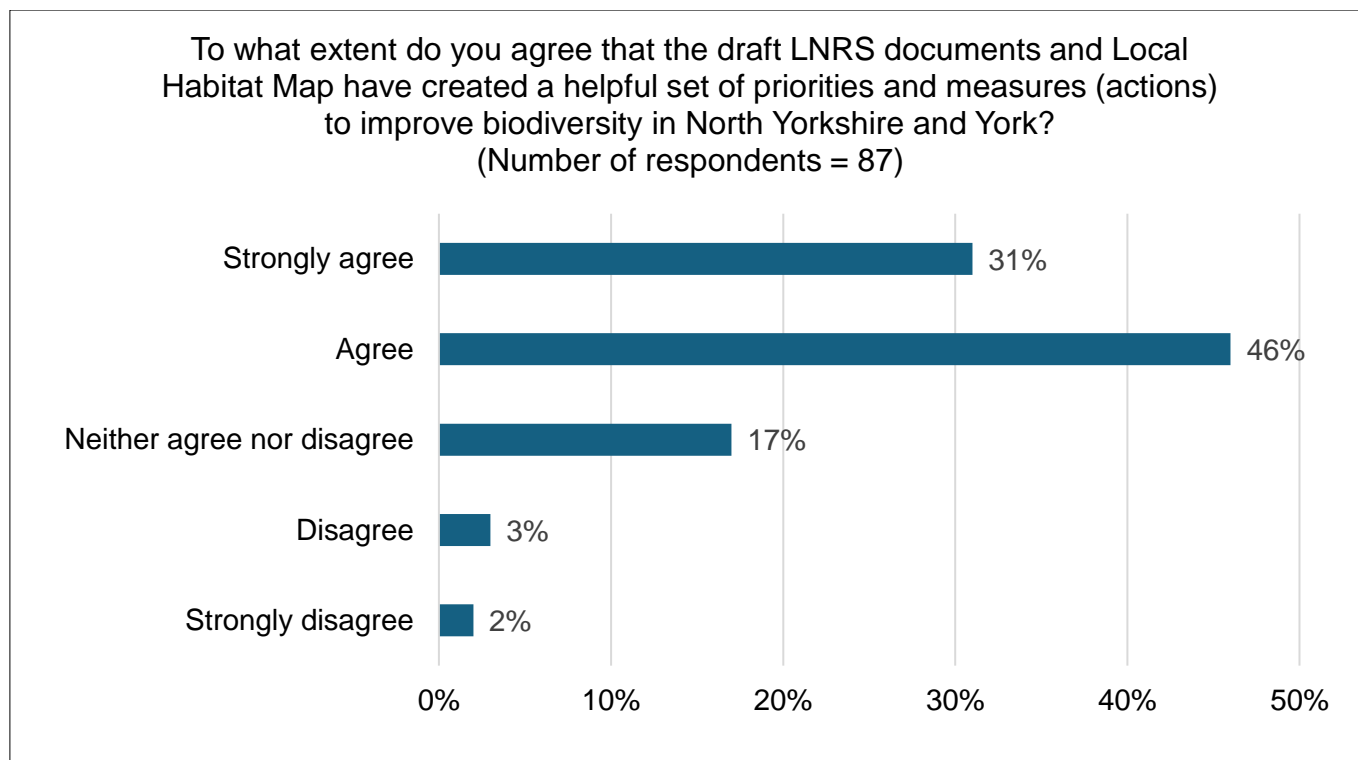
99% of respondents felt that the species on the LNRS Focus Species list should be there. Only one respondent felt that any species should not be included on the LNRS Focus Species list, commenting that the LNRS should *“Concentrate on pollinators and stop wasting taxpayers’ money on foolish Net Zero nonsense.”*



Section 3: Helpfulness of draft priorities and measures

Q: To what extent do you agree that the draft LNRS documents and Local Habitat Map have created a helpful set of priorities and measures (actions) to improve biodiversity in North Yorkshire and York?

77% of respondents either agreed (46%) or strongly agreed (31%) that the draft LNRS documents and Local Habitat Map have created a helpful set of priorities and measures to improve biodiversity in North Yorkshire and York. Only 5% of respondents disagreed (3%) or strongly disagreed (2%).



Q: Do you have any other comments on the draft LNRS that you would like us to consider before we publish the final version of the strategy? If you would like to make more detailed comments on the draft LNRS, please refer to the option to download a feedback form on the consultation landing page

Respondents were given the opportunity to make any other comments that they wanted to be considered in the final revisions of the LNRS. 54 comments were received and can be found in full in Appendix A2. The comments were collated into themes; these are described below and illustrated using example comment excerpts.

Planning and development

Concerns about how planning activity aligned with the LNRS were raised by 12 respondents. Potential development at Scorton lake was mentioned in 5 comments as an area of particular concern for them.

Example comment: “While “working with local planning authorities” is worthwhile, it is NOT sufficient. A key aim of the strategy has to be for the county/city authorities to incorporate the objectives of this strategy into their planning policies and processes.”

Engaging the public

9 comments discussed how important effectively engaging the public was for the delivery of the LNRS. Some comments highlighted specific groups, such as scouts and brownies, to engage and citizen science was mentioned in 3 comments as a particularly valuable way to involve the public.

Example comment: “The success of the LNRS will hinge on people wanting to take positive action to support it, so more detail is needed to demonstrate how it will achieve this aim.”

Engaging other stakeholders

Respondents also mentioned other stakeholders that they felt were important to engage with during delivery. These included land-based and environmentally focused education providers, sports and physical activity organisations, local environmental groups, the National Trust, farmers and landowners.

Example comment: “Broaden stakeholder engagement to include further education and training institutions in future strategy development and implementation.”

Deliverability

Concerns about the delivery of the LNRS were raised by 9 respondents. Many felt there needed to be a clearer plan of how actions would be funded and delivered. There was also concern about the lack of powers to back up the strategy.

Example comment: “The approach overall is robust and commendable but how will it be delivered, by whom and in what timeframe; when will an Action Plan be produced?”

Habitats and Landscapes

A wide range of comments were left regarding specific habitats, the broader importance of nature corridors (particularly between the two national parks), and the value of working at landscape scale. Some respondents also felt the LNRS should focus more on protecting existing woodland and managing woodland once it is established, alongside planting new trees.

Example comment: “The document should reference The Protected Landscapes Targets and Outcomes Framework and how this can drive and shape nature restoration in North Yorkshire's national parks and national landscapes.”

Accessible nature

4 respondents felt improving the accessibility of green space should receive more attention in the LNRS.

Example comment: “We are blessed with our National Parks but frankly the nature elements of these areas are not accessible to many people within the county. Making places available where people can go to for half an hour at the end of the day or early morning must be used to help normalise the engagement with nature and hence increase its value to all.”

LNRS usability

The complexity of the LNRS documents was raised by 2 respondents as a barrier to engaging with the strategy.

Example comment: “I have reviewed all the documents, and they are far too complicated to be useful for most groups. Significant time should have been taken to make them more accessible to many of the stakeholders who can help nature.”

Praise for the LNRS

9 comments also included praise for the draft LNRS; particularly for it being “*very comprehensive*” with “*commendable*” ambition and scope.

Respondent engagement with consultation documents

Many of the draft LNRS document are long and complex and it was not expected that all respondents would read through them all. Respondents were therefore asked to identify which of the draft strategy documents listed below they had viewed so that respondents’ level of engagement with each LNRS document could be understood.

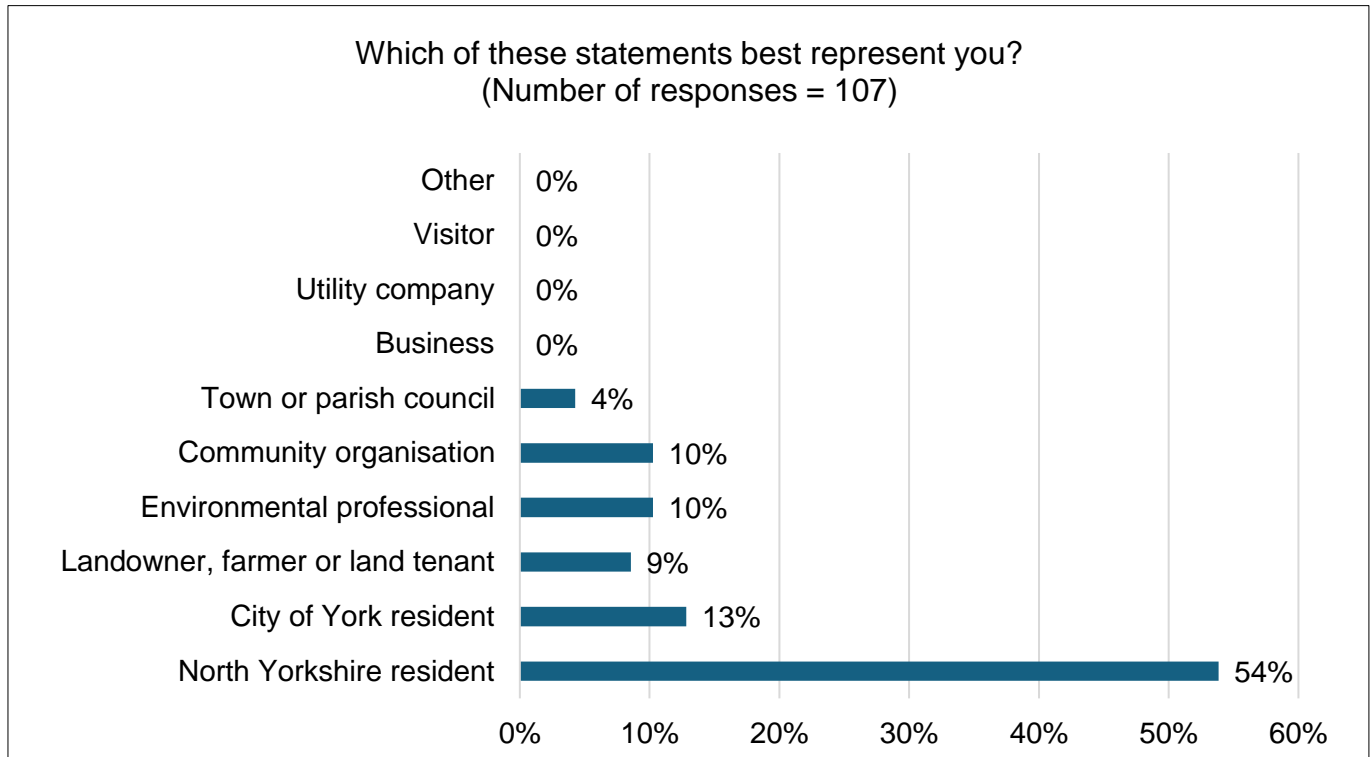
The number of people who read each document can be seen in the ‘total read’ column in the table below.

Document title	Total read
Document 1 - Thriving Nature in North Yorkshire and York – Short Summary	73
Document 2 - Thriving Nature in North Yorkshire and York – Our Local Nature Recovery Strategy	60
Document 3 - Statement of Biodiversity Priorities Part I – Description of our Strategy Area	56
Document 4 - Statement of Biodiversity Priorities Part II – Priorities and Measures	65
Our Nature Network – The LNRS Local Habitat Map (online mapping portal)	59
LNRS appendices	28

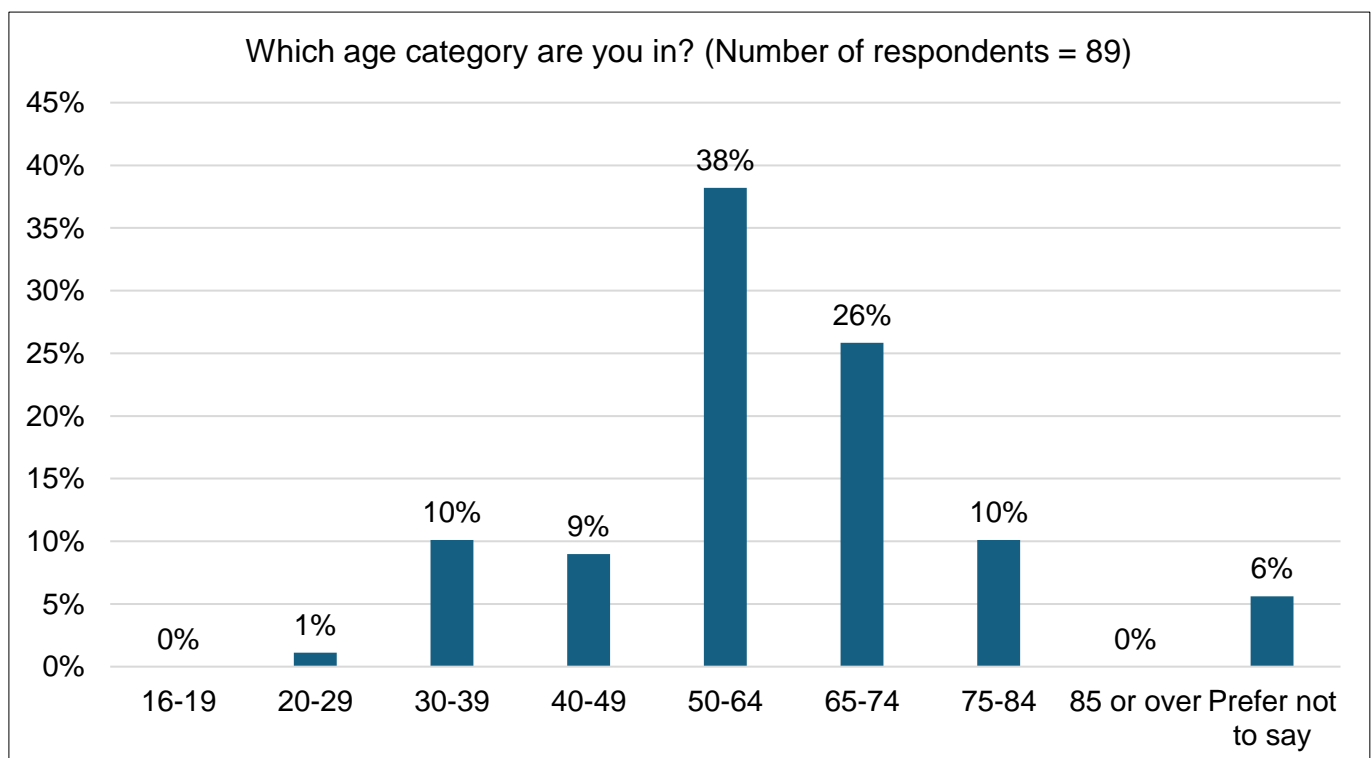
Demographics

Respondents were asked to identify which statement best represented them. They could indicate more than one choice.

The majority of respondents (67%) were North Yorkshire or City of York residents.



The majority of respondents (74%) were between 50 and 84 years old, while only 20% of respondents were 49 or under.



Appendix A1: Online survey form

The online survey form is included on the following pages. Please note that for the public consultation, the survey form was provided as an interactive online form with multiple sections. The survey form presented here has been re-formatted to suit hard copy presentation, so is formatted slightly differently to the online form, but the structure, content and questions are the same.



Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) public consultation

North Yorkshire Council is the responsible authority for the preparation of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) for North Yorkshire and York. This public consultation allows you to provide your views on the draft strategy, before it is published towards the end of 2025. We previously carried out an online survey in late 2023 into early 2024 and the responses received are referred to in this survey. These have informed the development of the draft strategy and are referenced as part of this consultation.

Privacy Notice

By reading our online Privacy Notice at www.northyorks.gov.uk/privacynotice it will help you understand how and why we process your personal data.

All questions are optional. Please skip any that you do not want to answer.

Please do not include any personal identifiable information about yourself or someone else in your responses.

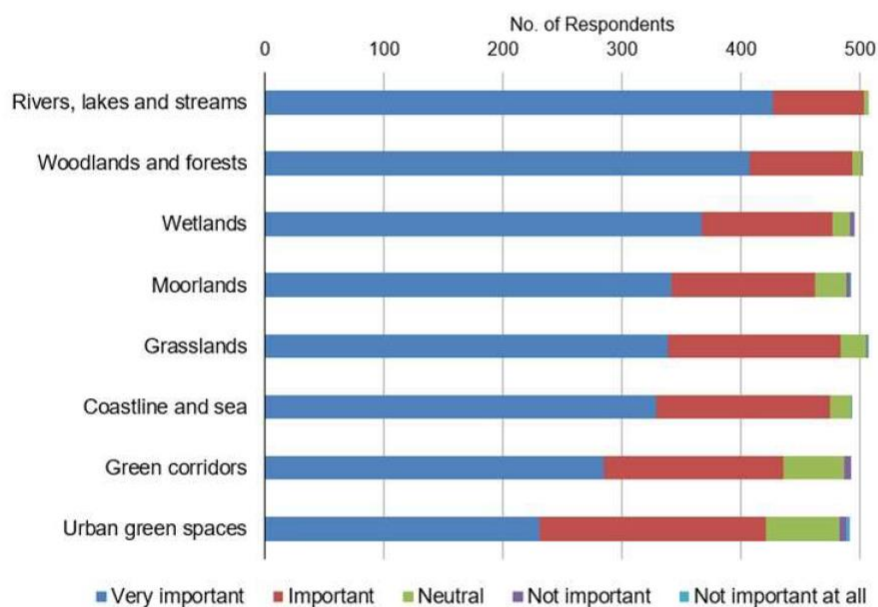
Introduction

In November 2023 we asked people in North Yorkshire and York about their thoughts on habitats and wildlife species and if they had seen examples of projects in their local area to restore or protect nature.

This survey includes the responses from three of our previous questions, which have helped us prepare the draft Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS).

1. Which of the following habitats and landscapes in North Yorkshire and York do you think are the most important for nature recovery?

People submitted their responses ranging from 'very important' to 'not important at all' for each of the pre-defined habitat and landscape types listed. The graphic below shows that rivers, lakes and streams, woodlands and forests, and wetlands were considered the most important. However, all habitat and landscape types received a considerable number of 'very important' and 'important' ratings.



We used these responses to inform our draft statement of biodiversity priorities.

The document presents our priorities for what we consider to be most important in reversing the decline in nature. The priorities are arranged in habitat categories similar to those in the graphic above.

Please review Document 4 of the draft LNRS: Statement of Biodiversity Priorities Part 2 – Priorities and Measures, pages 15-62, and then answer the questions below.

Do you feel there are any nature recovery priorities that are missing from the draft LNRS?

Yes

No

Please tell us what you feel should be added and why:

Please do not include any personal identifiable information about yourself or someone else in your response.

Do you feel there are any nature recovery priorities within the draft LNRS that should not be included?

Yes

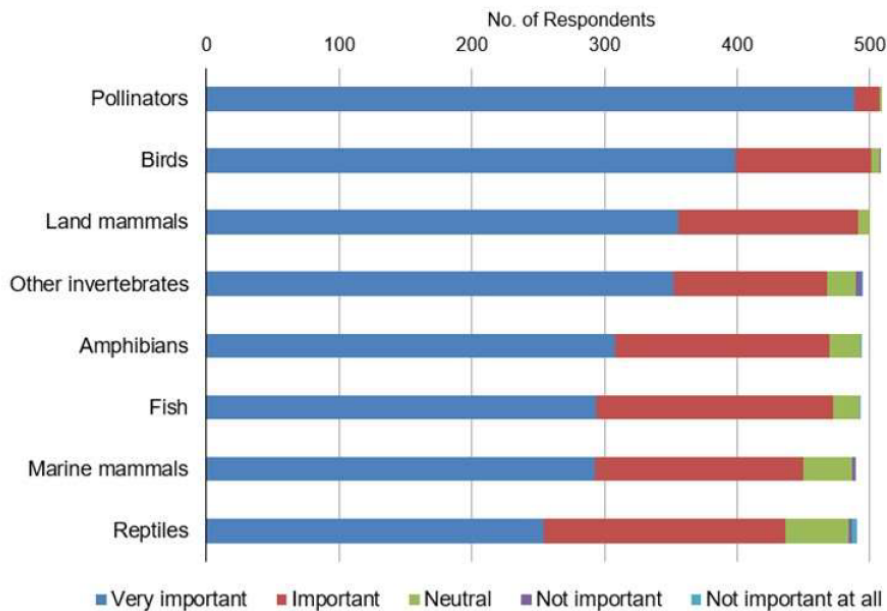
No

Please tell us what you feel should be removed and why

Please do not include any personal identifiable information about yourself or someone else in your response.

2. Which groups of wildlife species do you think are most important when it comes to nature recovery?

People submitted their responses ranging from 'very important' to 'not important at all' for each of the pre-defined species groups. The graphic below shows that pollinators, birds and land mammals were ranked as the most important. However, all species groups received a considerable number of 'very important' and 'important' ratings.



We used these responses to inform our list of focus species. The focus species are arranged in groups similar to those in the graphic above.

Please review the draft LNRS Focus Species lists in Document 4 pages 66-70, and then answer the questions below.

Do you feel there are any species, or groups of species, that are missing from the LNRS focus species list?

Yes

No

Please tell us which species you feel should be added and why

Please do not include any personal identifiable information about yourself or someone else in your response.

Do you feel there are any species, or groups of species, on the LNRS Focus Species list that should not be included?

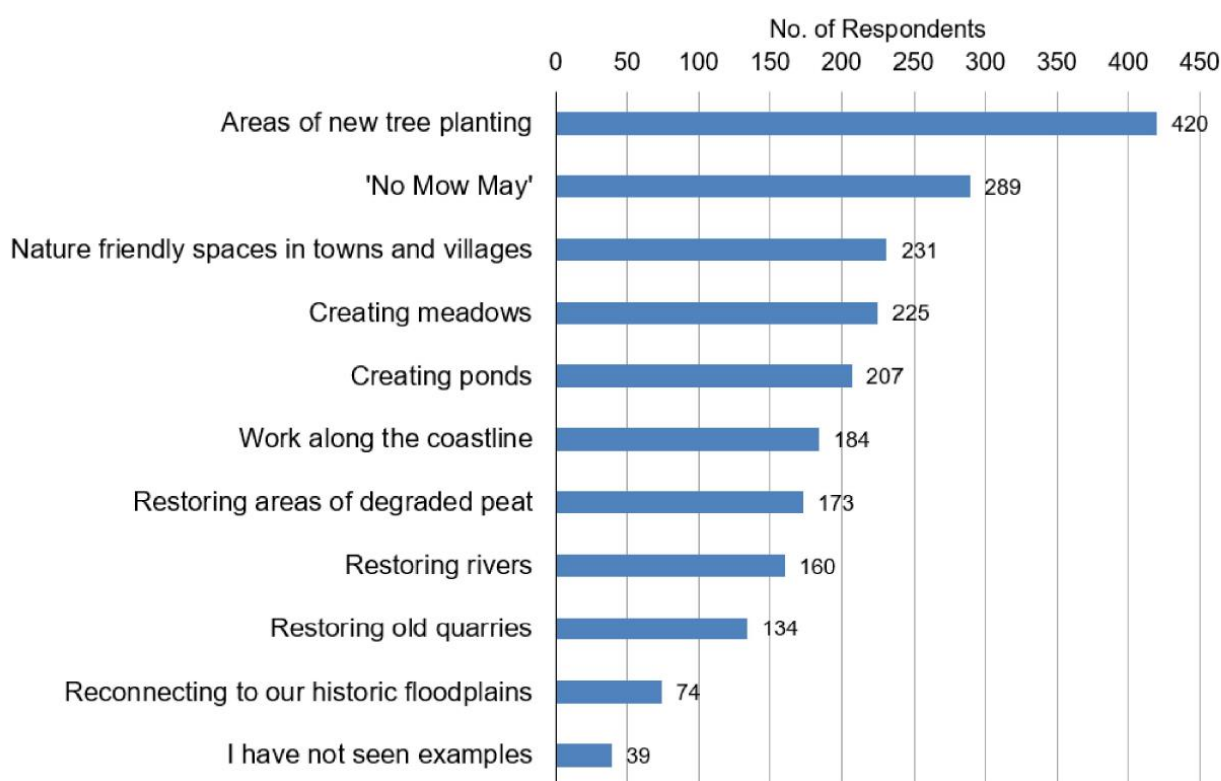
Yes

No

Please do not include any personal identifiable information about yourself or someone else in your response.

3. What examples have you seen of people working together to restore and protect nature or the natural environment in North Yorkshire and York?

The survey gave a list of 10 activities. The top three examples that the greatest number of people had seen were areas of new tree planting, 'no mow May' and nature friendly spaces in towns and villages. All the other examples received a relatively high number of selections.



The examples have helped to inform the actions (measures) that we are proposing on our Local Habitat Map.

When you access the map, you will be able to provide your comments about the proposed actions (measures) including their geographic location.

There are no questions to complete on this page, select 'Next' below to continue.

Please tell us which of the draft strategy documents you have viewed. This allows us to understand which parts of the draft strategy you have considered (select all that apply)

Document 1 – Thriving Nature in North Yorkshire and York – Short Summary

Document 2 – Thriving Nature in North Yorkshire and York – Our Local Nature Recovery Strategy

Document 3 – Statement of Biodiversity Priorities Part I – Description of our Strategy Area

Document 4 – Statement of Biodiversity Priorities Part II – Priorities and Measures

Our Nature Network – The LNRS Local Habitat Map (online mapping portal)

LNRS appendices

To what extent do you agree that the draft LNRS documents and Local Habitat Map have created a helpful set of priorities and measures (actions) to improve biodiversity in North Yorkshire and York?

Strongly agree

Agree

Neither agree nor disagree

Disagree

Strongly disagree

Do you have any other comments on the draft LNRS that you would like us to consider before we publish the final version of the strategy? If you would like to make more detailed comments on the draft LNRS, please refer to the option to download a feedback form on the consultation landing page

Please do not include any personal identifiable information about yourself or someone else in your response.

About you

We want to make sure that the services we deliver do not unfairly discriminate against anyone. We also want to make sure that the right services reach the right people at the right time. To help us make sure that we are doing this correctly it would be helpful if you could answer the following questions about yourself.

You do not have to answer these questions. It will not make any difference to the service you receive if you choose not to answer them. The information you provide will be made anonymous. No personal information, such as your name or address will be used in collating statistical data.

However, by answering the questions you will help us to make sure that our services are fair and accessible to everyone.

Which of these statements best represent you? (select all that apply)

North
Yorkshire
resident

City of
York
resident

Landowne
r, farmer
or land
tenant

Environme
ntal profes
sional

Communit
y organisat
ion

Town or
parish
council

Business

Utility
company

Visitor

Other,
please
specify
below

Please do not include any personal identifiable information about yourself or someone else in your response.

What is your postcode? This allows us to identify where responses are coming from and highlights areas in North Yorkshire and York where engagement may be lower.

You have left characters left.

Which age category are you in?

16-19

20-29

30-39

40-49

50-64

65-74

75-84

85 or over

Prefer not
to say

Staying in touch

If you would like to be kept informed on the development of the LNRS please provide your name and email address below:

Name:

Email address:

If you would like to withdraw your consent from receiving related emails in the future, please contact LNRS@northyorks.gov.uk.

You have reached the end of the questions on the draft LNRS. Thank you for taking the time to complete this consultation. Your response will help support the creation of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy for North Yorkshire and York.

Please see link to the draft Local Habitat Map on the main consultation page. When you access the map, you will be able to provide your comments about the proposed actions (measures) including their geographic location.

Thank you for taking part in this survey.

Appendix A2: All online survey responses

Responses to 'Please tell us what nature recovery priorities you feel should be added and why':

Each new numbered paragraph or sentence marks a response left by a different survey participant.

1. De industrialisation of the farming landscape which planners have tried to be good chaps to all parties and had no joined up thinking on the implications of transport and watercourse pollution etc. When for example I proposed slowing the flow to manage peak river flows it was revealed that EA management ceased at a certain point, NYMNP took over from that point, but never consulted with DEFRA, nor FC England, nor EA re vegetation cover management, hydrology, the use of real time river level monitoring and other factors that gave a clearer picture of actions and reactions in the basin. There is too much silo thinking , no interaction that serves the public interest but seemingly directs efforts to securing large tranches of government funding for projects that overlook good basic public need , like flood protection for riparian owners brought about by coordinated management of water conduits , planting and cropping patterns in catchment basins, and improvements in waste water treatment capacity in times of extreme weather events which have come to dominate the deterioration of waste water infrastructure which has not received the investment needed to handle the higher treatment capacities and treatment quality levels we should expect today. The time has come for co-ordinated focused approaches to solutions that serve the public better before the public resists putting up with some of the babble it has been expected to accept in the past.
2. Domestic gardens
3. Don't agree to cover the land with solar panels!
4. Enabling more people in North Yorkshire to grow their own food, in their homes, schools and communities, has been identified as a priority in the Food for the Future Framework for Action both by stakeholders and the community. There is an opportunity to weave this element into the LNRS priorities also. For example, within the 'Urban' priorities (Doc2 pg26) focussing on the potential for our citizens to engage in nature-friendly practices, growing food in private gardens, schools and publicly accessible spaces can contribute to biodiversity and connect people with nature and where their food comes from. This also links to the following strategies: The aim of the Food for the Future Framework is to improve access to affordable nutritious and sustainable food for all in North Yorkshire, recognising that this will bring benefits to our health, the economy and the environment. It takes a whole food system approach, acknowledging that only by looking at the bigger picture of how food is grown, produced, transported, sold and wasted; and how these elements connect, will any significant change in what we eat be possible. The Framework has been developed and is being led by a Partnership group from across the food system in the statutory, voluntary and business communities. The Framework recognises the opportunities of producing food with nature to mitigate and adapt to climate change, produce more nutritious and sustainable food and connect local people with food grown closer to home. Moving North Yorkshire: Moving North Yorkshire is a partnership group is working towards a wholes system approach to support people in North Yorkshire to be stronger for longer in mind and body through movement play and sport. The group is made up of various stakeholders from across the movement, physical activity and sport system, who recognise that physical inactivity is a complex problem influenced by many, interacting factors across society. The work so far has identified the positive opportunities that exist for people to move and be active in nature and how connection to nature can be a motivating factor to staying active throughout life.
5. Estuaries and intertidal habitats. Brownfield sites. Housing and general developments could be encouraged/supported to be much more nature inclusive in their design and construction. Is scrub included in woodland?

6. Farmland or land in agriculture. Although perceived as "managed" and subject to human impacts the gradual increase in built developments on farmland does actually contribute to a barrier to natural recovery.
7. Former industrial sites remaining un(re)developed. There is plenty of wildlife on such sites. New house building sites which should be provided with natural hedges and grass rather than walls or fences and gravel or hardstanding. This would provide new wildlife habitats and new green corridors, as well as making the houses more desirable.
8. Geodiversity - rock type and the resulting soil type are essential
9. Green lanes, usually unsurfaced with tarmac and often enclosed both sides by walls, hedges or fences
10. Habitats identified as especially vulnerable to species or biodiversity loss. Areas with greatest potential to secure critical species
11. Have a category specific to National Parks and National Landscapes
12. Help nature to adapt to climate change, supporting dynamism and natural ecosystem function, including allowing habitats to change and directing them to new forms where retaining their existing form is not possible. Utilising the 'Resist-Accept-Direct' framework can support these efforts.
13. I may have missed it, but enactment of schedule 3 of the Flood and Water Management Act (2010) would be a significant boost in nature recovery in urban settings, while at the same time slowing the flow instead of speeding the flow, improving water quality and reducing illegal discharges to watercourses from combined sewers. Whether due to weak government or strong industry lobbying, implementation of schedule 3 is long overdue.
14. I think the strategy needs to address pollution from litter and dog fouling, which is detrimental to wildlife and needs to be controlled better. I think the council should carry out more litter picking and provide more bins, particularly in locations where a lot of dog walking takes place, such as along the Greenway in Harrogate and other public footpaths and ginnels. I think it needs to advocate alternatives to using glyphosates for weed control on highways and in urban areas.
15. Lowland acid bogs (e.g. with Sphagnum) are not included anywhere as far as I can see. This was formerly an extremely widespread habitat in the Vale of York, and relic areas remain as well as some of our most significant protected areas. This is not encompassed by fens, nor flushes, nor lowland heath, nor upland bog. To have lowland heath subsumed within Grasslands I think is very risky. Several of North Yorkshire's most significant sites for biodiversity are lowland heath and the Vale of York was once substantially comprised of this habitat: Small (2009) estimated that this means a 97% loss of that habitat post-enclosure, which means that restoration is probably needed to prevent further loss of species. I would recommend raising the profile of wet and dry lowland heath to both include acid lowland bog and to create this as a separate habitat section outside of grasslands and uplands and wetlands.
16. New developments including the many taking place around Scarborough. These could be highly valuable if landscaped in a nature in mind way. Unfortunately, many new developments lack any trees or any native species.
17. Reclaimed former gravel quarrying sites which have been revived within the natural landscape providing lakes and ponds for wildlife, flora and fauna to establish and grow habitats within the natural landscape
18. Removal of toxic species such as ragwort by pulling and burning. Not just toxic to animals but to humans too if sap gets into bloodstream through cuts etc. Destroys the liver. Not nice.

19. Scorton lakes is an area that is building well and requires protection. It's biodiversity and replanting fits within many if the LNR priorities (e.g. OVR/GEA/WET) perfectly and should be considered as a place of significance to retain and continue.
20. Scrublands - has the amount of scrub that have in North Yorkshire been measured? - or is this contained within woodland and forests. Scrub provides an excellent habitat for nesting birds, invertebrates and mammals and is often overlooked and included in woodland, however it deserves a separate mention in my opinion. Coastal scrub on the undercliff is particularly important as it provides a corridor in itself up the coastline. The habitat is not woodland -it deserves a separate category especially as we have so much of it in the county
21. Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation. Because North Yorkshire planning disregards this and grants planning permission to build on such sites. Join up your policies.
22. Some sites classed a 'brown field sites' have become wildlife habitats where wildlife has moved from developed greenfield and other sites. E.g.- disused railway routes have been taken over by nature, form wildlife corridors and have become wooded and pleasant providing a green lung through build up areas.
23. Strategies to increase biodiversity
24. There is no mention of bracken control. Bracken is native, but very invasive, and threatens habitats such as dry heathland, upland acid grassland
25. Urban areas in general need attention so that we think of nature as everywhere where possible, not just urban green spaces that already exist. So live green walls, roof tops that could be used as gardens/growing food, planting more appropriate trees along roads, paths for shade, wildlife and carbon capture. All these things can be done in certain urban areas that aren't considered green at present. Concrete jungle areas need this the most to bring down temperatures.
26. Urban spaces that could be enhanced by adding natural features to architecture e.g. green roofs
27. We need urgent protection of birds of prey and in particular Hen Harriers from persecution by Game keepers. Further controls and monitoring of the Shooting industry are required as Nidderdale ranks amongst the worse for persecution of birds of prey and other predators. There does not appear to be any mention of the need to protect these endangered species from the shooting industry. We need plans and more resources to specifically protect Hen Harriers and to enforce the law on their status. There is a also a real risk that 'predator control' to 'protect ground nesting birds' is focussed on, or used as an excuse, to persecute predators (birds of prey, foxes, etc.) in order to simply protect Pheasant, Grouse and Partridge for the shooting industry. There needs to be a very clear distinction as to what birds we are seeking to protect and what predator control means (i.e. not killing protected birds of prey). We also need to reduce the large-scale introduction of non-native birds (Pheasant) to support the shooting industry with scant regard for the impact on our natural environment and other native species. With pheasant being artificially bred and fed for shooting, but then left to fend for themselves, when feeding ceases after the shooting season - who then compete with native species for food.
28. WILDLIFE ARE BEING FORCED OUT OF THEIR HABITATS, OWING TO THE BUILDING OF HOUSES ETC, AND THEY HAVE NO WHERE TO GO TO LIVE OR FEED.
29. Yes. While the draft LNRS makes strong reference to public access and the social value of nature, there is limited explicit recognition of the role that sport and physical activity in natural environments can play in supporting nature recovery objectives and wider societal benefits. In particular, the following priorities could strengthen the strategy: • Active Access for All: Embedding design principles that encourage and enable safe, inclusive physical activity (e.g. walking, cycling, running, paddle sport, outdoor gyms) within or alongside nature recovery projects, remembering that active travel is

often a way that people can access or explore nature. • Health and Wellbeing Integration: Recognising that nature recovery can directly contribute to public health through active use, and aligning this with regional health, wellbeing, and physical activity strategies (EG Moving North Yorkshire) • Partnerships with the Sport & Physical Activity Sector: Leveraging the skills, networks, and resources of Active Partnerships, local clubs, and community organisations to promote responsible, sustainable use of natural spaces for activity. • Green Social Prescribing: Supporting interventions that connect people experiencing health inequalities to nature through structured physical activity programmes. Moving North Yorkshire: Moving North Yorkshire is a partnership group is working towards a whole system approach to support people in North Yorkshire to be stronger for longer in mind and body through movement play and sport. The group is made up of various stakeholders from across the movement, physical activity and sport system, who recognise that physical inactivity is a complex problem influenced by many, interacting factors across society. The work so far has identified the positive opportunities that exist for people to move and be active in nature and how connection to nature can be a motivating factor to staying active throughout life.

Responses to ‘Please tell us which species you feel should be added to the LNRS focus species list and why’:

Each new numbered paragraph or sentence marks a response left by a different survey participant.

1. Butterflies appear to have been almost entirely omitted. In addition to Northern Brown Argus and Large Heath, both of which o feature, Yorkshire holds significant populations of Duke of Burgundy, Pearl & Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary. Small Blue, Grayling and Dingy Skipper probably also warrant inclusion. All have bespoke requirements that tie them to actions impacting various habitats listed meaning their populations are an effective metric by which habitat improvements can be measured.
2. Cuckoo, red kite, white stork, house martin, otter and lynx. The only one of these with an expanding territory into the area is the red kite; the others are in decline or extinct and need active changes to provide suitable habitat. This would also need work to gain acceptance in some cases - especially lynx.
3. Fungi and moths
4. Large predators such as wildcats, wolves, bears etc.
5. Listing a small number of birds, insects and amphibians ignores the huge variety of endangered species in our area. Most bird species are in decline, and it is important we recognise the wider variety of species in danger.
6. Livestock to eat down self-sown tree and shrub seedlings
7. Marine crustacea
8. Plants. Plants are fundamental to habitats and ecosystems.
9. Pond life and aquatic invertebrates. Vast quantities are contained within freshwater ponds and contribute hugely to biodiversity in clean ponds
10. Protected species
11. Puffin - p.64 refers to helping raise awareness and engagement. Few species do this like puffins do which are extremely popular but are struggling due to climate change, prey availability, and habitat loss. Merlin - estimated 40 pairs in the North York Moors. Needs support as is declining.”
12. Skylark, linnet, barn owls, bull finches, siskins and the common but rapidly decreasing species such as common toad need to be used more as indicator or loss of habitat
13. Soil organisms
14. Species recovery burbot and sturgeon
15. Would marine invertebrates come under other invertebrates? If so fine if not please add them!!

Responses to ‘Do you have any other comments on the draft LNRS that you would like us to consider before we publish the final version of the strategy?’:

Each new numbered paragraph or sentence marks a response left by a different survey participant.

1. Accessibility - the draft LNRS has this covered to some extent but in my view it is still insufficient. For long term success it is critical that the activities being proposed are valued and supported by the population at large. This is only going to be achieved by education and exposure. More needs to be done to provide easily accessible and local natural spaces for everybody. We are blessed with our National Parks but frankly the nature elements of these areas are not accessible to many people within the county. Making places available where people can go to for half an hour at the end of the day or early morning must be used to help normalise the engagement with nature and hence increase its value to all. 2) Planning - planning promises and commitments must be met if the local authority is to sustain the trust of the people you work for and represent. There are a number of Section 106 agreements - seen as a social contract between the councils and populations - which have not been honoured. At a macro (even county) level I am sure that authorities can rationalise this but when a local village population is let down then there will be repercussions in terms of ongoing support. The council authorities must do better in this respect.
2. We understand the rationale used to develop the Local Habitat Map but believe that it is missing the connectivity and wildlife corridors offered by the region’s watercourses. These are only highlighted if in proximity to APIBs, although considered by consultees to be the most important habitat for nature recovery (as per question 1 of this consultation). 2) The Local Habitat Map shows APIBs in two shades of blue. We figured out that the light blue shows nationally or internationally designated sites and the dark blue shows LWS/SINCs and areas of irreplaceable habitat. This does not appear to be stated in the map user guide.
3. A holistic approach should be taken to rewilding - not just thinking of prey species that are easy for us to manage, but allow a proper, organic bio-habitat for all species, including large predators and larger species such as wildcats, wolves, beaver's etc. It's easier for us as humans to concentrate on the smaller, more easily managed species but a healthy biosphere includes a full range of the natural world, and we should aim to put nature back to how it was before we tried to manage it and accidentally wiped-out entire species.
4. Address the issues related to grouse shooting: heather burning and birds of prey persecution
5. An area that has been overlooked is the overproduction of animals and birds for human consumption or sport. Pig farms and chicken farms are not mentioned, only grazing animals. These intensive sites cause a great deal of damage to the natural environment, are evidently damaging to the animals themselves and not that good for people as a source of food. The food system in the area is an important driver and working with people to change their eating habits as well as with farmers is vital to human, animal and planetary health, in a local context. The raising of pheasant and partridge for shooting is not mentioned in the strategy. These birds lead short miserable lives to be shot for profit. They take up land, produce pollution, and the industry that profits from them is known to kill - illegally - native birds of prey that are seen as a threat. If these activities- raising pheasant and partridge for shooting - have been included under farming, then this needs to be clear, and if not, needs to be included.
6. An excellent and comprehensive wish list, which must have cost a significant amount in funding and officer time. However, the value of the final document is somewhere between negative and zero until

- it's delivered. The ultimate value (monetary or otherwise) of the strategy will depend wholly on how effectively and fully it's actioned.
7. Climate change and biodiversity restoration – For me the key to attenuating climate change is increasing CO2 uptake by existing woodland and improving biodiversity as a fringe benefit. For the NY Local Plan the Eftec Natural Capital study does not consider existing woodlands; species rich grasslands are not mentioned, and grasslands in farmland are mentioned only re. pollination. In the Eftec study and the NYC Climate change strategy 2023-30 tree planting and woodland creation “presents a major opportunity “(65,000ha to 130,000ha)” but “existing woodland” and “ancient woodland” are not mentioned. In my view the NY Local Nature Recovery Strategy needs to safeguard what important habitats you have listed, so proposed development resulting in the loss or deterioration of irreplaceable habitats should be refused, unless there are wholly exceptional reasons. “Suitable compensation” for this kind of loss is very rare or non-existent and should be planned only in such very exceptional cases. Tree planting is attractive, but secondary as new woodlands will take decades to bring benefits (carbon capture, biodiversity). The most important patches of habitats (woodlands, species-rich grasslands, wetlands etc.) should be monitored regularly and managed so that they are in 'good ecological states'. Connections between patches of semi-natural habitats are indeed essential; the measures put in place for the NY Local Nature Recovery Strategy will depend on the socio-economic tools which can be employed by the North Yorkshire Council to do so. In the next stage you will of course need to clarify for the citizens which socio-economic tools you intend to use.
 8. Delighted to see that Scorton Lakes is included and has been restored in accordance to the planning approval, creating a natural, biodiverse habit for the wildlife.
 9. Farmers and land managers are the experts at their management of land. Their advice should be listened to not ignored
 10. Feel priorities are clear and thought out but some of the actions don't address barriers experienced by the different groups. There is also little mention of the health, social and wellbeing benefits to people when connecting in nature (and thus motivating them to carry out the actions described) within the action sections. Examples that could be highlighted here are: • Residents are supported to feel a sense of ownership over their local parks, through family engagements, creative design, community activities • Use citizen science for people to understand the environment around us and how we impact it • If we help people enjoy being responsibly active in nature they are more likely to protect it, especially as a family • Offering ways of facilitating delivery of the actions - Nature recovery calendar, tell us what we can do each month, e-mail blast or a calendar, Lesson plans for teachers, Easy ways for companies to offset, a really simple mechanism. Connection with connected with the identified delivery partners (Doc2 pg34) – ‘schools, nurseries and colleges’; and ‘residents’, where an aligned action alongside enhancing biodiversity would be growing food. positive opportunities that exist for people to move and be active in nature and how connection to nature can be a motivating factor to staying active throughout life.
 11. I am disappointed to not see more of an effort to provide ecological connectivity between the Yorkshire Dales and the North York Moors. There is a real potential to have one of the largest, functional connected, protected areas within our county, which further connects to the Forest of Bowland, and north. The isolation of the North York Moors NP should not be continued.
 12. I found it to be more of a management project than one with specific outcomes that benefitted our surroundings.

13. I have reviewed all the documents, and they are far too complicated to be useful for most groups. Significant time should have been taken to make them more accessible to many of the stakeholders who can help nature.
14. I live in Darley near the river Nidd. I've walked along the river for 20 years but just recently say the last couple of years I barely see any birds along the river. No wagtails, dippers, goosander or kingfishers. The underlying rocks are all quite dark and furry even though the water looks clear. It's quite depressing. Is the river being poisoned?
15. I love the idea of NYC asking for resident feedback on your "nature renewal" plans. However, expecting a member of the public to work through over 40 pages of cross-referenced charts is hugely unrealistic, and then to respond to that reading by a few poorly worded 'yes/no' tick box questions is demeaning. What is needed is an executive summary of the data, prepared by council officers, for us voters to then be able to comment on. Oh, and surely the intro to the chart about 'what nature friendly work have we seen?' is inaccurate. It claims that all responses received good support - when the numbers show only the top 4 responses received over 50% support. To repeat: I'm delighted that you have asked us to feedback our ideas to you - but the format you have presented us with is ultimately unworkable. To do the analysis justice would take over an hour to assimilate the info...I don't have that time to devote. So next time, please sharpen your info and hone your questions so that they ask specifics not generalities. Thanks
16. I think it is a very useful and well-researched document that will hopefully go a long way towards helping nature recovery in our county. I hope it will provide the starting point for even more detailed and focused regional and local recovery plans in the coming years. Involving more local people is key, as we all need to be understood the impact of our lifestyles on the natural world around us, and what we can do to help.
17. I think there should be an ambition to make new green spaces available where they are lacking so that all residents have access to them near their homes.
18. I will deliver a composite 'Biodiversity Report' (1894, 1986, 2000, 2017-2019 2024) covering the urban fringe of North Harrogate from Knaresborough in the east via Bilton - through the Nidd Gorge and into Oakdale in the west - to County Hall, NYC Northallerton in the morning. I hope this data will inform the present Public Consultation.
19. I would like to know why the council is even contemplating allowing solar panels to cover acres of land in the Selby area. It's just appalling and goes against everything on here.
20. If a nature reserve that is on private land and protected by the 106 agreements should not be allowed to be developed upon ie housing, holiday homes destroying vital wildlife habitats, an example of this is what's happening with Scorton lakes.
21. I'm not convinced about 'the how'. Who'll do the work, where will the funding come from?
22. In respect to OVR_P04 Enhance nature-related engagement, outreach and collaboration on page 59 of document 4 of the LNRS: 1. Exactly what type and amount of resource will be available to ensure this is meaningful to local residents and will result in behaviour change? 2. LNRS needs to state which activities will support residents move from intention to action in protecting nature. What is the theory of change? 3. It is imperative that the LNRS provides the resources necessary for local environmental groups to work with communities to improve their belief in the relevance of nature to their everyday lives through tangible benefits like cleaner air, flood resilience, food production (thinking of the local pollinators here). This is especially important for communities experiencing poverty and

- financial exclusion. The success of the LNRS will hinge on people wanting to take positive action to support it, so more detail is needed to demonstrate how it will achieve this aim.
23. it doesn't sound like it has any power or backing to enforce it is not addressing how to halt or reverse habitat loss whilst it may have examples and suggestions and areas of good practice it lacks teeth or motivators. Very sceptical about how this can be scaled up to actually make a difference. Might sound good in a report eg links to other plans in the report council becoming climate negative - its own transport plans show how poorly this is being achieved ie reduction in car use/journey numbers by 2030 way off target. how is the strategy going to influence relentless urban expansion and wildlife corridor blockage how does it affect all children's education and sense of nature citizenship if declining common species are not adequately monitored we may not see the exponential increase in loss was there a commitment to protect the greenbelts? I struggled with the hexagonal mapping in my area i.e. Nidd gorge/Bilton area of Harrogate as seemed to omit some area in green belt and in other areas come up to middle of residential street. I feel that where there are projects to actively enhance diversity there should also be commitment to establish buffer zone around with wildlife corridors this is mentioned but not in detail how can apply. If recreational pressures impact significantly on species survival how is the plan in the urban area ensuring wider breadth of protected land in corridors and urban fringe. Would like to see more work on how corridors that green infrastructure can be meaningful, i.e. sufficiently wide enough to give space for recreation and wildlife also importance of interconnected habitats i.e. wood farmland and water e.g. for amphibians and mammals
24. It is disappointing that geodiversity does not appear in the strategy, despite Natural England providing examples of how important it is.
25. It is encouraging to see a strategy that considers the importance of local nature. There are so many places of development these days with what would appear to be a complete lack of consideration to the impact on wildlife. My particular area of concern is Scorton Lakes, which has been wonderfully restored to a very high standard after many years of quarrying by Tarmac but we believe will very soon be subject to a large planning application for effectively a holiday resort, which is really not in keeping with the current restoration aims or that of the Section 106 agreement which was agreed at the start of quarrying. This place is not only a sanctuary for much wildlife including 37 red listed bird species and also many breeding birds, but also to many people who travel far and wide to use the area for recreational and mental health purposes. I am pleased to see that the site has been classified as an ACB but I believe this site could have very significant potential for nature recovery if commercial development is not allowed to take place.
26. It's good to see that a green/blue infrastructure strategy for urban areas is being recommended, this is currently a big omission. The approach overall is robust and commendable but how will it be delivered, by whom and in what timeframe; when will an Action Plan be produced?
27. I've added my site-specific comments to the map but wanted to make a more general comment about the impact of dogs, I feel there is a huge impact of disturbance for wildlife but also the large amount of dogs, particularly dogs off leads and large dogs create a barrier for people accessing nature. If people are afraid of dogs, could be easily injured by a dog (elderly, disabled, recovering from illness/injury) or have young children then it can be intimidating visiting green space or using green corridors. I feel more should be done to engage and educate dog owners as well as enforcing that all dogs should be kept on a lead in a public place. I also think the impact of domestic cats should be addressed due to their predation of birds, small mammals and amphibians.

28. Northallerton as a market town is surrounded by a rural landscape, managed mainly as agricultural land. Within the town boundaries there are both green and blue infrastructure, particularly around the main open watercourse, Willow Beck, that flows from North to South, close to the town centre. Sun beck, which is culverted for a significant length under the town, joins Willow Beck close to Springwell Lane. These two becks are key blue infrastructure, and their importance should be recognised in the nature recovery strategy. The green infrastructure around them should also be recognised and the steps taken by Northallerton Town Council and others to provide public access to these areas should be recognised and protected in the nature recovery strategy. Northallerton Town Council own several green spaces in urban areas and would these be noted in the nature recovery strategy as areas to be protected and enhanced.
29. Noting that there are other nature recovery projects in any given area, led by other parts of government policy, other projects led by the council or charities etc - would be great if long-term these projects and initiatives can join together and pool resources.
30. On hedge planting - Plastic pollution (from guards left on too long) is a concern - hoping their removal will be diarised as part of the plan. Perhaps engage local Scout/Brownie groups to help plant whips. Also, given rural crime concerns, farmers might be receptive to an emphasis on the security aspect of hedge planting. On urban areas - given likely opposition to more visible areas being left to grow long and the lack of resources to collect arisings from many sites, perhaps consider for more visible areas (i) planting plugs of tough low-flowering species that will survive a cut (e.g. common daisy, white clover) (ii) combined with raising the blade a couple of centimetres so the ground won't dry out as much. That way, residents get the short look they prefer but there'll be more for pollinators and the ground should remain forgeable for longer. On another note, you mention the biodiversity stats for English Oak in the Woodland section, and this leads me to a concern about the need to nurture large species in urban areas to take over from the current giants - for shade/cooling transpiration as well as biodiversity. Utilities can make this problematic and I understand oaks can be difficult to grow in such situations, so I wonder whether it might worth locating English Oaks (the other oaks don't share the same stats) that have self-seeded in useful places and adopting them into local authority care. They ought to be the survivors with the best chance of thriving and presumably the self-seeding gets around the dreaded utility checks for planting so saving on resources.
31. Please give more structure as to how to make urban areas more beneficial to wildlife. There is a lot to be done. We should be copying green cities like Berlin in terms of creating habitats right in the mix of urban dwelling from green walls to an emphasis on more trees.
32. Please stop wasting taxpayers' money on crazy schemes like Carbon Capture and Net Zero. We already have tried and tested forms of carbon capture, they're called trees. Please get back to caring for our environment and not blindly following the propaganda pushed by climate zealots.
33. Response to the York and North Yorkshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy Consultation, I welcome the opportunity to respond to the draft York and North Yorkshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS). The ambition and scope of the strategy are commendable, and the emphasis on collaborative, landscape-scale action is both timely and necessary. However, as the Principal of Askham Bryan College, it's surprising that we haven't been consulted previously and are not mentioned within in the current draft: the lack of engagement with post-16 education providers, particularly those with a land-based and environmental focus. Askham Bryan College is one of only nine independent land-based colleges in England. We are based in York and sit firmly within the LNRS area. Our mission is centred on sustainable environments, food production, and conservation,

and we educate over 3,500 students annually in these fields. Our omission from the consultation process and the broader strategy is a missed opportunity that, if addressed, could significantly enhance the delivery and impact of the LNRS. To strengthen the LNRS and ensure its successful delivery, we recommend the following: 1. Include a dedicated section on education and skills development, with specific reference to post-16 providers. 2. Recognise Askham Bryan College as a key regional partner in delivering nature recovery through education, training, and public engagement. 3. Leverage the outreach potential of wildlife parks and zoos, including the Askham Bryan Wildlife and Conservation Park. 4. Establish partnerships with colleges for ecological monitoring and BNG delivery. 5. Broaden stakeholder engagement to include further education and training institutions in future strategy development and implementation. Conclusion The York and North Yorkshire LNRS is a vital step forward in restoring nature and building climate resilience across the region. However, its success will depend on the people and institutions who are empowered to deliver it. Askham Bryan College stands ready to play a leading role in this effort. We urge the strategy team to recognise and harness the full potential of the region's land-based education sector. We would welcome the opportunity to meet with the strategy team to discuss how we can contribute to the next phase of development and implementation. We have a full version of our response that I'll send direct by email

Clarification note from North Yorkshire Council (NYC): NYC confirms that officers from the local authority met with a representative of Askham Bryan College during July 2024 to discuss matters in relation to LNRS and land-based and environmental education providers.

Askham Bryan College is specifically referred to in the North Yorkshire and York Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) Document 2, Section 9. Delivery – who can do what? Subheading – Promoting jobs, education, apprenticeships and skills in delivering nature recovery

34. Scorton lakes is an area that is building well and requires protection. It's biodiversity and replanting fits within many if the LNRS priorities (e.g. OVR/GEA/WET) perfectly and should be considered as a place of significance to retain and continue.
35. Several eNGOs and various partnerships have been acknowledged within the draft proposals (woodland trust, freshwater habitat trust, peat partnership etc.). I wanted to add that the addition of utilising the National Trust, a large landowner and manager within the area of the LNRS should be considered - both for the large areas of upland habitat they own and manage, but also for their ongoing efforts to engage with urban communities throughout the LNRS.
36. Some guidelines about how local groups, landowners and farmers access funding to make these ideas a reality. Also, how the priorities tie in with other organisations priorities e.g. National parks, AONBs etc
37. The biggest threat to wildlife habitat and the environment is excessively large housing developments on or near greenfield sites. I suggest any further approval of large estate type of developments are severely restricted on the North Yorkshire's coast and elsewhere where the infrastructure is inadequate to cope with excessive effluent and water runoff!
38. The draft is a thorough and engaging document and sets out some fantastic opportunities for the region. The 'farmland' section should make it clearer that current practices are the primary cause of biodiversity decline with fertiliser use polluting soils, waterways and air. The 'uplands' section should make explicit mention of climate change projections and their impact on hydrological processes of peatlands. This is needed to guide restoration efforts where peatlands can be established for the long-term (while recognising inherent uncertainties with modelling). The 'woodlands' section should focus on the need for management of woodlands once established. Planting will not be enough - active

management is needed to ensure woodlands are healthy and supporting a wide range of biodiversity. This includes deer and grey squirrel control, and disease control. Mention of 'resilient tree species' should refer to both disease resilience and adaptation to climate change. The 'coast' section should refer to the role of nature-based solutions for coastal realignment and managed retreat as sea levels rise and extreme weather events (causing storm surges etc) increase. The document should reference The Protected Landscapes Targets and Outcomes Framework and how this can drive and shape nature restoration in North Yorkshire's national parks and national landscapes. There are a couple of examples of focusing on interventions at a landscape scale, but this could be strengthened. Landscape-scale projects and actions will have the biggest impact and best chance of success for nature recovery and should be the priority form of actions for the LNRS.

39. The draft LNRS would benefit from more explicit commitment to nature-based active recreation as part of its delivery approach. This would:
- Residents are supported to feel a sense of ownership over their local parks, through family engagements, creative design, community activities
 - If we help people enjoy being responsibly active in nature, they are more likely to protect it, especially as a family
 - Contribute to climate resilience by promoting low-carbon, active travel to and within green and blue spaces.
 - Deliver co-benefits across biodiversity, health, and local economies (e.g. outdoor activity tourism).
 - Use citizen science for people to understand the environment around us and how we impact it. Such as seawater testing in Scarborough. We recommend:
 - Including case studies where nature recovery and active recreation have been delivered in harmony, demonstrating best practice.
 - Clarifying how public access and recreation will be balanced with ecological protection, to reassure stakeholders in both conservation and recreation communities.
 - Mapping and promoting multi-functional green corridors that support wildlife connectivity, active travel, and community recreation.
 - Offering ways of facilitating delivery of the actions - Nature recovery calendar, tell us what we can do each month, e-mail blast or a calendar, Lesson plans for teachers, Easy ways for companies to offset, a really simple mechanism.
 - In addition, could we explore collectively how we work with planning. If a development involves cutting down trees, there are 3 designated sites in North Yorkshire that new trees are planted to offset. Could we explore how facility owning/leasing sports clubs are able to host new trees as part of this offset? This would provide them some financial benefit and also increase the diversity and spread of nature recovery across the county. There is a broader link here to the role of sports clubs and their environmental impact, with an opportunity to have a more environmentally friendly sport and physical activity sector. By explicitly recognising and planning for the role of sport and physical activity in nature recovery, the LNRS can help deliver a more inclusive, engaged, and health-positive environmental strategy.
40. The list of priorities is comprehensive and appropriate. The challenge is how it will be implemented when most of the target land is privately owned. Incentives and advice will be crucial. Examples can be used where publicly owned land improved for biodiversity. Improvements on farmland will have to be clearly linked to Agri-environment schemes. Collaboration with organisations and individuals who can influence landowners' decisions will be crucial.
41. The LNRS is understandably long and complex. The summary is helpful. It seemed to me to be a bit inconsistent, in that non-focus species were sometimes mentioned by name, and focus species were mentioned in some specific areas, but not in all areas where they occurred
42. The need to keep the nature and green spaces is essential

43. The new Planning and Infrastructure Bill provides developers with the opportunity to simply pay into a fund to avoid specifying how they will ensure contribution to any nature recovery strategy, {other than paying into a scheme}. This will make the LNRS a meaningless paper exercise.
44. The strategy is very well put together and very comprehensive, however, there need to be sound principles behind how to deliver and how to fund the actions set out in the strategy and how to ensure that landowners and farmers in particular can benefit or not lose out financially. Through this strategy can we change public perception that this about our life support system and is vital to our future?
45. There are no powers so at best this is admirable intent.
46. There does not seem to be a lot of ties in with planning. Sites are still getting permission to knock down woods and replace with piecemeal bits of land without the understanding that corridors are important, solar cell sites taking up prime farmland (madness), floodplain developments , key habitat loss etc.. How is planning going to change to help?
47. URB_M04.4: This paragraph is welcome but please add other important swift nesting measures that may be more appropriate in some cases and not all readers will be aware of, and also add "especially where" because these measures whilst slightly less important in other areas are still relevant for other species and to allow populations to expand into new areas, as follows: "Create suitable crevices (e.g. swift boxes, swift bricks, integrated soffit boxes within eaves, and bat boxes) within existing buildings especially where close to existing colonies to provide additional nest sites as sites are lost to roof renovations." URB_M01.7: This paragraph is also welcome but please add essential text to ensure suitable numbers of swift bricks in accordance with NPPG Natural Environment 2025 paragraph 017: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/natural-environment> as follows: "How can developments incorporate features which support priority or threatened species? The National Planning Policy Framework expects development proposals to bolster wildlife by incorporating features which support priority or threatened species such as swifts' bats and hedgehogs. The use of swift bricks is particularly important in this context because swifts rely on urban cavities for nesting, and the national loss of suitable nesting sites through building renovation has been part of the reason for the species' decline. Developments should include integrated nest boxes (commonly known as swift bricks) where possible, with the general aim across a development of a minimum of one nest box per unit. Nest boxes can provide important habitat for other species as well as swifts, such as starlings and sparrows. Extensive guidance is available on wildlife friendly features, including the National Design Guide and National Model Design Code which illustrate how well-designed places can support rich and varied biodiversity by facilitating habitats and routes for wildlife. More specific support for the selection and installation of swift bricks can be found in the British Industry Standard BS 42021:2022 the Future Homes Hub Homes for Nature Guidance"... Also please add text in accordance with the "exemplar" published Isle of Wight LNRS (2025) UGG1.6 (part 2, page 90), which refers to protection of existing nest sites: <https://www.iow.gov.uk/environment-and-planning/planning/ecology/local-nature-recovery-strategy/> "Swift bricks should be installed in new developments including extensions..." etc
48. We support URB_M04.4 but please include other established swift nesting measures that may be more appropriate dependent on the location, and also add "especially where" because these measures whilst slightly less important in areas away from existing colonies are still relevant for other species and to allow populations to spread, as follows: "Create suitable crevices (e.g. swift boxes, swift bricks, integrated soffit boxes within eaves, and bat boxes) within existing buildings especially where close to existing colonies to provide additional nest sites as sites are lost to roof renovations." We also support URB_M01.7 but please add vital text to ensure suitable numbers of swift bricks in

accordance with NPPG Natural Environment 2025 paragraph 017, especially the requirement for 1 swift brick per dwelling: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/natural-environment> "How can developments incorporate features which support priority or threatened species? The National Planning Policy Framework expects development proposals to bolster wildlife by incorporating features which support priority or threatened species such as swifts, bats and hedgehogs. The use of swift bricks is particularly important in this context because swifts rely on urban cavities for nesting, and the national loss of suitable nesting sites through building renovation has been part of the reason for the species' decline. Developments should include integrated nest boxes (commonly known as swift bricks) where possible, with the general aim across a development of a minimum of one nest box per unit. Nest boxes can provide important habitat for other species as well as swifts, such as starlings and sparrows. Extensive guidance is available on wildlife friendly features, including the National Design Guide and National Model Design Code which illustrate how well-designed places can support rich and varied biodiversity by facilitating habitats and routes for wildlife. More specific support for the selection and installation of swift bricks can be found in the British Industry Standard BS 42021:2022 the Future Homes Hub Homes for Nature Guidance"... Also please add reference to protection of existing nest sites, e.g in accordance with the "exemplar" published Isle of Wight LNRS (2025) UGG1.6 (part 2, page 90): <https://www.iow.gov.uk/environment-and-planning/planning/ecology/local-nature-recovery-strategy/> "Swift bricks are a universal nest brick for small bird species and should be installed in new developments..." etc

49. While "working with local planning authorities" is worthwhile, it is NOT sufficient. A key aim of the strategy has to be for the county/city authorities to incorporate the objectives of this strategy into their planning policies and processes. The developing North Yorkshire Local Plan is an ideal opportunity to embed the LNRS's aims into policy. The River Leven is only mentioned once in all the documents. The importance of the Leven can be seen from the Yorkshire Moors web site (https://www.yorkshiremoors.co.uk/gazetteer/river_leven.html) where it notes that "The Leven rises in the same hills as the Esk, and at one point reaches within a third of a mile of Sleddale Beck, one of the tributaries of the Esk. The two river systems thus form a single long valley that separates the northern moors from the heart of the district". The Leven is a critical part of the green and blue corridor (and riparian habitat) across the north of the region. The River Leven is identified as one of the "Core sites – Areas of Particular Importance for Biodiversity (APIBs)". The Habitat map, very correctly, also identifies many priorities 1 and 2 areas along the Leven/Tame linking it with the North Yorks Moors and Cleveland Hills. This provides a great opportunity to enhance the green and blue corridor along the Leven from the Tees to the North Yorks Moors. The Tees Lowlands comment "with wide views to distant hills" is very misleading. Only a relatively small part of the Tees Lowlands is covered by this strategy, but the part covered is extremely important and especially the eastern component which abuts the North Yorkshire Moors National Park and the Cleveland Hills. The foothills of the Cleveland Hills are included in parts of the Tees Lowlands (e.g. between Great Broughton and Clay Bank) There is mention of past practices that have damaged the environment but no mention of current practices, e.g. heather burning, which causes pollution, harms wildlife, harms human health, and damages peat amongst other negative aspects. Many current practices (which need to be clearly identified) need to stop and/or change for this strategy to succeed. The benefit of nature to an individual's physical and mental wellbeing appears to have been largely overlooked and should be highlighted. Citizen science is only mentioned twice. This is a lost opportunity to encourage more people to get involved and build up the base database, which is crucial to judge the success, or otherwise, of the strategy.

50. Why is Adder included in the CST_P02 Enhance habitats for seabirds' section. Focus species: • Sea birds • Adder. Protecting veteran trees but not naming any key tree species seems amiss. Doesn't mention Hen Harriers in the Document 2: Thriving Nature in North Yorkshire and York – Our Local Nature Recovery Strategy as a focus species despite being mentioned as an important area for this rare species.
51. WITH MORE PEOPLE LIVING IN THE COUNTRY, WE END UP WITH MORE RUBBISH AND NO OTHER WAY OF GETTING RID OF IT, BUT BY BURNING.
52. Would like LNRS to consider how the Scorton lakes planned development would affect a number of plans in the document. Certainly, the OVR and GRA plans. It would be an absolute contravention of these plans to develop this area for housing. In addition, the local community cannot manage additional needs such as doctors, schools and shops of additional people. The roads certainly cannot manage, and it would ruin a beautiful nature reserves enjoyed by hundreds of people from nearby areas not to mention local residents who enjoy it daily. The original plan to use the quarry lakes as some kind of water park and add a cafe would Also affect business at Ellerton Lake and be detrimental to them too.
53. YDGLA's feedback on section 9 'Delivery – who can do what?' is as follows. To put nature at the heart of policy and decision-making (second 'How we can do it' principle) and fulfil the LNRS, the responsible authority (North Yorkshire Council), its officers and politicians, can do more than merely have regard to the LNRS in the planning process (page 35). They can also help implement the LNRS by taking decisions as the highway authority. For example, in 2005 North Yorkshire County Council made a traffic regulation order (TRO) prohibiting motor vehicle use (except for access to premises) of the unsealed (and often unsurfaced) routes which cross Blubberhouses, Denton, Langbar and Middleton Moors, because of the damage which recreational motorcyclists and 4x4 drivers were causing to the upland heath and blanket bog habitats for which these moors are designated as part of the West Nidderdale, Barden and Blubberhouses Moors SSSI. This TRO was effective in that the routes and adjacent vegetation had recovered when it ended in 2010, as were two successive 18 month TROs in 2016-2019. But since then, recreational motorists (primarily motorcyclists) have returned to these routes, resulting in ruts to the routes where they run over heath and blanket bog, and walkers having to leave the routes to avoid the ruts. The current damage is especially bad on Denton Moor, where Denton Reserve and Yorkshire Peat Partnership are trying to restore the blanket bog. North Yorkshire Highways have been asked to make another TRO but have refused on the grounds that their policy is to try repair – reprofiling and drainage – first (even though drainage is another operation likely to damage the special interest and would interfere with the restoration project), and that there are other green lanes with worse damage in North Yorkshire. For 23 years, YDGLA has been campaigning to protect green lanes from the damage and nuisance inflicted by recreational motor vehicles. We enthusiastically supported NYCC's imposition of the TROs on Blubberhouses, Denton, Langbar and Middleton Moors, and regret that these orders have not been continued. We urge the authority to re-impose them, and to impose TROs on the extensive network of beautiful green lanes in the county. See our website: <http://www.ydgla.co.uk/index.html>.
54. Yes, please address head on the persecution of birds of prey in our Region and what can be done to protect them. Please clarify that Predator control must not include birds of prey and should not be used to protect game birds for the shooting industry.

Appendix B: Report on consultation responses relating to the draft LNRS documents

This report provides a summary of the consultation responses received via the feedback form pro-forma that was available as part of the public consultation. This report summarises responses relating to the four draft LNRS documents. The report is set out following the order and structure of the four documents. The four draft documents provided for public consultation were:

- Document 1: Thriving Nature in North Yorkshire and York – Short Summary
- Document 2: Thriving Nature in North Yorkshire and York – Our Local Nature Recovery Strategy
- Document 3: Statement of Biodiversity Priorities, Part I – Description of our Strategy Area
- Document 4: Statement of Biodiversity Priorities, Part II – Priorities and Measures

A total of 26 feedback forms were submitted, including submissions from the following organisations (20):

- Askham Bryan College
- Bilton Conservation Group
- British Association for Shooting and Conservation (BASC)
- Canal and River Trust
- Climate Action Stokesley and Villages
- Environment Bank
- Flaxton Environment Group
- Friends of the Dales
- Lower Ure Conservation Trust (LUCT)
- Malhamdale Environmental Group
- Middleham Town Council
- National Trails UK
- Rudby Parish Council
- Species Recovery Trust
- The Church Commissioners for England
- The Crown Estate
- The Land Haxby CIC
- Whitby Naturalists' Club
- Woodland Trust
- Zero Carbon Harrogate

Consultation comments on Document 1: Thriving Nature in North Yorkshire and York – Short Summary (Non-technical)

The intended audience for Document 1 is residents from North Yorkshire and the City of York and for readers from a non-technical background. We received a range of comments on Document 1 and these have been arranged into themes below. Note that some of the themes (and comments) may be out of the scope of Document 1 but may inform the review of the other LNRS documents.

General support for LNRS (consultee comment):

- Support for content of document and vision and principles

RA response:

- Comment noted

Improvements to maps in documents (consultee comment):

- Improvements needed to legibility of nature network map in documents (Local Habitat Map)

RA response:

- Amendments have been made to maps to improve legibility

Land managers not obliged to undertake nature recovery (consultee comment):

- Concern that there is no legal requirement to deliver LNRS – landowners and land managers are not 'obliged' to undertake any proposed actions for nature recovery

RA response:

- The LNRS Regulations and Statutory Guidance do not oblige land managers to undertake actions for nature on their land. However, Government's expectation is that RAs will continue to advocate for nature recovery in the transition to delivery by engaging and coordinating with land managers and farmers, public bodies, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and local groups.

Lack of sense of urgency (consultee comment):

- Sense of urgency in recovering the decline in species in North Yorkshire and York needs communicating

RA response:

- Amendments made to documents where feasible

Need for an executive summary (consultee comment):

- An executive summary is needed for 'decision makers'

RA response:

- An executive summary has been prepared and is now included in Document 2

Clear mention of '30x30 targets' (consultee comment)

- Clear mention of '30x30 targets' is required

RA response:

- Reference to '30 by 30' has been made in Document 2

Importance of citizen science (consultee comment):

- Importance of citizen science in monitoring nature's recovery needs reinforcing

RA response:

- The role of citizen science is referenced in Documents 2 and 4

Reinforce responsibilities of stakeholders managing large areas of land (consultee comment):

- Opportunities for residents to engage in nature recovery is welcomed, however actions for land managers with responsibility for large areas of land needs reinforcing as this is where the most gains for nature recovery can occur

RA response:

- This matter will be reinforced during the transition to delivery

Clarity on delivery (consultee comments):

- Document is aspirational but it is not clear who will deliver LNRS
- Clarity on governance for the delivery of LNRS is required
- Alignment between National Park Management Plans and LNRS delivery needs communicating
- Governance between various organisations involved in nature recovery delivery needs clarifying (including York & North Yorkshire Combined Authority, North Yorkshire Council, City of York Council, Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority and North York Moors National Park Authority)
- Clarity is required on responsibilities for longer term management once nature recovery delivered

RA response:

- The approach to and governance of LNRS delivery are currently being considered and the expectation is that clarity on these matters will be conveyed in early 2026.

Consultation comments on Document 2: Thriving Nature in North Yorkshire and York – Our Local Nature Recovery Strategy

The intended audience for Document 2 includes politicians, town planners, land managers and wider stakeholders. Document 2 intends to provide a ‘window’ into the LNRS setting the context, establishing a vision, sharing links to other plans and strategies and conveying who can do what to help deliver nature recovery. It also includes selective content from the description of the strategy area (Document 3) and priorities and measures (Document 4).

We received a range of comments on Document 2 and these have been arranged into themes below (arranged under the sections in Document 2). Comments are listed under each theme, with a responsible authority (RA) response to the comments provided below the list.

Note that some of the themes (comments) may be outside the scope of Document 2 but may inform some of the other LNRS documents.

Comments on Section 2 ‘What is an LNRS?’

Stakeholder engagement (consultee comment):

- Request for clarification of organisations engaged as part of LNRS stakeholder engagement (e.g. Utility companies, drainage companies, planning & highways depts)

RA response:

- The RA has engaged with a wide range stakeholders including Yorkshire Water, York Consortium Drainage Board and planning and highway departments from North Yorkshire Council and City of York Council

Comments on Section 3 ‘Vision’

Vision and principles (consultee comments):

- Requests to make refinements to wording of principles to make them more specific

RA response:

- Minor amendments made to ‘vision’ principles, where feasible

Vision and principles – accountability (consultee comments):

- Delivery of (Vision) and principles should be accountable and measurable
- (Vision) and Principles should be assessed by SMART principles (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant and Time-bound) giving priority to those giving the biggest boost to nature recovery (or stopping degradation).

RA response:

- RA to work with SMART principles in the Delivery of (Vision) and principles in the transition to LNRS delivery

Comments on Section 6 ‘Overview of Habitats’

Case studies in documentation (consultee comment):

- Suggestions to include references to wider initiatives such as the Northern Forest in case studies ‘nature recovery in action’

RA response:

- RA has made minor amendments to case study(s) where feasible

Habitats (consultee comment):

- priority should be given to stop degradation of existing habitats

RA response:

- Responsibility for the monitoring of national sites (SSSI’s) is with Natural England. Responsibility for monitoring of local wildlife sites is with the local authority in collaboration with the landowner

Agri-environment schemes (consultee comment):

- Farmland - Of the 6900 farms in the LNRS area, how many have participated in SFI or other nature stewardship schemes?

RA response:

- The RA has requested this information from the relevant body

Agricultural land (consultee comment):

- need for highly productive agricultural land to be preserved

RA response:

- The LNRS sets out to identify and guide the efforts to enhance biodiversity creating, and improving habitats, and where this would be most effective. However, a land manager is not obliged to make any changes or undertake any actions on the land that they own or manage.

Comments on Section 7 ‘Priorities and Measures’

Water and wetlands (consultee comments):

- Need for referencing of canals and water quality of canals
- Water & wetland priorities and measures should also reference canals given extent of network
- Stress importance of role of riparian owners in promoting & protecting biodiversity
- Lakes/reservoirs are not mentioned.
- Blue corridors and their riparian habitats, including both large and small waterways, are crucially important. There’s no priority concerning improving connectivity between the various waterbodies.

RA response:

- Reference to canals and related issues have been added to the documentation wherever feasible

Comments on Section 8 ‘Our Nature Network’

Maps in document (consultee comment):

- Improvements needed to legibility of nature network maps in documentation (Local Habitat Map)

RA response:

- RA has added annotations to improve legibility of maps

Comments on Section 9 ‘Links to other plans & strategies’

Commons Land (consultee comment):

- greater recognition of common land is needed & legislation that protects them through the 'Commons Act'

RA response:

- RA to raise the matter with local authority highways and planning teams

Compatibility of nature recovery with economic growth (consultee comments):

- nature recovery can work cohesively with existing and emerging growth aspirations across the region
- recognition that large scale development sites can also accommodate biodiversity
- nature recovery can be successfully delivered, alongside compatible development uses such as renewable energy, to ensure that sites are being used optimally to meet the needs of the region whilst meeting nature recovery aspirations

RA response:

- Consultees should refer to the relevant Planning Practice Guidance which supports the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).

[Natural environment - GOV.UK](#)

[Plan-making - GOV.UK](#)

Local Plan (consultee comments):

- ensure that sustainable growth is bolstered across North Yorkshire, the importance of ensuring that the LNRS is aligned with the aspirations of emerging local policy such as the emerging North Yorkshire Local Plan is paramount.
- further clarity needed around the LNRS's Local Habitat Map's integration with Local Policy, and the subsequent weight they will carry in decision-making, should be provided.
- appropriately aligning the LNRS to both existing and emerging Local Plans and policy documents to ensure that development is not unnecessarily impacted at site promotion, planning application or delivery stage, by conflicting LNRS targets and priorities
- LNRS will play an important role in unlocking development sites to contribute towards meeting their housing requirements, as set out in the updated NPPF
- Strategic network - It is important that such extensions and improvements (nature recovery network) are recognised in County/City Local Plans and appropriate policies are incorporated into the Local Plans so these extensions and improvements can be taken fully into account at the planning stage.

RA response:

- Consultees should refer to the relevant Planning Practice Guidance which supports the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).

[Natural environment - GOV.UK](#)

[Plan-making - GOV.UK](#)

LNRS links to other plans and strategies (consultee comments):

- clarify how other strategies referenced will be leveraged to achieve nature recovery
- clarify role of protected landscape management plans in delivery of LNRS

RA response:

- Stakeholders have been involved in the preparation of the LNRS so strong alignment has been established with protected landscapes. Further matters of leverage and protected landscape management plans will be addressed in the transition to delivery

Pressures on land (consultee comment):

- The LNRS does not reference the need for meat and dairy consumption to be reduced for both emissions reduction, and nature recovery.

RA response:

- It is not within the scope of the LNRS preparation to cover the matter, rather the expectation is the Land Use Framework (LUF) (due to be published in 2025) will consider emissions reduction and nature recovery. The LUF will in turn inform the LNRS transition to delivery.

Food security (consultee comment):

- The LNRS does not reference any food security strategy.

RA response:

- It is not within the scope of the LNRS preparation to cover the matter, rather the expectation is the Land Use Framework (LUF) (due to be published in 2025) will consider food security. The LUF will in turn inform the LNRS transition to delivery.

Natural Capital Benefits Account for shooting (consultee comment):

- Findings from the Natural Capital Benefits Account for shooting connect closely into its approach. It provides England level data on benefits for woodland, carbon, health and wellbeing, recreation and sustainable food and material production, which underlines how sustainable shooting is an activity in the LNRS area that is providing tangible benefits for everyone.

[The natural capital benefits of shooting - BASC](#)

RA response:

- Comment noted

Comments on Section 10 ‘Delivery – who can do what?’

Species (consultee comment):

- Important to confirm responsible owner for each species recovery project.

RA response:

- Matter to be addressed in the LNRS transition to delivery

Role of developers (consultee comment):

- no mention of the important role of developers when it comes to creating green spaces

RA response:

- Responsibilities of developers is covered in the ‘Delivery’ section of document 2

Monitoring and evaluating change (consultee comment):

- Monitoring and evaluating change - a system that allows submission of records and sharing thereafter would be helpful and would build confidence so that individuals are prepared to invest time in sending in records.

RA response:

- RA is aware of the matter and will address in the transition to delivery

Delivery (consultee comments):

- clarify role of private sector in funding nature recovery
- clarify the role of NYC in funding nature recovery
- How does delivery of the LNRS relate to the protected landscapes’ respective Nature Recovery Plan & Management Plan?
- need for presenting a delivery strategy that considers how nature recovery aspirations can work
- Genuine, long-term support is needed for farmers and land-managers to invest in actions that bring them no immediate personal gain
- Suggestion that advisory group (steering group) is broadened to include local non-governmental organisations (NGOs) (such as: the Canal and Rivers Trust, the Freshwater Habitats Trust and the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust), who may be able to offer experience and expertise regarding training and careers in the variety of roles needed to deliver nature recovery

RA response:

- Defra has provided the RA (North Yorkshire Council) with one year of funding (financial year 2025-2026) to convene, administer and coordinate the LNRS transition to delivery and the expectation is that it works with a wide range of NGOs. Working with partners, the RA will also endeavour to facilitate private sector funding into nature recovery. The other matters raised will be addressed in the transition to delivery.

Decision criteria (consultee comment):

- How will the decision criteria on “the best locations to focus action and resources to enhance habitat, including the delivery of environmental land management schemes (ELMs), biodiversity net gain (BNG) and local investment in natural capital (LINC)” be assessed against existing funding criteria?

RA response:

- This will be a key consideration in the transition to delivery

Skills in delivering nature recovery (consultee comment):

- There is no mention of the skills pipeline required to support farmers, landowners, conservation professionals, and local communities in implementing the proposed measures. Nature recovery is not just about habitat creation or restoration—it is about people

RA response:

- This matter is covered in Document 2, ‘Delivery’ section, subsection ‘Promoting jobs, education, apprenticeships, and skills in delivering nature recovery’

Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) (consultee comment):

- BNG - The strategy references biodiversity net gain but does not go far enough in outlining how BNG will be measured, monitored, and enforced

RA response:

- Consultees should refer to the weblink below:

[Biodiversity net gain | North Yorkshire Council](#)

Consultation comments on Document 3: Statement of Biodiversity Priorities, Part I – Description of our Strategy Area

We received a range of comments on Document 3, and these have been presented by theme below (arranged under the sections in Document 3). Comments are listed under each theme, with a Responsible Authority (RA) response to the comments provided below the list.

Comments on Document 3, Section A – The North Yorkshire and York LNRS strategy area

Comments on Section 1 ‘Overview’ (now ‘Our Natural Environment’)

Species (consultee comment):

- Some suggested amendments to rare species listed in sub section ‘Overview’

RA response:

- Amendments made to narrative wherever considered feasible

Comments on Section 2 ‘The State of Nature in North Yorkshire & York’ (now ‘Our State of Nature’)

Canals (consultee comment):

- Narrative covering ‘water’ as a topic should be inclusive of canals

RA response:

- Amendments made to narrative wherever considered feasible

Habitats (consultee comment):

- Suggestions for additional commentary and information on various habitats (including condition) in ‘Our State of Nature’

RA response:

- Intend to signpost the reader for further information rather than increase the volume of the existing narrative

Urban areas (consultee comment):

- Importance of improving urban areas appears to be downplayed

RA response:

- Expectations of developers and planners is set out in Document 2, Section ‘Delivery’

Planning policy (consultee comment):

- LNRS should not look to override planning policy

RA response:

- The LNRS forms part of the evidence base to inform planning policy

Comments on Section 3 ‘Benefits from nature’

Health and wellbeing (consultee comment):

- Suggestion to add reference to benefits of nature on health and wellbeing

RA response:

- Amendments made to narrative to accommodate comment

Comments on Section 5 ‘Areas of Particular Importance for Biodiversity’

Total areas for designated sites (consultee comment):

- Suggestion to review numerical figures in Table (2) for Areas of Particular Importance for Biodiversity (APIB) in North Yorkshire and York

RA response:

- Figures have been reviewed and updated as required

Comments on Document 3, Section B - Sub-area descriptions

National Trails (consultee comment):

- Comments in relation to the presentation of National Trails in the LNRS and suggestions to reference to sustainable access and management of verges

RA response:

- Reference to relevant National Trails has been included in Document 2, Section 'Links to other plans and strategies'. The RA will consider including National Trails as a layer to the LNRS Local Habitat Map.

Map of sub-areas (consultee comment):

- An interactive map allowing closer inspection of the sub-areas would be helpful.

RA response:

- The LNRS Local Habitat Map includes a layer showing the sub-areas

Specific sub-area map comment (consultee comment):

- Specific (LNRS) map-based comments on consultee's landholdings

RA response:

- Consultee requested to contact the RA during transition to delivery (from February '26)

'Statements of Environmental Opportunities' (consultee comment):

Specific suggested amendments in respect of sub area 'Statements of Environmental Opportunities'

RA response:

- Amendments have been made wherever considered appropriate

Sustainable farming practices (consultee comment):

- Inclusion of detailed reference to sustainable farming practices in 'Statements of Environmental Opportunities'

RA response:

- Comment is noted but considered too detailed for inclusion. This topic is partly covered in Document 4, 'Farmland Priorities'

Sub area descriptions and key species and habitats (consultee comments):

- Suggested amendments to sub area descriptions to ensure accuracy
- Suggested amendments to key species and habitats to ensure accuracy

RA response:

- Amendments have been made wherever considered appropriate

Consultation comments on Document 4: Statement of Biodiversity Priorities, Part II – Priorities and Measures

We received a range of comments on Document 4, and these have been presented below (arranged under the sections in Document 4). Comments are listed under each section, with a Responsible Authority (RA) response to the comments provided below the list.

General comments on Document 4 (consultee comments):

- The document is very light on highlighting priority species, a lot of the text could do with tweaking to make it clearer that priority species should be targeted and specific projects resourced and established when needed. Species are not even clearly in the vision nor mission.
- We are very impressed and heartened by how ambitious and comprehensive the draft of the York and North Yorkshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy is. This is the first iteration of what is going to be a long marathon. Much will depend on the creation of a LNRS delivery team, for York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority (indeed for all LNRSs across the United Kingdom), which we hope politicians at all levels of governance will support the creation of. Our MPs in particular will have a key role in supporting the LNRS delivery team's creation, and ongoing support, as they represent in Parliament the constituencies within each LNRS area. The creation of LNRS delivery teams will very likely require additional funding and this should be reflected in the local government Finance Settlements from central government.

RA Response:

- Section C of Document 4 covers species, including the list of LNRS focus species and focus species assemblages, along with species associated with existing species recovery projects and potential future migrants. Relevant focus species are identified alongside each priority in the 'Focus species' section of the priorities and measures tables. Species are included under the LNRS vision statement and ambition for 2035 (Document 2) and Principle 10 in relation to monitoring and evaluating change.

Comments on Document 4, Section A – Overview of Priorities and Measures

Comments on Section 3 ‘How do priorities and measures relate to other LNRS documents and maps?’ (consultee comment):

- Suggestion that the LNRS provides an exciting opportunity to deliver strategic biodiversity net gain (BNG) sites in order to unlock development sites. The role the LNRS plays in unlocking development sites should be acknowledged at the outset of this document.

RA Response:

- The relationship between the LNRS and biodiversity net gain (BNG) is referenced throughout the strategy, in particular under the subheading ‘The Local Habitat Map and Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG)’ in this section. The role the LNRS can play in unlocking development sites is outside the scope of the LNRS itself. The LNRS is a biodiversity-led strategy that will form part of the evidence base for the Local Plan and other spatial plans. It is assumed that planning policy will refer to the LNRS to advise of suitable mitigation measures to address adverse impacts resulting from development.

Comments on Section 5 ‘Do priorities and measures contribute to wider benefits from nature?’ (consultee comment):

- Suggestion that a wider benefit that is not currently included in the list are the economic benefits and job creation associated with nature recovery, including the ongoing ‘sustaining’ activities when acceptable levels of nature recovery are achieved.

RA Response:

- The RA took the decision to align the list of wider benefits from nature with the State of Natural Capital (SONC) Report for England 2024, produced by Natural England. The focus of the SONC is to convey ‘benefits from nature’, many of which enable economic benefits and job creation. Economic benefits and jobs form part of the principles that underpin the vision for the LNRS and this is articulated in Section 2 of Document 2. Section 9 of Document 2 considers the delivery of the LNRS through jobs, skills and apprenticeships.

Comments on Section 7 ‘Who is the document for?’ (consultee comments):

- Request to reiterate the importance of developers; noted that they are not currently included in this section, although are mentioned later in the document.
- In relation to ensuring sustainable development can continue to be brought forward to effectively meet housing and employment needs, request for further clarity to be provided around the integration of LNRSs with local policy and the subsequent weight they will carry in decision making.
- Supportive of the need for partnership working in order to deliver the vision of the LNRS, but note the importance of presenting a holistic delivery strategy that considers how nature recovery aspirations can work cohesively with existing and emerging growth aspirations.
- There is mention of supporting the ‘integration of nature into the planning and development process’ on page 11, but not planning policy. It is only by incorporating it into policy that actions are likely to be implemented.

RA Response:

- Developers are included within this section under subheading ‘Developers and planners’
- In relation to the integration of LNRSs with local policy and their weight in decision making, consultees should refer to the relevant Planning Practice Guidance which supports the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).

[Natural environment - GOV.UK](#)

[Plan-making - GOV.UK](#)

- As part of the LNRS preparation, the RA has engaged with local planning authorities and will continue to do so in the transition to delivery.
- Reference to planning policy added under subheading ‘Developers and planners’.

Comments on Document 4, Section B – Priorities and Measures for the North Yorkshire and York LNRS

General comments on priorities and measures (consultee comment):

- Imprecise wording of measures causes problems for habitat bank providers. Habitat bank providers need to be certain about the strategic significance position of a particular site. In this LNRS there are numerous examples of not being able to definitively tell if a site would benefit from high strategic significance from the stated measure. If the wording of the measures were more consistent with the language of the [BNG] metric i.e. UK Habitat communities, it would make things more predictable. It is important to realise that the mapped areas and wording of the measures have real financial implications that could unintentionally dissuade habitat creation that it is intended to encourage.

RA Response:

- The wordings of individual measures have been developed in collaboration with a wide range of stakeholders and have been through several rounds of review and refinement during the development of the LNRS. Alignment with Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) for the purposes of determining strategic significance is a valid consideration, but it is also important that the wording of measures is clear to all LNRS user groups in terms of the specific actions being suggested.

Comments on overarching priorities:

Priority/Measure Code	Consultee Comment(s)	RA Response
n/a	Request to consider an additional overarching priority around improving access to nature for areas where nature access might be poor.	Improving access to nature is covered in our Vision, Principle 3 'Connect people to nature' (see LNRS Document 2) and it is recognised as a benefit from nature referred to throughout Documents 2, 3 and 4.
OVR_P01	Request to widen scope of priority OVR_P01 to include all watercourses (including canals), not just rivers, and highlight the importance of large-scale development sites in achieving habitat connectivity.	Wording of priority OVR_P01, Objective 4 revised to refer to all watercourses.
OVR_P01	In relation to priority OVR_P01, suggestion that mechanism for 'partnership working' is devised.	Mechanisms for partnership working will be considered as part of transition to delivery, once first iteration of LNRS is published.
OVR_P02	Request to include the importance of local provenance of plants used in habitat enhancement/creation schemes in priority OVR_P02, and include the importance of heritage breeds of plants and animals.	Wording of priority OVR_P02, Objective 2 revised to refer to importance of local provenance of plants.
OVR_P03	In relation to priority OVR_P03, request to highlight the importance of raising awareness and education in combatting the spread of invasive non-native species (INNS).	Wording of priority OVR_P03, Objective 2 revised to include raising awareness of INNS.
OVR_P04	Request to include schools and youth groups in priority OVR_P04 and suggestion priority could be strengthened through leveraging the existing infrastructure and audiences of regional wildlife parks and zoos.	Wording of priority OVR_P04, Objective 4 revised to include schools and youth groups.
OVR_P05	Request to include citizen science approaches within priority OVR_P05 and suggestion priority would benefit from a clearer commitment to establish baseline ecological data, implement long-term environmental monitoring, and engage educational institutions in data collection, citizen science and research.	Wording of priority OVR_P05 and OVR_P05, Objective 5 revised to include citizen science approaches.

Comments on Farmland (FRM) priorities and measures:

Priority/Measure Code	Consultee Comment(s)	RA Response
n/a	General comment on Farmland measures to address farmland management that is compatible with the survival of priority species, such as Curlew and Lapwing (and other ground nesting waders).	Noted. Curlew and Lapwing added as focus species under FRM_P04.
n/a	General comment on Farmland measures to include specific measures to address further intensification, the widespread application of pesticides / herbicides (leading to loss of species and in particular of pollinating insects) as well as loss of fallow / over-wintering crops or stubble to support birds and other wildlife during the winter months.	Reduction in the application of pesticides/herbicides is included within measures FRM_M03.2 and FRM_M04.1.
n/a	General comment on Farmland measures that there is some concern that a number of measures are around raising awareness/case studies/best practices/sharing initiatives. Need stronger actions and incentives to ensure measures are actually put into practice.	Measures around raising awareness, case studies, sharing of best practice etc. are identified as 'Enabling activity' in the priorities and measures tables (as opposed to 'Direct action' measures). While these are perhaps not as strong in terms of action as other measures, they are still considered to be an important part of implementing nature recovery, particularly as the majority of land is privately owned.
FRM_P03	Suggestion that priority FRM_P03 should include food security e.g. 'Promote farming practices that create greater business resilience, <i>food security</i> and improvements for biodiversity'.	Wording of priority FRM_P03 revised to include food security.
FRM_P03 FRM_P04	Noted that there is no mention of preventing runoff into watercourses under FRM_P03 or FRM_P04	'Water quality' is highlighted as a benefit from nature under a number of the Farmland priorities. A number of the measures in this section would contribute to water quality (including through reduced runoff).
FRM_P04	Request that Bats, Swift and Yellowhammer should be added as focus species under FRM_P04.	Bats and Swift added as focus species under FRM_P04. Yellowhammer is a LNRS priority species, but not a focus species, so has not been added. Refer to LNRS Document 4, Section C – Species.
FRM_M03.2 FRM_M04.1	In relation to measures FRM_M03.2 and FRM_M04.1, suggestion to remove reference to 'chemical application' and 'reduction in chemical reliance' as pesticide use is controlled under separate legislation.	The wording of these measures is intended to be advisory, and it is considered important to highlight the reduction of chemical use.

Appendix B – Consultation responses on draft LNRS documents

Priority/Measure Code	Consultee Comment(s)	RA Response
FRM_M03.3	Suggested amendment to measure FRM_M03.3 to add 'while considering targeting of rare local habitat and species'.	Wording of measure FRM_M03.3 revised to include suggested addition.

Comments on Upland (UPL) priorities and measures:

Priority/Measure Code	Consultee Comment(s)	RA Response
n/a	General comment on Upland measures that the priorities and measures are good and all make sense, but rely heavily on the cooperation of farmers making significant changes such as reducing grazing, changing from sheep to cattle. There is no indication of measures to incentivise farmers to do this?	Incentives for farmers to make changes (e.g. reducing grazing) to be considered as part of the delivery of individual measures, following publication of the first iteration of the LNRS, once incentive mechanisms have been clarified.
n/a	Request for an additional priority around enhancing upland woodland and trees, which are hugely important in helping to reduce flood risk.	All priorities and associated measures under the 'Woodland' section of the strategy would be applicable to the upland areas, where relevant and appropriate. It is not considered necessary to identify a separate priority for upland woodland. Enhancement of upland woodland would be covered under priority WLD_P04. Creation of woodland in upland areas to help reduce flood risk is addressed by measure WLD_M04.8.
n/a	Request that the listed focus species for upland priorities are reviewed, for example Petty Whin in meadows, Sundew in dry heath etc. Use more appropriate indicator species.	Listed focus species reviewed. Round-leaved Sundew removed from priority UPL_P05 focus species. Petty Whin removed from UPL_P03 focus species.
UPL_P04	Request that Curlew and Lapwing should be added as focus species under priority UPL_P04.	Curlew and Lapwing added as focus species under priority UPL_P04.
UPL_P05	Request that Tormentil Mining Bee should be added as focus species under priority UPL_P05	Tormentil Mining Bee added as focus species under priority UPL_P05.
UPL_P07	In relation to priority UPL_P07, it is important to note the climatic differences across North Yorkshire, with areas of the North York Moors receiving a quarter of the rainfall of areas in the western Pennine dales, resulting in significant differences in moisture profiles. Also important to recognise that some deep peats are full of holes (e.g. peat pipes) so can never be rewetted. Also note that planted Sphagnum struggles with lack of rainfall.	Comment noted

Priority/Measure Code	Consultee Comment(s)	RA Response
UPL_P08	In relation to priority UPL_P08, request to add reference to bracken management. Bracken represents a major threat to priority habitats, both grassland and heathland, and also leads to an increase in Ticks and is carcinogenic for humans and livestock.	Wording of measure UPL_M08.2 revised to include bracken management.
UPL_M01.2 UPL_M02.3	In relation to measures UPL_M01.2 and UPL_M02.3, it may not always be appropriate to reduce grazing, it needs to be appropriate to the context e.g. maintenance of some species may require grazing.	Wording of measure UPL_M01.2 revised to 'modify grazing' rather than 'reduce grazing' Wording of measure UPL_M02.3 revised to 'adjust stock numbers' rather than 'reduce stock numbers'.
UPL_M03.1	In relation to measure UPL_M03.1, increasing wetness should not take place if it prevents suitable hay meadow management (e.g. machinery access and removal of hay crop).	Wording of measure UPL_M03.1 states 'increase wetness, where appropriate'.
UPL_M04.1	In relation to measure UPL_M04.1, understanding where acid grassland is more appropriate than restoration of upland dry heath seems to go against the last 30 years of government-funded nature recovery schemes to reinstate lost heather cover.	Understanding where acid grassland is more appropriate than restoration of upland dry heath came through as a priority from the stakeholder workshops and prioritisation process (see Appendix 1 of the main LNRS strategy documents).
UPL_M04.2	Suggested amendment to measure UPL_M04.2 to add creation of bare substrate and sandy areas for specialist insects. Suggestion that the prescription of 'no mechanical operations in breeding season' should also be applied to measures under priority UPL_P05 (enhance upland dry heath).	Wording of measure UPL_M04.2 revised to include suggested addition. Prescription of 'no mechanical operations in breeding season' added to measure UPL_M05.3 under priority UPL_P05.

Priority/Measure Code	Consultee Comment(s)	RA Response
UPL_M05.1	In relation to measure UPL_M05.1, suggestion to remove reference to 'peat' as heaths occur on mineral soils. Suggestion to remove reference to 'moorland' as moorland is not a habitat but comprises several distinct and different habitats and lumping them together allows confusion. Suggestion to refer to 'increasing diversity of species in heathland vegetation' rather than 'increasing native moorland species'. Choices for the management of dry heath are either maintenance, or allowing reversion to woodland. Allowing reversion to woodland may be a better option to contribute to adaptation to or mitigation of climate change (but with acceptance of the consequent loss of internationally important habitat). Also needs clearer definition of what is meant by 'dry heath' and its relationship with peat.	Wording of measure UPL_M05.1 revised in response to suggestions
UPL_M05.1	In relation to measure UPL_M05.1, interested in what species we are meant to have more of in moorlands? In relation to 'increasing opportunities for people to engage with moorlands' I think the moors are some of most popular visitor attractions. Do you mean those people whose livelihoods depend on these habitats should take a back seat and all moorlands be designated open access land?	In relation to measure UPL_M05.1, 'increasing species' primarily relates to the LNRS Focus Species that have been identified for this priority (included within the tables in LNRS Document 4), but there will also be species on the LNRS species longlist (see Appendix 5 of the main LNRS strategy documents) that are associated with this measure. In relation to 'increasing opportunities for people to engage with moorlands' we recognise that some of our moorland areas are already very well engaged with, but there are other moorland areas with less engagement. The intention is to explore opportunities for increased engagement on a case-by-case basis, where appropriate, as part of discussions.
UPL_M05.2	In relation to measure UPL_M05.2, suggestion to recognise the importance of floristically-rich grass edges, which a lot of specialist insects use.	Wording of measure UPL_M05.2 revised to include suggested addition.

Priority/Measure Code	Consultee Comment(s)	RA Response
UPL_M05.3	<p>In relation to measure UPL_M05.3, requests to remove reference to 'burning' and 'predator control'. Suggestion to refer to 'legal predator control'. Comment that there is limited evidence that fire breaks are effective and reference to fire breaks implies that these alone will be sufficient to address the risk, which they will not be. What is needed is to manage the potential fuel load to reduce wildfire risk, therefore pleased to see that appropriate cutting is covered, along with predator control to support the success of ground nesting birds, and the implementation of wildfire management plans. Request to add 'to provide diverse sward heights' in relation cutting regimes.</p>	<p>Wording of measure UPL_M05.3 revised in response to suggestions.</p>
UPL_M06.3	<p>In relation to measure UPL_M06.3, cattle grazing should only be undertaken where appropriate.</p>	<p>Wording of measure UPL_M06.3 revised to include 'where appropriate' in relation to cattle grazing.</p>
UPL_M06.4	<p>In relation to measure UPL_M06.4, the measure relates to the concern that re-wetting the uplands should not be done at the expense of damaging dry heathland, but it is not clear where these areas are. It is important to assess whether dry heathland is only dry because it has been drained. Areas of heather found on peat should be rewetted. Request to remove reference to 'important dry heath sites' – a lot of our so-called dry heath should be wet heath (or even blanket bog).</p>	<p>Wording of measure UPL_M06.4 revised in response to suggestions.</p>

Priority/Measure Code	Consultee Comment(s)	RA Response
UPL_M06.4	In relation to measure UPL_M06.4, there is no science to support the statement that burning increases the drying out of sites. We are having warmer drier summers so vegetation is growing faster; wetness will not stop this in a Heathland scenario (I accept a wet mire might be able to stunt heathland species growth and support sundew etc.) Quick, cool burns will not increase the drying out of sites, other than perhaps the surface once vegetation is removed. Note that dry heath is not likely to have any grips to be blocked. Rewetting won't reduce fire risk, it is the fuel load on the surface that is the issue. Only active management of habitat through burning and cutting will reduce fire risk.	Comment noted. The matter of burning has been reviewed with the LNRS Advisory Group and the consensus is a recommendation that stakeholders should work to the legal regulations and in accordance with Natural England guidance 'RP2977 Definition of Favourable Conservation Status for Heathland'.
UPL_M07.5	Request to remove measure UPL_M07.5 due to concern that certain LNRS stakeholder organisations have a commercial interest in producing Sphagnum plugs and the LNRS should not be used to promote their commercial interests.	In relation to measure UPL_M07.5, this measure was put forward by the North Yorkshire and York Local Nature Partnership with a focus on sourcing locally-grown plants and providing local jobs and skills, which will all help to support the wider objectives of the LNRS.
UPL_M07.6	In relation to measure UPL_M07.6, land with trees on blanket bog are blanket bog, regardless of the presence of trees, so removal of trees is not enlarging areas of blanket bog it is restoration. The LNRS should not open the way for land managers to choose to plant trees on peat. Suggest amendment to the narrative of this measure.	Wording of measure UPL_M07.6 revised in response to suggestions.
UPL_M08.2 UPL_M08.4 UPL_M08.5	In relation to measures UPL_M08.2, UPL_M08.4 and UPL_M08.5 any tree planting should not increase predator shadow across the moorland edge. We would not want large scale natural regeneration on the priority moorland habitat, or adjacent to it. In some cases, small wildlife corridors may be more appropriate.	Measure UPL_M08.4 states 'increase tree & woodland cover in appropriate areas' and 'minimise impacts on those species sensitive to woodland cover'.

Priority/Measure Code	Consultee Comment(s)	RA Response
UPL_M08.3	In relation to measure UPL_M08.3, request to include scrapes and wetlands/rush control in relation to increasing habitat for breeding waders. Request to remove caveat 'where appropriate' after 'predator control'. Without predator control, no declining ground nesting species can fledge, and we will continue to see declines in species and the 2030 target will be missed. The alternatives to managing predator populations e.g. electric fencing etc. are very costly, intrusive and don't work.	Wording of measure UPL_M08.3 revised in response to suggestions.
UPL_M08.4	In relation to measure UPL_M08.4, request to add that increases in tree and woodland cover should ideally be in steep valley sides/gills.	Cross reference added from measure UPL_M08.4 (increase tree and woodland cover in moorland edge) to measure WET_M07.5 (increase riparian woodland in suitable gills of upper catchments) in relation to increases in tree and woodland cover ideally being in steep valley sides and gills.

Comments on Grassland (GRA) priorities and measures:

Priority/Measure Code	Consultee Comment(s)	RA Response
GRA_P07	Priority GRA_P07 very much welcomed in relation to enhancing road verges, suggestion to run a public awareness programme to promote the benefits of managing road verges.	Comment noted. Public awareness programme to promote the benefits of managing road verges to be considered as part of transition to delivery, once first iteration of LNRS is published.
GRA_M04.1 GRA_M07.1 GRA_M07.2	Request to add reference to National Trail and public rights of way corridors into measure GRA_M04.1, GRA_M07.1 and GRA_M07.2.	Wording of measure GRA_M04.1 revised to include suggested addition. Measures GRA_M07.1 and GRA_M07.2 are specific to road verges, so not considered appropriate to add.
GRA_M05.1	Suggested amendment to measure GRA_M05.1 to add creation of bare substrate and sandy areas for specialist insects.	Wording of measure GRA_M05.1 revised to include suggested addition.
GRA_M06.3	In relation to measure GRA_M06.3, suggestion to recognise the importance of floristically-rich grass edges, which a lot of specialist insects use.	Wording of measure GRA_M06.3 revised in response to suggestion.

Comments on Woodland (WLD) priorities and measures:

Priority/Measure Code	Consultee Comment(s)	RA Response
n/a	Request for recognition that access to trees and woodlands should be better encouraged and that tree planting should be targeted to help achieve this.	All woodland priorities highlight benefits from nature including access to nature, health and wellbeing, and educational resource. See also Section 5 of Document 4 'Do priorities and measures contribute to wider benefits from nature?'
n/a	Suggestion to include an additional priority that commits tree planting to be done using UK and Ireland sourced and grown (UKISG) trees from local tree nurseries to protect our trees and woodlands from diseases and to improve biosecurity.	Provenance is addressed in Document 4: Overarching priority OVR_P02 'Undertake action to benefit key species'. Wording of measure WLD_M04.2 revised to include provenance.
WLD_P02 WLD_P04	In relation to priorities WLD_P02 and WLD_P04, careful selection of sites and associated species will be required to ensure this new habitat is established successfully and in the most appropriate locations without impacting on the neighbouring high priority moorland.	Comment noted. Careful selection of sites and appropriate species would form part of discussions with land managers as part of the implementation of measures.
WLD_P04	Particularly agree with woodland priority WLD_P04 which aims to 'Increase tree and woodland cover by enhancing all types of existing woodland and creating new species-diverse woodlands' and note the importance of the private sector, notably landowners and developers, in assisting in successfully meeting this priority through integration within their developments.	Comment noted.
WLD_P04	Request for recognition that native broadleaved trees and woodlands should be encouraged over non-native or coniferous woodland for the benefit of nature recovery, particularly in relation to priority WLD_P04.	Measure descriptions refer to the UK Forestry Standard, and the expectation is that appropriate native and broadleaved species will be selected for new woodland planting.
WLD_M01.3	In relation to measure WLD_M01.3, we would welcome clarification from North Yorkshire Council as to what 'best practice' constitutes for fencing and enclosures. There should be greater planning protection for trees and more trees should be given Tree Preservation Order status.	A best practice standard for fencing and enclosures around veteran trees would be developed as part of implementation of the measure in the delivery phase, once the first iteration of the LNRS is published. Comment noted. Tree Preservation Orders are outside of the scope of the LNRS.

Priority/Measure Code	Consultee Comment(s)	RA Response
WLD_M01.5	In relation to measure WLD_M01.5, it would be helpful to recognise both standing and on-the-ground deadwood, as a number of rare insects very specifically need standing deadwood.	Wording of measure WLD_M01.5 revised in response to suggestion.
WLD_M03.2	In relation to measure WLD_M03.2, there should be greater emphasis on not affecting other priorities. Mention 'right tree, right place', predator shadow etc.	Wording of measure WLD_M03.2 includes 'with consideration of other priorities (e.g. breeding waders)'.
WLD_M03.3	In relation to measure WLD_M03.3, this should not be at the expense of other priority species such as Curlew and Lapwing.	Wording of measure WLD_M03.3 revised in response to suggestion.
WLD_M03.6	In relation to measure WLD_M03.6, this could be made more time-bound. The measure states that the restoration of plantation on ancient woodland sites will be 'over appropriate timescales'. To make the measure more effective, we request that timescales are included.	The timescale required for restoration of plantation on ancient woodland sites (PAWS) will be location specific and will vary depending on the individual site conditions.
WLD_M03.7	In relation to measure WLD_M03.7, give priority to the use of natural regeneration. Natural colonisation adjacent to existing ancient woodland will accelerate colonisation of flora and fauna and tree growth.	The term 'natural colonisation' has been used as this would primarily relate to areas of land that are not currently woodland. The best approach would be considered as part of the delivery of the measure on a case-by-case basis.
WLD_M04.7	In relation to measure WLD_M04.7, buffering existing woodlands, especially ancient woodlands adjacent to settlements, requires the planning process to recognise the importance of buffering and to take it into account (amend policy).	The LNRS will provide an evidence base for planning policy and Local Plan teams.

Comments on Water and wetlands (WET) priorities and measures:

Priority/Measure Code	Consultee Comment(s)	RA Response
n/a	General comment on Water and wetlands measures that there is no direct reference to reducing and preventing the deliberate discharge of raw sewage into our rivers.	Management of sewage discharges to rivers by utilities companies is outside the scope of the LNRS.
WET_P04	Request for an additional measure under priority WET_P04 to protect and restore springs and seepages for specialist invertebrates such as the Geyer's Whorl Snail.	Protection and restoration of springs and seepages to be added as a bespoke species measure for Geyer's Whorl Snail.
WET_M01.3	In relation to measure WET_M01.3, the planning process needs to recognise expanding buffer strips is required for all watercourses and not just rivers. It is now recognised that Marsh Woundwort is also an important foodplant for the beetle on the Ouse, so please add as well as Tansy. We also now recognise that at least a late cut, or some grazing or natural disturbance, is needed to stop Tansy being outcompeted by other plant species as it is an early succession plant and so doesn't cope well if overprotected.	Wording of measure WET_M01.3 revised in response to suggestions.
WET_M02.8	In relation to measure WET_M02.8, unsure why citizen science is just related to this measure. Citizen science should be a separate activity applicable to a wide range of areas.	Citizen science approaches added into overarching priority OVR_P05.
WET_M03.6	Suggested amendment to measure WET_M03.6 to add expanding pond habitat for rare or threatened species.	Wording of measure WET_M03.6 revised in response to suggestion.
WET_M05.4	In relation to measure WET_M05.4, would welcome clarification that aerodrome safeguarding areas (e.g. across the Hambleton former authority) have been considered when identifying locations which would encourage flocks of birds. This measure should also focus on enhancement of wetlands for wader populations through scrape creation and rewetting.	Aerodrome safeguarding areas to be considered as part of implementation of measures in appropriate areas in delivery phase. Upland priority UPL_P04 and Grassland measure GRA_M02.1 include enhancement for wader populations.
WET_M06.6	Measure WET_M06.6 should promote scrape creation to retain water within the floodplain during the spring and summer months.	Upland measure UPL_M04.2 and Grassland measure GRA_M02.4 include scrape creation.

WET_M07.4 WET_M07.5	In relation to measures WET_M07.4 and WET_M07.5, careful selection of sites and associated species will be required to ensure this new habitat is established successfully and in appropriate locations without impacting on the neighbouring high priority moor.	Comment noted. Careful selection of sites and appropriate species would form part of discussions with land managers as part of the implementation of measures.
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Comments on Urban (URB) priorities and measures:

Priority/Measure Code	Consultee Comment(s)	RA Response
n/a	Request to include reference within the urban priorities and measures to the role of the private sector in delivering nature recovery across urban areas, particularly the role of large-scale development sites.	The role of the private sector is already included within the urban priorities and measures (several measures specifically refer to the role of the private sector). Additional reference to the role of large-scale development sites added into Urban overview section in LNRS Document 4.
n/a	Request to include allotments within the urban priorities and measures. Allotments are currently a glaring omission. Allotments also represent opportunities for community action and the socialising of practice and ideas for age groups beyond those who are, or look after, school children. Introducing new allotments in new developments (especially where developments include flats) would be of enormous benefit for biodiversity, sense of place and social cohesion.	Wording of priority URB_P04 revised to include allotments.
n/a	Recommendation to include more on the increasing importance of road verges as a last repository of many grassland species. Verges need to be managed better to improve species diversity and monitored to ensure their survival. Verges are also very important in providing connections between other habitats.	Measures under Grassland priority GRA_P07 address management and monitoring of road verges.
URB_P01	Request to amend priority URB_P01 to also reference blue infrastructure.	Wording of priority URB_P01 revised to include blue infrastructure.
URB_P01 URB_P02	Request for an additional priority or measure that better reflects the need for urban and street trees, which currently appears to be absent. This could be included within priority URB_P02 or URB_P01.	Expectation that the need for urban and street trees will be addressed by the local authority's Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategy (GBIS), which is currently being developed.

Priority/Measure Code	Consultee Comment(s)	RA Response
URB_M01.1 URB_M01.7	Request to add bee boxes into measure URB_M01.1 and bee bricks into measure URB_M01.7	Wording of measure URB_M01.1 revised to include bee boxes. Wording of measure URB_M01.7 revised to include bee bricks.
URB_M01.2 URB_M01.4	In relation to measures URB_M01.2 and URB_M01.4, canals and rivers in urban areas provide an opportunity to link communities to the wider Green (and blue) infrastructure network. The measures proposed could help to realise this aim.	Comment noted.
URB_M01.2 URB_M01.5	In relation to measures URB_M01.2 and URB_M01.5, Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategies should be policy and incorporated into Local Plans.	The LNRS will provide an evidence base for planning policy and Local Plan teams.
URB_M01.7	In relation to measure URB_M01.7, planning requirements for swift and bat boxes should be included for all new developments and new housing developments should include hedgehog corridors. This should be enforced.	The LNRS will provide an evidence base for planning policy and Local Plan teams.
URB_M01.8	In relation to measure URB_M01.8, why only replace nesting and roosting sites when a development ‘threatens’ an existing site? BNG can be used to enhance new developments with nature-rich environments, helping to restore the network and connectivity we have destroyed in urban areas by insensitive built development.	Measures URB_M01.1, URB_M01.2, URB_M01.3 and URB_M01.7 all refer to enhancements in new developments to benefit nature.
URB_M02.3	In relation to measure URB_M02.3, the LNRS should include references to websites which could assist with this measure. The published LNRS could include reference to the charity ‘Caring for God’s Acre’ which encourages visitors to record species they encounter in their churchyards.	To be addressed in transition to delivery once first iteration of LNRS is published.
URB_M03.2	Request to add reference to National Trail and public rights of way corridors into measure URB_M03.2	Wording of measure URB_M03.2 revised to include public rights of way.

Appendix B – Consultation responses on draft LNRS documents

Priority/Measure Code	Consultee Comment(s)	RA Response
URB_M03.5	<p>In relation to priority URB_P03 and associated measure URB_M03.5, we welcome and support the priority to 'Modify the management of urban grassland'. This is currently an under-used resource and could contribute much more to nature, but the wording of measure URB_M03.5 is odd - why reduce the area? The wording should be along the lines of 'Introduce changes to mowing and management regimes to encourage more species diversity'.</p>	<p>Wording of measure URB_M03.5 revised in response to suggestion.</p>

Comments on Coastal (CST) priorities and measures:

Priority/Measure Code	Consultee Comment(s)	RA Response
CST_P03	In relation to priority CST_P03, the handbook and restoration potential map developed by the Environment Agency as part of the ReMeMaRe (Restoring Seagrass Meadows, Saltmarsh & Native Oyster Reefs) initiative is recommended.	Comment noted.
CST_M01.1 CST_M01.3	In relation to measures CST_M01.1 and CST_M01.3, relating to rocky shores, the Wildlife Trusts' citizen science project 'Shoresearch' records intertidal habitats and species.	Comment noted.
CST_M01.3	In relation to measure CST_M01.3, relating to blue mussels, the LNRS may be interested in the mussel restoration work being led by Tees Rivers Trust.	Comment noted.
CST_M02.2	In relation to measure CST_M02.2, monitoring and management should also include wintering waders, both in terms of feeding sites and roost sites.	Consider specific references to the monitoring and management of wintering waders are too specific in relation to the broader context of this measure.
CST_M02.2 CST_M02.3 CST_M02.4	In relation to measures CST_M02.2, CST_M02.3 and CST_M02.4, National Trails UK requests the mention of the King Charles III England Coast path (and associated coastal margin) in its ability to support people's connection with nature and as a potential ecological corridor. When referring to opportunities related to recreational impacts at the coast, we would encourage engaging with the Coastal Wildbelt national initiative to gain inspiration and best practice solutions for amplifying opportunities for both people and nature. We have recently produced a report on 'Habitat Connectivity along the Yorkshire Coast' using Condatis modelling with representatives from the North York Moors National Park and Yorkshire Marine Nature Partnership using habitats and species outlined in the draft Marine Local Nature Recovery Strategy for Yorkshire.	Comment noted. Consider specific reference to the King Charles III England Coast path and associated coastal margin is too specific in relation to the broader context of these measures.

Comments on Document 4, Section B – Habitat overview sections

Comments on ‘Farmland’ overview section (consultee comment):

- Comment about confusing layers of governance. Farmers already face a plethora of confusing advice from Defra and others. Farmers in the Yorkshire Dales are likely to ask whose advice they need to follow – the Yorkshire Dales National Park Management Plan or the LNRS?
- How does governance relate to funding? E.g. ‘Can I get funding as a farmer from NYC if I’ve already got Defra and Yorkshire Dales National Park funding?’ How would existing funding arrangements change?

RA Response:

- The intention is that the LNRS aligns with and complements more localised management plans, as far as possible. Representatives from North Yorkshire’s National Parks, for example, have been closely involved in the development of the LNRS, which should help to ensure alignment of strategic priorities. The LNRS is an overarching high-level strategy that sits at a larger spatial scale, covering the whole of North Yorkshire and York, but is intended to be complimentary to more spatially focused, localised plans. The interface between the protected landscape’s management plans and the LNRS will be worked out more fully during the transition to delivery.
- Funding would need to be considered on a case-by-case basis as part of the delivery of individual projects, once the first iteration of the LNRS is published. It is anticipated that potential projects may draw on a variety of different funding sources.

Comments on ‘Upland’ overview section (consultee comment):

- Grouse shooting moors are currently not included anywhere within the report. They are large spaces and have a big impact. Request reference to the percentage of upland taken up by these areas and the negative impact this has (including the cruel practices often undertaken to kill wildlife in these areas).

RA Response:

- Species such as Hen Harrier and Merlin are included on the focus species list and persecution will be covered by the bespoke species measures for these species. ‘Legal predator control’ is referenced in a number of the upland measures.

Comments on ‘Grassland’ overview section (consultee comment):

- Request to rename section ‘Grassland and lowland heathland’ as the importance of lowland heathland in Yorkshire should be more clearly acknowledged

RA Response:

- Greater reference to lowland heathland and its importance added into Grassland overview section in Document 4

Comments on ‘Water and Wetlands’ overview section (consultee comments):

- Request to include brief reference to the importance of protecting the water quality of canals into the ‘Water and wetlands’ overview section.
- Requests to include reference to lowland peatlands as important wetland habitats in the ‘Water and wetlands’ overview section.

RA Response:

- Reference to the importance of lowland peatland, and canals as linear habitat, added into ‘Water and wetlands’ overview section

Comments on ‘Urban’ overview section (consultee comments):

- Request for more emphasis on how councils can save money whilst allowing the grass to grow. In many areas grass is cut too often with large mowers that cause damage to trees. Grass cutting is still carried out as it was many decades ago and is a tradition that some towns are finding hard to break out of.
- Request for additional reference to the role the private sector can play in delivering nature recovery across the urban area, with direct reference to the role of large-scale development sites. Large-scale development sites provide strong opportunities to ensure the identified priorities and actions for urban areas can be ultimately met on a long-term basis. Through holistic master planning, parts of such sites could successfully be enhanced to support nature recovery aspirations, as part of wider sustainable development, whilst also ensuring that highly productive agricultural land is preserved.
- Request to add reference to road verges into ‘Urban’ overview section. If the significance of road verges is not recognised, then they will continue to suffer from neglect and inappropriate management and yet more species will be lost.
- Request to add reference to allotments into ‘Urban’ overview section. Many allotments have been cultivated for more than a century and represent significant pockets of biodiversity.

RA Response:

- Changes to management of grass and mowing regimes are addressed by Urban measures (e.g. URB_M03.2, URB_M03.5)
- Reference to growth and development included in Doc 2, Section 9 ‘Developers and Planners’.
- Reference to master planning of large-scale development sites to consider how nature recovery can be incorporated into scheme designs added into ‘Urban’ overview section.
- Reference to road verges and allotments added to list of ‘human created spaces’ in ‘Urban’ overview section.

Comments on Document 4, Section C – Species

Comments on Section 4 ‘Focus Species’ and focus species tables (Table 1 and Table 2):

- Request to include ‘canals’ as an associated habitat for several individual focus species and several focus species assemblages
- Request to add a legend for conservation status codes
- Query as to why Adder's-tongue fern is a focus species while Creeping Willow is not on the list. Creeping Willow is a vital host to many insects (including Dark Bordered Beauty) and has England RDB status of Near Threatened (NT).
- Query as to why Sturgeon and Salmon are not listed as LNRS focus species.
- Request for further clarity as to why some focus species are listed individually and some in assemblages.

RA Response:

- ‘Canals’ added as an associated habitat for the individual focus species and focus species assemblages suggested
- Legend for IUCN Red Book conservation status categories added
- Creeping Willow was not prioritised by other strategies and plans, so did not come through in the species scoring process (see Appendix 2 of the strategy documents). Adders-tongue fern was included as a fern species (rather than a plant species) and is linked to a wider range of habitats that did not have other focus species associated with them.
- Atlantic Salmon included as LNRS focus species as part of freshwater fish assemblage. Sturgeon is included on the ‘future migrants’ list.
- Additional explanation of inclusion of focus species assemblages added to Section C4 ‘Focus Species’.

Comments on species recovery projects table (Table 3):

- Suggestion of additional species to be added in relation to species recovery projects, based on Species Recovery Trust’s current project list of projects in North Yorkshire.
- Pine Martens and Beavers are included as priority species. Both pose severe risks to economic land use which supports other wildlife. I am struggling to comprehend how any of the farming and land managing stakeholders would come to this conclusion or set these species on a pedestal. (Pine Martens have been successfully reintroduced in Scotland and are well on the way to making Capercaillie – a ground nesting woodland bird - extinct).

RA Response:

- Suggested additional species added to species recovery projects list (Table 3).
- Pine Marten and Beaver are included in the species recovery projects list as there are active projects within North Yorkshire supporting these species. They are not identified as focus species for this iteration of the LNRS.

Appendix C: Report on consultation responses relating to the draft LNRS Local Habitat Map

During the public consultation period, consultees were able to submit comments on the draft Local Habitat Map through a dedicated section of the feedback form (see Appendix C1), or by adding a 'pinned' comment directly into the online map. The feedback form was intended for technical stakeholders and those wishing to submit more detailed feedback and was available from the main LNRS Public Consultation webpage, with instructions to return to the Responsible Authority (RA) by email. Consultees were asked to submit any comments relating to the spatial content of the map via the pinned comments system, so that they were spatially located. A small number of comments were also received by direct email.

This section of the report provides an overview of the consultation comments on the Local Habitat Map, received via both the feedback form and pinned comments channels. Comments have been grouped together into themes and where comments on the same theme were received through either feedback forms, pinned map comments, or email, they are presented alongside each other, followed by the RA's response. Where a theme relates to only feedback form comments or pinned map comments, this is clearly noted.

Overview of 'pinned' map comments function:

The pinned comment system allowed all map users to 'pin' a comment anywhere on the draft map by selecting the 'Click Here to Comment' button at the top of the map window. When adding their comments, users were asked to select one of the four categories below:

- I agree with or like something here
- I disagree with or don't like something here
- I would like to suggest an action that's not currently mapped
- General observation or comment

Once submitted, comments went through a 'screening' process, in which they were reviewed by the LNRS project team, before being published on the public map. The screening process was primarily to ensure that no personal identifiable information was included in the comment, or that the nature of the comment would allow the commentor to be identified. Any comments where this was the case were not published on the public map, but were still considered by the LNRS project team as part of the consultation.

Once screened and published, comments became visible to all map users as coloured symbols contained under the 'LNRS Comments' layer of the draft Local Habitat Map, which could be turned on and off by map users (on by default). Clicking on one of the coloured symbols produced a pop-up dialogue containing the comment itself and the comment type (selected from the list above). No information about the commentor was included in the public map.

Summary of ‘pinned’ map comments received:

The responsible authority (RA) received a total of 158 pinned map comments during the public consultation period. These were divided amongst the four comment categories as shown in the table below:

Comment Category	Number of pinned comments
I agree with or like something here	2
I disagree with or don't like something here	31
I would like to suggest an action that's not currently mapped	93
General observation or comment	32
Total	158

In addition to the four comment categories above, the RA undertook further analysis of the comments received to group similar comments and identify key themes. This process identified the eight key themes as shown in the table below:

Comment Theme	Number of pinned comments
Requests for additional areas to be included within the strategic nature network (ACB and Mapped Measures layers)	75
Requests to remove hexagons from the strategic nature network (ACB and Mapped Measures layers)	7
Requests to change the mapped measures identified for a particular hexagon	11
Requests for an additional map layer to be included in the Local Habitat Map	1
Comments providing additional information about a specific location	24
Comments providing additional information about species present in a specific location	15
Comments relating to dislike of the use of 20ha hexagons in the ACB and Mapped Measures layers	3
Other general comments (not in one of the above categories)	22
Total	158

Comments received and Responsible Authority (RA) response:

The following sections provide an overview of comments received via feedback forms, direct email, or the pinned comments system, along with the RA's response to those comments, where relevant. This includes examples of the 'pinned' comments received under each of the above themes.

Comments on the general functionality of the Local Habitat Map and presentation of the map layers (comments via feedback forms only)

- The Local Habitat Map is easy to use and navigate.
- We found the habitat map worked well and appreciated the user guide – the first LNRS we have consulted on that has provided a manual. We commend you on a clear and focussed LNRS.
- Request for the Mapped Measures layer to expand to allow users to select mapped measures by habitat type (e.g. select only the 'Farmland' measures)
- Supportive of the inclusion of the pop-up dialogue feature displaying mapped measures and corresponding priority level. Request that this feature is retained in the published version of the Local Habitat Map.
- Suggestion that the Local Habitat Map could be made easier to use by including a link to the specific mapped measures identified in the draft LNRS (this approach has been taken in some other LNRSs).
- Request to make the map layers more prominent and easier to access from the start, rather than having to go through multiple menus to access the layers.
- Request to make the map layers more transparent to make it easier to see the place names beneath them.
- The Local Habitat Map is welcomed, but we recommend that this is maintained as a dynamic tool and updated on an ongoing basis. In this way progress towards nature recovery could be clearly demonstrated. For example, as more farmers practice regenerative agriculture, more of the 'white' areas between the two National Parks will be coloured green and blue.

RA Response:

- Functionality to allow users to show the mapped measures by habitat type (e.g. show only the 'Grassland' mapped measures) is already included using the 'Filter' function (the first of the 5 buttons in the top-right corner of the map window). The pre-defined filters allow the Mapped Measures layer to be filtered by habitat type.
Note: there is no filter for the 'Farmland' category, as there are no mapped measures in this category (all Farmland measures are unmapped).
- In relation to including a link from the mapped measures within the Local Habitat map to the LNRS documents, the RA considers this would provide limited additional benefit and would be time-consuming to implement. Each mapped measure has a unique measure code which makes it relatively easy to correlate mapped measures in the Local Habitat Map with the lists of mapped and unmapped measures in the written strategy documents. The written strategy documents are currently linked within the Local Habitat Map platform in specific places e.g. Document 4 is linked within the 'Outside Network' pop-up dialogue for areas outside the strategic network.
- In relation to making the map layers more prominent and easier to access, the RA is limited by the GIS software functionality. An explanation of how to access the map layers is included within the 'Information' panel, which is open by default when first accessing the map. The RA will review whether visibility of the map layers can be further improved.
- The RA will review the transparency of the map layers for the final published version with a view to making the base map layers beneath them more visible.
- In relation to the Local Habitat Map being maintained as a dynamic tool that is updated on an ongoing basis, the LNRS guidance requires the statutory layers of the Local Habitat Map to remain 'fixed' between iterations of the LNRS, in order that there is clarity for users on what and where the strategic nature recovery priorities are across North Yorkshire and York. The RA will consider how

a more dynamic map that is updated could be provided as part of the delivery phase, once the first iteration of the LNRS is published.

Requests for additional areas to be included within the Areas of Particular Importance for Biodiversity (APIB) layer: (comments via feedback forms only)

- Request to include ‘The Land’ Haxby, York as an Area of Particular Importance for Biodiversity (APIB).

RA Response:

- In relation to the inclusion of ‘The Land’ Haxby, York as an APIB site, the LNRS Statutory Guidance (March 2023) sets out which areas should be included as APIBs within the Local Habitat Map. This includes all existing local wildlife sites, areas of irreplaceable habitat, and other areas identified by the Secretary of State as being of particular importance. The statutory guidance also states that “Responsible authorities should not map any other areas that are not mentioned in paragraph 22 as being of particular importance for biodiversity.” As such, the definition of an APIB site is constrained and the site at ‘The Land’ Haxby does not fall within this definition, so cannot be included as an APIB site. However, the majority of the site has been included within the ACB and Mapped Measures layers as part of the strategic nature recovery network, so is identified as a focus area for nature recovery within the LNRS mapping.

Requests for additional areas to be included within the strategic nature network (ACB and Mapped Measures layers): (comments via feedback forms, direct email and pinned map comments)

Comments received via feedback forms:

- Request to extend the ACB and Mapped Measures layers to include a Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) habitat bank provider’s operational sites. The inclusion of habitat banks, if well designed, in the mapped measures layer is consistent with the LNRS guidance. The provider considers that all of their live habitat bank sites should be covered. Because the sites have been ground-truthed, the habitats proposed are more accurate and appropriate than the potential measures in the LNRS, which have been assessed remotely.

RA Response:

- Inclusion of existing habitat bank sites within the ACB and Mapped Measures layers has been considered by the LNRS Advisory Group. It is the view of the Advisory Group that the location of habitat bank sites should not determine the location of the strategic nature network (ACB and Mapped Measures layers). Where habitat bank sites (or parts of them) coincide with the identified strategic network, then they are included, but for those habitat bank sites (or parts of them) that fall outside of the strategic network, the network has not been extended to include them. The location of the LNRS strategic network is based on a wide range of different factors and has been identified through a robust evidence-based computer modelling process, based on the most important strategic areas for nature recovery. The location of habitat bank sites are based on a different set of considerations, including land availability, landowner willingness, demand for biodiversity units, and other commercial considerations. Habitat bank sites are therefore not necessarily located in the best possible places to support the LNRS strategic network (ACB and Mapped Measures layers).

Comments received via email:

- Requests from two separate land managers, following one-to-one calls, to extend the ACB and Mapped Measures layers to include the areas of land managed by them. The first land area is already partially included within the draft ACB network, but request received to extend the network to include the whole land holding. The second land area is not currently included within the draft ACB network, but is adjoining an area of the draft network.

See RA Response below next section (response also applies to these comments)

Example 'pinned' comments (75 comments)

- The ACB areas should be extended to include the watercourse, which is an important wildlife corridor and Hartforth parkland areas which are close to large expanses of deciduous woodland.
- this area ie Bilton triangle valuable as urban buffer lots of birds inc larks in the field badgers foxes deer all use fringe of town. important for recreation and also buffer for more focused nature projects such as longlands common
- There is a section of the Scar Beck excluded from the ACB areas but should be included as connected to the beck which is included in the upstream and downstream directions. It may also be appropriate to extend the upstream section.
- As another user has pointed out, Walmgate Stray has huge potential to be transformed into high quality grassland and forms part of a recognised green corridor from the city out to the Tilmire SSSI.

RA Response:

In considering requests for additional areas to be included within the strategic nature network (ACB and Mapped Measures layers), the RA assessed each of the 75 pinned comment requests (and the area they related to), along with the two requests received by email, in accordance with the two 'screening' questions below:

1. Is the requested area within 1 hexagon of the current strategic network?

This is to ensure that any additional areas being added are directly connected to the strategic network already identified by the computer modelling process (as presented in the consultation draft). The RA wants to avoid creating additional isolated 'islands' of network that do not directly connect to the wider strategic network, as these would be of limited benefit for strategic habitat connectivity.

2. Is the requested area no larger than 3 additional hexagons (~60ha)?

This is to ensure that the strategic network remains 'strategic' and is sufficiently focused and constrained. In developing the draft strategic network (as presented in the consultation draft), the RA was careful to ensure a balance between the network being sufficiently extensive to include a wide range of different habitats and offer good connectivity across the whole strategy area, but not to be so extensive that it lost its strategic focus and resulted in widespread mapping of a large number of areas as 'strategic'.

The RA considers that any additional area that is larger than 3 additional hexagons (~60ha) would be too large a change to the strategic network and would cause the network to lose its strategic focus.

Based on these two screening questions, 42 of the 75 pinned comment requests for additional areas to be included were screened out, due to either not being directly connected to the draft strategic network (failing Question 1) or requiring too large an area to be added to the strategic network (failing Question 2). The two requests received via email were screened out due to requiring too large an area to be added to

the strategic network (failing Question 2). A number of the requests for additional areas to be included were taken to the LNRS Advisory Group for further review because they did not clearly fall within or outside of the two screening questions above (i.e. an additional area that was within 1 hexagon of the draft network, but required slightly more than 3 hexagons to be added, or an area that required only 1 hexagon to be added, but was beyond 1 hexagon's distance from the draft network). In these cases, the Advisory Group made an informed collective decision about whether the network should or should not be extended to include the requested area.

As a result of this process, 24 of the 75 pinned comment requests for additional areas to be included within the strategic network were accepted and the required number of additional hexagons were added into the strategic network (ACB and Mapped Measures layers) to incorporate these additional areas. This resulted in a total of 29 additional 20ha hexagons being added to the draft strategic network. The mapped measures assigned to these additional hexagons were manually ascribed by the RA, based on the mapped measures of adjacent hexagons within the draft network and the content of the pinned comment itself.

Requests to remove areas from the strategic nature network (ACB and Mapped Measures layers)

(comments via direct email and pinned map comments)

Pinned comments requesting the removal of areas from the strategic network typically requested the removal of the entire 20ha hexagon (or group of hexagons) as this is how the strategic network is presented in the Local Habitat Map. Requests received via direct email related to the removal of specific sites.

Comments received via email:

- Requests to remove two individual sites from the strategic network, one within the City of York Council boundary and one in Selby.

See RA Response below next section (response also applies to these comments)

Example 'pinned' comments (7 comments)

Please note that the 7 pinned comments received under this theme were submitted by two commentors (one commentor submitted 6 of the pinned comments, with the same comment submitted in each location).

- I disagree with the proposed measures in this locations & am requesting the removal of hexagons adjacent to the South Pennines SSSI on Keighley Moor
- Please remove this area from LNRS mapping. It's not a connecting habitat and may hinder farm development and future business plans. Per Defra guidance, LNRS maps should be flexible, allowing updates or removals where mapping restricts productive use.

RA Response:

The RA took all pinned comments requesting the removal of hexagons from the strategic network, along with the two requests to remove specific sites received by email, to the LNRS Advisory Group for further consideration. The collective decision of the Advisory Group and the RA was to not remove any hexagons or specific sites from the draft strategic network.

The draft strategic network has been identified through a robust evidence-based computer modelling process, based on a range of different factors (see Appendix 3 of the main strategy documents for the full mapping methodology). This has identified the most important strategic areas across North Yorkshire and

York for nature recovery activity to be focused to have the greatest potential benefit. The RA considers it is important that the network identified remains intact, as all identified hexagons have been assessed as being particularly important for nature recovery.

It is important to note that one of the pinned comments requesting removal from the strategic network was located within an existing Area that Could Become of Particular Importance for Biodiversity (APIB). This area cannot be removed from the strategic network, as it is a statutory requirement of the LNRS to include all existing APIB sites. Several of the other hexagons requested for removal are immediately adjacent to APIB sites, so provide an important buffer to those existing sites, as well as providing potential connectivity between them.

In its review of the requests for removal of areas from the strategic network, the LNRS Advisory Group noted that, in respect of planning, the LNRS (once published) will be only one consideration in planning decisions. Planning applications on sites that are close to existing designated sites (such as SSSI sites) will already be required to address nature and biodiversity considerations as part of the planning process, aside from the LNRS. There is no anticipation that the LNRS will add to the range of designated sites-related policies that already exist.

There is a concern expressed within the pinned comments that being included in the LNRS strategic network “may hinder farm development and future business plans”. It is the view of the RA and Advisory Group that there is nothing within the LNRS that would limit farm development or future business plans (over and above what already exists within the existing planning process). Landowners and land managers are not under any obligation to undertake the measures (actions) set out in the LNRS on their land if they do not wish to do so.

Requests to change the mapped measures identified for a particular hexagon (comments via pinned map comments only)

Example ‘pinned’ comments (11 comments)

- Introduce a measure to incentivise pond creation here to augment grassland and wetland measures.
- the measure to create species rich woodland close to breeding wader and wet grassland habitat, such as at Nosterfield needs to be refined to ensure that additional tree cover doesn't impact on breeding success.
- Breeding curlew + lapwing here - woodland expansion needs to be treated with caution. Crakehall Ings is on peat maps + survey to ground truth would be useful. Opportunities here for NFM, OVR_PO4 (work with the IDB) and WET_MO1 and MO2 actions.

RA Response:

- The mapped measures associated with each hexagon in the strategic nature network have been identified based on underlying datasets relating to habitat types and other considerations, which forms part of the mapping methodology (see Appendix 3 of the main strategy documents). In a small number of cases, the RA has changed the mapped measures that are included within particular hexagons, where it is considered appropriate to do so, based on the consultation comments received.

Requests for additional map layers to be included in the Local Habitat Map (comments via feedback forms and pinned map comments)

Comments received via feedback forms:

- Request to include the National Trails mapping within the Local Habitat Map so they can be more easily related to opportunities for nature recovery.

See RA Response below next section (response also applies to these comments)

'Pinned' comment (1 comment)

- It would be beneficial to have river management catchments as a visible layer alongside the water courses. This would enhance the pursuit of a better-connected landscape when viewing the mapped data.

RA Response:

- The RA will consider adding the National Trails mapping to the final Local Habitat Map under the 'Additional Information' section.
- RA to add river management catchments to the Local Habitat Map under the 'Additional Information' section.

Comments providing additional information about a specific location (comments via pinned map comments only)

Example 'pinned' comments (24 comments)

- There has been ground nesting birds monitoring around this site for the last 4 years seeing increase in lapwing and successful curlew breeding.
- This part of Scorton Lakes is already a de facto nature reserve. It is a former sand and gravel quarry which has been progressively restored to nature in stages over many years. It is already very important for many species and can become more so.
- Naburn village has a small wildflower area and many residents who are enthusiastic about nature recovery. There is potential for increasing local engagement with some support from NYC or another organisation.
- York Community Woodland is a very extensive and important area of semi-natural habitat. The future management will be critical to how it develops. The creation of ponds within the site as originally proposed would be very beneficial.

RA Response:

- The RA is grateful to all those who submitted additional information about local areas that they know well as part of the LNRS public consultation.

Comments providing additional information about species present in a specific location

(comments via pinned map comments only)

Example ‘pinned’ comments (15 comments)

- Brayton Barff. An Oasis of nature surrounded by housing development & highways Over 42 years have revealed over 118 bird species 160 flora species 70 fungi species countless species. *Several invertebrate and amphibian species were also listed as part of this comment.*
- Barff Lane Flora. *Several flora species were also listed as part of this comment.*
- Species rich haymeadow, not ploughed since 1930. *Several flora and fauna species were also listed as part of this comment.*
- Pleased to see the actions suggested. Tarmac did a good job here and the site should be preserved and nurtured. *Two breeding bird species, a bird species reported in the 1980s and 1990s, and an invertebrate species were also listed as part of this comment.*

RA Response:

- The RA is grateful to all those who submitted additional information about known species that are present in local areas that they know well as part of the LNRS public consultation.

Comments relating to the use of 20ha hexagons in the ACB and Mapped Measures layers

(comments via feedback forms and pinned map comments)

Comments received via feedback forms:

- Hexagons are problematic for BNG habitat bank providers. Hexagons do not follow field boundaries, so split fields without ecological justification. Fields of homogenous habitat (most are) are universally bisected by hexagon-based measures, meaning that blocks of habitat creation can receive 2 different strategic significance scores. This is not logical and it makes designing a habitat bank very difficult. The end result could be squeezing habitat creation into the hexagon, rather than responding to the conditions on the ground. Unnatural hexagonal blocks of vegetation could be the unintended consequence.
- Hexagons do not fit into the landscape. There are numerous examples where a measure proposed for a specific area or habitat type does not fit with the landform that it is intended to benefit. For example, there are woodland measures that overlap into grassland or moorland, grassland measures that penetrate into urban areas etc. Similarly measures miss the area they are targeted at because the shape doesn't fit the feature. This wastes a proportion of the measure, but could also provide unjustified benefits for the wrong habitat in the wrong place where overlaps occur. This would not happen if field boundaries or feature boundaries were used.

See RA Response below next section (response also applies to these comments)

‘Pinned’ comments (3 comments)

Please note that the 3 pinned comments received under this theme were submitted by one commentor (one commentor submitted all 3 of the pinned comments).

- The western parcel of a habitat bank site (near Whitby) is located here. This is an example of why the hexagon model does not work. There is no ecological reason to split this field. The hexagons exclude grassland measures from the upper portion of the field.
- Another example of why the hexagons don't work. Measures WET M07.4 and 07.2 don't apply in this riverine section but do apply to the north. This is ecologically inexplicable and penalises good habitat creation. WET M07.1 does apply yet can't be implemented
- Hexagons do not work here. They cut fields of the same habitat into sections that are ecologically unjustified. They unfairly penalise habitat creation in the same field that falls over the artificial boundary. Use field boundaries instead.

RA Response:

The use of 20ha regular hexagons for the ACB and Mapped Measures layers was extensively discussed with LNRS Advisory Group members through the development of the Local Habitat Map, with the alternative being to try to map to OS-based field boundaries. The reasons for choosing to use 20ha hexagons are briefly set out below:

- The LNRS mapping is based on underlying existing habitat data, which in some areas of North Yorkshire and York is not especially accurate, particularly when considered at the individual field parcel level (the degree of accuracy falls as you ‘zoom in’ to smaller geographical areas). There was a concern that mapping the ACB and Mapped Measures layers to individual field parcels would imply a level of confidence in the data that does not exist. There was an associated concern that, if the data for a particular area was inaccurate, this could result in measures being identified for a particular field parcel that were not deliverable at that location.
- There was a concern from LNRS stakeholders that mapping at the individual field parcel level would be too prescriptive to farmers and land managers (and other delivery stakeholders), with limited flexibility of which measures should be delivered in which specific locations. It was considered that the mapping of the ACB and Mapped Measures layers should incorporate a certain amount of flexibility and local determination of the exact locations for the delivery of particular measures, based on local knowledge and conditions ‘on the ground’. The hexagon-based approach helps to provide this degree of local flexibility.

The RA is preparing additional guidance on how the 20ha hexagons within the Local Habitat Map should be interpreted for the purpose of informing strategic significance under Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG).

Comments on multiple mapped measures being provided for each hexagon within the Mapped Measures layer (comments via feedback forms only)

- Multiple overlapping measures are very welcome. They allow habitat bank providers to select from a number of options and choose the most appropriate measure in response to the local conditions.

RA Response:

- Comment noted.

Other general comments (not in one of the above categories) (comments via feedback forms, direct email and pinned map comments)

Comments received via feedback forms:

- It seems that there is a disconnect between the written commentary and priorities and the mapping as shown by the online map [Local Habitat Map]. Primary concern is that the great connectivity gap represented by the Vale of York, crossed only by two narrow east-west corridors, should be closed by recognising the biodiversity potential (both in-river and riparian) represented by this river-based recovery work to apply along the full length of the major river corridors and their principal tributaries.

RA Response:

The RA is keen to emphasise that the Local Habitat Map is only one element of the LNRS, intended to show the existing areas that are particularly important to biodiversity (the blue shaded 'APIB' layer), and the areas that have been identified as strategic priorities for nature recovery efforts to be focused for this first iteration of the LNRS; the strategic nature network (the green shaded 'ACB' and Mapped Measures layers). The strategy emphasises that nature recovery can be delivered anywhere within our geography, not just within the prioritised nature recovery network. Indeed, of the 187 measures contained within the strategy, only 62 are 'mapped' measures that appear within the Mapped Measures layer of the Local Habitat Map. The remaining 125 are 'unmapped' measures.

In relation to the river corridors, appropriate measures (whether mapped or unmapped) can be delivered anywhere along those corridors. The connectivity corridors shown on the Local Habitat Map have been specifically selected as the most strategically significant connectivity corridors, where nature recovery efforts should be particularly focused, but not to the exclusion of other river corridors.

It is also worth noting that some of the central belt of the county (land to either side of the A1 corridor, in between the National Parks) is high grade agricultural land. All of the measures in the 'Farmland' section of the strategy are unmapped and do not appear on the Local Habitat Map. This is because implementing these measures is largely equally beneficial wherever they are implemented, so they do not have a particular spatial focus. The mapped measures that appear on the Local Habitat Map are those that do have a particular spatial focus to them (i.e. they can only be delivered in particular places, or would be especially beneficial in particular places). As such, delivery of the unmapped Farmland measures on the agricultural land in the central belt of the county would make a significant difference to the east-west connectivity through this central area, over and above the strategic connectivity corridors shown on the Local Habitat Map.

Comments received via email:

- Comments received in relation to Scorton Lakes noting that classification of the site as an ACB in the draft LNRS is probably technically accurate, but this somewhat downplays its richness. Over 190 bird species have been recorded here. Comments include specific bird species, in relation to LNRS focus species. Commentors feel the strategy should do more to recognise this area in some way.

RA Response:

- The RA confirms that the area around Scorton Lakes is predominantly classified as an Area that Could Become of Particular Importance for Biodiversity (ACB) in the draft LNRS, with appropriate mapped measures identified. There are also a number of existing Areas of Particular Importance for Biodiversity (APIBs) in this area, including the Scorton Quarry and Catterick Gravel Pits Local Wildlife Sites, and identified areas of irreplaceable habitat (lowland fen). The LNRS regulations and statutory guidance only permit mapped areas within the LNRS Local Habitat Map to be classified as either APIB or ACB. There is no further classification that can be applied to this area within the LNRS.

Example ‘pinned’ comments (22 comments)

- The Hay-a-Park lake that has formed in the disused quarry would make a wonderful nature reserve, especially if there was public access to at least to some areas. Could this be looked into with the land's owner?
- Scorton Lakes is a wonderful place thanks to the regeneration after quarrying. Red list birds can be seen and it is used every day for recreation and mental health but is now under threat of development. This would be a disaster for the wildlife here.
- UPL_M06.4 - General Comment not location specific - Dry heath is not likely to have any grips to be blocked
- I'm pleased that the cycle path has been recognised as an important green corridor - It would benefit from buffering/widening in area where flanked by intensive agriculture as in Naburn.

RA Response:

- The RA is grateful to all those who submitted additional comments as part of the LNRS public consultation. Pinned comments relating to the wording of specific mapped measures have been considered by the RA alongside other consultation comments on this subject and measure wordings have been revised where required.

Appendix C1: Feedback form

The feedback form that was available for consultees to download and complete is included on the following page. Please note that only the first page of the feedback form is included here. The feedback form was 12 pages long in total and followed the structure (section numbers and subtitles) of the draft LNRS documents. The feedback form included the following sections:

- Feedback on Document 1 – Thriving Nature in North Yorkshire and York – Short Summary
- Feedback on Document 2 – Thriving Nature in North Yorkshire and York – Our Local Nature Recovery Strategy
- Feedback on Document 3 – Description of the North Yorkshire and York LNRS Strategy Area, its biodiversity and opportunities for recovery
- Feedback on Document 4 – Statement of Biodiversity Priorities, Part II – Priorities and Measures.
- Additional comments (any additional feedback on the draft documents, not covered by one of the specific sections above)
- Feedback on the Local Habitat Map user interface
- Additional comments (any additional feedback on the draft Local Habitat Map, not covered by one of the specific sections above)

Note: Consultees were asked to use the pinned comments system to make any comments on the content of the draft Local Habitat Map. It was intended that the feedback form was only used to comment on the map interface itself.

Consultees were advised that they were not required to complete all sections of the form and just complete those sections relevant to the feedback they wished to provide.

Consultees were asked to return completed feedback forms to the central LNRS email mailbox before the end of the public consultation period.



North Yorkshire and York Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS)

Consultation Draft Feedback Form

Please use this feedback form to provide feedback on the consultation draft documentation (Documents 1 to 4), and Local Habitat Map user interface, for the draft LNRS for North Yorkshire and York. The questions/sections of the form correlate with the main sections of the draft documents. There is a separate section of the form for each document, followed by a separate section for feedback on the online Local Habitat Map interface. Please provide your feedback in the relevant section of the form.

There is an ‘additional comments’ section at the end of the form. Please use this section for any feedback that is **not** covered by one of the specific sections aligned to the content of the draft documents or Local Habitat Map.

Please complete the information below:

Name	
Email address	
Business/organisation name	

We would be grateful if you can coordinate and collate responses within your business or organisation into a single feedback form.

Suggested workflow:

Please enter any feedback comments that you have on any part of the documents or Local Habitat Map interface in the relevant section of the form. If you would like to suggest amendments to the text within any of the draft strategy documents, please include your suggested amended text in the relevant section of the form, prefixed by ‘**Amendment:**’. Please include any relevant sub-headings from the original document to help identify the section that the amendment relates to (if applicable).

Submission of feedback:

Please email your completed feedback form to LNRS@northyorks.gov.uk **before Monday 11th August 2025**. Please include ‘Feedback’ as the subject line of your email.

Please note that you are not required to complete all sections of this form. Please only complete the sections relevant to the feedback you would like to provide.

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