



Greater Lincolnshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy

Land Manager Survey Report 2026

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Executive Summary

Lincolnshire County Council, the Responsible Authority for the Greater Lincolnshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS), is working in partnership with North East Lincolnshire Council, North Lincolnshire Council, the Greater Lincolnshire Nature Partnership and Natural England to produce the LNRS for Greater Lincolnshire.

Introduction

Introduced by the Environment Act 2021, LNRSs aim to find local priorities for nature recovery, directing action to places where it will have the most benefit for wildlife and the wider environment. As part of the LNRS's development process, Responsible Authorities are required to engage with a wide range of stakeholders, including the public, farmers and land managers and supporting authorities to help shape the LNRS for their area.

Method

The LNRS requires cross sector engagement in its development, with the statutory guidance encouraging consideration for engagement with communities early in the LNRS development process.

As part of the stakeholder engagement for the Greater Lincolnshire LNRS, a survey targeting farmers and land managers was produced (appendix 1) and responses were collected between August – October 2024. These responses helped to understand what is important to land managers in terms of habitats, species, ecosystem services and nature recovery itself. The responses were used for the purpose of identifying and agreeing the LNRS priorities, contributing to the preference-based approach of prioritisation (Appendix 2).

Results

Over 300 responses were received from across Greater Lincolnshire creating a detailed picture of farmer and land manager priorities for nature recovery. We also collected information regarding barriers to implementing nature recovery on their land.

Habitats

The results indicated that the most important habitats to land managers were:

1. Grasslands
2. Farmland
3. Coastal habitats.

There was also broad support of the importance of 'woodland' and 'fresh water' habitats.

Species

The results indicated that the most important species groups to land managers were:

1. Wildflowers
2. Trees and Shrubs
3. Invertebrates.

'farmland birds' were also a prevalent species group in the survey. Poultry land managers identified 'bats' as a priority species group.

Ecosystem services

The survey found that 'providing pollination' and 'helping with soil condition' were of particular importance to land managers and their businesses. Other benefits frequently identified were 'helping with income', 'pest and disease control' and 'supporting food production'.

How to improve nature in Greater Lincolnshire

Based on the frequency of mentions, respondents identified a number of opportunities and challenges to improve nature in Greater Lincolnshire. The main opportunities identified were to apply the Lawton Principles approach of "More, Bigger, Better and More joined up" to our existing habitats to improve connectivity, to improve habitat quality and to create more habitats.

'Lack of funding support' was the most frequently mentioned barrier preventing nature recovery, identified by land managers across Greater Lincolnshire. With other important barriers being 'competing land use pressures', 'lack of public/political/business support' and 'lack of time'.

Supporting nature

The results indicated a strong interest among respondents to assist in nature recovery. Respondents most frequently mentioned supporting nature recovery on their own land, with many respondents currently part of schemes and plans such as 'Countryside Stewardship' and the 'Sustainable Farming Incentive'. Many respondents were also interested in taking part in 'hedgerow planting', 'tree-planting', 'allowing land to become more natural' and 'creating ponds'.

Conclusion

The results of this survey, in combination with wider stakeholder engagement and local ecological expertise, will help to shape and guide priorities for nature recovery across Greater Lincolnshire. Where ecologically appropriate, nature recovery priorities will be shaped to support the recovery of publicly supported habitats, species and ecosystem services. Addressing pressures and considering local nuance will be essential in recovering and enhancing nature across Greater Lincolnshire.

Greater Lincolnshire LNRS Land Manager Survey Report

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1. Introduction

Introduced by the Environment Act 2021, Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRSs) are a new system of spatial planning working to deliver more coordinated, practical and focused action for nature recovery. The LNRS requires cross-sector engagement in its development, with the statutory guidance encouraging consideration for engagement with communities early in the LNRS development process. This report details the methods and outcomes of a public survey undertaken to understand opinion on the natural environment.

2. Methods

As part of the community engagement process for the Greater Lincolnshire LNRS, a public facing survey was produced (appendix 1) and published on Let's Talk Lincolnshire between August – October 2024. The responses helped us to understand what is important to local land managers in terms of habitats, species, ecosystem services and nature recovery. The responses also helped to identify and agree on the LNRS priorities, contributing to the preference-based approach as outlined in Defra's *Advice for Responsible Authorities: Identifying and agreeing priorities and potential measures within LNRSs* [1].

Many local organisations were contacted to share the survey with their networks, including but not limited to: National Farmers Union, Country Land and Business Association, Lincolnshire Wolds National Landscape, Forestry Commission, Internal Drainage Boards, Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust, Ministry of Defence, Environment Agency, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, Natural England, National Trust and Landscape Recovery Projects.

As part of the community engagement for the Greater Lincolnshire LNRS, a survey targeting farmers and land managers was produced (appendix 1) and responses collected between August – October 2024. The responses helped to understand what is important to land managers in terms of habitats, species, ecosystem services and nature recovery itself. The responses were used for the purpose of identifying and agreeing the LNRS priorities, contributing to the preference-based approach of prioritisation (Appendix 2).

3. Which role best applies to you? (Select all that apply)

To ensure representation of all land managers across the whole of Greater Lincolnshire, land managers from all different employment circumstances were able to complete the survey and provide their input. The majority of responses came from 'land owners' (95) with 54% of the total responses, another large proportion identified as 'land managers' (39) with 22% of the total responses.

The number of responses from each role are displayed below:

Graph 1: Which role best applies to you?

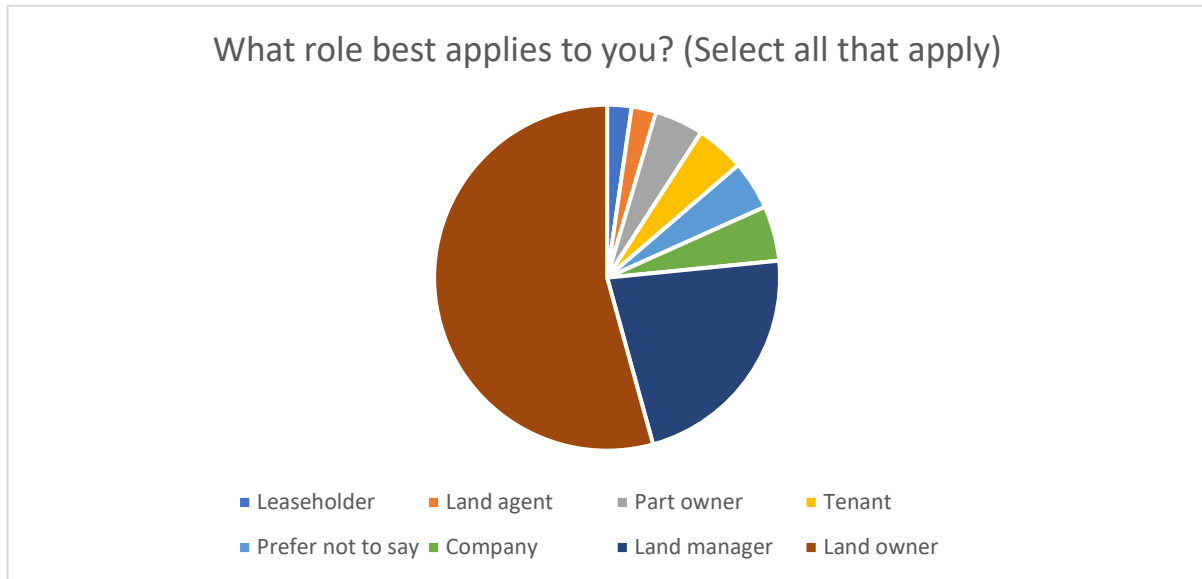


Table 1: Which role best applies to you? (Select all that apply)

Role	Number of Responses
Land owner	95
Land manager	39
Part owner	8
Tenant	8
Leaseholder	4
Company	9
Land agent	4
Prefer not to say	8

4. Distribution of responses across local authorities in Greater Lincolnshire

To ensure representation of land managers from the whole of Greater Lincolnshire, land managers from all local authorities were able to complete the survey and provide their input. Land managers from 'East Lindsey' provided the highest number of responses (52), with around 26% of the total number of responses. 'West Lindsey' (39), 'North Kesteven' (29) and 'South Kesteven' (23) also all provided above average numbers of responses.

The number of responses from each local authority are displayed below

Graph 2: Which local authority is your land within?

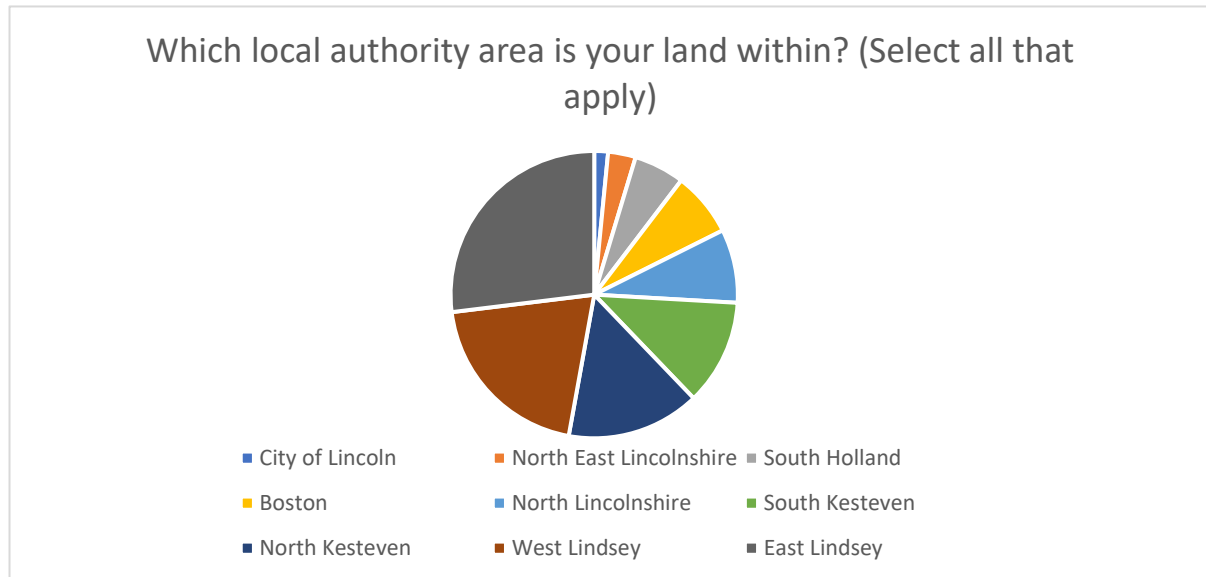


Table 2: Which local authority area is your land within? (Select all that apply)

Local Authority Area	Number of Responses
Boston	14
East Lindsey	52
City of Lincoln	3
North East Lincolnshire	6
North Kesteven	29
North Lincolnshire	16
South Holland	11
South Kesteven	23
West Lindsey	39

5. What is the total area of the land that you own/lease/manage?

Land managers of all scales of land management were invited to complete the survey, ensuring the representation of all land managers across the whole of Greater Lincolnshire. Responses varied significantly with area managed varying from below 5ha to above 100ha completing the survey and providing their input. The majority of responses came from land managers that own/lease/manage 'above 100 hectares' of land (54), with 40% of the total responses. Following this land managers of less than '5 hectares' (31) provided the second highest number of responses, with 23% of the total responses. Land managers of '5-20 hectares' (23) provided the third highest number of responses, with 17% of the total responses. When analysed there was found to be little variation in responses to other questions based on area of land managed, so this was not investigated further.

The number of responses from each area bracket are displayed below

Graph 3: What is the total area of land that you own/lease/manage?

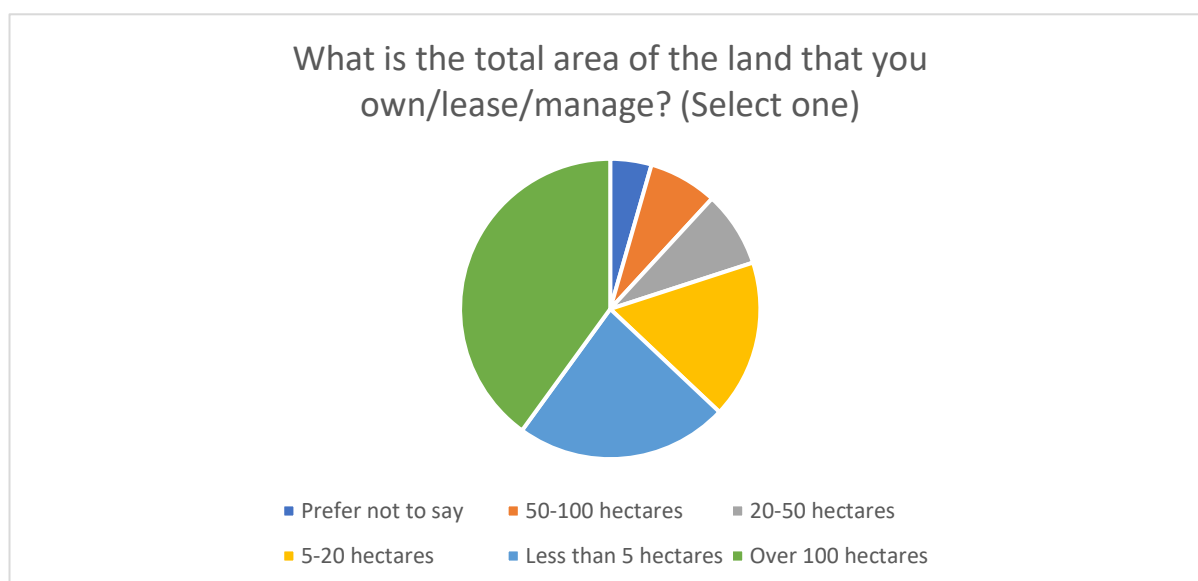


Table 3: What is the total area of the land that you own/lease/manage? (Select one)

Area managed	Number of responses
Less than 5 hectares	31
5-20 hectares	23
20-50 hectares	11
50-100 hectares	10
Over 100 hectares	54
Prefer not to say	6

6. Which of the following best describe your main land uses?

Respondents were asked to select the three main land uses of the land they manage. This was asked to gather consensus on the range of managed lands represented in the responses to this survey and to allow further analysis into different priorities for nature recovery between different types of land managers.

Limiting the number of responses to this question allowed for primary uses to be prioritised. This will later enable experts to understand where nature recovery priorities for certain habitats are publicly supported. It is recognised that all land uses are important and together support a healthy economy which will be considered when formulating nature recovery priorities. There was a spread of responses across Greater Lincolnshire, with 'arable' (50) holding 21% of the total responses, 'livestock' (44) with 18.5% of responses, 'rewilded/nature' (42) with 18% of responses and 'woodland/forest' (41) with 17% of the responses. When analysed there was found to be differences in responses to the survey when compared by primary land use, so this was analysed further.

Graph 4: Which of the following best describe your main land uses?

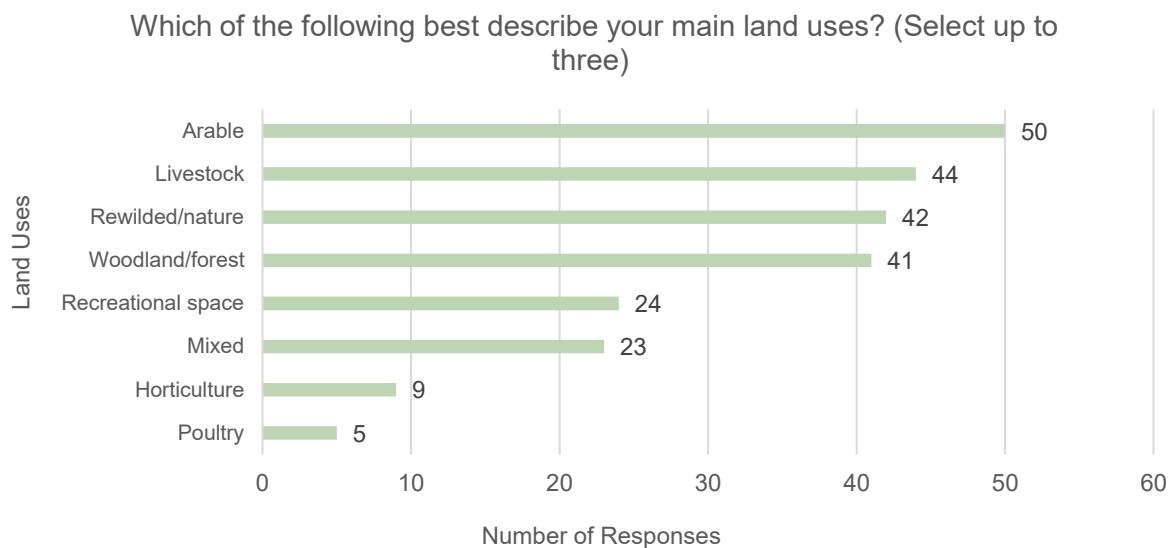


Table 4: Which of the following best describe your main land uses? (Select up to three)

Primary land use	Number of Responses
Arable	50
Horticulture	9
Livestock	44
Poultry	5
Mixed	23
Woodland/forest	41
Rewilded/nature	42
Recreational space	24

7. Which of the following habitats are on your land?

Respondents were asked to select the habitats on the land they manage. This was asked to gather consensus on the range of managed habitats represented in the responses to this survey, and to allow further analysis into different priorities for nature recovery between different types of managed habitats.

This will later enable experts to understand where nature recovery priorities for certain habitats are publicly supported. It is recognised that all habitats are important and together support a healthy ecosystem which will be considered when formulating nature recovery priorities. Across Greater Lincolnshire, the majority of responses were ‘grassland’ (101), ‘farmland’ (94), ‘woodland’ (76) and ‘fresh water’ (69), with the other habitats being far less prevalent.

Graph 5: Which habitats are on your land?

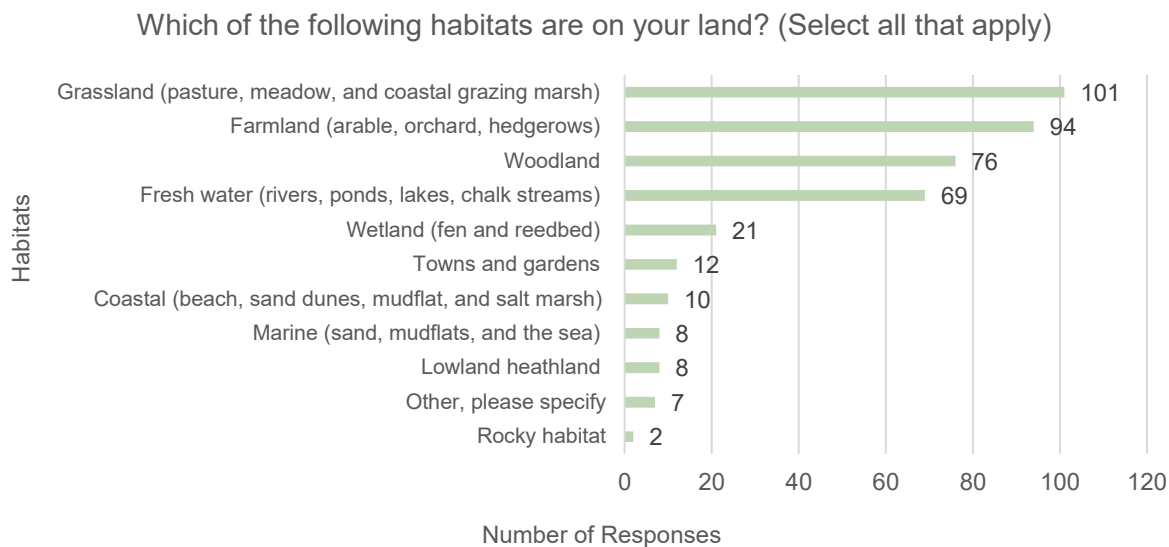


Table 5: Which of the following habitats are on your land? (Select all that apply)

Habitats	Number of Responses
Coastal (beach, sand dunes, mudflat, and salt marsh)	10
Farmland (arable, orchard, hedgerows)	94
Fresh water (rivers, ponds, lakes, chalk streams)	69
Grassland (pasture, meadow, and coastal grazing marsh)	101
Lowland heathland	8
Marine (sand, mudflats, and the sea)	8
Rocky habitat	2
Towns and gardens	12
Wetland (fen and reedbed)	21
Woodland	76
Other, please specify	7

7.a Which habitats are on your land? compared by primary land use

Responses were compared to investigate any relationships between the primary land uses and the habitats on their land. The results were largely consistent, with 'grassland' in the top 25% for all primary land uses. Most land uses also identified 'fresh water', 'woodland' and 'farmland' in their top 25%. The results are displayed in the table below.

Table 6: Top 25% of habitats selected by each primary land use

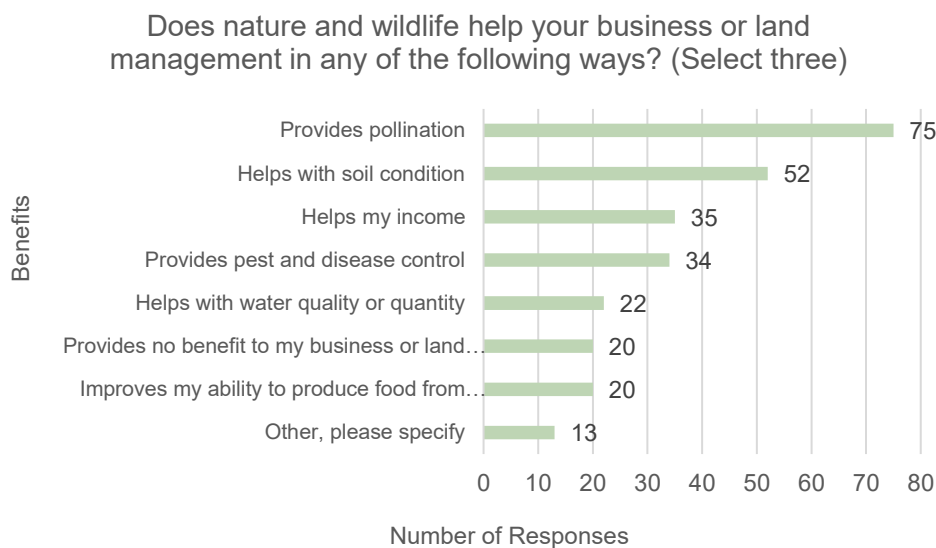
	Rocky habitat	Other, please specify	Lowland heathland	Marine	Coastal	Towns and gardens	Wetland	Fresh water	Woodland	Farmland	Grassland
Poultry								✓	✓	✓	✓
Horticulture								✓		✓	✓
Mixed								✓	✓	✓	✓
Recreational space								✓	✓	✓	✓
Woodland/forest								✓	✓	✓	✓
Rewilded/nature								✓	✓		✓
Livestock									✓	✓	✓
Arable									✓	✓	✓

8. Does nature and wildlife help your business or land management in any of the following ways?

Respondents were asked to select up to three benefits (ecosystem services) that support their business and land management, this allowed for further analysis into land manager priorities for nature recovery to be included in the strategy. The most prevalent benefits were ‘provides pollination’ (75) with 28% of the total responses, ‘helps with soil condition’ (52) with 19% of the responses, and ‘helps my income’ (35) with 13% of the responses.

The results of the survey will, where appropriate, assist in shaping nature recovery priorities that deliver ecosystem services, ensuring these priorities are directed to areas that are ecologically appropriate and have the most benefit to biodiversity and the wider environment.

Graph 6: Does nature and wildlife help your business or land management in any of the following ways?



9. What are you currently doing to help nature?

Many land managers across Greater Lincolnshire are already carrying out actions to support nature recovery and increase biodiversity. When we asked how respondents are currently supporting nature recovery in Greater Lincolnshire,

The most common responses were ‘tree-planting (other than by watercourses)’ (77) with 16% of total responses, ‘allowing the land to become more ‘natural’’ (68) and ‘hedgerow planting’ (67) both with 14% of the total responses.

The responses show widespread interest in supporting nature recovery on their land, and that many land managers are already supporting nature recovery, with other responses such as ‘nutrient management’ (54), ‘conservation grazing’ (50) and ‘arable margins’ (48) all being commonly selected, with around 10% of the total responses each.

Graph 7: What are you currently doing to help nature?

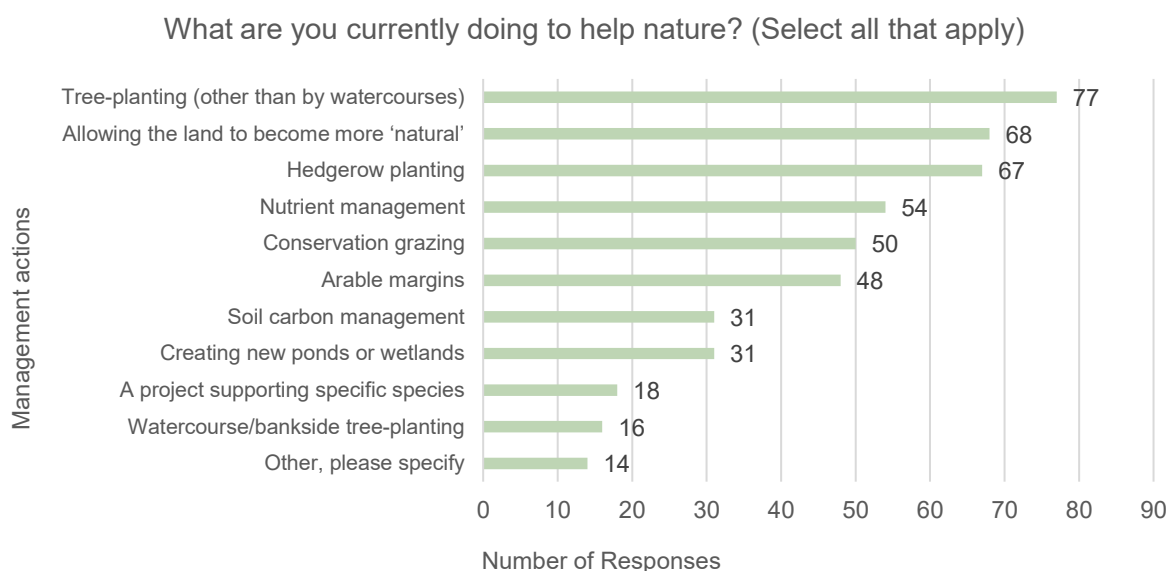


Table 9: What are you currently doing to help nature? (Select all that apply)

Management actions	Number of Responses
Hedgerow planting	67
Arable margins	48
Nutrient management	54
Conservation grazing	50
Watercourse/bankside tree-planting	16
Tree-planting (other than by watercourses)	77
Creating new ponds or wetlands	31
Soil carbon management	31
Allowing the land to become more 'natural'	68
A project supporting specific species	18
Other, please specify	14

9.a What are you currently doing to help nature? compared by primary land use

Responses were compared to investigate any relationships between the primary land uses and actions to help nature. The results were largely consistent, with the majority of land uses containing ‘tree-planting (other than by watercourses)’, ‘watercourse/bankside tree-planting’ and ‘other, please specify’, being in the top 25% of answers. Other responses appear sporadically in the top 25% of responses for different land uses. The results are displayed in the table below.

Table 10: Top 25% of actions selected by each primary land use

	Other, please specify	Watercourse /bankside tree-planting	A project supporting specific species	Creating new ponds or wetlands	Soil carbon management	Arable margins	Conservation grazing	Nutrient management	Hedgerow planting	Allowing the land to become more 'natural'	Tree-planting (other than by watercourses)
Poultry		✓				✓			✓		✓
Horticulture	✓	✓						✓		✓	✓
Mixed	✓	✓							✓		✓
Recreational space	✓	✓								✓	✓
Woodland/ forest	✓	✓									✓
Rewilded/ nature	✓	✓								✓	✓
Livestock	✓	✓					✓		✓		✓
Arable	✓					✓		✓			

10. What are you interested in doing to help nature?

We asked respondents what they are interested in doing to improve nature in Greater Lincolnshire. The responses resulted in a division of the top 10 opportunities for management actions (Graph 8) to recover nature identified by respondents across Greater Lincolnshire.

As seen in Graph 8, the results showed that many land managers were interested in implementing ‘hedgerow planting’ and ‘tree-planting (other than by watercourses)’. Other opportunities received fewer responses but still showed widespread interest in implementing many of the management actions.

Uptake of these management actions can help to deliver some of the other opportunities and pressures identified by respondents in Greater Lincolnshire. For example, implementing watercourse/bankside tree-planting can reduce flood risk, and support flood mitigation. With this being said, there are still local barriers to the uptake of management actions, and locally tailored advice and guidance will be required to support land managers transitioning into implementing these options. The LNRS will be able to assist in directing some of these management action options to the most appropriate places where their implementation will have the most benefit for biodiversity and the wider environment.

The opportunities identified in the land managers survey will contribute to, along with evidence and expert knowledge, developing and agreeing priorities for nature's recovery. Where ecologically appropriate and feasible, opportunities should be taken to recover nature where it will have the largest benefit for biodiversity and the wider environment e.g. flood prevention and mitigation. LNRS priorities should also be shaped to address the

pressures impacting the area. Cross-sector collaboration will be a key aspect to delivering for nature in a way that can also empower communities and support local businesses.

Graph 8: What are you interested in doing to help nature?

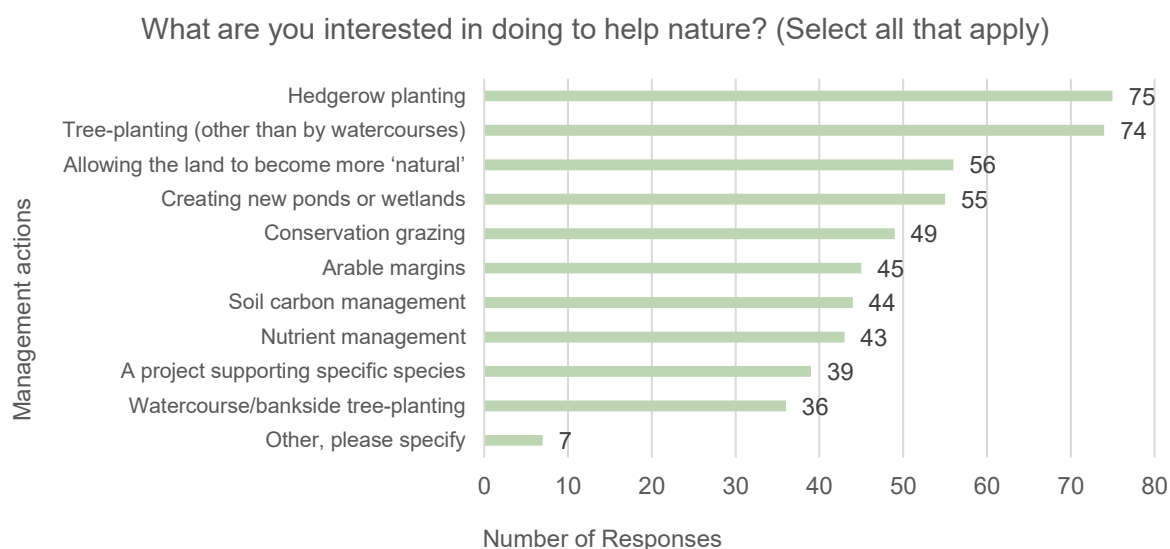


Table 11: What are you interested in doing to help nature? (Select all that apply)

Management actions	Number of Responses
Hedgerow planting	75
Arable margins	45
Nutrient management	43
Conservation grazing	49
Watercourse/bankside tree-planting	36
Tree-planting (other than by watercourses)	74
Creating new ponds or wetlands	55
Soil carbon management	44
Allowing the land to become more 'natural'	56
A project supporting specific species	39
Other, please specify	7

10.a What are you interested in doing to help nature? compared by primary land use

Responses were compared to investigate any relationships between the primary land uses and the actions to help nature that respondents were interested in. The results were largely consistent, with all land uses including 'tree-planting (other than by watercourses)', 'watercourse/bankside tree-planting' and 'other, please specify', within the top 25% of answers. Poultry, mixed, livestock and arable land use all included hedgerow planting in the top 25%. Other management actions received some support, with 'arable margins' in the top 25% of answers for poultry and arable land uses, 'Allowing the land to become more 'natural'' in rewilded/nature and nutrient management in the top 25% for Horticulture. The results are displayed in the table below.

Table 12: Top 25% of actions selected by each primary land use

	Other, please specify	Watercourse/bankside tree-planting	A project supporting specific species	Nutrient management	Soil carbon management	Arable margins	Conservation grazing	Creating new ponds or wetlands	Allowing the land to become more 'natural'	Tree-planting (other than by watercourses)	Hedgerow planting
Poultry	✓	✓				✓				✓	✓
Horticulture	✓	✓		✓						✓	
Mixed	✓	✓								✓	✓
Recreational space	✓	✓								✓	
Woodland/forest	✓	✓								✓	
Rewilded/nature	✓	✓						✓		✓	
Livestock	✓	✓								✓	✓
Arable	✓	✓				✓				✓	✓

11. Which habitats in Lincolnshire do you think are the most important for wildlife?

Respondents were asked to select the three habitats most important to wildlife for them. This was asked to gather consensus on public interests that can, along with evidence and expert opinion, help guide decision making on habitat priorities. Limiting the number of responses to this question allowed for habitats to be prioritised. This will later enable experts to understand where nature recovery priorities for certain habitats are publicly supported. It is recognised that all habitats are important and together form a healthy ecosystem, which will be considered when formulating nature recovery priorities. Across Greater Lincolnshire, 'grassland' (76), 'farmland' (69) and 'coastal' habitats (71) were the most prevalent answers, with 'woodland' (69) and 'freshwater' (65) also receiving widespread support.

Along with ecological evidence and expertise, the results from this survey will allow for more specific and locally supported priorities to be identified and agreed for the Greater Lincolnshire LNRS.

Graph 9: Which habitats in Greater Lincolnshire are the most important for wildlife?

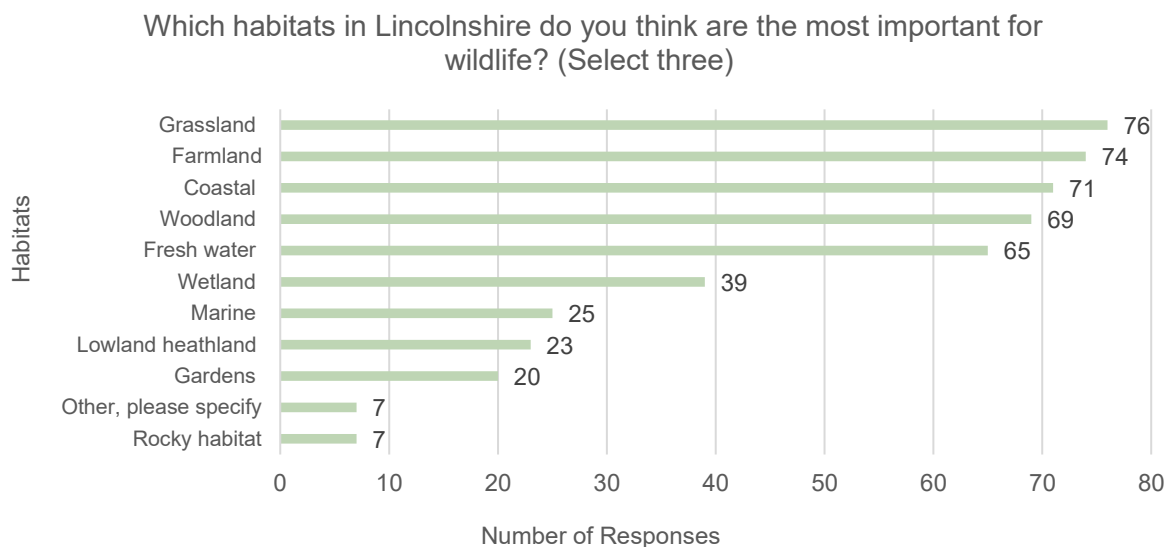


Table 13: Which habitats in Lincolnshire do you think are the most important for wildlife?
(Select three)

Habitats	Number of Responses
Coastal (beach, sand dunes, mudflat and salt marsh)	71
Farmland (arable, orchard, hedgerows)	74
Fresh water (rivers, ponds, lakes, chalk streams)	65
Grassland (pasture, meadow and coastal grazing marsh)	76
Lowland heathland	23
Marine (sand, mudflats and the sea)	25
Rocky habitat	7
Gardens	20
Wetland (fen and reedbed)	39
Woodland	69
Other, please specify	7

11.a Which habitats in Lincolnshire do you think are the most important for wildlife? compared by primary land use

When breaking down the top 25% of responses by primary land use, ‘farmland’ and ‘coastal’ habitats were strongly identified as being most important to land managers across Greater Lincolnshire. ‘grassland’ also featured prominently across the majority of land use types, except horticulture, woodland/forest and livestock land uses. ‘woodland’ was identified by land managers of woodland/forests and rewilded/nature. ‘Fresh water’ was identified by land managers of poultry, horticulture and livestock.

Table 14: Top 25% of habitats selected by each primary land use

	Rocky habitat	Other, please specify	Gardens	Lowland heathland	Marine	Wetland	Fresh water	Woodland	Coastal	Farmland	Grassland
Poultry							✓		✓	✓	✓
Horticulture							✓		✓	✓	
Mixed									✓	✓	✓
Recreational space									✓	✓	✓
Woodland/forest								✓	✓	✓	
Rewilded/nature								✓	✓	✓	✓
Livestock							✓		✓	✓	
Arable									✓	✓	✓

12. Which groupings of species do you consider to be the most important?

Respondents were asked to select three species groups they believe are the most important. As seen in Graph 10, the most prevalent responses were ‘wildflowers’ (74), ‘trees’ and ‘shrubs’ (72), ‘invertebrates/bugs’ (70) and ‘farmland birds’ (68). Although respondents were asked to select three species groups, it is important to recognise that all

species are important and play a vital role in maintaining a healthy ecosystem. The results of the survey will be able to help assist in guiding species related priorities, ensuring the species groups identified will be represented in the LNRS where practically and ecologically appropriate.

Graph 10: Which groupings of species do you consider the most important?

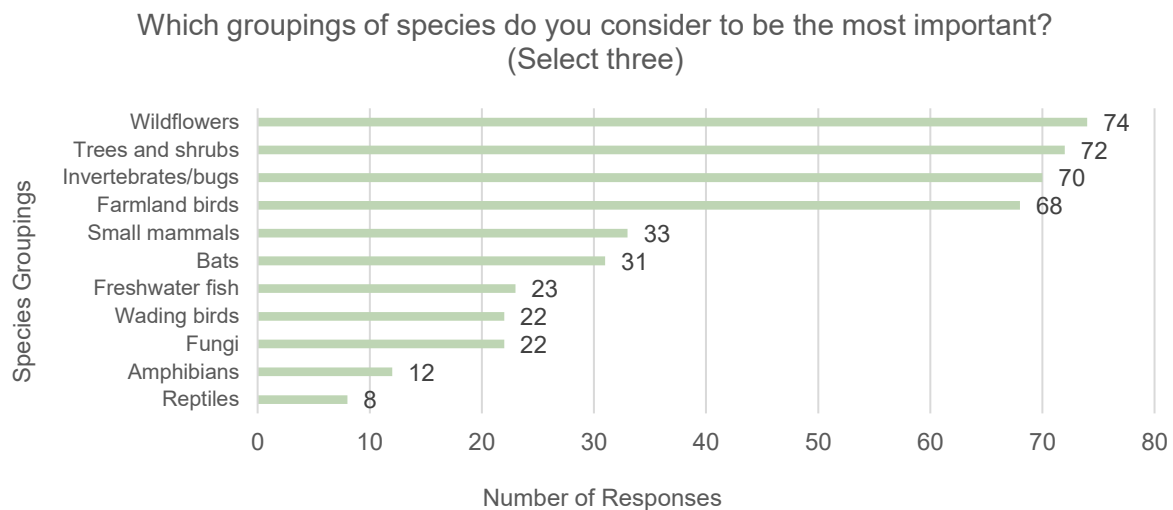


Table 15: Which groupings of species do you consider to be the most important? (Select three)

Species Grouping	Number of Responses
Wildflowers	74
Trees and shrubs	72
Fungi	22
Freshwater fish	23
Invertebrates/bugs	70
Amphibians	12
Reptiles	8
Farmland birds	68
Wading birds	22
Bats	31
Small mammals	33

12.a Which groupings of species do you consider to be the most important? compared by primary land use

When looking at the breakdown of the top 25% of responses by primary land use, ‘wildflowers’ were in the top 25% of all land uses, ‘trees and shrubs’ and ‘invertebrates/bugs’ were in the majority of land uses. ‘farmland birds’ featured prevalently

in responses from horticulture, rewilded/nature, livestock and arable. Poultry identified ‘bats’ as a key species group, and it was in the top 25% of its responses.

Although this LNRS should consider the impacts of on land actions on the marine environment, the remit of the LNRS only drives priorities for habitats and species up to the mean-low tide range, therefore any species priorities for the marine environment will not necessarily be highlighted in this LNRS.

Table 16: Top 25% of species groups selected by each primary land use

	Reptiles	Amphibians	Fungi	Wading birds	Freshwater fish	Bats	Small mammals	Farmland birds	Invertebrates /bugs	Trees and shrubs	Wildflowers
Poultry						✓			✓	✓	✓
Horticulture								✓	✓		✓
Mixed									✓	✓	✓
Recreational space									✓	✓	✓
Woodland/ forest									✓	✓	✓
Rewilded/ nature								✓	✓	✓	✓
Livestock								✓		✓	✓
Arable								✓	✓		✓

13. Which of the following actions do you think would most benefit nature?

We asked respondents what they believe would most benefit nature in Greater Lincolnshire. The responses are presented in Graph 11.

As seen in Graph 11, ‘improving the connectivity between habitats (eg. By hedges and grass margins)’ was the most prevalent response (87). This practice supports the Lawton Principles and would enhance the overall resilience of ecosystems across Greater Lincolnshire.

‘Making existing habitats better in their quality/condition’ was the second most prevalent response (80). Protecting and enhancing existing habitats is a key part of the LNRS and will greatly support local biodiversity.

The opportunities identified in the land managers survey will contribute to, along with evidence and expert knowledge, developing and agreeing priorities for nature's recovery. Where ecologically appropriate and feasible, opportunities should be taken to recover nature where it will have the largest benefit for biodiversity and the wider environment e.g. flood prevention and mitigation. LNRS priorities should also be shaped to address the pressures impacting the region. Cross-sector collaboration will be a key aspect to delivering for nature in a way that can also empower communities and support local businesses.

Graph 11: Which of the following actions do you think would most benefit nature?

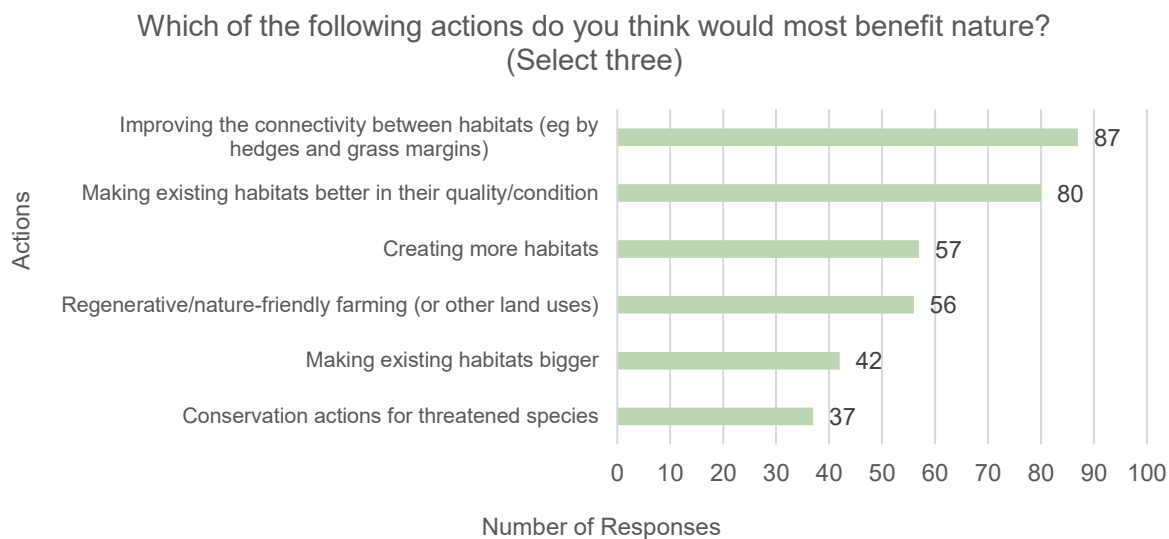


Table 17: Which of the following actions do you think would most benefit nature? (Select three)

Actions	Number of Responses
Making existing habitats bigger	42
Making existing habitats better in their quality/condition	80
Creating more habitats	57
Improving the connectivity between habitats (e.g. by hedges and grass margins)	87
Regenerative/nature-friendly farming (or other land uses)	56
Conservation actions for threatened species	37

13.a Which of the following actions do you think would most benefit nature? compared by primary land use

Table 18: Top 25% of actions selected by each primary land use

	Conservation actions for threatened species	Making existing habitats bigger	Regenerative/nature-friendly farming (or other land uses)	Creating more habitats	Making existing habitats better in their quality/condition	Improving the connectivity between habitats (eg by hedges and grass margins)
Poultry	✓			✓		✓
Horticulture					✓	✓
Mixed			✓		✓	✓
Recreational space					✓	✓
Woodland/forest					✓	✓
Rewilded/nature					✓	✓
Livestock					✓	✓
Arable					✓	✓

When looking at the breakdown of the top 25% of responses by primary land use, ‘improving the connectivity between habitats (e.g. by hedges and grass margins)’ was in the top 25% of all land uses. ‘Making existing habitats better in their quality/condition’ was in the majority of land uses top 25%, except poultry where it was less prevalent. Poultry land use also identified ‘conservation actions for threatened species’ and ‘creating more habitat as key priorities’, and they featured prominently across Poultry land managers’ responses. ‘Regenerative/nature-friendly farming’ (or other land uses) was identified as a key priority for mixed land use.

The opportunities identified in the land managers survey will contribute to, along with evidence and expert knowledge, developing and agreeing priorities for nature's recovery. Where ecologically appropriate, opportunities should be taken to recover nature wherever it is feasible and have the most benefit for biodiversity and the wider environment e.g. flood prevention and mitigation. LNRS priorities should also be shaped to address the pressures impacting the area. Cross-sector collaboration will be a key aspect to delivering for nature in a way that can also empower communities and support local businesses.

14. What are the main barriers that prevent you from doing more to help enhance nature on your land?

We asked respondents what the main barriers preventing them from doing more to enhance nature on their land were. The responses are represented in Graph 12.

The main barriers identified by land managers across Greater Lincolnshire were ‘lack of funding support’ (89), followed by ‘competing land use/business pressures’ (75). Other barriers that were commonly recognised were ‘lack of public/political/business support (49) and lack of time (46)’.

The barriers identified in the land managers survey will contribute to, along with evidence and expert knowledge, developing and agreeing priorities for nature's recovery. Where ecologically appropriate, opportunities should be taken to recover nature wherever it is feasible and have the most benefit for biodiversity and the wider environment e.g. flood prevention and mitigation. LNRS priorities should also be shaped to address the pressures impacting the area. Cross sector collaboration will be a key aspect to delivering for nature in a way that can also empower communities and support local businesses.

Graph 12: What are the main barriers that prevent you from doing more to enhance nature on your land?

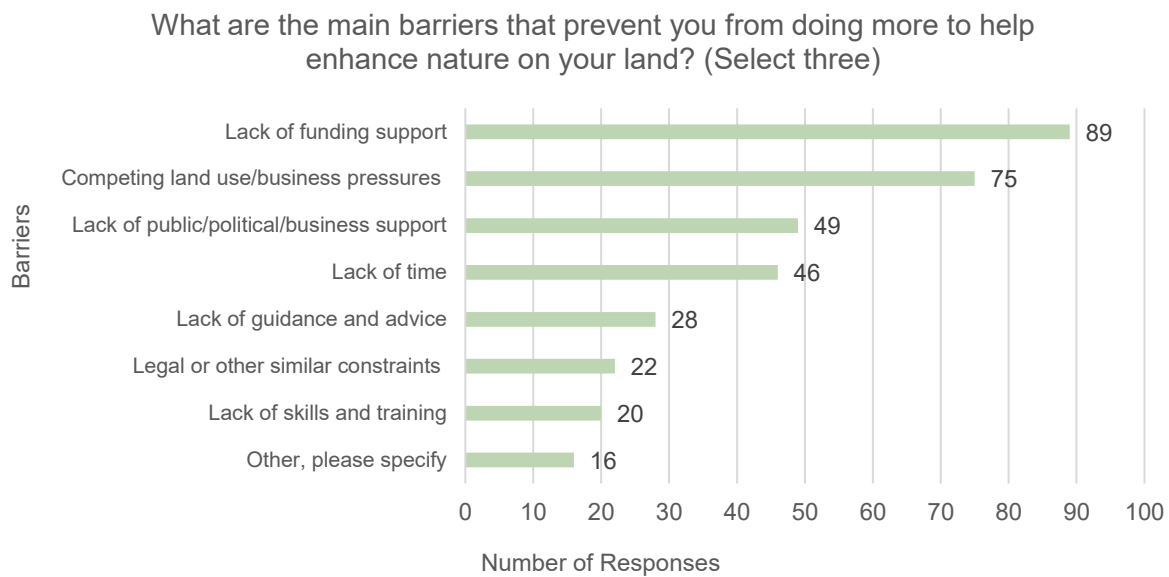


Table 19: What are the main barriers that prevent you from doing more to help enhance nature on your land? (Select three)

Barriers	Number of Responses
Competing land use/business pressures	75
Lack of public/political/business support	49
Legal or other similar constraints	22
Lack of funding support	89
Lack of guidance and advice	28
Lack of skills and training	20
Lack of time	46
Other, please specify	16

14.a What are the main barriers that prevent you from doing more to help enhance nature on your land? compared by primary land use

Responses were compared to investigate any relationships between the primary land uses and the barriers preventing nature enhancement. The results were largely consistent, with

all land uses containing ‘lack of funding support’, and the majority containing ‘competing land use/business pressures’ in the top 25% of answers. Recreational space also contained ‘lack of time’ and ‘lack of public/political/business’ support in the top 25% of answers. For rewilded/nature land managers, lack of time also ranked in the top 25%. The results are displayed in the table below.

Table 20: Top 25% of barriers selected by each primary land use

	Other, please specify	Lack of skills and training	Legal or other similar constraints	Lack of guidance and advice	Lack of time	Lack of public/political/business support	Competing land use/business pressures	Lack of funding support
Poultry							✓	✓
Horticulture							✓	✓
Mixed							✓	✓
Recreational space					✓	✓		✓
Woodland/forest							✓	✓
Rewilded/nature					✓			✓
Livestock							✓	✓
Arable							✓	✓

15. Are you taking part in any of the following schemes or projects?

Many land managers across Greater Lincolnshire are already taking part in schemes or projects to support nature's recovery and increase biodiversity. When asked which schemes and projects they take part in many land managers reported taking part in ‘Countryside Stewardship’ (53) and the ‘Sustainable Farming Incentive’ (47). The Schemes listed include many activities that attract and support wildlife, including but not limited to supplementary feeding of wildlife, planting for pollinators, building hedgehog highways, creating ponds and limiting use of chemicals.

The responses show there is widespread land manager interest in supporting nature recovery on their own land, and that schemes can encourage widespread action.

Graph 13: Are you taking part in any of the following schemes or projects?

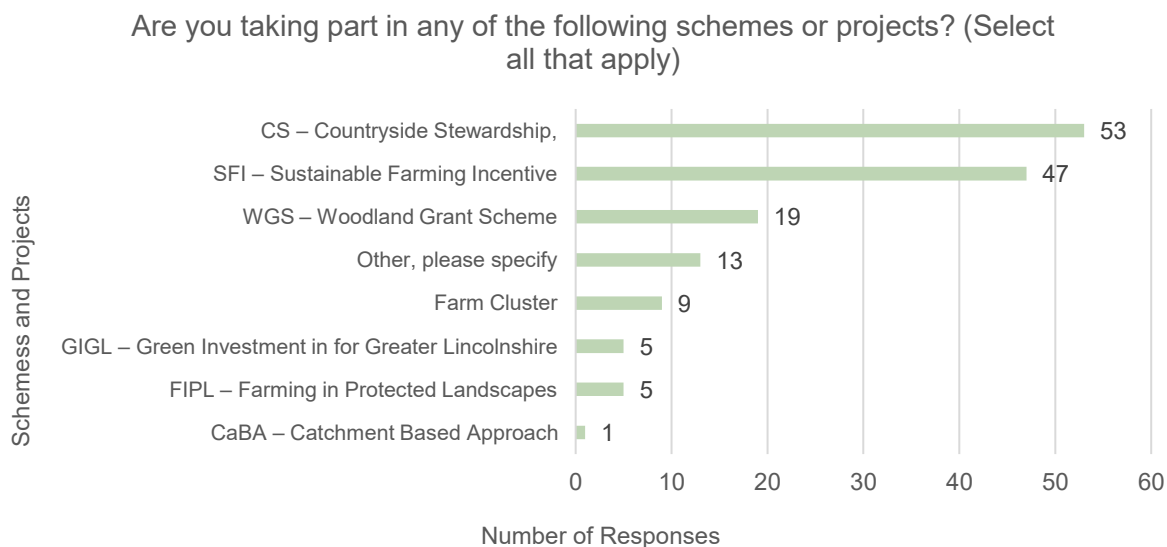


Table 21: Are you taking part in any of the following schemes or projects? (Select all that apply)

Schemes and Projects	Number of Responses
SFI – Sustainable Farming Incentive	47
CS – Countryside Stewardship,	53
FIPL – Farming in Protected Landscapes	5
WGS – Woodland Grant Scheme	19
GIGL – Green Investment in for Greater Lincolnshire	5
CaBA – Catchment Based Approach	1
Farm Cluster	9
Other, please specify	13

15.a Are you taking part in any of the following schemes or projects? compared by primary land use

Responses were compared to investigate any relationships between the primary land uses and the schemes or projects that respondents were taking part in. The results were largely consistent, with all land uses containing ‘Countryside Stewardship’, and the majority containing the ‘Sustainable Farming Incentive’ in the top 25% of answers. Recreational space and rewilded/nature both identified ‘other, please specify’ within the top 25%. The results are displayed in the table below.

Table 22: Top 25% of schemes or projects selected by each primary land use

	CaBA – Catchment Based Approach	FIPL – Farming in Protected Landscapes	GIGL – Green Investment in for Greater Lincolnshire	Farm Cluster	Other, please specify	WGS – Woodland Grant Scheme	SFI – Sustainable Farming Incentive	CS – Countryside Stewardship,
Poultry							✓	✓
Horticulture							✓	✓
Mixed							✓	✓
Recreational space					✓			✓
Woodland/ forest							✓	✓
Rewilded/ nature					✓			✓
Livestock							✓	✓
Arable							✓	✓

16. Conclusion

The results from the survey have indicated that nature strongly supports local businesses and land management, with respondents expressing that ‘providing pollination’, ‘helping with soil condition’ and ‘helping their income’ are the key benefits that nature provides to support their businesses.

Respondents indicated that their main priorities for nature recovery are to improve the connectivity between existing habitats, to improve the condition of existing habitats, to create more habitats, and to implement regenerative/nature friendly farming. These priorities all support the Lawton Principles (More, Bigger, Better and more joined up’) which have heavily influenced the development of priorities for the LNRS.

The respondents indicated that they are keen to support nature recovery, with many already undertaking ‘tree-planting’, ‘allowing the land to become more natural’, ‘hedgerow planting’ and ‘nutrient management’, as well as being part of schemes such as ‘Countryside Stewardship’ and the ‘Sustainable Farming Initiative.’

The respondents were also interested in undertaking new actions to support nature recovery, with many indicating their interest in ‘hedgerow’ and ‘tree-planting’, allowing the land to become natural and pond creation. Where possible, the LNRS should look to encourage and support local land managers and communities in creating more locally co-ordinated approaches to nature recovery, such as supporting these actions.

The results also provided information on the barriers preventing nature recovery, with ‘lack of funding support’, and ‘competing land use pressures’ featuring prevalently among the responses. The results from the public survey further highlighted the need to reduce these barriers preventing further nature recovery.

The respondents indicated that the most important habitats for nature are ‘grassland’, ‘farmland’, ‘coastal’, ‘woodland’ and ‘fresh water’. These habitats are all incredibly important for the ecosystem services they provide and the importance of access to nature

for public health and recreation. Where ecologically appropriate, opportunities should be taken to recover these habitats wherever it is feasible and to have the most benefit for biodiversity and the wider environment e.g. flood prevention and mitigation.

Where ecologically appropriate, nature recovery priorities should be shaped to support the recovery of supported species groups, including native wildflowers, trees and shrubs, invertebrates and birds. It will be important to consider which individual species from these groups may need specific conservation actions outside of general habitat improvement, as well as species which may likely be lost as a result of climate change.

When creating a LNRS, it is important to understand what efforts will be publicly supported, not only to create local ownership, but also support delivery of the LNRS's priorities. The results of this survey, in combination with wider stakeholder engagement and local ecological expertise, will help to shape and guide priorities for nature recovery in Greater Lincolnshire.

17. Appendices

Appendix 1 - Greater Lincolnshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy Land Managers Survey questions

1. Breakdown of responders

What role best applies to you?

Which local authority area is your land within?

What is the total area of the land that you own/lease/manage?

Which of the following best describe your main land uses?

Are you taking part in any of the following schemes or projects?

Please tell us more about any schemes or projects you are taking part in

2. Range of habitats on managed land

Which of the following habitats are on your land?

Please tell us more on the habitats on your land

3. Value of wildlife on managed land

Does nature and wildlife help your business or land management in any of the following ways

Please tell us more on how nature and wildlife help your business or land management

4. How Farmers and land managers are currently helping and can help nature.

What are you currently doing to help nature?

Please tell us more on what you are doing to help nature.

Which of the following actions do you think would most benefit nature?

What are you interested in doing to help nature?

Please tell us more about what you are interested in doing to help nature.

What are the main barriers that prevent you from doing more to help enhance nature on your land?

Please tell us more about the barriers that prevent you from doing more to help

5. Important habitats

Which habitats in Lincolnshire do you think are the most important for wildlife?

Please tell us more about which habitats you think are most important

6. Important species

Which groupings of species do you consider to be the most important?

Are there any specific species that you think are especially important?

7. Additional comments

Are there any other comments that you would like to make about helping nature to recover in Greater Lincolnshire?