



Public Consultation

Background:

Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRSs) are an important tool to assist in nature recovery across England and are required under the Environment Act 2021. There are 48 LNRSs covering the whole of England, with no overlapping strategies and no areas left uncovered. The strategy areas align with England's 48 local government administered counties. Local Nature Recovery Strategies are a platform for local people to agree the key priorities for recovering nature in their area and recommend the actions required to help achieve these priorities. The actions will also bring about wider environmental benefits by utilising nature-based solutions to tackle issues such as flooding, carbon emissions and poor water quality in rivers and streams. We have aimed to make the Berkshire Strategy practical and achievable and will be directed at locations where they will have the greatest impact on nature recovery. The strategies will be delivered by local partners on the ground, be these community groups, landowners or land managers, who will be able to use existing sources of public and private funding to help implement nature recovery actions.

This survey is open from 17th February 2025 till midnight 24th March 2025

The survey should take approximately 10-15 minutes to complete.

We will use the information you provide to inform the development of the Berkshire Nature Recovery Strategy. Any questions or problems? Get in touch with us via **bnc.rbwm.gov.uk** or **10628 777440**.

For background information on how the Berkshire LNRS was created check out our website: <https://rbwmtogether.rbwm.gov.uk/berkshire-local-nature-recovery-strategy>

Before completing this survey

The aim of this Public Consultation is to obtain the views of the public on the draft Berkshire LNRS. It is important that you read some or all of the documents comprising the LNRS before completing this survey. Find a link to the Berkshire LNRS draft strategy below: <https://rbwmtogether.rbwm.gov.uk/berkshire-lnrs-public-consultation-page>

The documents to review are:

The Description of Berkshire

The List of Priorities and Measures

The Local Habitat Map

The Species Priorities List

For more information on data processing please see below:

<https://www.rbwm.gov.uk/home/council-and-democracy/strategies-and-policies/data-protection/privacy-notice-planning-policy-consultations-and-call-sites>

Section A: Description of Area and its Opportunities

The following questions will ask about information found in the ‘Description of Area’ Consultation Document. This document is found on the main Berkshire LNRS Public Consultation Page or linked here.

1. Review this document. Are you happy with the clarity of information?

- ☐ Very unhappy
- ☐ Unhappy
- ☐ Neutral
- ☐ Happy
- ☐ Very Happy

2. To the best of your knowledge, are you happy with the accuracy of information?

- ☐ Very unhappy
- ☐ Unhappy
- ☐ Neutral
- ☐ Happy
- ☐ Very Happy

3. What, if anything, do you think we should change about the ‘Description of Area’ document?

4. Please give any further comments on the ‘Description of Area’ document.

Section B: List of Priorities and Measures

The following questions will ask about information in the ‘List of Priorities and Measures’ consultation document. This document is found on the main LNRS Public Consultation Page, linked above.

Agricultural land and the wider countryside Habitat Grouping			
Note that this habitat grouping includes field margins, hedgerows, grassland and traditional orchards. Scrub, veteran trees and ponds are found in this habitat grouping, however their measures are covered in other habitat groupings.			
Priority	Measures	Measure Code and name of layer on map if mapped	Main NEOs and EIP commitments supported by priorities
In bold you will find the priority. This is the end results to achieve across Berkshire			
Underneath the priority, you will see text which details any wider benefits which could be delivered by achieving each relevant priority			
PRIORITY 1: Improve the quality of habitats in agricultural land and the wider countryside	Potential Measure Description		Relevant national Environment Objectives
Priorities	Take appropriate conservation measures on field margins (e.g. sow appropriate native wildflowers, create beetle banks, leave margins uncultivated, stop spraying herbicides, pesticides, and fertiliser near field margins).		Biodiversity on land - Restore or create in excess of 500,000 hectares of a range of wildlife-rich habitat outside protected sites by 2042, compared to 2022 levels
Wider environmental benefits	For more information on sown and created areas see here . For more information on arable margins see here . For general insect rich farmland habitats see here .	PM50	
Air purification (cleaner air for nature)	Enhance hedgerows to species rich. Create hedgerows where evidence shows previous hedgerow lines, particularly to	PM01 (mapped)	

5. Please review each of the **12 Priorities**. Do you agree that each should be priorities for nature recovery in the Berkshire LNRS?

Please note this question should consider each priority separately, not ranked against each other.

(1) Improve the quality of habitats in agricultural land and the wider countryside.

- ☐ Definitely agree
☐ Somewhat agree
☐ Neither agree nor disagree
☐ Somewhat disagree
☐ Definitely disagree

(3) Improve the quality and connectivity of wood pasture and parkland.

- ☐ Definitely agree
☐ Somewhat agree
☐ Neither agree nor disagree
☐ Somewhat disagree
☐ Definitely disagree

(2) Improve the quality of woodland.

- ☐ Definitely agree
☐ Somewhat agree
☐ Neither agree nor disagree
☐ Somewhat disagree

(4) Restore, buffer and connect ancient woodland in Berkshire to protect from external pressures and fragmentation.

- ☐ Definitely agree
☐ Somewhat agree
☐ Neither agree nor disagree
☐ Somewhat disagree
☐ Definitely disagree

(5) Increase the extent and connectivity of wet woodland to increase patch size and connectivity

- ☐ Definitely agree
- ☐ Somewhat agree
- ☐ Neither agree nor disagree
- ☐ Somewhat disagree
- ☐ Definitely disagree

(6) Improve the quality of chalk habitats.

- ☐ Definitely agree
- ☐ Somewhat agree
- ☐ Neither agree nor disagree
- ☐ Somewhat disagree
- ☐ Definitely disagree

(7) Improve the quality of urban habitats

- ☐ Definitely agree
- ☐ Somewhat agree
- ☐ Neither agree nor disagree
- ☐ Somewhat disagree
- ☐ Definitely disagree

(8) Increase canopy cover and habitat connectivity in urban areas.

- ☐ Definitely agree
- ☐ Somewhat agree
- ☐ Neither agree nor disagree
- ☐ Somewhat disagree
- ☐ Definitely disagree

(9) Increase the extent and improve the quality of wetlands and floodplain.

- ☐ Definitely agree
- ☐ Somewhat agree
- ☐ Neither agree nor disagree
- ☐ Somewhat disagree
- ☐ Definitely disagree

(10) Improve ecological quality of rivers to support biodiversity.

- ☐ Definitely agree
- ☐ Somewhat agree
- ☐ Neither agree nor disagree
- ☐ Somewhat disagree
- ☐ Definitely disagree

(11) Obtain good chalk stream management.

- ☐ Definitely agree
- ☐ Somewhat agree
- ☐ Neither agree nor disagree
- ☐ Somewhat disagree
- ☐ Definitely disagree

(12) Improve the quality of heathland habitats.

- ☐ Definitely agree
- ☐ Somewhat agree
- ☐ Neither agree nor disagree
- ☐ Somewhat disagree
- ☐ Definitely disagree

6. Can you think of a ‘*Priority*’ for nature recovery in Berkshire that isn't already on the list? Please note it below.

Please note: our priorities should relate to nature recovery actions and not the preservation of existing sites. This strategy is about being ambitious and identifying opportunities beyond places already managed for nature.

7. 'Review the *Potential Measures* in the Consultation Draft. Are you happy that the measures are written clearly enough for you to fully understand the nature recovery actions being recommended?'

- ☐ Very unhappy
- ☐ Unhappy
- ☐ Neutral
- ☐ Happy
- ☐ Very Happy

8. To the best of your knowledge, are you happy that the ‘*Potential Measures*’ reflect important measures for nature recovery in Berkshire?

- ☐ Very unhappy
- ☐ Unhappy
- ☐ Neutral
- ☐ Happy
- ☐ Very Happy

9. If you believe a specific ‘*Measure(s)*’ should be written differently, please write it below (please include the measure code as well, e.g. PM01).

10. If you believe a '*Measure(s)*' for nature recovery should be added, please write this below.

11. Do you have any further comments on the '*Priorities and Measures*' document? Please write them below.

Section C: Local Habitat Map

The following questions will ask about information found in the ‘Local Habitat Map’ consultation document. Please note that suggestions relating to specific proposed locations for measures can be made on the ‘Local Habitat Map’ linked below.

<https://rbwmtogether.rbwm.gov.uk/berkshire-lnrs-public-consultation-page/places/local-habitat-suggestions>

12. Review the ‘*Opportunities for Biodiversity/ACB Layer*’. To the best of your knowledge, are you happy that most areas selected are accurate as biodiversity opportunity areas?

Please note: we are not asking questions relating to the Baseline Biodiversity/APIB layer, because land in this layer has been decided by DEFRA and is not to be consulted on by the public.

- ☐ Very unhappy
- ☐ Unhappy
- ☐ Neutral
- ☐ Happy
- ☐ Very Happy

13. The Local Habitat Map may be used by community groups, landowners, developers, planners and others across Berkshire to recover nature. Do you agree that the map is clear to view and use?

- ☐ Very unhappy
- ☐ Unhappy
- ☐ Neutral
- ☐ Happy
- ☐ Very Happy

14. Do you have any further comments on the '*Local Habitat Map*' document?

Before answering this question, please view information on the Local Habitat Map Landing Page, and watched the Local Habitat Map explanatory video.

<https://rbwmtogether.rbwm.gov.uk/berkshire-nature-recovery-local-habitat-map>

Section D: Species Priorities List

The following questions will ask about information found in the 'Draft Species Priorities List' consultation document. This document is found on the main Berkshire LNRS Public Consultation Page.

15. Review the '*Species Priorities List*'. Are you happy that information is shown clearly?

- ☐ Very unhappy
- ☐ Unhappy
- ☐ Neutral
- ☐ Happy
- ☐ Very Happy

16. Review the '*Species Priorities List*'. To the best of your knowledge, are you happy that most species selected are those that are of highest importance for Berkshire's nature recovery?

- ☐ Very unhappy
- ☐ Unhappy
- ☐ Neutral
- ☐ Happy
- ☐ Very Happy

17. Do you think there is a species in Berkshire that isn't already on the '*Species Priorities List*' that should be? Please detail it below.

18. If you have added a species that you believe should be on the '*Species Priorities List*' please also add a species specific measure below. Please review the style of the other species-specific measures for guidance.

19. Do you have any further comments on the '*Species Priorities List*'? Please add them below.

Section E: General Engagement with LNRS

20. Which one of the following best describes how you are responding to this survey?

- ☐ A local community group taking nature recovery actions
- ☐ A representative of an NGO
- ☐ A parish, town or district councillor
- ☐ A Berkshire resident
- ☐ A Berkshire student
- ☐ A business operating in Berkshire
- ☐ A local authority or employee
- ☐ A manager or owner of land in Berkshire
- ☐ A farmer using/owning land in Berkshire
- ☐ A tenant farmer using land in Berkshire
- ☐ A farmer or tenant farmer outside of Berkshire
- ☐ A consultant advising on land management
- ☐ A member of the public living outside of Berkshire
- ☐ Another group

21. How have you previously engaged with the Berkshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy? Select all that apply.

- ☐ Not at all – this is the first time I am engaging.
- ☐ Completed a previous survey
- ☐ Attended a workshop
- ☐ Attended a webinar
- ☐ Been a member of a working group

Other (please specify)

22. To what extent are you happy that the priorities, measures and maps will support you to take action for nature recovery?

- ☐ Very unhappy
- ☐ Unhappy
- ☐ Neutral
- ☐ Happy
- ☐ Very Happy

23. Do you have any further comments on the draft of our Berkshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy? Please note, these can be on the Description of Area, Priorities, Measures or Local Habitat Map. Please make clear which section you are referring to in your comments.

Section F: Demographic questions

We are asking these questions because it is useful for us to know who we are hearing from. This information helps us to understand if the feedback we get is representative of the whole community or if there are some gaps. It also helps us to see if there are differences in people's views or experiences based on characteristics like their age or gender.

For more information on data processing please see below:

<https://www.rbwm.gov.uk/home/council-and-democracy/strategies-and-policies/data-protection/privacy-notice-planning-policy-consultations-and-call-sites>

24. What is your gender?

- ☐ Female
- ☐ Male
- ☐ Non-binary
- ☐ Prefer to self describe
- ☐ Prefer not to say

25. How old are you?

- ☐ Under 18
- ☐ 18-24
- ☐ 25-34
- ☐ 35-44
- ☐ 45-54
- ☐ 55-64
- ☐ 65+
- ☐ Prefer not to say

26. What is your ethnic group?

- ☐ Asian or Asian British
- ☐ Black, Black British, Caribbean or African
- ☐ Mixed or Multiple
- ☐ White
- ☐ Other ethnic group
- ☐ Prefer not to say

27. Do you have a long-term physical or mental illness, impairment or disability?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Prefer not to say

Thank you so much for taking part in our **Berkshire LNRS Public Consultation** and helping to recovery nature across the county!

Please post this form back to **Braywick Nature Centre, 1 Hibbert Road, Maidenhead, SL6 1UU** or email it back to **bnc@rbwm.gov.uk**.