



Lincolnshire County Council

Greater Lincolnshire Draft Local Nature Recovery Strategy

Consultation Report

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1 Introduction

1.1 About this Document

- 1.1.1. This document has been prepared to summarise the process and results of Lincolnshire County Council's recent consultation on its Draft Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) for Greater Lincolnshire.
- 1.1.2. It documents the consultation process, presents the results of the feedback received, and provides the Council's responses to the main themes that emerged.

1.2 Background

- 1.2.1. A Local Nature Recovery Strategy, or LNRS, is a legal requirement introduced by the Environment Act 2021 designed to guide action for nature recovery. The strategies will help to achieve the targets set out in the government's Environmental Improvement Plan, and are described by DEFRA as:

“A new system of spatial strategies for nature which will plan, map, and help drive more co-ordinated, practical, focussed action and investment in nature’s recovery to build the national Nature Recovery Network.”

- 1.2.2. They will be delivered by a number of ‘responsible authorities’ across England, as identified by the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.
- 1.2.3. As the responsible authority for the Greater Lincolnshire LNRS, Lincolnshire County Council is working in close partnership with the supporting authorities of North Lincolnshire Council, North East Lincolnshire Council and the Greater Lincolnshire Nature Partnership. This is the LNRS Management Board. Support and guidance has also been provided by Natural England.
- 1.2.4. Responsible authorities are legally obliged to consult on their draft strategies before final publication. The recent consultation marks Lincolnshire County Council fulfilling its statutory obligation to consult on the Draft LNRS for Greater Lincolnshire.
Timeline of engagement period and key milestones
 - Visit the gov.uk website which has lots of [useful resources](#) to help you understand accessibility better.
 - Reach out to your administration team for support, they can help you ensure your document is accessible.

1.3 Timeline of Engagement Period and Key Milestones

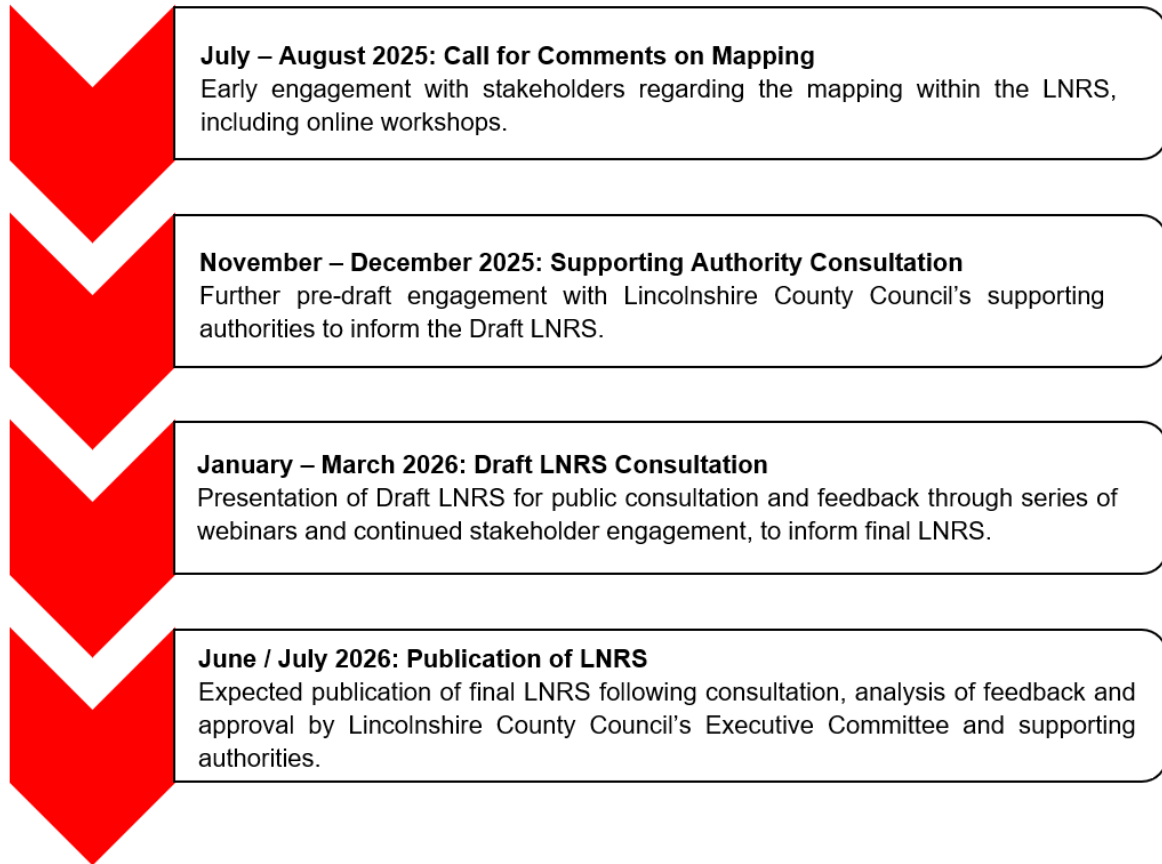
- 1.3.1. Lincolnshire County Council has consulted on the Draft LNRS for Greater Lincolnshire. This consultation has been an iterative process, with the draft document itself prepared after the Council consulted with its supporting authorities.

1.3.2. This Draft LNRS was subsequently issued to the general public and stakeholders for further consultation, which will inform the final document that is published following review and approval by the Council's Executive Committee and supporting authorities.

1.3.3. The Draft LNRS issued for consultation contains:

- An introduction to nature recovery, the concept of an LNRS, and what the Greater Lincolnshire LNRS aims to achieve;
- Information on the LNRS development process;
- A summary of the natural environment across Greater Lincolnshire, including the benefits it brings, the challenges it faces and the opportunities presented for nature recovery;
- A description of the geographical area which the Greater Lincolnshire LNRS covers, including its demographics, economy, and natural habitats;
- Tables summarising the proposed Habitat Priorities and Biodiversity Actions for these Habitat Priorities within the Draft LNRS, which were the backbone of the recent consultation process (also included are proposals for the designation of priority species within the LNRS).
- Also part of the consultation process was interactive online mapping, which allowed users to visualise the locations of the various habitats across Greater Lincolnshire and understand their importance to biodiversity (as well as see areas which could be of importance to biodiversity).

Figure 1-1 - LNRS –Timeline of Engagement Period



2 Consultation Approach

2.1 Consultation Period

2.1.1. The consultation on the Draft LNRS ran for six weeks, between Monday 26 January and Sunday 8 March 2026.

2.2 Consultation Materials and Promotional Channels

2.2.1. A range of materials and resources were produced for the consultation to help respondents understand the proposals and submit informed comments. These materials and resources were promoted via several communications channels to raise awareness and encourage participation.

2.2.2. These included:

- A dedicated consultation webpage ([Local Nature Recovery Strategy Consultation | Let's Talk Lincolnshire](#)), which included all project background information, and a link to the online consultation survey to provide feedback;
- A dedicated project email address to provide feedback;
- A series of four consultation webinars open to the general public and stakeholders, which were held across the month of February 2026 to make them as accessible as possible to a range of people (the first was recorded to allow the presentation to be watched back and the Q&A sessions from all were transcribed for the consultation webpage). These webinars took place as follows:
 - Thursday 5 February, 1pm – 2:30pm
 - Wednesday 11 February, 6pm – 7:30pm
 - Thursday 12 February, 2pm – 3:30pm
 - Wednesday 25 February, 6pm – 7:30pm
- Content posted on Lincolnshire County Council's social media platforms, including Facebook, Twitter, and Nextdoor (Table 2.1 and Figure 2.1);
- Newsletters circulated to Lincolnshire County Council's mailing list via email (over 200 stakeholders);
- Direct notification of all elected representatives on Lincolnshire County Council;

- Press releases issued to local media outlets (within coverage in *Lincolnshire World*);
- Consultation materials were also available in hard copy formats upon request for those unable to access them online.

Table 1-1 - LNRS Social Media Engagement

Social Media Platform	Impressions (Across all LNRS Posts)
Facebook (Paid)	435,480
Facebook (Organic)	36,086
Twitter / X (Organic)	1,525
Nextdoor (Organic)	38,469

Figure 2-1 – Example LNRS Social Media Post (Facebook)

Lincolnshire County Council's post ✕

Lincolnshire County Council

29 January · 🌐

⋮

Reminder! The Local Nature Recovery Strategy consultation is open.

This is your chance to have your say on what works well and what could improve in our local nature recovery plans.

Take the survey here: www.letstalk.lincolnshire.gov.uk/gllnrs-consultation

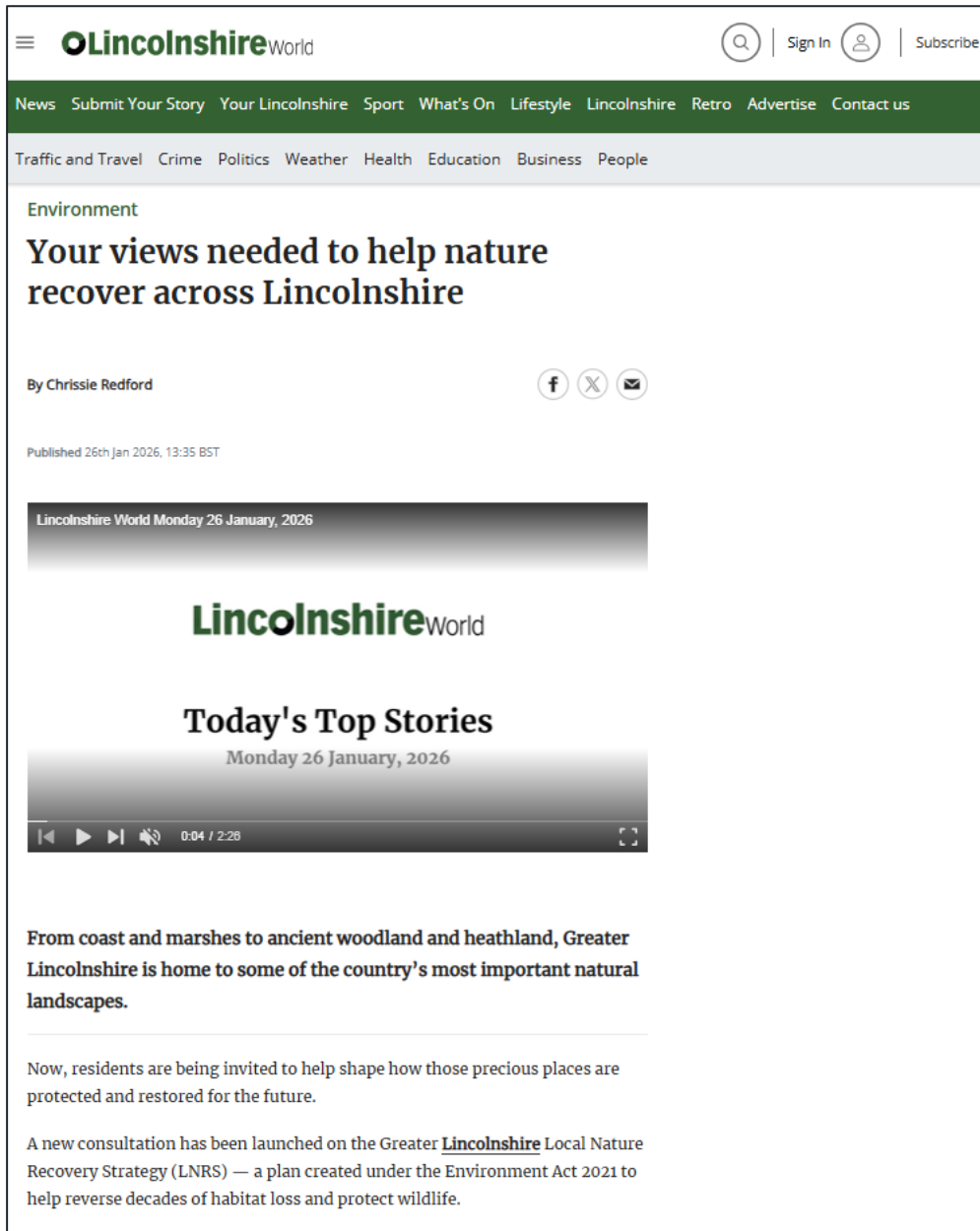
💡 Join one of our webinars to learn more:

- 05 Feb 13:00 – 14:30
- 11 Feb 18:00 – 19:30
- 12 Feb 14:00 – 15:30
- 12 Feb 18:00 – 19:30

About the LNRS: The LNRS guides action for nature recovery in Greater Lincolnshire, identifying areas for habitat restoration without changing legal protection levels for sites.

[#LNRSConsultation](#) [#NatureMatters](#) [#NatureRecovery](#) [#GreaterLincolnshire](#) [#HaveYourSay](#)
[#WildlifeFriendly](#) [#HabitatRestoration](#) [#JoinTheConversation](#)

Figure 3-2 – Press Coverage in *Lincolnshire World*



2.3 Response Analysis Methodology

- 2.3.1. The consultation survey for the Draft LNRS contained a mixture of sentiment-based closed questions and freeform open questions. Open questions often followed closed questions, allowing respondents to expand on their answers to the former.
- 2.3.2. After the deadline for submitting consultation responses had passed, all of the raw survey response data was compiled and analysed.
- 2.3.3. Closed question responses have been analysed and illustrated quantitatively using the charts shown in Section 3. Percentages on the charts presented below have been rounded to the nearest whole number, and as such may not always be equal to exactly 100%.
- 2.3.4. Open question responses have been reviewed and ‘coded’, meaning thematically analysed to identify common themes and enable the categorisation of comments into a series of ‘codes’. The codes were then analysed quantitatively to identify the most frequently recurring areas of comment. This has allowed a composite picture of the feedback received – both for each open survey question (Section 3.2) and for the overall body of survey responses as a whole (Section 4) – to be created in both quantitative and qualitative terms, providing insight both into what the most prominent themes arising were and also what respondents were saying about these themes.
- 2.3.5. Not every respondent answered every survey question; therefore, each question received a varying number of responses. The total number of responses to each question is detailed in each case.
- 2.3.6. Blank responses have been discounted for each question to provide an accurate representation of how many respondents engaged with each question.
- 2.3.7. Eighteen email responses were received in response to the consultation on the Draft LNRS for Greater Lincolnshire. Most of these email responses came from organisations, including public bodies, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), social enterprises and commercial interests. The others were from private individuals.
- 2.3.8. As a relatively small number of long-form and in-depth email responses were received, the key points and concerns from each response are summarised and presented in Section 5, with the full text of each documented as an appendix to this report.

3 Survey Results

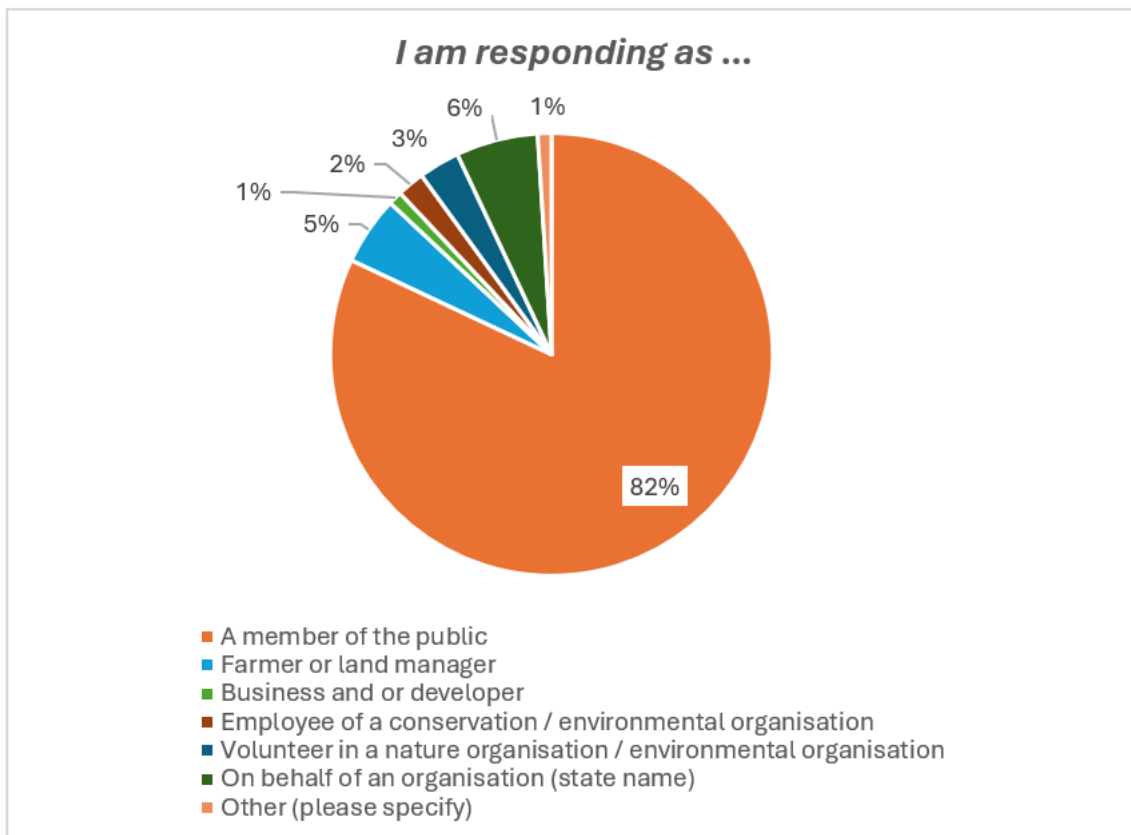
3.1 Demographic Analysis

Survey Question 1: I am Responding as ...

3.1.1. There were 329 survey responses to the consultation. As Figure 3.1 shows, the vast majority were submitted by members of the public, followed proportionally by:

- On behalf of an organisation, as stated;
- Farmers or land managers;
- Volunteers within environmental organisations;
- Employees within environmental organisations;
- Businesses and / or developers;
- Others (for example, one including a local elected representative).

Figure 3-1 - Type of respondent



Base: n = 329 responses

Survey Question 16: Which Council Area do you Live in?

3.1.2. Of the 329 respondents, Figure 3.2 illustrates how many live in each area of Lincolnshire County Council and the unitary authorities of North Lincolnshire and North East Lincolnshire. A notably higher proportion of respondents (21%) came from East Lindsey in comparison to their proportion of Greater Lincolnshire’s population (13%), whereas the opposite was true of North East Lincolnshire (5% of survey respondents versus 14% of Greater Lincolnshire’s population).

Figure 3-2 - Which council area do you live in?

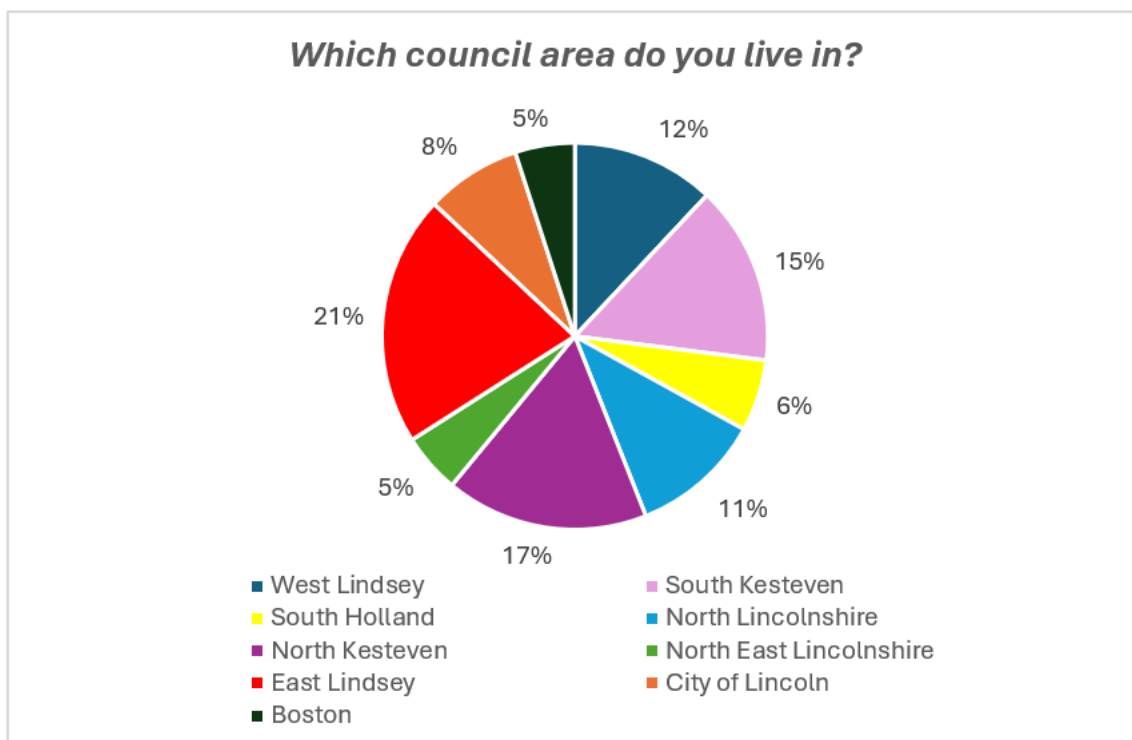


Figure 3.2: n = 313 responses

Survey Question 17: How old are you?

3.1.3. Figure 3.3 breaks down the survey respondents according to age category. Compared to 38% of Greater Lincolnshire’s population being under 35 years old (as per Nomis data), only 8% of survey respondents were aged under 35.

Figure 3-3 - How old are you?

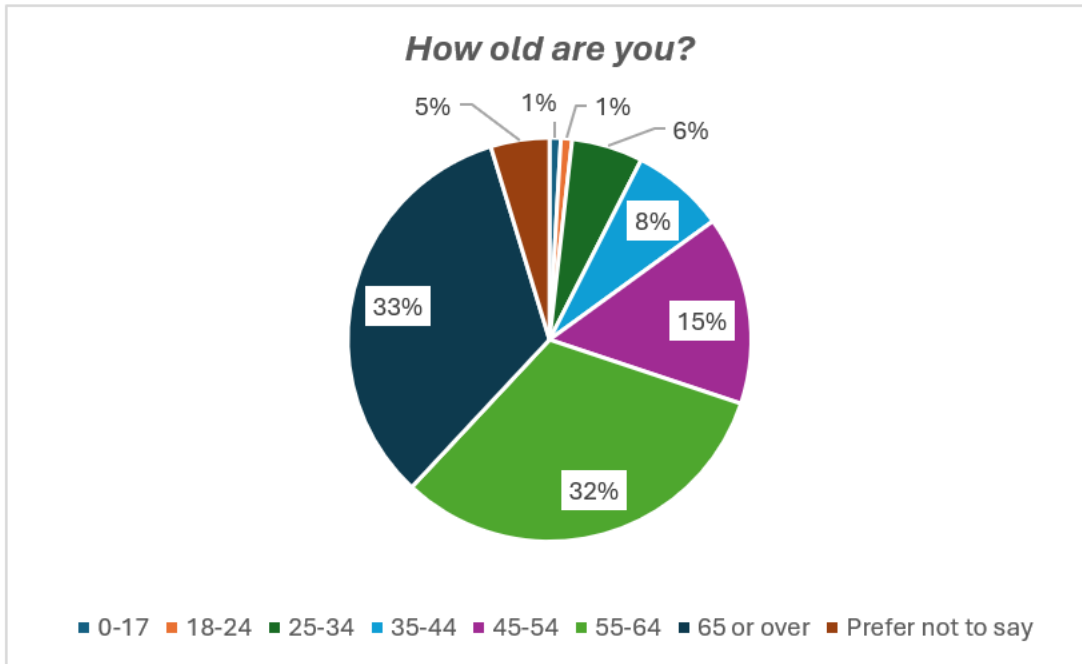


Figure 3.3: n = 318 responses

Survey Question 18: Do you Consider yourself to Have a Disability?

3.1.4. Finally, Figure 3.4 shows the proportion of respondents who considered themselves to have a disability. This compares with approximately 21% of people across Greater Lincolnshire identifying as disabled within the 2021 Census.

Figure 3-4 - Do you consider yourself to have a disability?

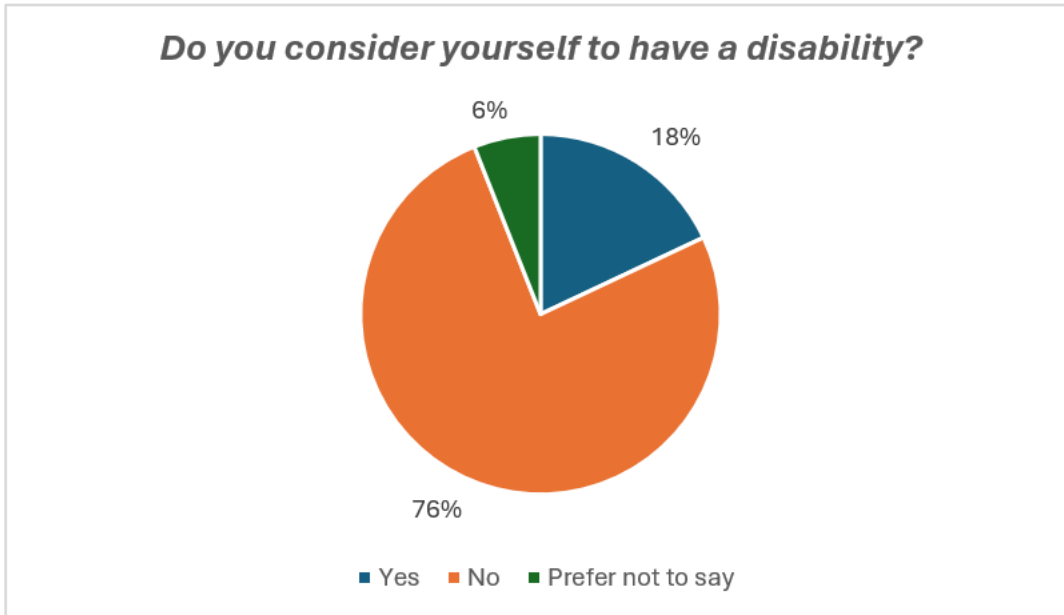


Figure 3.4: n = 317 responses

3.2 Questions on the Draft LNRS

Survey Question 3: How Clear and Understandable Did you Find the Information in the Online Draft LNRS Document?

3.2.1. This question asked respondents to rate how clear and understandable they found the information in the online Draft LNRS document. As Figure 3.5 illustrates, 77% of respondents said they found it either 'Very Clear' or 'Clear' (Figure 3.5). Just less than one in 10 respondents found the online document unclear to some extent.

Figure 3-5 - How clear and understandable did you find the information in the online Draft LNRS document?

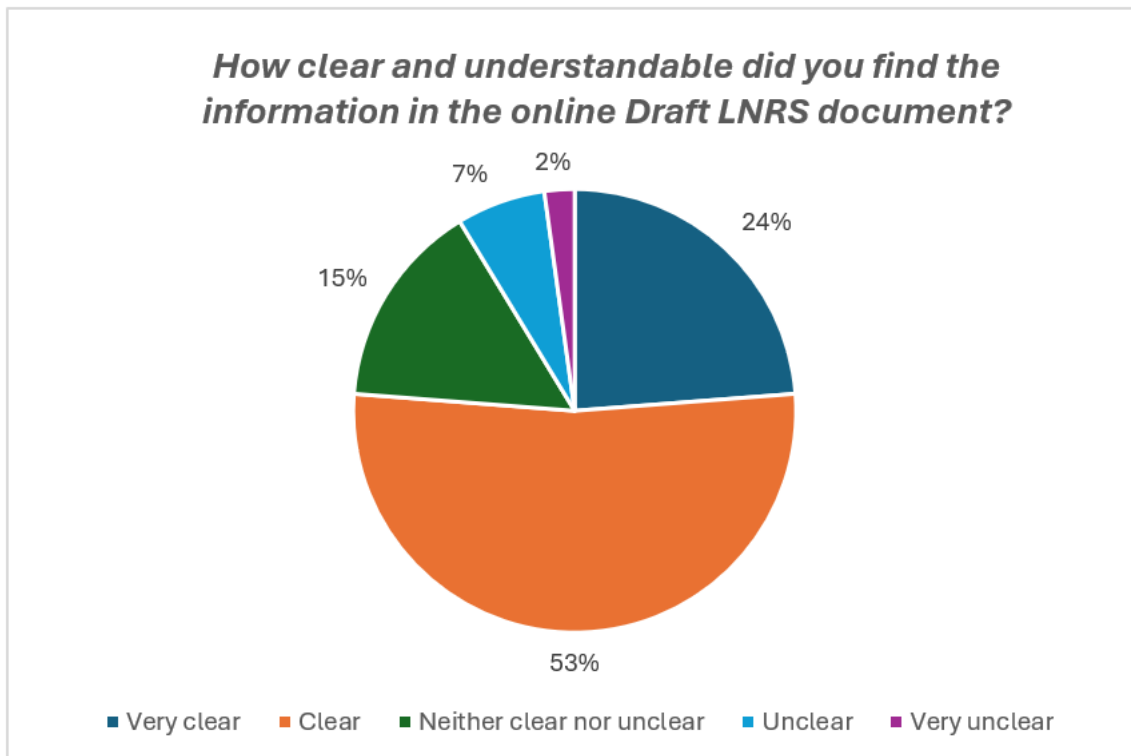


Figure 3.5: n = 324 responses

Survey Question 4: How would you Rate the Usability of the Layout, Structure, and Features of the Online Draft LNRS Document?

3.2.2. This closed question asked respondents to rate the usability of the layout, structure and features of the online Draft LNRS document. Similarly to the proportion who thought the information in the online Draft LNRS document was clear, a combined 76% of respondents said they found it either ‘Very Usable’ or ‘Usable’ (Figure 3.6), which was broadly aligned with the views on clarity of the online document in the previous question.

Figure 3-6 - How would you rate the usability of the layout, structure, and the features of the online Draft LNRS document?

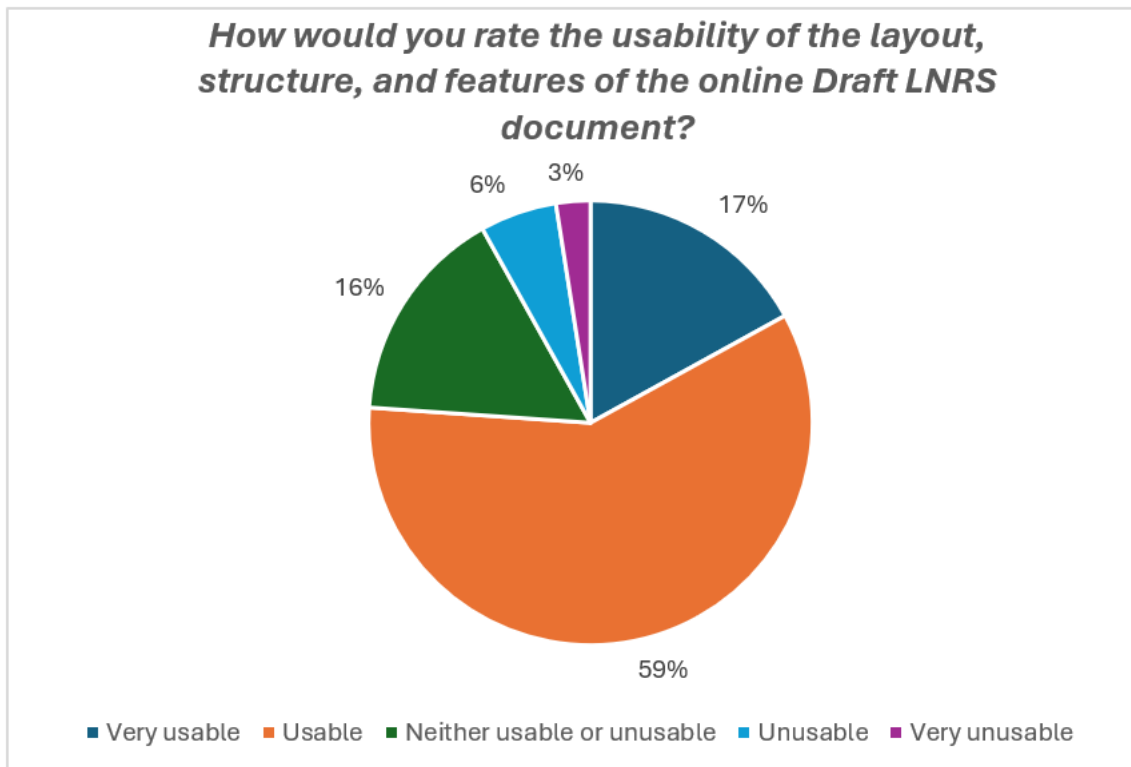


Figure 3.6: n = 323 responses

Survey question 5: do you agree with the vision and principles of the draft LNRS?

3.2.3. This closed question asked respondents to rate how much they agreed or disagreed with the vision and principles of the Draft LNRS. A combined 87% of respondents said they either ‘Strongly Agree’ or ‘Agree’ with the Draft LNRS’ vision and principles (Figure 3.7). Nine per cent of respondents neither agreed nor disagreed, with the 4% disagreeing to some extent.

Figure 3-7 - Do you agree with the vision and principles of the Draft LNRS?

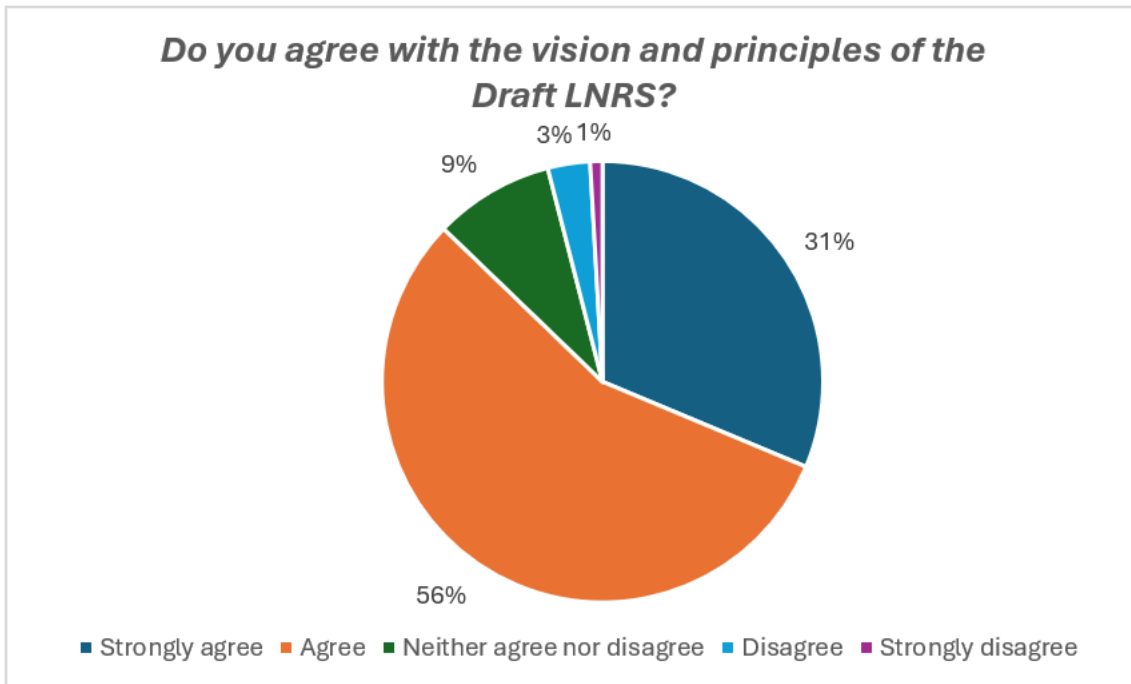


Figure 3.7: n = 320 responses

Survey question 6: do you agree or disagree with the habitat priority themes as below?

- 3.2.4. This closed question asked respondents to rate how much they agreed or disagreed with the Habitat Priority Themes identified within the Draft LNRS. Across the nine Habitat Priority Themes, an average of 84% of respondents said they either ‘Strongly Agree’ or ‘Agree’ with their designation (Figure 3.8).
- 3.2.5. Responses to this question indicated strong agreement with the proposed Habitat Priority Themes for woodlands and trees, as well as those for rivers and streams. In contrast, responses relating to the proposed farmland and landscape-scale Habitat Priority Themes showed higher levels of non-committal feedback, with respondents expressing limited views either in support or opposition.

Figure 3-8 - Do you agree or disagree with the Habitat Priority Themes as below?

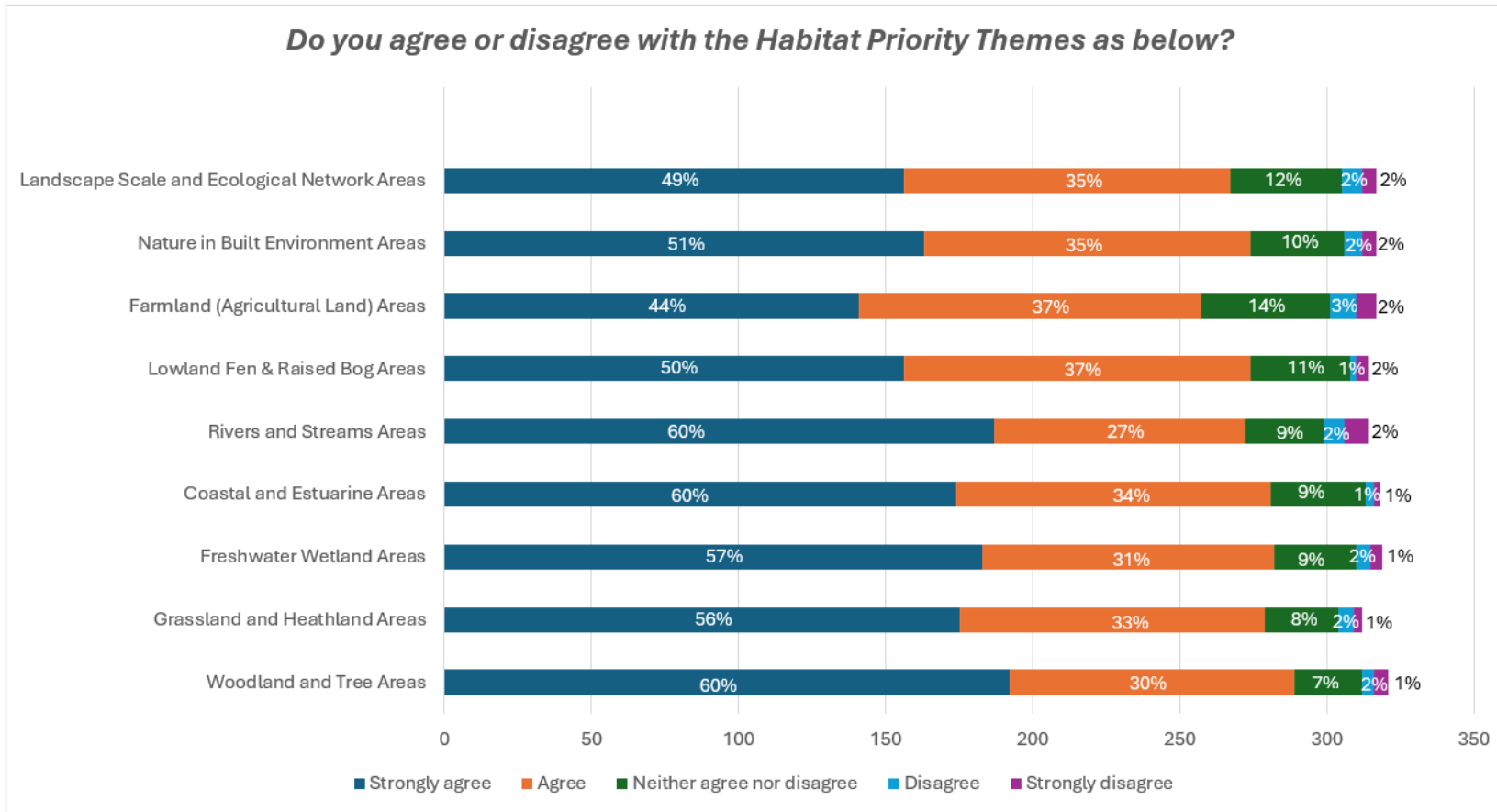


Figure 3.8: n = 325 responses

Survey question 7: do any changes need to be made to the habitat priorities?

3.2.6. This open question allowed respondents to expand on their response to Question 6 by making comments about or suggesting changes to the Habitat Priorities. The five most prominent themes are summarised in Table 3.1 below (please note that a number of themes attracted the fifth highest proportion of comments and are therefore all included below).

Table 3-1 - Survey Question 7: Most Prominent Feedback Themes

Theme	Number of coded comments	% of responses to Q7
<p>General comments about designation of Habitat Priorities (Habitat Themes)</p> <p>Most respondents welcome the proposed Habitat Priorities, viewing them as broadly appropriate, comprehensive and without any need for fundamental change in overall designation. However, there is strong concern that the priorities are too high-level level and non-prescriptive and thereby may have limited impact. Respondents request clearer delivery mechanisms, stronger protection of existing habitats, and integration of priorities within planning and development decisions. Certain Habitat Priorities were referenced in a number of Question 7 responses, including Woodland and Trees, Freshwater Wetlands, Rivers and Streams, Coastal and Estuarine Areas, Grassland and Heathland, and Farmland and Agricultural Land.</p>	52	43%
<p>Comments about wildlife, including protected species</p> <p>Respondents emphasise that Habitat Priorities must place stronger weight on protecting wildlife from development and infrastructure. They cite particular concern about solar farms, housing and floodplain development causing habitat loss, fragmentation and disturbance. There is strong support for safeguarding existing habitats as the most effective way to protect wildlife and vulnerable species. Many respondents call for clearer species-specific focus, better habitat management and controls on habitat disturbance by people and animals, warning that without this the Habitat Priorities will not halt wildlife decline.</p>	35	29%

Theme	Number of coded comments	% of responses to Q7
<p>Comments about habitat, including protected habitats</p> <p>Respondents express concerns about loss of habitat due to various reasons, including agricultural or land management practices and development in the countryside. The current increase in renewable energy and grid infrastructure development in rural areas is specifically argued as a threat to wildlife habitats. Hedgerows are highlighted as a habitat of particular importance, as are chalk streams (given that they are endemic to Lincolnshire).</p>	25	20%
<p>Comments about the development of energy infrastructure in the countryside</p> <p>When considering potential changes to the Habitat Priorities, respondents query whether the priorities adequately account for the scale of energy infrastructure development and the impact of this on wildlife recovery in Lincolnshire. There is overwhelming opposition to the delivery of energy infrastructure particularly on agricultural land, which most believe should be prioritised for food security and as a wildlife habitat. Several question the value of the proposed Habitat Priorities if large-scale energy infrastructure is permitted to cut through sensitive landscapes and note that the continued approval of solar and grid projects undermines confidence.</p>	23	19%

Theme	Number of coded comments	% of responses to Q7
<p>General comments about the environment (i.e., ‘nature,’ the climate, climate change, climate action)</p> <p>Respondents approach the broader concepts of the environment, nature and the climate from various angles. Some approach it from a wider ecological perspective (concerns surrounding land take, habitat and wildlife loss, soil and crop degradation, and food productivity). A general sense of human activity or development encroaching on the natural environment, not just referring to the energy sector but also to urbanisation, underpins many of these responses. Some call for greater access to nature to give people an opportunity to gain a greater appreciation of it, and therefore a greater desire to act in the interest of nature recovery. Others call for nature recovery to be integrated into policy and decision making.</p>	20	16%
<p>Comments suggesting that the powers of the LNRS do not go far enough (i.e., inadequate to affect change)</p> <p>Respondents argue that with its current status as guidance as opposed to legislation or regulation, the LNRS will be inadequate in affecting the change it envisions without any legal or regulatory power to compel decision makers to follow its recommendations, particularly within the planning process (for example, it cannot stop development in the countryside which may have a negative impact on a particular habitat or ecosystem).</p>	20	16%

Theme	Number of coded comments	% of responses to Q7
<p>Comments about residents and communities</p> <p>These responses focus on the ‘people’ aspect of the LNRS, noting the human impact of climate change and nature decline (for example, flooding in urban areas), and asking how communities can get involved in working together to support the delivery of the LNRS (in homes, schools, businesses and more). A desire to protect nature for future generations is expressed. Related to this theme, although lesser in number, are comments about the economy and tourism. Heritage is also mentioned, with calls to greater emphasise the cultural connection between the people of Lincolnshire and its unique landscape as a means of encouraging participation in nature recovery through a sense of identity.</p>	20	16%

Base: All responses for Q7 (n = 122)

Survey question 8: do you agree or disagree with the biodiversity actions for the habitat priority themes as below?

3.2.7. This closed question asked respondents to rate how much they agreed or disagreed with the Biodiversity Actions proposed for the Habitat Priority Themes designated within the Draft LNRS. Across the 9 Habitat Priority Themes designated, an average of 81% of respondents said they either 'Strongly Agree' or 'Agree' with the Biodiversity Actions proposed for them (Figure 3.9).

Figure 3-9 - Do you agree or disagree with the Biodiversity Actions for the Habitat Priority Themes as below?

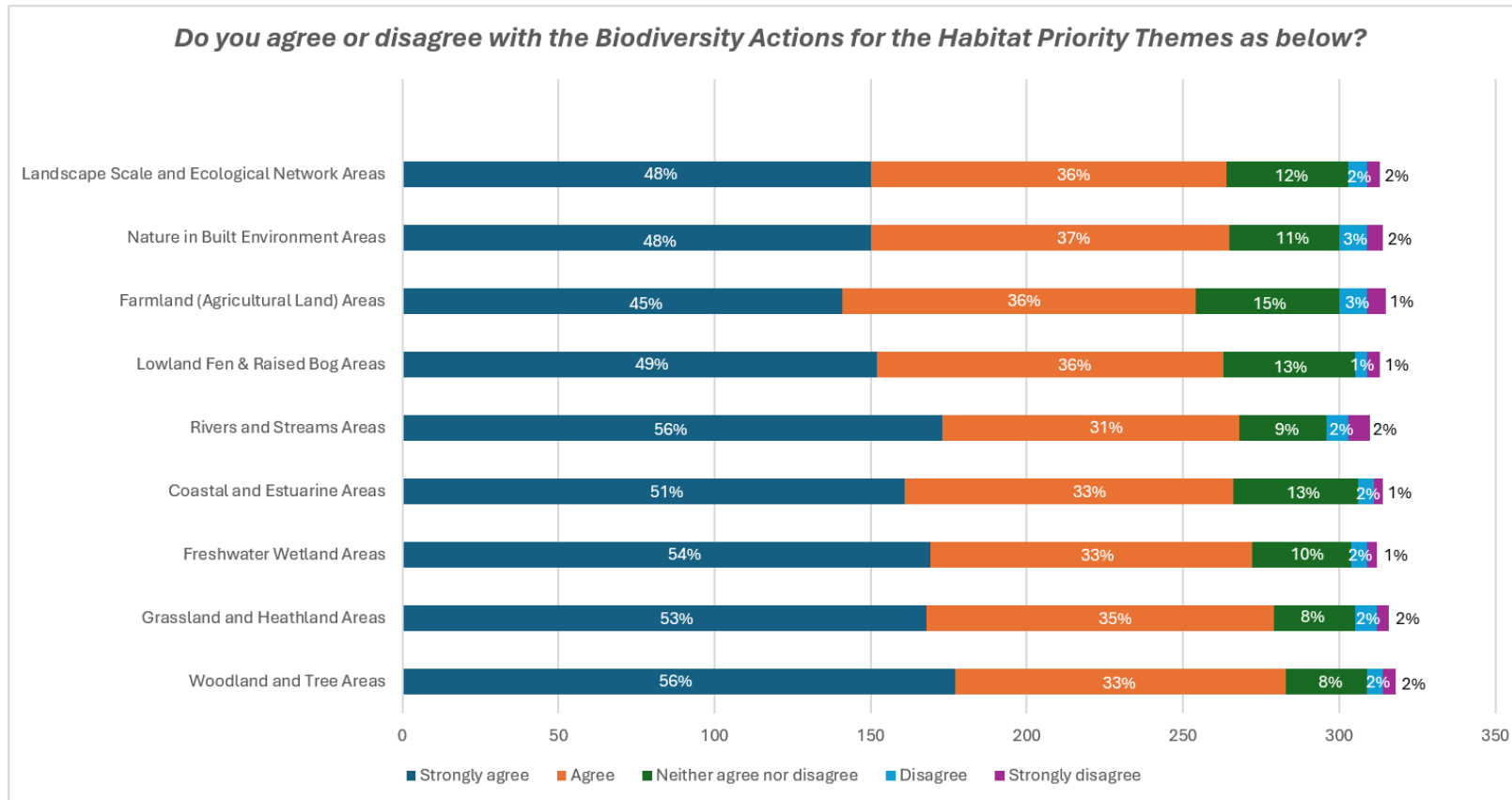


Figure 3.9: n = 321 responses

Survey question 9: do any changes need to be made to the biodiversity actions?

3.2.8. This open question allowed respondents to expand on their response to Question 8 by making comments about or suggesting changes to the Biodiversity Actions. The five most prominent themes are summarised in Table 3.2 below. Where a number of themes are tied fifth in proportional prominence, they have all been included.

Table 3-2 - Survey Question 9: Most Prominent Feedback Themes

Theme	Number of coded comments	% of responses to Q9
<p>General comments about proposed biodiversity actions</p> <p>A number of responses praise the actions for their positive intent but ask how they will be delivered in terms of collaboration, accountability, and funding. Various responses focus on actions within specific Habitat Priorities. For Freshwater Wetlands, suggestions include managing ditches to improve water quality. The creation of saltmarshes are also mentioned in the context of wet grassland. For Lowland Fen and Raised Bog, suggestions include blocking drains and damming ditches to raise the water table and re-wet surfaces. For Farmland and Agricultural Land, suggestions include promoting hedgerows to boost ecosystems and pollinator populations. Catchment by catchment and flood management approaches are suggested as actions for Rivers and Streams.</p>	29	35%
<p>Comments about wildlife, including protected species</p> <p>Responses suggest Biodiversity Actions relating to a number of different wildlife species; acting to save bees as pollinators is a recurring theme (and the threat posed to them by pesticides as well loss of their habitat in hedgerows or trees). Acting to protect owls by protecting their hunting grounds is mentioned. Preventing light pollution to protect bats is another. The LNRS' reference to introducing swift bricks in homes is welcomed. Acting to protect fish stocks and aquatic ecosystems through improving water quality in Rivers and Streams is advocated.</p>	21	25%

Theme	Number of coded comments	% of responses to Q9
<p>Comments suggesting that the powers of the LNRS do not go far enough (i.e., inadequate to effect change)</p> <p>These comments echo the sentiment and content of those relating to this theme under Question 7.</p>	20	16%
<p>Comments about residents and communities</p> <p>These comments echo the sentiment and content of those relating to this theme under Question 7. Also noted are the effects that industrial development in the countryside can have on rural residents and communities who argue that this leads to property devaluation and negative impacts on wellbeing caused by financial stress or the disruption of the natural surroundings they live in.</p>	14	17%
<p>Comments about habitat, including protected habitats</p> <p>The same habitats and types of comments relating to them as summarised for Question 7 are necessarily repeated under responses to Question 9 as a pretext to commenting on the Biodiversity Actions that are either proposed for Habitat Priorities within the LNRS or further actions suggested by respondents.</p>	13	15%

Theme	Number of coded comments	% of responses to Q9
<p>Comments about working with other bodies or stakeholders to deliver the LNRS</p> <p>Responses urge Lincolnshire County Council, as the Responsible Authority for the Greater Lincolnshire LNRS to work with partners to deliver on the aspirations of the LNRS. Planning authorities are mentioned as key partners in the context of promoting sustainable development, as are neighbouring Responsible Authorities in the context of making sure that respective strategies are integrated beyond administrative boundaries. Councils are also mentioned as important delivery partners, alongside citizens themselves, who are noted as a considerable cumulative force for positive change at a grassroots level in their own homes, gardens and communities.</p>	13	15%

Base: All responses for Q9 (n = 84)

Survey question 10: how understandable do you find the online local habitat map?

3.2.9. This closed question asked respondents to rate how understandable they found the online Local Habitat Map. A combined total of 77% of respondents said they found it either ‘Very Understandable’ or ‘Understandable’ (Figure 3.10), with the majority (54%) indicating the latter. 12% of respondents found the map unclear to some extent, while the same proportion felt it was neither understandable nor unclear.

Figure 3-10 - How understandable do you find the online Local Habitat Map?

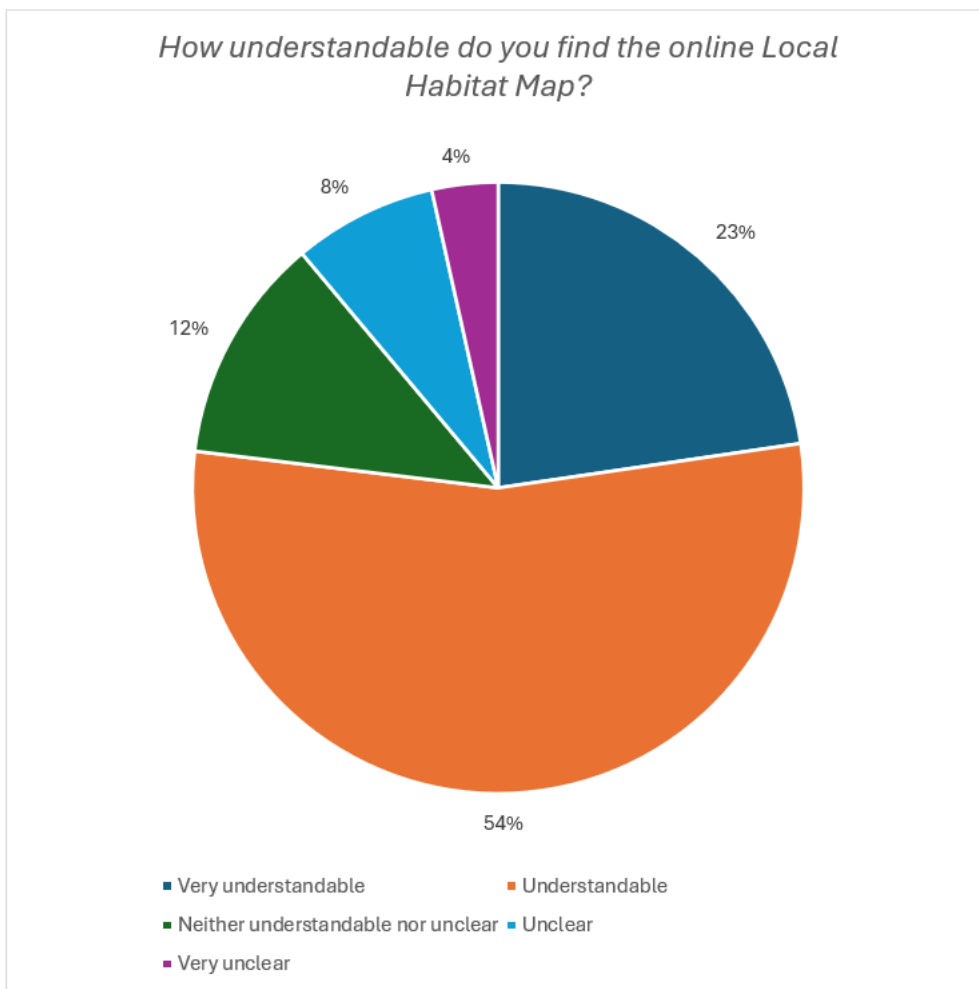


Figure 3.10: n = 317 responses

Survey question 11: how could we make the online local habitat map more understandable?

3.2.10. This open question allowed respondents to expand on their response to Question 10 by providing their feedback on how the online Local Habitat Map could be made more understandable. There were eight responses to this question, which have been summarised below.

- **Understandability/usability of online maps**

Respondents request a clearer legend or more information to help with contextualising the information on the online map. Others note image quality issues preventing them from actually seeing parts of the map and therefore from understanding it fully. Some respondents, relating usability more so to functionality rather than the clarity of information presented or legibility, state that certain links do not work.

- **Working with other bodies or stakeholders to deliver the LNRS**

These comments echo the sentiment and content of those relating to this theme under Question 9, whilst requesting that the maps include actions that citizens can take to support the Habitat Priorities and Biodiversity Actions on them. In this vein, it was also requested that the public be able to suggest areas or sites to be included in online mapping.

- **General comments about proposed Biodiversity Actions**

Comments argue that mapped areas should have been allocated Biodiversity Actions based on information from GIS databases which show habitat that may have been lost and could be restored, along with explanations to include actions that people can take to support the Habitat Priorities.

- **General comments about designation of Habitat Priorities**

This comment questions how Habitat Priorities had been allocated to different areas.

- **Negative comments about Site-Specific Actions (SSAs) for nature recovery**

Suggested that areas or sites included in the online maps are too generic, perhaps more so referring to the mapping of the Site-Specific Actions for Nature Recovery as dealt with by Survey Question 14.

- **Suggestions for sites or Site-Specific Actions for nature recovery**

References a desire for a specific 'action plan' for each site mapped, rather than just a title and number reference – again, perhaps more so referring to the mapping of the Site-Specific Actions for Nature Recovery as dealt with by Survey Question 14.

- **Comments about action and accountability**

Expressed a desire to act on the principles of the Greater Lincolnshire LNRS with the help of its online mapping.

Survey question 12: how usable do you find the online local habitat map?

3.2.11. This closed question asked respondents to rate how usable they found the online Local Habitat Map. A combined total of 73% of respondents said they found it either 'Very Usable' or 'Usable' (Figure 3.11). Almost one-fifth of respondents found it neither usable nor unusable, while 10% indicated that it was unusable to some extent.

Figure 3-11 - How usable do you find the online Local Habitat Map?

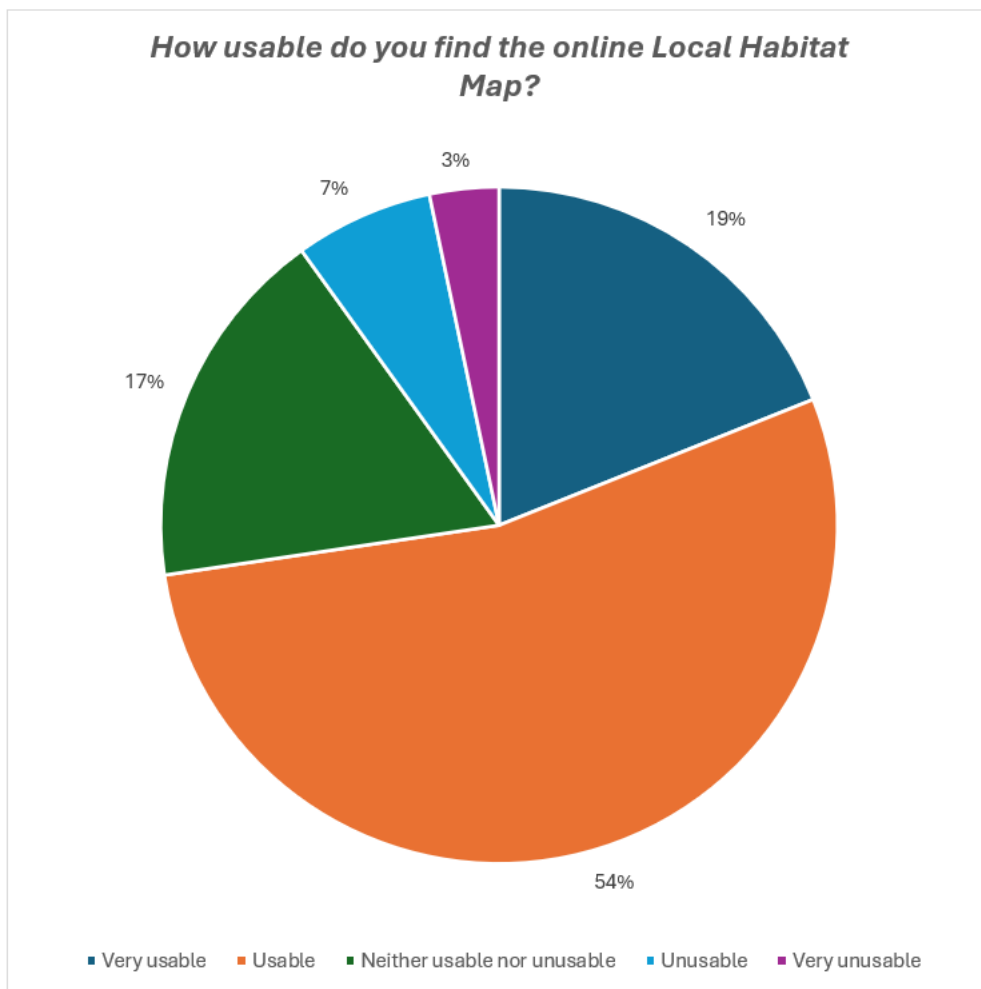


Figure 3.11: n = 317 responses

Survey question 13: how could we make the online local habitat map more usable?

3.2.12. This open question allowed respondents to expand on Question 12 by providing their feedback on how the online Local Habitat Map could more made more usable. There were six responses to the question, which have been summarised below.

- **Comments about usability of online maps**

Similar comments to Question 11 in that the usability of the online map affects the ability to which it can be understood, and vice versa. Additional issues beyond those covered in relation to this theme under Question 11 are issues with map layering (with requests for layer transparency so that layers are more visible when overlaid). Broken links are raised again as an issue. One comment states that it is not easy to see what Biodiversity Actions are being done and where. Another notes that if the LNRS is not relatable then it is less likely that citizens will engage with it and take action for nature recovery.

- **General comments about proposed biodiversity actions**

The comment relating to this theme echoes a previous comment provided by the same respondent under Question 11.

- **Comments about action and accountability**

The comment relating to this theme echoes a previous comment provided by the same respondent under Question 11.

- **Comments about working with other bodies or stakeholders to deliver the LNRS**

The comment relating to this theme echoes a previous comment provided by the same respondent under Question 11.



Survey question 14: do you have any comments on the specific sites where actions for nature recovery (SSAS) are identified on the local habitat map?

3.2.13. This open question allowed respondents to comment on particular sites for nature recovery (SSAs) shown on the Local Habitat Map. Survey Question 14 had 81 responses, with the five most prominent themes summarised in Table 3.3 below.

Table 3-3 - Survey Question 14: Most Prominent Feedback Themes

Theme	Number of coded comments	% of responses to Q14
<p>Suggestions for sites or Site-Specific Actions (SSAs) for nature recovery</p> <p>Respondents put forward a number of sites across Lincolnshire and / or actions for them. Sites include Cleethorpes Country Park, Grimsthorpe Castle, the Isle of Axholme, Crowle Moor, the Freshney Valley, the King Charles III England Coastal Path, the Boston, North Hykeham, Immingham, and Gainsborough landfill sites, Grange Farm in North Hykeham, Greetwell Quarry, Sheepwash Grange in Washingborough, Halls Hill, Bracebridge Heath East (and South), lands adjacent to Humberside Airport, and more.</p> <p>Actions put forward for specific sites, either already mapped or suggested, include the incorporation of derelict sites around the Far Ings National Nature Reserve into the wider reserve, the nature-based restoration of the aforementioned landfill sites, and consultation with bodies responsible for the management of specific sites, or habitats covering specific sites where actions have been mapped.</p> <p>Requests are also made for the LNRS to avoid adding sites or actions which extend beyond similar zonings or measures aimed at improving biodiversity which already exist within the planning system. It is suggested that this would place an undue burden on residential or commercial developers who feel that having to comply with anything beyond existing policy could jeopardise the viability of their projects and the economic activity that comes with them.</p>	25	31%

Theme	Number of coded comments	% of responses to Q14
<p>Comments about understandability of online maps</p> <p>New approaches to this theme in comments under Question 14 include requests for an overview of what improvements or changes will take place at each specific site, alongside a timeline, beyond just mapping the sites themselves. Others argue that the scale of the maps prevent areas from being defined in sufficient detail. Others request hard copies to be available for those who cannot (or prefer not) to view them online.</p>	22	27%
<p>Comments about usability of online maps</p> <p>New approaches to this theme in comments under Question 14 say that those less familiar with technology may struggle to use them. Contrastingly, other comments praise the user-friendliness of the SSAs map, citing in particular the address search function.</p>	21	26%
<p>Negative comments about site-specific actions (SSAs) for nature recovery</p> <p>Some comments express concern that the prioritisation of action adjacent to existing habitats will have the unintended consequence of preventing nature recovery in areas not prioritised by the LNRS. Echoing the concerns expressed under the most common theme for this question, some respondents express disagreement with the designation of specific sites or recommendation of site-specific actions due to perceived clashes with their interests.</p>	14	17%

Base: All responses to Q14 (n = 81)

Survey question 15: please use this space if there’s anything else you’d like to tell us about the LNRS.

3.2.14. This open question invited respondents to offer any further feedback on the LNRS. A total of 105 responses were collected, and the five main themes identified from these submissions are outlined in Table 3.4 below.

Table 3-4 - Survey Question 15: Most Prominent Feedback Themes

Theme	Number of coded comments	% of responses to Q15
<p>Comments suggesting that the powers of the LNRS do not go far enough (i.e., inadequate to effect change)</p> <p>Comments regarding this theme reiterate the same arguments made by respondents across the previous survey questions, as summarised above. As before, it is generally argued that for the LNRS to be effective, it must be prescriptive in the context of decision making (particularly in the planning process) rather than just guidance which does not mandate decision makers or authorities to prevent actions, practices, or development which may harm nature and its recovery. Some comments express concern that with its current status, the recommendations of the LNRS may be easily overridden in favour of other interests with more legislative support or political capital.</p>	37	35%
<p>Comments about wildlife, including protected species</p> <p>Fish populations are highlighted as an important part of the aquatic ecosystems in Lincolnshire and keeping them healthy. Other comments state that lists of priority wildlife species in the document are limited and should include more information on endangered species, or in other places are missing certain species, such as butterflies. Some comments call for greater protection of wildlife around road infrastructure, through greater awareness of animal migration patterns and better road signage. Some note the threat of invasive species, including those introduced by humans for certain purposes (such as agriculture) which then have a negative predatory impact on local populations of other species within ecosystems.</p>	35	33%

Theme	Number of coded comments	% of responses to Q15
<p>General support or positive comments regarding purpose, intentions and / or principles of LNRS</p> <p>Despite the qualifications in many comments which start by praising the LNRS and its intent before asking questions about its delivery, it is repeatedly welcomed that the document represents a significant body of work, is ambitious, and has the potential to direct positive change for nature recovery in Lincolnshire if it can be developed and harnessed fully.</p>	24	23%
<p>General comments about the environment (i.e., ‘nature’, the climate, climate change, climate action)</p> <p>Again, the concept of ‘nature’ is frequently invoked in broader terms and in different contexts, conveying a sense that respondents understand it as a holistic network of ecosystems which requires continued and co-ordinated action across a range of areas to protect. Other responses highlight wider environmental and climate-related issues such as the idea of a ‘tipping point’ and the threat of natural disasters such as drought, whilst calling for climate action targets to be hit for nature recovery (such as returning at least 30% of the UK’s landmass to nature by 2030). Comments also allude to humanity’s reliance on nature as a planetary resource and therefore the need to pursue nature recovery as an act of self-preservation.</p>	23	22%

Theme	Number of coded comments	% of responses to Q15
<p>Comments about habitat, including protected habitats</p> <p>Chalkland streams are again mentioned due to their importance to Lincolnshire both ecologically and culturally. Echoing the comments left under Question 15 regarding wildlife, waterways more generally are emphasised as a suggested area of focus to protect the fish populations referenced previously. The creation of more or better wetland habitats for waterbirds and water voles is advocated. As in comments elsewhere throughout the survey, the compatibility of certain Habitat Priorities is questioned (for example, it is suggested that planting more trees in recognition of woodlands as a Habitat Priority could inadvertently result in poorer outcomes for nature recovery in Grassland and Heathland as a Habitat Priority if the natural boundaries between the two are exceeded).</p>	22	21%

Base: All responses to Q15 (n = 105)

4 Other Written Responses

4.1 Emails

- 4.1.1. Eighteen email responses were received in response to the consultation on the Draft LNRS for Greater Lincolnshire. These have been summarised below, with the full text of each documented in Appendix G.
- 4.1.2. Please note that one respondent completed the survey and also submitted their responses to the free text questions in the survey via email. The survey responses were coded and reflected in the results in section 3, so the email is not reflected below.

Email Response 1 - Summary

- 4.1.3. The respondent does not object to the River Trent corridor priority objectives in principle but does object to the inclusion of part of [REDACTED]'s operational, biosecure animal feed manufacturing site within Action Area 76. They emphasise that the land is fully operational, essential for health, safety and biosecurity, and therefore unsuitable for habitat creation, requesting that [REDACTED]'s operational area be excluded from the Action Area boundary.

Email Response 2 – Summary

- 4.1.4. The respondent supports the Swanholme Lakes actions but objects to including its operational site in Action Areas 28 and 132. The bakery is well-established, uses all land for operations and safety, and is unsuitable for habitat creation or buffering. They request exclusion from both areas.

Email Response 3 – Summary

- 4.1.5. The respondent welcomes the Draft LNRS and highlights the role of sustainable shooting in nature recovery, particularly through habitat management, species control and private investment that supports delivery of environmental objectives. The respondent raises concern that the contribution of shooting is not sufficiently recognised within the draft strategy and recommend stronger acknowledgement and collaboration. They note this should be supported by evidence on biodiversity, natural capital, carbon sequestration and public health benefits. [REDACTED] highlight specific technical points, including the importance of effective deer and wildlife management for woodland health and the need for predator control to improve breeding success for ground-nesting birds.

Email Response 4 – Summary

- 4.1.6. The respondent advocates for including Creekside Meadows in the LNRS, describing it as a well-funded, 31-hectare site that can contribute to both immediate and lasting nature recovery efforts. The location is believed to hold considerable promise for restoring diverse wet grasslands, reedbeds, and floodplain grazing marshes. It would also improve links between nearby Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) and other nature reserves while providing protection for important habitats. The response lists detailed advantages for biodiversity, climate adaptation, water quality, and public recreation, emphasising benefits for priority and declining species.

Email Response 5 – Summary

- 4.1.7. The respondent generally supports the Draft LNRS but highlights gaps: it lacks mention of water companies' roles in river management, offers limited public engagement beyond surveys, and overlooks climate change impacts from heat. They recommend assigning responsibilities to specific organisations for greater transparency and accountability.

Email Response 6 – Summary

- 4.1.8. The respondent welcomes the LNRS consultation but is concerned that waterways are not adequately recognised as essential blue-green infrastructure. They note issues such as inconsistent mapping, limited mention of priority species like water voles, insufficient attention to canal habitats, and omissions in proposed actions. [REDACTED] requests clearer information, a chance to review final maps, and continued involvement to ensure waterways are properly integrated into the strategy.

Email Response 7 – Summary

- 4.1.9. The respondent finds the Draft LNRS unrealistic and unclear about implementing, funding, and coordinating actions. They note uncertainty regarding manager involvement, long-term resources, and measurable outcomes, warning these gaps may hinder delivery. The email requests clearer implementation plans, better engagement, and offers to show practical challenges.

Email Response 8 – Summary

- 4.1.10. The respondent endorses the advancement of the LNRS, yet recommends reinforcing the strategy to guarantee clarity, accuracy, and deliverability. Strategic concerns are highlighted, including perceived insufficient acknowledgment of pollution, climate change effects, water resource management, peatland degradation, and health disparities.
- 4.1.11. Technical matters relating to habitats, species, and mapping are noted, such as inconsistencies and gaps within National Character Area (NCA) mapping, habitat omissions, and shortcomings in addressing watercourses, canals, and hydrological systems. The response questions the prioritisation of protected species and advocates for enhanced protection of Section 41 species.
- 4.1.12. Additionally, the submission provides an extensive range of comments regarding formatting and consistency, accompanied by recommendations aimed at improving the document's clarity and usability, as well as that of the associated website.

Email Response 9 – Summary

4.1.13. The respondent supports the Draft LNRS for its clear structure and recognition of nature's value, but raises concerns that it overlooks the Lincolnshire Wolds National Landscape. They argue the strategy focuses too narrowly on certain habitats, lacks a holistic view, and underestimates farming impacts in protected areas. The respondent also recommends clearer wording, better habitat prioritisation, recognition of chalk streams, improved formatting, and refinements to technical terminology and the glossary.

Email Response 10 – Summary

4.1.14. The respondent agrees with the principles set out in the Draft LNRS but seeks clarification on its purpose, evidence base, and links to other planning and environmental policies. They request details on how the LNRS will impact development and be considered in planning decisions, with specific references made to specific sites in the county.

4.1.15. The primary concerns cited include unclear development restrictions, insufficient justification for habitats, buffers, and mapped actions, and lack of consideration for existing or approved developments. Without clearer explanation and better alignment between narrative and mapping, the strategy risks causing investment issues and clashing with current legislation.

Email Response 11 – Summary

4.1.16. The respondent appreciates the Draft LNRS and especially highlights its focus on priority habitats, public access, and collaborative action across sections of the county where it manages significant landholdings. Although generally positive about the structure and mapping, the respondent recommends refinements to habitat actions and buffers around their properties.

4.1.17. They further suggest stronger recognition of climate change adaptation, greater ambition on connectivity and new habitat creation, and clearer identification of areas that could become of importance for biodiversity in the future. In addition, the respondent encourages a stronger emphasis on increasing public access to nature as well as improvements to the maps.

Email Response 12 – Summary

4.1.18. While the respondent agrees with the principles of the Draft LNRS and its objectives, they criticise what is perceived as an unbalanced portrayal of agriculture. It is argued that the strategy insufficiently recognises the positive environmental contributions currently being delivered by farmers. This consultation response emphasises the need for meaningful ongoing engagement with farmers and landowners, clearer and more robust evidence and mapping, and assurance that the strategy will not restrict farm development, increase costs, or act as a barrier to funding for farmers.

The respondent urges that the Draft LNRS remains voluntary and flexible, and that effort must be made to ensure that it is well-aligned with other national frameworks. Overall, they stress that the Draft LNRS must be designed to support food production alongside nature recovery.

Email Response 13 – Summary

4.1.19. The respondent mainly provides observations on “the role of the natural environment as a contributor to public health and wider health and wellbeing.” They welcome the strategy’s recognition of this but suggest the strategy could be strengthened by more explicit links between environmental change, climate impacts, and specific public health outcomes. The respondent recommends using practical examples and visual models to better demonstrate how biodiversity and nature recovery can support physical and mental health.

Email Response 14 – Summary

4.1.20. The respondent is supportive of the overarching principles of the Draft LNRS and the aim of enhancing biodiversity across Lincolnshire. They note that existing oil and gas operations in the county play a role in delivering biodiversity improvements through planning controls and mitigation. The respondent's main concern is that the Draft LNRS could introduce duplication or additional obligations beyond existing planning and environmental regulation, including mandatory Biodiversity Net Gain. They argue that it should therefore be applied proportionately while recognising established rural land uses. This respondent notes a lack of engagement to date and would appreciate further dialogue to ensure nature recovery objectives can coexist with domestic energy production.

Email Response 15 – Summary

- 4.1.21. The respondent raises detailed, practical concerns about the accuracy and applicability of the mapped opportunity areas and habitat designations. They particularly suggest these conflict with existing infrastructure constraints, existing land management, and arise from legacy designations. The respondent seeks clarification on how constraints such as roads, pipelines, water bodies, Countryside Stewardship agreements and BNG projects are being treated. They also question whether inclusion on Draft LNRS maps will affect funding eligibility or land management obligations.
- 4.1.22. This submission emphasises the need for flexibility, clarity, and reassurance that the strategy's objectives can be pursued without undermining tenant arrangements, infrastructure constraints, or living planning processes. Within this context, the respondent remains keen to continue constructive engagement.

Email Response 16 – Summary

4.1.23. The respondent supports the aims of the Draft LNRS and highlights their own track record in biodiversity delivery through quarry restoration and site-based Biodiversity Action Plans. However, they raise site-specific concerns that the strategy’s habitat designations and opportunity areas, particularly buffers and water-related actions, should not constrain development or existing industrial and mineral operations. The respondent urges that Draft LNRS measures stay non-prescriptive and evidence-based, align with mandatory Biodiversity Net Gain, and allow nature recovery to work alongside restoration, development, and employment land protection.

Email Response 17 – Summary

- 4.1.24. The respondent welcomes the Draft LNRS but is concerned that it does not adequately recognise or integrate Government-funded Landscape Recovery and major rewilding projects in Greater Lincolnshire. They assert that omitting these long-term, landscape-scale initiatives from the strategy and mapping risks undermining delivery, funding alignment, and private investment, contrary to the national LNRS guidance.
- 4.1.25. The respondent recommends explicitly referencing Landscape Recovery within the strategy and refining mapping to better reflect establish and emerging habitat creation. This includes highlighting freshwater restoration, wood pasture, and heathland mosaics, to ensure the strategy is more rooted in on-the-ground delivery.

Email Response 18 – Summary

4.1.26. The respondent especially supports the potential of the Draft LNRS to provide a transformative, statutory framework for nature recovery in Greater Lincolnshire. However, they recommend a stronger emphasis on native woods, trees and hedgerows as core elements of biodiversity recovery, climate resilience and nature recovery.

4.1.27. Key points within the response include firmer protection for ancient woodland and veteran trees and a more strategic approach to woodland expansion. In line with this, the respondent calls for a greater focus on riparian and urban tree cover, and clearer integration of the strategy with planning and environmental legislation. While they support the strategy's direction, they call for more clarity in delivery focus and offer their partnership in its implementation.

5 Responses to Issues Raised

5.1 Overview

- 5.1.1. This section provides a detailed breakdown of the feedback received and most prominent themes arising across the whole of the survey responses received as part of the consultation on the Draft LNRS, along with the LNRS Management Board's response.
- 5.1.2. We have summarised the most proportionally prominent issues raised for the Council to provide comment on. These are presented in the table overleaf, which captures the key points raised by the public and outlines the Greater Lincolnshire LNRS Management Board's response, including actions taken, considerations made, or areas identified for further review. Other substantive issues, although less proportionally prominent, have been included to allow the Council to respond to these also.
- 5.1.3. Full frequency codeframes for each open survey question, and for whole of the survey responses received, is available from Appendices A-F.
- 5.1.4. It was subsequently noted that a stakeholder, identifying as a business organisation with assets in Greater Lincolnshire, submitted multiple individual responses to the consultation survey. Specifically, this single respondent provided five separate submissions, each primarily addressing Survey Question 14, which invited consultees to comment on specific sites where actions for nature recovery (SSAs) are identified on the Local Habitat Map. In each submission, this stakeholder addressed proposed nature recovery actions relating to one of the five landfill sites it operates, with responses corresponding to each site.

Table 5-1 - LNRS Management Board: Responses to Issues Raised

Theme	Nature of comments	LNRS Management Board Response
Wildlife	Concern regarding threats to wildlife, particularly from human activity including urbanisation and the development of energy infrastructure in the countryside	Not the role of the LNRS to curb development, but will guide how BNG is applied through the planning process
Wildlife	Insufficiency of Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) requirements in mitigating against harmful effects of built development on wildlife	Again, not the role of the LNRS to curb development, but will guide how BNG is applied through the planning process. However, BNG is not the only mechanism within planning intended to protect wildlife.

Theme	Nature of comments	LNRS Management Board Response
Wildlife	Criticality of farmland in supporting wildlife including pollinators, birds, bats, amphibians and invertebrates	<p>Text added to LNRS in reference to the positive role farmers and land managers play in nature recovery. For ease of reference, this is addressed in the Foreword, as well as in the following Sections:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1.8 – How the LNRS can support the people of Greater Lincolnshire • 1.9 – How we can help nature, and how nature can help us • 2.3 – The Greater Lincolnshire LNRS development process Engagement strategy Local Habitat Map development • 4.5 – Key habitats • 4.6 – Key Species • 4.7 – Key wider environmental benefits and co-benefits • 4.8 – Key pressures affecting nature across Greater Lincolnshire <p>5.5. – Moving from strategy to delivery</p>

Theme	Nature of comments	LNRS Management Board Response
Wildlife	Acting to protect fish stocks and aquatic ecosystems through improving water quality in Rivers and Streams.	A number of actions within the LNRS address this through the buffering of watercourse and water bodies to mitigate against pollutants found in runoff. Text within section 4.8 of the document has also been updated to identify the need to reduce the amount of chemicals entering Greater Lincolnshire's watercourses.
Habitat Priorities	General support for designation of Habitat Priorities	Noted.
Habitat Priorities	Concern about habitat loss and need to prioritise protection and management of existing habitats before focusing on large-scale creation or restoration	Protection and enhancement work hand in hand. There are existing mechanisms for the protection of the natural environment while the LNRS seeks to achieve nature recovery through resilience building.
Habitat Priorities	Risk of underestimating smaller habitats (e.g., built environment habitats) ensuring nature recovery extends beyond flagship landscapes	The LNRS includes priorities for urban habitats.
Habitat Priorities	Role of Wetland and Grassland / Rivers and Streams / Lowland Fen and Raised Bog / Coastal and Estuarine habitats in flood risk management	Referenced in the LNRS alongside habitat groups within Section 5 Priorities and Actions.

Theme	Nature of comments	LNRS Management Board Response
Habitat Priorities	Potential for certain Habitat Priorities to conflict (e.g., Woodland and Trees versus Grassland and Heathland)	Direct to caveats, prioritisation and mosaic approach. Also there is a requirement to use ecological expertise at a site level before undertaking actions.
Biodiversity Actions	General support for proposed Biodiversity Actions	Noted.
Biodiversity Actions	Support for nature-based solutions in actions (e.g., to address flooding)	Noted.
Biodiversity Actions	Calls for greater specificity and clarity around actions (i.e., beyond 'appropriately manage ...')	The LNRS is a strategic document. More consideration to these issues will be given within the delivery stage of the LNRS process.
Biodiversity Actions	Calls for stronger accountability around delivery of actions (i.e., who will be assigned actions and how they will be delivered)	The LNRS is a strategic document. More consideration to these issues will be given within the delivery stage of the LNRS process.

Theme	Nature of comments	LNRS Management Board Response
Biodiversity Actions	Actions must reflect the distinct ecological character of different landscapes, arguing against uniform interventions across National Character Areas (fenland, peatland, coastal and wet grassland habitats are cited as examples where more explicit, place-specific prioritisation is required)	<p>The majority of actions within the LNRS are located adjacent to existing habitat relevant to the action, with many being appropriate across Greater Lincolnshire.</p> <p>Through delivery and when considering actions at a site level further prioritisations of ecological character are expected to take place.</p>
Biodiversity Actions	Frustration over inconsistencies between species lists, NCA “key species” and action tables (repeated requests for clearer explanation of how species priorities were determined and how habitat actions are expected to benefit them in practice, with calls for stronger alignment between evidence, mapping and action design)	Appendix 9 gives further details of the process used in deciding both habitat and species priorities and actions. While Appendix 3 provides detail on the species assemblages for each habitat group within the LNRS. Both are available on the Greater Lincolnshire LNRS website.

Theme	Nature of comments	LNRS Management Board Response
Concerns regarding the objectives and powers of the LNRS	Feeling that LNRS does not go far enough in being only guidance and not regulation, and will be ineffectual in delivering nature recovery without compulsory powers	The Greater Lincolnshire LNRS has been prepared in line with Government guidance and the Environment Act.
Concerns regarding the objectives and powers of the LNRS	Feeling that LNRS should not go any further in being only guidance and not regulation, and that becoming compulsory would be oppressive and have negative socio-economic impacts	The Greater Lincolnshire LNRS has been prepared in line with Government guidance and the Environment Act.
Comments about habitats, including protected habitats	Continued comments advocating focus on habitats outside of the context of the designated Habitat Priorities, including mentions of micro-habitats such as hedgerows and ditches	As a result of the consultation added clarity has been added to the LNRS of hedgerows, canals and ditches.

Theme	Nature of comments	LNRS Management Board Response
Comments about habitats, including protected habitats	Concern about fragmentation of ecologically linked habitats due to built development	Fragmentation of habitats and the impact of the built environment are already recognised within the LNRS, including in the following Sections: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3.4 – Pressures affecting nature across Greater Lincolnshire • 3.5 – What are the expected future trends in nature conservation? • 4.8 – Key pressures affecting nature across Greater Lincolnshire • 5.3 – Priorities and actions tables
Existing farming or land management practices	Argument that farming and nature recovery are complementary (due to mutual benefits of environmental stewardship and food production)	The LNRS recognises the valuable role that farming can play in nature recovery. This is set out in the following Sections: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1.5 – Vision and Principles • 1.8 – How the LNRS can support the people of Greater Lincolnshire 5.3 – Priorities and actions tables

Theme	Nature of comments	LNRS Management Board Response
Existing farming or land management practices	Calls for greater collaboration with farmers and land managers to deliver nature recovery	The intention is to engage fully with farmers and other land managers within the delivery stage of the LNRS.
Existing farming or land management practices	Calls for greater incentives for farmers and land managers to participate more in nature recovery	While it is not the role of the LNRS to provide greater incentives it is intended that it would help guide both biodiversity net gain and environmental land management schemes.
Existing farming or land management practices	Centrality of farming to Lincolnshire’s cultural heritage and economy (and wider food security)	The importance of Greater Lincolnshire’s agri-food sector is recognised within the LNRS. Please see Section 4.3 – Greater Lincolnshire’s Key Sectors for further detail.
Existing farming or land management practices	Opposition to loss of agricultural land to energy development (such as solar farms and wind turbines)	Not the role of the LNRS to curb development, but will guide how BNG is applied through the planning process

Theme	Nature of comments	LNRS Management Board Response
Existing farming or land management practices	Argument that farming and land management practices are harmful to nature recovery (e.g., use of chemicals and pesticides, habitat destruction for land take, opposition to habitat creation for same reason)	<p>The LNRS recognises unsustainable farming practices as a pressure on the natural environment, however it also recognises the potential for sustainable practices to contribute to nature recovery. Additionally, there is reference to the controlled use of herbicides and pesticides, as well as mitigating the impact of these in several places. For further information, please see the following Sections:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4.5 – Key Habitats <p>5.3 – Priorities and actions tables</p>
General support for Draft LNRS	Support for ambition, principles and intent of LNRS	Noted.
General support for Draft LNRS	Credit for application of existing designations for nature (e.g., Natural Character Areas) and recognised approaches to nature recovery (e.g., the Lawton Principles)	Noted.

Theme	Nature of comments	LNRS Management Board Response
General support for Draft LNRS	LNRS seen as a launchpad for further action	Noted.
Cost and financing	Concerns about how measures recommended within LNRS will be financed (i.e., sources of financial support, length of time financial support can be provided, etc.)	Further investigation into this will be undertaken during the delivery stage.
Cost and financing	Concerns about how human resources will be allocated to deliver on LNRS	Further investigation into this will be undertaken during the delivery stage.
Cost and financing	Division on idea of financial incentives for farmers or land managers to support nature recovery (some for, some against)	Not in the purview of the LNRS to decide these matters.

Theme	Nature of comments	LNRS Management Board Response
<p>Comments about the environment, including nature, climate change and climate action</p>	<p>Concerns about climate change (references to carbon emissions, global warming, and climate action targets)</p>	<p>The LNRS recognises climate change as a pressure on the natural environment with many of its priorities having associated wider environmental benefits. This is highlighted in Sections:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1.8 – The top five aims • 3.2 – Overview of Greater Lincolnshire’s current natural assets • 3.4 – Pressures affecting nature across Greater Lincolnshire • 3.5 – What are the expected future trends in nature conservation? • 4.8 – Key pressures affecting nature across Greater Lincolnshire <p>5.3 – Priorities and actions tables</p>

Theme	Nature of comments	LNRS Management Board Response
<p>Comments about the environment, including nature, climate change and climate action</p>	<p>Calls for greater access to nature to give people an opportunity to gain a greater appreciation of it</p>	<p>The LNRS recognises the value of nature and access to nature for people’s health and wellbeing, as found in the Foreword and the following Sections:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1.9 – How can we help nature, and how can nature help us • 3.3 – What does nature provide for us? <p>4.3 – Priorities and actions tables</p>
<p>Comments about the environment, including nature, climate change and climate action</p>	<p>Interdependence of humanity and nature</p>	<p>Noted.</p>

6 Next Steps

- 6.1.1. Lincolnshire County Council, as the responsible authority for the Greater Lincolnshire LNRS, has considered all responses received through the consultation. The feedback will help inform the development of the final strategy document, which is due to be published later this year, and will be available to view on the County Council website.
- 6.1.2. Once published, the council must also submit it to DEFRA to allow it to be added to its compilation of the other LNRS documents prepared throughout England and be viewed collectively in the context of nationwide nature recovery and spatial planning.
- 6.1.3. LNRS documents are subject to regular reviews to make sure they remain up-to-date with the latest trends in nature recovery and climate change, environmental issues, planning policy and legislation, and public opinion. The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs will notify the Council when a review is due to commence at least four months in advance of this taking place. A similar process of public consultation and stakeholder consultation will accompany any reviews which are undertaken for the Greater Lincolnshire LNRS.

Appendix A: Full Frequency Code Frame: Survey Question 7

Table -A1 - Survey Question 7 Full Frequency Codeframe

Code	Code Description	Number of Coded Comments
HBG001	General comments about designation of Habitat Priorities (Habitat Themes)	52
CEB003	Comments about wildlife, including protected species (also including references to LNRS' 'Priority Species' section)	35
CEB004	Comments about habitat, including Protected Habitats	25
DVP002	Comments about the development of energy infrastructure in the countryside	23
CEB001	General comments about the environment (i.e., 'nature,' the climate, climate change, climate action)	20
PRD005	Comments suggesting that the powers of the LNRS do not go far enough (i.e., inadequate to affect change)	20
SCI001	Comments about residents and communities	20
AGF004	Comments about existing farming or land management practices with a positive or pro-farming / land manager perspective	19
AGF001	Comments about farming and impacts on farming, farmland or agricultural operations	18
HBG002	General comments about proposed Biodiversity Actions	16
DSG001	General support or positive comments regarding purpose, intentions and / or principles of LNRS	15
PRD003	Comments about working with other bodies or stakeholders to deliver the LNRS	14
DVP001	Comments about development in the countryside (general code; can include impact of construction on wildlife or habitat)	14

Code	Code Description	Number of Coded Comments
DVP004	Comments about housing development in the countryside, including mentions of urban sprawl and the Green Belt	14
DSG002	General opposition or negative comments regarding purpose, intentions and / or principles of LNRS	12
RSA002	Comments about suggested Biodiversity Actions for Rivers and Streams areas	12
CEB002	General comments about biodiversity and ecology	12
AGF005	Comments about existing farming or land management practices with a negative or anti-farming / land manager perspective	11
SCI002	Comments about public access to nature (e.g., paths, parks, open green space)	11
EAT001	Comments about the local economy, including businesses and supply chains	11
ULD001	Comments about understandability of LNRS	11
PRD002	Comments about who will be enacting the measures recommended by the LNRS and who will be held accountable for delivery	10
PRD004	Comments about how measures recommended by the LNRS may or should be funded (or how money should not be spent)	8
PPL002	Comments about planning policy and legislation	8
FAA002	Comments about suggested Biodiversity Actions for Farmland (Agricultural Land) areas	8
WTA002	Comments about suggested Biodiversity Actions for Woodland and Tree areas	7
RSA001	Comments about designation of Rivers and Streams Areas as Habitat Priority	6
FAA001	Comments about designation of Farmland (Agricultural Land) Areas as Habitat Priority	6

Code	Code Description	Number of Coded Comments
WAF001	Comments about flooding, including flood risk, prevention, protection or mitigation and comments about the water table	6
AGF002	Comments about food production (i.e., food security, etc.).	6
FWA002	Comments about suggested Biodiversity Actions for Freshwater Wetland areas	5
CEA001	Comments about designation of Coastal and Estuarine Areas as Habitat Priority	5
LSC001	Comments about visual impact and natural beauty	5
WAF003	Comments about water quality (e.g., clarity, pollution, sewage runoff)	5
HAC001	Comments about culture and heritage, including social, natural and built heritage	5
PPL001	Comments about the planning process (applications, decisions, etc.)	5
ELP001	Comments about environmental legislation and policy	5
SSA003	Suggestions for sites or Site-Specific Actions (SSAs) for nature recovery	4
WTA001	Comments about designation of Woodland and Tree Areas as Habitat Priority	4
CEA002	Comments about suggested Biodiversity Actions for Coastal and Estuarine areas	4
LSC004	Comments about protected sites or designations, including National Landscapes / AONBs, National Character Areas, SSSIs, etc.	4
COP002	Negative comments about consultation process, including methodology, survey, messaging, accessibility and interactivity	4
PRD006	Comments suggesting that the powers of the LNRS should not go any further and that it should remain as guidance	3

Code	Code Description	Number of Coded Comments
FWA001	Comments about designation of Freshwater Wetland Areas as Habitat Priority	3
GHA001	Comments about designation of Grassland and Heathland areas as Habitat Priority	3
CEB005	Comments about Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG)	3
WAF002	Comments about drainage, including soil degradation	3
AGF003	Comments about soil quality (i.e., health and disease, etc.)	3
PRD001	Comments about timescales surrounding LNRS (development, publication, etc.)	2
LBA001	Comments about designation of Lowland Fen and Raised Bog Areas as Habitat Priority	2
NBA002	Comments about suggested Biodiversity Actions for Nature in Built Environment areas	2
LEA002	Comments about suggested Biodiversity Actions for Landscape Scale and Ecological Network areas	2
LBA001	Comments about suggested Biodiversity Actions for Lowland Fen and Raised Bog areas	1
LEA001	Comments about designation of Landscape Scale and Ecological Network Areas as Habitat Priority	1
EAT002	Comments about tourism	1
OMS001	Comments about usability of online maps	1
CSY002	Negative comments about online consultation survey	1

Appendix B: Full Frequency Code Frame: Survey Question 9

Table -B1 - Survey Question 9 Full Frequency Codeframe

Code	Code Description	Number of Coded Comments
HBG002	General comments about proposed Biodiversity Actions	29
CEB003	Comments about wildlife, including protected species (also including references to LNRS' 'Priority Species' section)	35
PRD005	Comments suggesting that the powers of the LNRS do not go far enough (i.e., inadequate to affect change)	20
SCI001	Comments about residents and communities	14
CEB004	Comments about habitat, including protected habitats	13
PRD003	Comments about working with other bodies or stakeholders to deliver the LNRS	13
PPL002	Comments about planning policy and legislation	12
HBG001	General comments about designation of Habitat Priorities (Habitat Themes)	11
NBA002	Comments about suggested Biodiversity Actions for Nature in Built Environment areas	9
ULD001	Comments about understandability of LNRS	9
CEB001	General comments about the environment (i.e., 'nature,' the climate, climate change, climate action)	8
CEB002	General comments about biodiversity and ecology	8
DVP002	Comments about the development of energy infrastructure in the countryside	8
DSG002	General opposition or negative comments regarding purpose, intentions and / or principles of LNRS	7

Code	Code Description	Number of Coded Comments
AGF001	Comments about farming and impacts on farming, farmland or agricultural operations	7
AGF004	Comments about existing farming or land management practices with a positive or pro-farming / land manager perspective (e.g., 'farmers are stewards of the countryside', etc.)	7
PRD002	Comments about who will be enacting the measures recommended by the LNRS and who will be held accountable for delivery	7
DSG001	General support or positive comments regarding purpose, intentions and / or principles of LNRS	6
WTA002	Comments about suggested Biodiversity Actions for Woodland and Tree areas	6
FAA002	Comments about suggested Biodiversity Actions for Farmland (Agricultural Land) areas	6
PPL001	Comments about the planning process (applications, decisions, etc.)	6
ELP001	Comments about environmental legislation and policy	6
PRD004	Comments about how measures recommended by the LNRS may or should be funded (or how money should not be spent)	5
SSA003	Suggestions for sites or Site-Specific Actions (SSAs) for nature recovery	5
RSA002	Comments about suggested Biodiversity Actions for Rivers and Stream areas	5
SCI002	Comments about public access to nature (e.g., paths, parks, open green space)	5
CEA002	Comments about suggested Biodiversity Actions for Coastal and Estuarine areas	4
RSA001	Comments about designation of Rivers and Streams Areas as Habitat Priority	4

Code	Code Description	Number of Coded Comments
CEB005	Comments about Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG)	4
WAF001	Comments about flooding, including flood risk, prevention, protection or mitigation and comments about the water table	4
SSA002	Negative comments about Site-Specific Actions (SSAs) for nature recovery	3
FAA001	Comments about designation of Farmland (Agricultural Land) Areas as Habitat Priority	3
WAF003	Comments about water quality (e.g., clarity, pollution, sewage runoff)	3
AGF002	Comments about food production (i.e., food security, etc.).	3
AGF005	Comments about existing farming or land management practices with a negative or anti-farming / land manager perspective	3
EAT001	Comments about the local economy, including businesses and supply chains	3
PRD006	Comments suggesting that the powers of the LNRS should not go any further and that it should remain as guidance	2
WTA001	Comments about designation of Woodland and Tree Areas as Habitat Priority	2
GHA001	Comments about designation of Grassland and Heathland areas as Habitat Priority	2
GHA002	Comments about suggested Biodiversity Actions for Grassland and Heathland areas	2
FWA002	Comments about suggested Biodiversity Actions for Freshwater Wetland areas	2
LBA002	Comments about suggested Biodiversity Actions for Lowland Fen and Raised Bog areas	2
LSC001	Comments about visual impact and natural beauty	2

Code	Code Description	Number of Coded Comments
LSC002	Comments about protected sites or designations, including National Landscapes / AONBs, National Character Areas, SSSIs, etc.	2
WAF002	Comments about drainage, including soil degradation	2
COP002	Negative comments about consultation process, including methodology, survey, messaging, accessibility and interactivity	2
CSY002	Negative comments about online consultation survey	2
PRD001	Comments about timescales surrounding LNRS (development, publication, etc.)	1
CEA001	Comments about designation of Coastal and Estuarine Areas as Habitat Priority	1
EAT002	Comments about tourism	1
HAC001	Comments about culture and heritage, including social, natural and built heritage	1
HAC002	Comments about archaeology	1
DVP003	Comments about existing infrastructure in the countryside (including grid, energy generating assets, utilities or commercial operations) and impacts on it	1
OMU001	Comments about understandability of online maps	1
OMS001	Comments about usability of online maps	1

Appendix C: Full Frequency Code Frame: Survey Question 11

Table - C1 - Survey Question 11 Full Frequency Codeframe

Code	Code Description	Number of Coded Comments
OMS001	Comments about usability of online maps	7
OMU001	Comments about understandability of online maps	6
PRD003	Comments about working with other bodies or stakeholders to deliver the LNRS	2
HBG002	General comments about proposed Biodiversity Actions	2
PRD002	Comments about who will be enacting the measures recommended by the LNRS and who will be held accountable for delivery	1
HBG001	General comments about designation of Habitat Priorities (Habitat Themes)	1
SSA002	Negative comments about Site-Specific Actions (SSAs) for nature recovery	1
SSA003	Suggestions for sites or Site-Specific Actions (SSAs) for nature recovery	1

Appendix D: Full Frequency Code Frame: Survey Question 13

Table -D1 - Survey Question 13 Full Frequency Codeframe

Code	Code Description	Number of Coded Comments
OMS001	Comments about usability of online maps	6
OMU001	Comments about understandability of online maps	5
PRD002	Comments about who will be enacting the measures recommended by the LNRS and who will be held accountable for delivery	1
PRD003	Comments about working with other bodies or stakeholders to deliver the LNRS	1
HBG002	General comments about proposed Biodiversity Actions	1

Appendix E: Full Frequency Code Frame: Survey Question 14

Table -E1 - Survey Question 14 Full Frequency Codeframe

Code	Code Description	Number of Coded Comments
SSA003	Suggestions for sites or Site-Specific Actions (SSAs) for nature recovery	25
OMU001	Comments about understandability of online maps	23
OMS001	Comments about usability of online maps	22
SSA002	Negative comments about Site-Specific Actions (SSAs) for nature recovery	14
CEB003	Comments about wildlife, including Protected Species (also including references to LNRS' 'Priority Species' section)	13
ULD001	Comments about understandability of LNRS	9
CEB004	Comments about habitat, including Protected Habitats	9
DSG002	General opposition or negative comments regarding purpose, intentions and / or principles of LNRS	9
COP002	Negative comments about consultation process, including methodology, survey, messaging, accessibility and interactivity	8
SCI001	Comments about residents and communities	8
WTA002	Comments about suggested Biodiversity Actions for Woodland and Tree areas	8
PRD003	Comments about working with other bodies or stakeholders to deliver the LNRS	7

Code	Code Description	Number of Coded Comments
PRD005	Comments suggesting that the powers of the LNRS do not go far enough and / or are not sufficiently transformative. Includes comments questioning whether the LNRS will deliver on its objectives	7
CEB001	General comments about the environment (i.e., 'nature', climate, climate change, climate action)	7
PPL001	Comments about the planning process (applications, decisions, etc.)	7
DVP002	Comments about the development of renewables and grid infrastructure in the countryside	6
CEB002	General comments about biodiversity and ecology	6
LSC002	Comments about protected sites or designations, including National Landscapes / AONBs, National Character Areas, SSSIs, etc.	6
DVP001	Comments about development in the countryside (general code; can include impact of construction on wildlife or habitat)	6
GHA002	Comments about suggested Biodiversity Actions for Grassland and Heathland areas	6
SSA001	Positive comments about Site-Specific Actions (SSAs) for nature recovery	6
SSA004	Comments asking for sites or areas to be removed from Site-Specific Actions (SSAs) for nature recovery	5
EAT001	Comments about the local economy, including businesses and supply chains	5
PPL002	Comments about planning policy and legislation	4

Code	Code Description	Number of Coded Comments
AGF001	Comments about farming and impacts on farming, farmland or agricultural operations	4
WAF001	Comments about flooding, including flood risk, prevention, protection or mitigation and comments about the water table	4
CSY002	Negative comments about online consultation survey	4
CEB005	Comments about Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG)	4
NBA002	Comments about suggested Biodiversity Actions for Nature in Built Environment areas	4
CEA001	Comments about designation of Coastal and Estuarine Areas as Habitat Priority	4
PRD006	Comments suggesting that the powers of the LNRS should not go any further and that it should remain as guidance	4
AGF004	Comments about existing farming or land management practices with a positive or pro-farming / land manager perspective	3
WAF002	Comments about drainage, including soil degradation	3
RSA001	Comments about designation of Rivers and Streams Areas as Habitat Priority	3
DSG001	General support or positive comments regarding purpose, intentions and / or principles of LNRS	3
PRD002	Comments about who will be enacting the measures recommended by the LNRS and who will be held accountable for delivery	3
HBG002	General comments about proposed Biodiversity Actions	3
HAC001	Comments about culture and heritage, including social, natural and built heritage	2

Code	Code Description	Number of Coded Comments
EAT002	Comments about tourism	2
SCI002	Comments about public access to nature (e.g., paths, parks, open green space)	2
LSC001	Comments about visual impact and natural beauty	2
GHA001	Comments about designation of Grassland and Heathland areas as Habitat Priority	2
HBG001	General comments about designation of Habitat Priorities (Habitat Themes)	2
PRD004	Comments about how measures recommended by the LNRS may or should be funded (or how money should not be spent)	2
PRD001	Comments about timescales surrounding LNRS (development, publication, etc.)	2
CSY001	Positive comments about online consultation survey	1
COP001	Positive comments about consultation process, including methodology, survey, messaging, accessibility and interactivity	1
ELP001	Comments about environmental legislation and policy (e.g., Environment Act 2021)	1
DVP003	Comments about existing infrastructure in the countryside (including grid, energy generating assets, utilities or commercial operations) and impacts on it	1
HAC002	Comments about archaeology	1
AGF005	Comments about existing farming or land management practices with a negative or anti-farming / land manager perspective	1
AGF003	Comments about soil quality (i.e., health and disease, etc.)	1

Code	Code Description	Number of Coded Comments
WAF003	Comments about water quality (e.g., clarity, pollution, sewage runoff)	1
WTA001	Comments about designation of Woodland and Tree Areas as Habitat Priority	1
FWA002	Comments about suggested Biodiversity Actions for Freshwater Wetland areas	1
CEA002	Comments about suggested Biodiversity Actions for Coastal and Estuarine areas	1
RSA002	Comments about suggested Biodiversity Actions for Rivers and Stream areas	1
FAA001	Comments about designation of Farmland (Agricultural Land) Areas as Habitat Priority	1
FAA002	Comments about suggested Biodiversity Actions for Farmland (Agricultural Land) areas	1
LEA001	Comments about designation of Landscape Scale and Ecological Network Areas as Habitat Priority	1
LEA002	Comments about suggested Biodiversity Actions for Landscape Scale and Ecological Network areas	1

Appendix F: Full Frequency Code Frame: Survey Question 15

Table -F1 – Survey Question 15 Full Frequency Codeframe

Code	Code Description	Number of Coded Comments
PRD005	Comments suggesting that the powers of the LNRS do not go far enough and / or are not sufficiently transformative. Includes comments questioning whether the LNRS will deliver on its objectives	37
CEB003	Comments about wildlife, including Protected Species (also including references to LNRS' 'Priority Species' section)	35
DSG001	General support or positive comments regarding purpose, intentions and / or principles of LNRS	24
CEB001	General comments about the environment (i.e., 'nature', climate, climate change, climate action)	23
CEB004	Comments about habitat, including Protected Habitats	22
PRD003	Comments about working with other bodies or stakeholders to deliver the LNRS	21
SCI001	Comments about residents and communities	20
DSG002	General opposition or negative comments regarding purpose, intentions and / or principles of LNRS	19
ULD001	Comments about understandability of LNRS	17
CEB002	General comments about biodiversity and ecology	14
PRD002	Comments about who will be enacting the measures recommended by the LNRS and who will be held accountable for delivery	13

Code	Code Description	Number of Coded Comments
DVP001	Comments about development in the countryside (general code; can include impact of construction on wildlife or habitat)	13
DVP002	Comments about the development of renewables and grid infrastructure in the countryside	12
OMS001	Comments about usability of online maps	11
EAT001	Comments about the local economy, including businesses and supply chains	11
AGF004	Comments about existing farming or land management practices with a positive or pro-farming / land manager perspective	11
PRD004	Comments about how measures recommended by the LNRS may or should be funded (or how money should not be spent)	9
AGF001	Comments about farming and impacts on farming, farmland or agricultural operations	9
OMU001	Comments about understandability of online maps	9
COP002	Negative comments about consultation process, including methodology, survey, messaging, accessibility and interactivity	9
ELP001	Comments about environmental legislation and policy (e.g., Environment Act 2021)	8
HBG002	General comments about proposed Biodiversity Actions	8
NBA002	Comments about suggested Biodiversity Actions for Nature in Built Environment areas	7
SSA003	Suggestions for sites or Site-Specific Actions (SSAs) for nature recovery	7
HBG001	General comments about designation of Habitat Priorities (Habitat Themes)	6

Code	Code Description	Number of Coded Comments
LSC002	Comments about protected sites or designations, including National Landscapes / AONBs, National Character Areas, SSSIs, etc.	6
SCI002	Comments about public access to nature (e.g., paths, parks, open green space)	6
PPL002	Comments about planning policy and legislation	6
CSY002	Negative comments about online consultation survey	6
RSA001	Comments about designation of Rivers and Streams Areas as Habitat Priority	6
DVP004	Comments about housing development in the countryside, including mentions of urban sprawl and the Green Belt	5
AGF005	Comments about existing farming or land management practices with a negative or anti-farming / land manager perspective	5
RSA002	Comments about suggested Biodiversity Actions for Rivers and Stream areas	5
CEA001	Comments about designation of Coastal and Estuarine Areas as Habitat Priority	5
WTA002	Comments about suggested Biodiversity Actions for Woodland and Tree areas	5
SSA002	Negative comments about Site-Specific Actions (SSAs) for nature recovery	5
PRD001	Comments about timescales surrounding LNRS (development, publication, etc.)	5
WTA001	Comments about designation of Woodland and Tree Areas as Habitat Priority	4
PPL001	Comments about the planning process (applications, decisions, etc.)	4

Code	Code Description	Number of Coded Comments
HAC001	Comments about culture and heritage, including social, natural and built heritage	3
EAT002	Comments about tourism	3
WAF003	Comments about water quality (e.g., clarity, pollution, sewage runoff)	3
LBA002	Comments about suggested Biodiversity Actions for Lowland Fen and Raised Bog areas	3
FWA002	Comments about suggested Biodiversity Actions for Freshwater Wetland areas	3
GHA002	Comments about suggested Biodiversity Actions for Grassland and Heathland areas	2
CEA002	Comments about suggested Biodiversity Actions for Coastal and Estuarine areas	2
LBA001	Comments about designation of Lowland Fen and Raised Bog Areas as Habitat Priority	2
COP001	Positive comments about consultation process, including methodology, survey, messaging, accessibility and interactivity	2
WAF001	Comments about flooding, including flood risk, prevention, protection or mitigation and comments about the water table	2
PRD006	Comments suggesting that the powers of the LNRS should not go any further and that it should remain as guidance	1
FWA001	Comments about designation of Freshwater Wetland Areas as Habitat Priority	1
CSY001	Positive comments about online consultation survey	1
AGF002	Comments about food production (i.e., food security, etc.).	1

Code	Code Description	Number of Coded Comments
WAF002	Comments about drainage, including soil degradation	1
CEB005	Comments about Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG)	1
LSC001	Comments about visual impact and natural beauty	1
FAA001	Comments about designation of Farmland (Agricultural Land) Areas as Habitat Priority	1
FAA002	Comments about suggested Biodiversity Actions for Farmland (Agricultural Land) areas	1

Appendix G: Full Frequency Code Frame: Overall Survey Responses

Table -G2 – Overall Survey Responses

Code	Code Description	Number of Coded Comments
CEB003	Comments about wildlife, including Protected Species (also including references to LNRS' 'Priority Species' section)	71
HBG001	General comments about designation of Habitat Priorities (Habitat Themes)	58
PRD005	Comments suggesting that the powers of the LNRS do not go far enough and / or are not sufficiently transformative. Includes comments questioning whether the LNRS will deliver on its objectives	51
HBG002	General comments about proposed Biodiversity Actions	51
CEB004	Comments about habitat, including Protected Habitats	49
SCI001	Comments about residents and communities	42
CEB001	General comments about the environment (i.e., 'nature', climate, climate change, climate action)	40
DSG001	General support or positive comments regarding purpose, intentions and / or principles of LNRS	39
PRD004	Comments about how measures recommended by the LNRS may or should be funded (or how money should not be spent)	39
OMS001	Comments about usability of online maps	37
OMU001	Comments about understandability of online maps	36

Code	Code Description	Number of Coded Comments
PRD003	Comments about working with other bodies or stakeholders to deliver the LNRS	34
DVP002	Comments about the development of renewables and grid infrastructure in the countryside	32
DVP001	Comments about development in the countryside (general code; can include impact of construction on wildlife or habitat)	30
SSA003	Suggestions for sites or Site-Specific Actions (SSAs) for nature recovery	30
CEB002	General comments about biodiversity and ecology	28
ULD001	Comments about understandability of LNRS	28
PPL002	Comments about planning policy and legislation	25
AGF004	Comments about existing farming or land management practices with a positive or pro-farming / land manager perspective	25
AGF001	Comments about farming and impacts on farming, farmland or agricultural operations	25
DSG002	General opposition or negative comments regarding purpose, intentions and / or principles of LNRS	23
WTA002	Comments about suggested Biodiversity Actions for Woodland and Tree areas	23
EAT001	Comments about the local economy, including businesses and supply chains	23
DVP004	Comments about housing development in the countryside, including mentions of urban sprawl and the Green Belt	22
PRD002	Comments about who will be enacting the measures recommended by the LNRS and who will be held accountable for delivery	22

Code	Code Description	Number of Coded Comments
SSA002	Negative comments about Site-Specific Actions (SSAs) for nature recovery	20
PPL001	Comments about the planning process (applications, decisions, etc.)	20
RSA002	Comments about suggested Biodiversity Actions for Rivers and Stream areas	19
NBA002	Comments about suggested Biodiversity Actions for Nature in Built Environment areas	19
ELP001	Comments about environmental legislation and policy (e.g., Environment Act 2021)	17
SCI002	Comments about public access to nature (e.g., paths, parks, open green space)	16
COP002	Negative comments about consultation process, including methodology, survey, messaging, accessibility and interactivity	15
AGF005	Comments about existing farming or land management practices with a negative or anti-farming / land manager perspective	15
LSC002	Comments about protected sites or designations, including National Landscapes / AONBs, National Character Areas, SSSIs, etc.	14
WAF001	Comments about flooding, including flood risk, prevention, protection or mitigation and comments about the water table	13
RSA001	Comments about designation of Rivers and Streams Areas as Habitat Priority	11
CEA001	Comments about designation of Coastal and Estuarine Areas as Habitat Priority	11
WTA001	Comments about designation of Woodland and Tree Areas as Habitat Priority	11
PRD001	Comments about timescales surrounding LNRS (development, publication, etc.)	10

Code	Code Description	Number of Coded Comments
GHA002	Comments about suggested Biodiversity Actions for Grassland and Heathland areas	10
CEB005	Comments about Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG)	10
FWA002	Comments about suggested Biodiversity Actions for Freshwater Wetland areas	9
FAA001	Comments about designation of Farmland (Agricultural Land) Areas as Habitat Priority	9
FAA002	Comments about suggested Biodiversity Actions for Farmland (Agricultural Land) areas	9
HAC001	Comments about culture and heritage, including social, natural and built heritage	8
CSY002	Negative comments about online consultation survey	8
WAF003	Comments about water quality (e.g., clarity, pollution, sewage runoff)	7
CEA002	Comments about suggested Biodiversity Actions for Coastal and Estuarine areas	7
GHA001	Comments about designation of Grassland and Heathland areas as Habitat Priority	7
AGF002	Comments about food production (i.e., food security, etc.).	6
WAF002	Comments about drainage, including soil degradation	6
LSC001	Comments about visual impact and natural beauty	6
SSA001	Positive comments about Site-Specific Actions (SSAs) for nature recovery	6
PRD006	Comments suggesting that the powers of the LNRS should not go any further and that it should remain as guidance	5

Code	Code Description	Number of Coded Comments
SSA004	Comments asking for sites or areas to be removed from Site-Specific Actions (SSAs) for nature recovery	5
FWA001	Comments about designation of Freshwater Wetland Areas as Habitat Priority	4
LBA001	Comments about designation of Lowland Fen and Raised Bog Areas as Habitat Priority	4
LBA002	Comments about suggested Biodiversity Actions for Lowland Fen and Raised Bog areas	4
AGF003	Comments about soil quality (i.e., health and disease, etc.)	4
EAT002	Comments about tourism	4
LEA002	Comments about suggested Biodiversity Actions for Landscape Scale and Ecological Network areas	3
COP001	Positive comments about consultation process, including methodology, survey, messaging, accessibility and interactivity	3
CSY001	Positive comments about online consultation survey	2
LEA001	Comments about designation of Landscape Scale and Ecological Network Areas as Habitat Priority	2
DVP003	Comments about existing infrastructure in the countryside (including grid, energy generating assets, utilities or commercial operations) and impacts on it	1
HAC002	Comments about archaeology	1

Appendix H: Email Responses

Email Response 1

We act on behalf of [REDACTED] and have been instructed to submit representations to the consultation on LNRS for Greater Lincolnshire.

[REDACTED] owns and operates [REDACTED], an animal feed manufacturing plant in [REDACTED]. The extent of [REDACTED]'s ownership and operational area is identified on the accompanying site location plan.

The site is operational and must be diligently maintained and managed by the business to ensure ongoing operations, and health and safety. This includes the whole area as identified on the site location plan, and requires careful management to ensure that there is no risk posed to the animal feed manufacturing process, particularly in respect of biosecurity.

The priority statement for areas along the River Trent corridor seeks to increase biodiversity and maximise environmental benefits by reducing flooding and improving water quality and storage. Action area no 76 (as below) is identified along the River Trent and includes part of [REDACTED]'s operational area.

While we do not object to the priority statement, we object to the inclusion of [REDACTED]'s operational area in Action Area. We acknowledge that it does not require the landowner to make changes to their land or place restrictions. However, as stated above, all areas within [REDACTED]'s demise are operational, maintained and managed, and required by the business for the purpose of biosecure animal feed manufacturing operations and there is no opportunity to create new habitat. We therefore request that [REDACTED]'s demise is excluded from Area Action 76 boundary.

We would be grateful for your acknowledgment of receipt of these representations. Should you require any further information, please contact [REDACTED], using the contact details below.

Email Response 2

We act on behalf of [REDACTED] and have been instructed to submit representations to the consultation on LNRS for Greater Lincolnshire.

[REDACTED] owns and operates a longstanding bakery at [REDACTED] ('the site'). The extent of the client's ownership and operation at this site is identified on the enclosed site location plan. The site is an operational bakery, and is therefore the site is maintained and managed by the business to ensure ongoing operations, and health and safety.

The Draft LNRS identifies a small area within the site within Action Area 28 to create acid grassland linking and/or buffering existing acid grass land. The entirety of the site is included within a wider area identified as Action Area 132 seeking to create appropriate buffer habitat.

It is understood that the priority statements in relation to Actions 28 and 132 relate to the site's location in relation to Swanholme Lakes. More specifically, Action 28 seeks to create acid grassland linking and/or buffering existing grassland and Action 132 seeks to create appropriate buffer habitat. We acknowledge that the LNRS does not require the landowner to make changes to their land or place restrictions. However, as stated above, [REDACTED] is an established operational bakery, with all areas within the demise being either operational or maintained, managed and required by the business. As such, no part of the client's demise is available or suitable for creation of new or additional habitat. As such, the inclusion of [REDACTED]'s demise within Action Areas is inappropriate. We therefore request that [REDACTED]'s demise is excluded from Action Areas 28 and 132.

We would be grateful for your acknowledgment of receipt of these representations. Should you require any further information, please contact [REDACTED], using the contact details below.

Email Response 3

Dear Greater Lincolnshire LNRS Team,

Thank you for the work that went into developing the Draft LNRS and for the opportunity to comment on it. In this letter I outline the role of shooting in nature recovery and then highlight any recommendations on the detail of the LNRS draft.

If you would like a discussion with us before you finalise the strategy, then we would be happy to make that time available.

About [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Sustainable shooting is an ally to the delivery of the LNRS objectives because it is a financial and social driver for the investment in the improvement of habitat extent and condition and its associated ecosystem services.

Sustainable Shooting

Sustainable shooting respects quarry species and seeks to conserve and improve the environment. It avoids excessive consumption, complies with the law, improves the health and well-being of participants and provides food and economic benefits to the wider community**. ** There are various standards and advice available to educate anyone what sustainable shooting looks like. The Code of Good Shooting Practice and GWCT's sustainable gamebird release guidance are core references for anyone managing game. [REDACTED]'s codes of practice for different shooting disciplines provide the standards for people to operate to, be they pest and predator controllers, deer managers, wildfowlers or upland game managers. It is from this strong foundation that we work with governments and partners to promote nature recovery through sustainable shooting.

Shooting and nature recovery

[REDACTED] has produced three high level reports since 2024 on the social, environmental and economic benefits of recreational shooting.



Most recent is a review of the evidence on how shooting is assisting government with the delivery of targets embedded in the 2021 Environment Act and through the Environmental Improvement Plan (EIP). This report, called the Shooting and national nature recovery goals, finds strong connections with six of the ten EIP goals and 18 of government's wider targets, including four of the legally binding targets set through the 2021 Environment Act. The report makes two key recommendations to maximise the benefits shooting provides for nature recovery efforts which your LNRS could adopt.

Taking steps to improve recognition and understanding of shooting's capacity to support government policies for nature recovery

Improving collaboration on measures that support environmental improvement.

Natural Capital underpins government's environmental policies and your Draft LNRS highlights the natural capital value of the area. Therefore, [REDACTED]'s inaugural Natural Capital Benefits of Shooting report is of interest as it places a value on the financial and social benefits the public enjoy from our natural environment due to shooting. The headline findings clearly demonstrates key areas where sustainable shooting is providing substantial benefits in terms of ecosystem services through its management of habitats and species that benefit local people.

We valued the carbon sequestration of the management of woodland, wetland and saltmarsh at £227 million in England. Most of this value was associated with woodland habitat and it was roughly in equal measures of:

- the increase in habitat extent and better quality of woodland condition related to pheasant shooting leading to greater carbon storage; and
- the carbon-loss avoided through existing levels of deer and grey squirrel management, supporting successful establishment of woodland plantations and natural regeneration.

The report provided data on savings to the NHS and local authority budgets of £22 million in avoided physical and mental health costs, because the average person that shoots is more active and less lonely than the average citizen.

The report also set out the value of shooting for domestic food and material security of £65 million a year for England. This comes from the shot food value of venison, pheasant, rabbit and so forth combined with the savings we give farmers and foresters through avoided crop and timber losses thanks to the control of woodpigeon, deer and grey squirrel.

The Value of Shooting is the third report. It valued the time we as shooters voluntarily put into habitat creation and maintenance alongside management of species that cause environmental problems at £450 million a year. It also set out that shooting is worth £2.9 billion to the English economy.

We all know that the cost of nature recovery is too large for the public purse and requires private investment. These reports demonstrate that shooting is materially contributing towards meeting the funding gap whilst providing substantial ecosystem service provision for society in general.

Below we provide some comments on elements of the Draft LNRS.

Woodland and Trees

Woodlands, especially with scrubby margins, and hedgerows are key habitats managed by the shooting community. The long-term evidence base is clear that game shooting is a driver for their retention, creation and management. This has measurable impacts at the landscape scale as shown by the study undertaken by the Oxford Systematic Review LLP that was released in 2024. It assessed over 1,000 woodland sites managed for game birds with matched comparator sites by using different remote sensing technologies (OXSREV 2024 i).

The study shows that:

- Woodlands on sites with game shoots are structurally more diverse than woodlands on comparator sites.
- Shooting sites had over twice the length of hedgerows than comparator sites.

This clearly shows that game shooting is an ally in moving the LNRS forwards. [REDACTED]'s advice to shoots will help in this as it is aligned with Forest Research's woodland ecological condition criteria which in turn underpins the UK Forestry Standard. This advice is available as an advice pack to members on our website and our regional teams use it when on shoot visits. It covers some of the most pressing issues for woodland health; open space, deadwood, herbivore damage and natural regeneration.

We appreciate the LNRS addresses the challenge of managing our expanding deer population and grey squirrel in the later section, Landscape scale and ecological networks. Both are a key risk to woodland condition and extension. [REDACTED] provides training on both deer and grey squirrel management and have substantial expertise.

You may be aware that [REDACTED] has created a Register of competent deer stalkers to connect competent people with organisations like [REDACTED] and other landowners who need deer management. If you would like to highlight this in the LNRS then we would be happy for you to do so.

Grassland and Heathland

We have a particular point to make on measure 47 recommending fencing to exclude ground predators on wet grasslands sites with significant ground-nesting bird populations. This measure is fine as far as it goes but in fact unless enclosures are sufficiently large so that young can stay within them until they are fledged the risk from ground-based predators is substantial.

We appreciate that predator management can be contentious but there are examples where it is done with sufficient intensity to result in improved populations of waders. The BTO has released a report this year (Report 797 Review of Curlew-focused conservation interventions in the UK and Western Europe, and assessment of intervention scenarios using population modelling) and it found that three quarters of curlew projects they surveyed had a combination of predator fencing and lethal management. What is key is that the scale and intensity of control is sufficient to result in an improvement in breeding success.

We recommend the LNRS are supportive of programmes of work that include such predator management as part of the strategy to see the recovery of threatened ground-nesting birds.

Coastal and Marine

[REDACTED] has a strong contingent of affiliated clubs and syndicates who shoot over and manage intertidal habitats and functionally linked wetlands behind the sea walls across the UK. Clubs have done this through a mixture of self-funding and grants for land purchase ([REDACTED] wildlife fund) Agency. These experiences are shared between our clubs at a national level and through [REDACTED]'s dedicated wildfowl and wetlands team.

The habitat management undertaken by these groups includes saltmarsh grazing and mowing to ensure a sward of value to wintering waterfowl and resident waterfowl through the breeding season. They also create habitat just behind the sea wall to provide additional wetland habitat and areas where birds can roost safely at high tide.

Any syndicates and clubs in Greater Lincolnshire offer a community of people to work with on the delivery of the measures across the coastal habitats.

In relation to measure 66, our comment above on predator management can also be applied to measures for little tern, oystercatcher and ringed plover. In addition, human disturbance is one of the pressures the LNRS has noted. For information, the wildfowling season runs after the breeding season and clubs control their visits to ensure they are at sustainable levels because it is important to them to have abundant waterfowl and other birds where they operate. When on SSSIs shooting typically goes through the consent process with Natural England to ensure they are at sustainable levels.

Farmland (Agricultural Land)

The influence of shooting on farm landscapes to provide the incentive, means and workforce to create a connected landscape for game and wildlife is substantial. Our practical experience shows repeatedly that farmers and landowners select hedgerow, grass margins, wild bird cover crops, insect rich meadows, scrubby corners and farm wetlands options in ELMS substantially more when they have a game shooting interest. Therefore, shooting is already addressing the challenge of enabling wildlife to pass through farmed landscapes because management of shooting increases habitat connectivity and permeability. Shooting should be regarded as a serious opportunity to enhance delivery of LNRS actions.

Considering hedgerows in particular, game shooting is a powerful reason for their retention, creation and nature friendly management. It also has measurable impacts at the landscape

scale as shown by the study undertaken by the Oxford Systematic Review LLP we described above, which revealed game shoots have over twice the length of hedgerows than sites without game shooting. This clearly shows that game shooting is synonymous with significantly more hedgerow length and therefore network connections.

Management of hedgerows for game encourages a structure that provides shelter for wildlife and ensures a cutting rotation to permit fruiting across large parts of the network each year. When combined with humane pest and predator control, adjoining grass margins and cover crops, this provides the right conditions for farmland birds to flourish.

Species priorities and actions

We support your selection of species and have a couple of points to mention.

[On beavers we encourage you to invest heavily in landowner support, not just on any recipient site, but on surrounding land where beavers will spread to. The experience in Scotland of successful introduction of beavers then spreading into the landscape leading to a level of culling being required was one that resulted in legal action against the regulator. Although it was later dismissed, it highlights the need for everyone to fully embrace the need for management measures at the outset of considering a reintroduction. We suggest reference to Defra's statutory guidance detailing its approach to beaver management in England should be highlighted in the strategy.]

For redshank and stone curlew our comments on predator management made for measures 47 and 66 apply here also.

It was a pleasure to read your Draft LNRS and we look forward to using the published version in our work with the shooting community in the Greater Lincolnshire area. If there is anything in our response or otherwise you would like to discuss then please get in touch. We would be pleased to make the time available to you.

Email Response 4

Executive Summary

Creekside Meadows, hereafter referred to as the site, a 31-hectare site within the Lincolnshire Coast and Marshes National Character Area (NCA), presents a strategic opportunity to strengthen Greater Lincolnshire biodiversity network through its inclusion in the Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS).

The project will restore species-rich wet grassland habitats, create reedbeds and floodplain grazing marsh systems as well as buffer zones to priority habitats, and enhance habitat connectivity, delivering benefits such as improved soil health, water quality and climate resilience. By establishing a dynamic mosaic of habitats, the site will reduce fragmentation, support long-term ecological resilience, and contribute significantly to Greater Lincolnshire's nature recovery goals: promoting ecotourism and enhancing people's enjoyment of the coast and its wildlife, whilst protecting the tranquillity of the extensive, open views both inland to the Wolds and out to sea.

Strategic Rationale for Inclusion

Surrounded by multiple Local Nature Reserves (LNRs) and Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs), such as The Wash (*Figure 1*), the site offers a unique opportunity to strengthen landscape-scale connectivity, creating ecological corridors that link priority habitats and reduce fragmentation, which aligns with Greater Lincolnshire LNRS priorities for habitat connectivity and restoration. The site also lies directly adjacent to SSSIs (Sea Bank Clay Pits and Wolla Bank) identified in the Greater Lincolnshire LNRS priorities map (*Figure 2*).

Figure 1 – Location of Creekside Meadows and Adjacent Designated Sites

The land is immediately adjacent to priority habitat and Areas of Particular Importance for Biodiversity. Its inclusion within the LNRS would therefore support ecological buffering, enhancement, and landscape-scale connectivity.

The site is the subject of a 30-year nature recovery project designed to restore wet grassland habitats. As a Biodiversity Net Gain-funded initiative, it will make a substantial and early contribution to Greater Lincolnshire's LNRS delivery targets.

This is particularly significant given that many opportunity areas identified across England's emerging LNRS network may struggle to progress in the absence of secured funding.

Summary of Expected Benefits

- Enhanced biodiversity (flora and fauna), including the restoration of species-rich wet grassland habitats.
- Improved soil condition through low-input, regenerative management.
- Increased habitat connectivity between semi-natural habitats.
- Protection and buffering priority habitats such as coastal and floodplain grazing marsh
- Enhancing climate change resilience and contributing to climate regulation by slowing surface water flow and improving water retention.

Overall Aims

Across the 31-hectare site, a dynamic mosaic of habitats will be established to benefit a wide range of wildlife.

This will be achieved through a combination of:

- Wet grassland restoration via grazing and hay-cutting
- Creation of reedbeds in naturally lower sections

Figure 2 – Creekside Meadows site in relation to Greater Lincolnshire LNRS priority areas

Together, these interventions will provide structural diversity, food sources, and shelter for a range of species while supporting long-term ecological resilience.

Wet Grassland Restoration

The site offers a significant opportunity to expand and restore this habitat type.

Species-rich wet grassland and coastal grazing marsh creation will be delivered using traditional and proven restoration methods:

- Low-intensity livestock conservation grazing to mimic natural processes, control vegetation and maintain varied plant heights which is crucial for birds and insects
- Annual hay cutting to reduce soil fertility and suppress dominant grasses

- Introduction of green hay sourced from species-rich local donor sites
- Establishment of suitable seed conditions through a structured cut-and-take management regime
- Soil preparation (light harrowing or scarifying) to create germination niches
- Control of invasive species through manual removal or targeted grazing
- Implementing ditches with reed beds and water retention structures, and managing water flow to keep areas wet, especially in winter and spring and enhance filtration, and provide habitat for wetland species
- A zero-input strategy, avoiding artificial fertilisers and pesticides

This restoration work will reduce habitat fragmentation, strengthen ecological connectivity, and support water quality improvements while promoting a wider suite of floodplain meadow species, including rare and declining species.

Wet grassland restoration at Creekside Meadows presents a critical opportunity to link, enhance and expand existing habitats within the Wolla Bank Pit SSSI and LWT Anderby Marsh and Wolla Bank Reedbed site, while also providing a buffer to these sites from agricultural activity inland.

Priority species which would benefit from these measures

- Hedgehog (*Erinaceus europaeus*)
- Great crested newt (*Triturus cristatus*)
- European Water Vole (*Arvicola amphibius*)
- Lapwing (*Vanellus Vanellus*)

Email Response 5

Generally good and in favour although no reference to Anglian Water as part of responsibility and actions keeping rivers clean (though maybe I missed it, long doc).

Also, no public engagement other than surveys - where others get workshops - opportunity missed to generate deeper knowledge and also to strengthen public buy-in.

Lots of flooding talk, but nothing about climate change re: heat effects, which are scientifically predicted. (University of Lincoln Institute for Rural and Coastal Health has a couple of academics research -focused on this, with rural and coastal emphasis).

It would be better if key actions were assigned to specific organisations, at least naming those to lead on them, more transparent, and public able to hold to account; otherwise it feels like an 'easy get out' more possible.

Engagement was with orgs connected to farming and business, landowners, not community members. Some good place-based conversations in communities would be idea, walk the patch, see and be there.

Email Response 6

Thank you for your consultation on the above document.

[REDACTED]. Our waterways contribute to the health and wellbeing of local communities and economies, creating attractive and connected places to live, work, volunteer and spend leisure time. These historic, natural and cultural assets form part of the strategic and local green -blue infrastructure network, linking urban and rural communities as well as habitats. By caring for our waterways and promoting their use we believe we can improve the wellbeing of our nation. The [REDACTED] is a statutory consultee in the Development Management process, and as such we welcome the opportunity to input into planning policy related matters to ensure that our waterways are protected, safeguarded and enhanced within an appropriate policy framework.

Our waterways should be acknowledged within the policy document, as significant blue/green infrastructure, which can serve as a catalyst for regeneration; a sustainable travel resource for commuting and leisure; a natural health service acting as blue gyms and supporting physical and healthy outdoor activity; an ecological and biodiversity resource; a tourism, cultural, sport, leisure and recreation resource; a heritage landscape; a contributor to water supply and transfer, drainage and flood management. The waterway network forms part of the historic environment, the character, cultural and social focus of the county.

Within Lincolnshire [REDACTED] have the following interests and assets:

- River Trent
- Fosdyke
- River Witham
- Grantham Canal including the Denton and Knipton Reservoirs and their feeders.

Based on the documents and information available [REDACTED] has the following general advice, and [REDACTED] considers that our waterways could make a greater contribution to achieving the vision of the strategy if the following amendments are made as suggested below.



Please find below [REDACTED]'s response to your draft Local Nature Recovery Strategy. We hope that the comments provided are clear and helpful and that your next revision will address these points.

We are willing to continue to work with you, to meet and discuss these points for clarity and to seek to work together towards high-quality outcomes that relates positively with the waterway network.

Water voles are mentioned as a key species in the introduction but not mentioned again within the document. Our network (and watercourses more generally) is a key habitat for water vole, and it seems strange that they are not mentioned elsewhere within the document. We hope that additional information related to species is being prepared to address this prior to the publication of the strategy.

It is unclear why does the strategy document presents the Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) by National Character Area (NCA) but the map doesn't. This makes it hard to cross-reference.

Rivers and Streams - Canals and ditches are not considered as part of a wider watercourses section. It is obviously important to distinguish between natural watercourses and artificial channels/navigational functionality, i.e. it would need to be clear that measures related re-naturalising or bank softening may not be appropriate. However, the habitat value of these watercourses should not be overlooked. Canals also have terrestrial habitat associated with them (e.g. hedgerows, towpath grassland, and scrub on embankments) which can be important for ecological connectivity, in areas of intensive agriculture in Lincolnshire.

Measures 71 and 79 state that the map is being finalised – we would want to see and be able to feedback on this. We are finding with other LNRS areas that this mapping is promoting opportunities more widely, so hopefully this would be similarly positive.

Measure 76 - The wording is appropriate and due to the advisory nature of the LNRS, it is unlikely that this would have negative impacts. On the LNRS Actions Map there appears to be a gap in this designation at Odder on the Fosdyke between Saxilby and Burton Waters - it is not clear why this short stretch has not been included in the designation, and we recommend that this is reviewed and updated if it has been omitted in error.



Measure 149 – Floating pennywort is of ecological and navigational concern to [REDACTED], and we wish to be involved on strategic management opportunities.

The above comments do not prejudice any further matters that might be raised at a later stage as the plan / document emerges.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any queries you may have.

Email Response 7

Following the recent online sessions for the Local Nature Recovery Strategy consultations, I am writing to express my concerns about the proposals presented.

Having listened to the discussions and reviewed the approach being outlined, I am increasingly worried that the strategy, in its current form, appears both unworkable and unrealistic. While the intention to support nature recovery is of course welcome, the practical delivery mechanisms and expectations discussed during the sessions raise significant questions.

In particular, there seemed to be limited clarity around how the proposed actions would be implemented on the ground and funded, how land managers and local stakeholders would realistically be expected to participate, and how the strategy would be resourced and coordinated over the long term.

Without clearer pathways for delivery, measurable outcomes, and meaningful engagement with those directly affected, there is a real risk that the strategy may struggle to achieve its intended objectives.

I hope these concerns can be taken into account as the strategy is further developed, and that there will be continued opportunity for constructive input from local participants.

I would welcome the opportunity to meet with you on my farm to show some of the practical issues and constraints.

Email Response 8

[REDACTED] was established in 1948 and has been proactively securing and recovering nature across Greater Lincolnshire, from the Humber to The Wash, since that time.

[REDACTED] has worked in partnership from the outset, with a wide range of academic, private and public bodies/individuals on developing the evidence base, recovering species and habitats, informing local to national policy and strategy. In nearly 80 years of active intervention in Greater Lincolnshire, we have built a wealth of knowledge on the natural environment, what works and what does not, which has been passed from each generation to the next between staff, trustees, members and our volunteers. This response represents that, and information gathered from all departments of [REDACTED] at this present time.

In general

We welcome a new strategy for nature's recovery in Greater Lincolnshire. We took part in the extensive engagement process, where resources allowed as much as possible, which gathered evidence, views and aspirations from a wide range of stakeholders and local communities.

We celebrate the link between interactive mapping and actions listed, and recommend this be continually updated and maintained as a live resource for all. As mentioned, various representatives of [REDACTED] have inputted to the process, and based on that, we would like to see the final version of the strategy and website more inspirational than presently set out, from the outset. The website, needs a story board of successes, including digital vlogs, blogs and podcasts. These need to celebrate recent wins for people and nature. The document itself needs to do this from the outset, to inspire confidence that we mean business, that we have delivered success and will continue to deliver success, with that journey being within the framework of the strategy – it is not just a 'paper/desktop' document, but is a real thing that people and organisations can invest their time and money in. Greater Lincolnshire is the county of food, water, social & economic gains that underpin net zero and nature for all!

To quote one of our internal responses, *'If we want people to care and to use the strategy, it needs to be attractive and for key facts to stand out, with lots of actual examples of implementation that people can follow.'*

Beyond the need to be more punchy, showcasing our aspirations and can-do attitude in Greater Lincolnshire through case studies within the document and various forms on the website, [REDACTED] sets out below where information is incorrect, or needs adding, or needs clarification, plus noted typos/formatting inconsistencies. [REDACTED] also identifies local nature recovery networks and clusters, where work over the last 2–3 years has been developing in this regard through Green Investment in Greater Lincolnshire (GIGL).

Document

- Page 5, section 1.5 does not capture the need to address pollutants. Improving air and water quality, and protecting and enhancing our soils is key to wildlife and people. This should be recognised, in the second paragraph. This should then flow into section 1.6, fourth bullet point e.g. *‘such as pollination and soil retention reducing impacts on air and water.’*
- Page 9 should include a link to NE’s NCA website (<https://nationalcharacterareas.co.uk/>) and state for more detail to visit the site. Plus, the general map has whole NCAs and some cut up by county boundary. Suggest it includes county boundaries and the name of counties, showing full NCA extent – nature does not stop at human administrative boundaries, and the map is in consistent in approach presently.
- Page 9 and whole NCA section, does not recognise the very small proportion of NCA29 Rockingham Forest that cuts into Greater Lincolnshire near Stamford. So, there are 11 NCAs, with 7 crossing into other counties.

- Page 14, subheading – change industries to sectors – the snapshot boxes are a little random, for instance, on ‘Health and Care’ does not recognise we have some of the worst situations in England for access to services with some of the greatest populations at risk due to health issues. Signposting to where greater details can be found on these sectors should also be included. This whole section is weak considering the implications for nature – positive and negative – and this is recognised in DPS 46 and relevant actions, but more detailed required. Maybe an appendix on each of these sectors and the potential impacts would address this. For example, energy is a significant sector in Greater Lincolnshire now and growing in the period of this LNRS and could be linked to action 104. It can have positive and negative impacts for nature, including cumulative impacts – the GLLNRS should be showcasing the ways these sectors could contribute to nature’s recovery and reducing their more negative impacts.
- Page 14, sector missing: water sector. There are a significant number of reservoirs for public water supply within Greater Lincolnshire, such as Cadney and Covenham, and associated pipelines in place or being planned/built. The South Lincolnshire Reservoir is going through planning in this period and will offer opportunities for biodiversity. The demand for water is increasing as we moved towards a net zero economy, creating the right water storage within a landscape, to hold spate event overflow, supporting the Internal Drainage Boards and Environment Agency to pump less out to sea, has to be in the GLLNRS, as the county for water.
- Page 15 clearly highlights the functionally linked land for the incredibly important coastal bird sites, but there should be recognition in the text that this is the case for all SPAs. Also, it is imperative that degrading peatland sites and submerged peats, are considered in this manner from a hydrological perspective. Without the right water management in the landscape, these incredibly important peatlands will continue to degrade, releasing carbon and compounding climate change issues for Greater Lincolnshire, which is arguably the top place in UK most at risk, evidenced by having the most EA 2100+ programmes.

- Page 16 list of key species found in NCAs, does show up an oddity in that grey seals appear, and not common/harbour seal, which in regards to global population, Lincolnshire is far more important, and they can be seen in the rivers to their intertidal extent in the Fens.
- Page 17 water – should be water resource covering flooding and drought, including risk to peatlands with fire risk and low/no flow in rivers, streams and becks. Then water quality and morphology should cover the issue of pollution, canalisation and lack of ecological transition from middle of river to adjacent landscape.
- Pages 18–27 focussed on NCAs – in the title, use the national number as well as the name, make it easy for the end user e.g. NCA46 The Fens
- Page 28 does not include a map of The Wash, it should.
- Page 46–47 would be better presented either in groupings e.g. mammals, or alphabetically.
- Page 130 should include hedgerows in the title, alongside woodland and trees.
- Sources of key facts and figures need to be clear and referenced. For example, on page 14 *'Nature is estimated to add £887 million value to physical health and wellbeing in Greater Lincolnshire'*. Who calculated that? Is that in healthcare saving, productivity gain or? And is that an annual figure or over what time period? Without those bits of information it is meaningless. Adding a hyperlink to the source and/or adding a reference list/bibliography will help address this, as well as further clarification in body of the text.
- Signposting to where those who are inspired can find out more about the actions and what the evidence base is underpinning it, where possible.
- Need to recognise more the societal issues and deprivation within Greater Lincolnshire, including children in poverty, and what nature can do to address that.
- A summary of the main negative impacts on each habitat would be helpful before listing recovery actions. People need to be as clear about harmful activities that need to stop, as they are about positive activities they could undertake.

Habitats

Generally, the habitat list seems reasonable taking into account comments elsewhere within this response. There seems to be one significant omission as a suite of sites that deliver connectivity across landscapes.

- **Roadside Nature Reserves:** although individual sites that meet Local Wildlife Site criteria, will be mapped, a quick search of the draft for the term in the document resulted in no match found. This network needs to be recognised within the LNRS document, and the potential to extend it, particularly considering mandatory BNG. This could be in the Draft Priority Statements and associated actions for grassland and heathland, farmland and potentially urban including acting as SUDS.

Species

It is recognised there has to be some limit and prioritisation of species in the LNRS, but stronger reference to and recognition of actions for all Section 41 listed species, would be welcome and encouraged that these should be reported through the LNRS process.

- **Adder** is not listed or mentioned in Species Priorities and Actions on pg 46. The Woodhall Spa area is one of only 12 sites in the whole of England and Wales known for large populations. It is also not mentioned under the relevant NCAs in this regard, particularly Central Vale. We do recognise it is mentioned under Humberhead Levels NCA.
- **Stone curlew** is not a species to focus on at present, whereas curlew and the potential positive impacts we could have for this species seems more relevant – is this a mistake? Page 47.

Not sure how the species under each NCA section were decided upon, but views below on additions, noting we have not added what would be considered marine species, such as native oyster.

- NCA39 HHL – large heath.
- NCA42 LCGM – give an example of beach nesting bird, similar to that in the Wolds section. Little tern or ringed plover.

- NCA46 The Fens – example for migratory bird could be Whooper swan, and for the plant below Greater water parsnip.

Mandatory BNG: Clusters, Local Nature Recovery Networks and Specific Sites – related comments and mapping recognition

[REDACTED] has been developing local clusters / nature recovery networks, which can supply mandatory BNG or voluntary biodiversity requirements, units for natural capital nature based solutions including carbon, natural flood management, water polishing, access to nature for people and more. Details are provided below.

There are some key sites missing from the mapping, for example, Bourne North Fen on the confluence of the Bourne Eau and Glen Rivers, and so there is a series of sites below listed. Also reflected in the following comments, is the Lawton principles: more, bigger, better and joined.

[REDACTED] would be happy to work on the mapping, as required with relevant lead organisation.

Clusters / local nature recovery networks (LNRN)

Travelling east to west from north to south across Greater Lincolnshire, the following locations are where there are a cluster of landowners, watercourses and local/designated sites requiring buffers and connections to be built that are being prioritised by [REDACTED] including through their GIGL work. [REDACTED] can work with individuals on the mapping to ensure these local networks are captured, as they deliver against the principles and vision of the GLLNRS, and can be directly linked to the Draft Priority Statements and Actions. For example, the first listed below delivers towards action 89. We can look to link all actions relevant to each LNRN.

- Northern Lincolnshire Humberhead Levels: Thorne & Crowle Moors through to the Trent. Looking to create links between peatlands (raised bog) and associated warpings including hydrological connection (action 89).
- Southern Lincolnshire Humberhead Levels: linking Epworth and Haxey Turbaries with Cove Farm and buffering the Torne River, along with rewetting peat. Eventually linking to Mission Carr in Nottinghamshire and buffering the River Idle.

- Lower-Ancholme – running north from M180/Brigg to the Humber Estuary: the buffer zone follows that of the New River Ancholme, which is canalised. It should actually extend to include the sections of the old river including how it flowed out into the Humber e.g. at South Ferriby. This would see connectivity built between Bonby-Worlaby Carrs, cement works wetlands and ‘spinneys’ and provide opportunities for water storage in the lower catchment.
- Mid-Ancholme – running south from M180/Brigg to Bishopbridge including all the tributaries...
- Grimsby–Immingham Arc ...
- Covenham Flyway ...
- Trent Spillway – Gainsborough to the outskirts of Nottingham...
- Lincoln–Witham Landscape...
- Southern Wolds to Marsh...
- Witham Window...
- Slealands...
- Lincolnshire Wash Landscape...
- The Glens...

Sites

The following sites are noticeably missing, which need to be buffered, added to, or are in various delivery plans and policies:

- Alkborough Flats
- Bourne North Fen
- Halton Marshes
- Harrison Holme
- Hawthorpe
- South Humber Gateway Mitigation Sites

- Wilder Wrendale

Noted typos or specific comments

- Throughout the document, 'The' is actually part of the name for 'The Wash' and should be capitalised.
- Pg 4 – British spelling of 'prioritisation'
- Pg 11 – punctuation in Forestry bullet
- Pg 12 – capital letter in 'Natural'
- Pg 13 – duplicate 4.2 subheading
- Pg 14 – *Sabellaria spinosa* in italics
- Page numbering issues
- Pg 15a – blow wells clarification
- Pg 15b – map legend missing
- Pg 16 – species order unclear
- Pg 17 – 'reefers' not 'refers'
- Pg 17 – formatting inconsistencies
- Pg 20 – Immingham reference
- Pg 21 – Shepherd's-needle punctuation
- Pg 22 – Hazel dormouse
- Pg 24 – migratory birds wording
- Pg 26 – missing full stop
- Pg 29 – spacing before full stop
- Pg 30 – formatting and numbering
- Pg 33 – action misnumbering
- Pg 35 – inconsistent bold usage
- Pg 39 – hare's-tail cotton grass
- Pg 40 – superscript placement
- Pg 46–47 – punctuation consistency
- Pg 49–51 – glossary ordering and consistency
- Pg 51 – multiple habitat description clarifications

Mapping commentary

A great endeavour to be built upon, and congratulations should be given. Going forward it would be good to develop this further by:

- Adding a layer of the eNGO nature reserves.
- Adding a layer of strategic local nature recovery networks as listed above.
- Developing the NCA maps further to have greater definition...

We understood the time and effort that has been made to get to this point and thank all who have contributed to that. Please do get in touch with any queries regarding the above.

Email Response 9

Thank you for inviting further comments on the emerging Greater Lincolnshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy as part of the public consultation phase.

I am responding on behalf of the [REDACTED] and we are focusing comments primarily on those issues pertinent to the [REDACTED], which forms part of the wider Lincolnshire Wolds National Character Area (NCA) and has important habitat and landscape links to the neighbouring NCAs of the Greater Lincolnshire Vale to the west and Lincolnshire Coast and Marshes to the East. You'll be aware that we have been one of many organisations that have been involved in the initial scoping and subsequent workshop sessions to help assist in the development of the draft Greater Lincolnshire LNRS. We note that the final document will be one of 48 similar strategies to help raise awareness and drive the future all-important nature recovery at the national level.

General Comments:

The structure and layout of the Greater Lincolnshire LNRS works well and highlights key messages on the issues and the proposed objectives in a user friendly, informative and succinct style. The Strategy is clear in its role and functions, seeking to operate as a framework for use by everyone and with a focus on encouraging collaborative action to further the planning and delivery of future nature recovery work; and in so doing securing multiple benefits for the environment, local community and the economy. Section 1.7 states what the LNRS is not aiming to achieve - could this be rephrased in a more positive light? The current wording of this paragraph might suggest to some a relative weak and limited influence of the LNRS in terms of securing the necessary steps for driving a much needed



step-change in protecting and enhancing Lincolnshire’s wildlife and delivering a truly national nature recovery network to help meet the call for more, bigger, better and more joined-up habitats (via the much lauded Lawton principles).

We welcome and support the important and inclusive message (as per Section 1.9) that everyone can make a difference by their own actions at an individual level; and that these can be upscaled and corralled through effective community action to help support wider landowner, organisational and partnership activity. We also recognise and endorse the important messages on the essential value and contributions of nature to society, including its role in public health and well-being, air, soil and water quality, flood protection, food and goods provision, and the tourism economy.

Specific Comments:

Page 9 (National Character Area Approach) & p25 (Lincolnshire Wolds NCA):

Whilst we support the general use of the National Character Area's for helping to guide future nature recovery, the main narrative in respect of the Lincolnshire Wolds National Character Area (4.12 page 21) makes only a very limited reference, one sentence only, to the nationally protected Lincolnshire Wolds National Landscape. This underplays the future aspirations of the Lincolnshire Wolds National Landscape as articulated through its statutory five-year Management Plan and goals for delivering environmental objectives across nature, climate, people and place. These objectives and policies are currently emerging through an ongoing period of management plan review, with the current saved policies of the previous Management Plan valid as guiding principles until the revised Plan is formally adopted.

In respect of the Lincolnshire Wolds National Landscape the area's wildlife habitats and flora and fauna are very important contributors to its natural beauty, high scenic quality and sense of place within the context of a living and working farmed landscape. The proposed goal of the LNRS to focus on the three key habitats of lowland calcareous grassland, chalk streams, and lowland meadows across the Lincolnshire Wolds NCA does not fully reflect the full aspirations and vision for the Lincolnshire Wolds National Landscape which highlights the value of a holistic approach to nature protection and recovery and the benefits of multiple and connected wildlife habitats within a wider sustainable farming landscape; shaping the area's nationally recognised landscape and its sense of place. This extends to the important role of woodland and hedgerow habitats, roadside verges and green lanes, historic parkland and pasture, springs and ponds and the overarching need to work positively with landowners, farmers and land managers to help encourage and support nature friendly farming. Reference to Defra's emerging Protected Landscapes Outcome Framework Targets (PLOFT) matrix for driving nature recovery across all of England's National Landscapes and National Parks could be beneficial.

The Lincolnshire Wolds Farming in Protected Landscapes Programme (FiPL) has been running since 2021/22 and is expected to continue for at least a further three years to March 2029. The FiPL has been very successful in encouraging and supporting farmers in a wide range of projects that can deliver on the UK Government's Environmental Improvement Plan and its overarching objectives for Climate, Nature, People and Place. We would welcome a more specific reference to the FiPL in the earlier section (1.8 - page 6) that notes the importance of Countryside Stewardship etc., to land managers and farmers.

The Lincolnshire Wolds NCA priority species as presented, are very broad assemblages with two of the three linking very closely to agri-farmland. Our ideal would be a priority flagship species for each of the Wolds key habitat types to help drive further evidence gathering, targeted species action and promotion, and wider landscape-scale enhancements.

Page 14 – Section 4.4:

The Lincolnshire Wolds National Landscape – please note Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty currently remains as the term on the statute books (for the time being at least) although National Landscape is being used universally for branding and public communication purposes across the Defra family. So perhaps rather than formerly AONB, consider legally an AONB?

Page 16 – Section 4.6.1:

We acknowledge all the hard work undertaken in inviting and collating responses from the wider public and land managers and farmers groups (as well as wider parties) for feedback including on Lincolnshire’s priority areas for future habitat and species work as part of the emerging LNRS. Should this be balanced in terms of the ranking of the number of species priorities (?) – it’s a little odd in terms of presenting a “top three” for the public and an extended “top four” for land managers and farmers. This is then reversed in a further ranking section for ecosystem services (Section 4.7 - Page 17).

Page 30 – Section 5.3 Priority Habitat and Species Action Tables:

These are comprehensively set out with a detailed list of recommended actions. The numbering on the actions needs checking as this was co[REDACTED]sing.

On Rivers and Streams, we have some concerns with merging Limestone Becks and Chalk Streams as one group. This arguably downplays the importance of the Lincolnshire chalk stream resource, which has not always been sufficiently recognised at the national level. After some twenty years of positive partnership working with local farmers and land managers the Lincolnshire Chalk Streams Project has recently developed and launched a new Strategy for discovering, protecting, enhancing and promoting the chalk streams of Lincolnshire and their springheads.

Glossary & Habitat Descriptions:

These would be better if placed in alphabetic order for those that are just dipping into a certain section of the LNRS.

On **Tufa Formations:** please check, but these might be more accurately described as calcium carbonate deposits as they also occur in areas with chalk bedrock not just on limestone.



Well done to all involved in pulling together the draft and its supporting documentation. We await further news on the Greater Lincolnshire LNRS as the public consultation proceeds.

Email Response 10

Thank you for providing the opportunity to comment on the draft Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) for Lincolnshire. Unfortunately, the Survey does not really allow for our concerns to be raised, hence our decision to write a specific letter.

As a Planning Consultancy, our concerns are perhaps more general than concerning individual sites, and relate to past, present and future use of land. We want to be able to understand the genesis, justification and role of strategies which appear to attribute weight to specific sites and the impact that the strategy may have on future development proposals. This is far from clear from the information available, due in large part to the wide range of strategies that have emerged, whether this is the Biodiversity Opportunity Mapping that has appeared on Local Plan maps, Environmental Delivery Framework, Nature Restoration Levy or limits for development based on Nutrient Neutrality. None of these appear to have any duty or aspiration to set out the relationship between each other.

There is also some inconsistency in the wording of the LNRS. We note, for instance, that paragraph 1.7 of the LNRS states, “it will not be used to: ... Place new restriction on developing land” but the summary states, “once published the LNRS will be used, in planning, as a tool by decision makers to help guide mandatory Biodiversity Net Gain”. Whatever the intention of mandatory Biodiversity Net Gain it does, for right or wrong, place new restrictions on developing land.

We are certainly aware that sites identified on the Biodiversity Opportunity Mapping, which were prepared for various Local Plans across Lincolnshire, impact on the baseline Biodiversity value of a site, which then impacts on the cost of development, despite the lack of evidence to justify why a particular site has been identified as having value or potential. We are concerned that without adequate context the LNRS will have a similar impact. Like the Biodiversity Opportunity Mapping, the identified sites and buffers do not appear to be adequately justified or explained.

Two examples illustrate this point:

1: Key Habitats.

The image below, which is a snip of one of the published maps, purports to show the buffer area around wet woodland in the vicinity of Apex Lakes in North Hykeham where new wet woodland would be encouraged.

“Extract from Local Nature recovery Strategy consultation material”

We recently obtained outline planning permission on this land. (North Kesteven District Council Reference Number 23/0628). The application was supported by detailed ecological surveys. Although a large part of the site is identified as Wet Woodland, the area shown above does not appear to fall in that designation. As part of the Planning Application the location of specific habitats was agreed on site by ecologists and ecological advisors working for both the applicant and the Local Planning Authority (see enclosed plan of baseline habitats on the application site).

If the first site we look at has an issue of location and designation, doubt must be cast on the veracity of the wider exercise. This is especially worrying when there is no evidence to justify the identification of a particular site. Can you please confirm the basis for identifying each area of specific habitat and include that in a future consultation?

Furthermore, the use of buffers appears to be based on a rule of thumb distance and are applied even when, as is the case at Apex Lake, the buffers cross an open body of water and areas of established housing, where there is no realistic chance of the habitat being increased.

The LNRS should seek to avoid applying a blanket approach to the use of buffers, where the ground condition clearly demonstrates that the aim of the buffer will never be achieved: applying a blanket buffer simply undermines the whole approach.

2: The LNRS Actions Map identifies actions for promoting different habitat types. In some cases, action is piled upon action on land that is allocated for housing. For example, the plan extract below shows all actions relevant to an area allocated in the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan as the Lincoln South West Quadrant.

Extract from LNRS Actions Map – South Hykeham

If that is the case, it is difficult to see where the actions for the LNRS will take place if the houses are built, or where the houses will be built if the LNRS proposals are enacted. The LNRS should take account of existing and committed development.

Our concerns are exacerbated because, not only is there a failure to justify the sites and buffer areas, but also the report itself does not explain the link between the written strategies and the maps. In principle we support the idea of a Local Nature Recovery Strategy to identify meaningful ways to support biodiversity. The current document, however, appears to be a set of priorities and principles and a separate set of detailed maps without much link between the two.

The document itself does not provide clarity, in our reading at least, of its role in the future of Lincolnshire. We are concerned that, without a detailed understanding of the role of the document, or the information on which it is based, the LNRS may well be found to be in conflict with other strategies leading to unnecessary confusion: confusion which will reduce investment in the county and lead to a failure to achieve the aims of the LNRS itself.

Email Response 11

[REDACTED]

We welcome this consultation on Lincolnshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy and have set out our comments below.

[REDACTED]

Comments on potential measures

Overall, we are supportive of this work that reflects the habitats and species of Lincolnshire and actions that will benefit biodiversity, people and the environment. The comments and suggestions below are made to further enhance the LNRS.

We are supportive of the draft priority statements about the coast (25 and 26).

Comments on Mapping in relation to [REDACTED] Properties

Sandilands

- Action 146 – create buffers around existing LWSs and link to appropriate habitats to build resilience. This aligns with our vision and desired delivery for the area.
- Action 86 – Buffer lowland fen sites by encouraging peat development through rewetting and creating supporting habitats.
- Action 68 – maintain extent of grazing and mowing on sea banks to support invertebrates and plants.
- Action 63 – Manage sand dunes by controlling scrub, extending bare ground and appropriate grazing to maintain structural diversity.

We would suggest rewording of action 63 as follows;

‘manage sand dunes through selective scrub control and grazing to extend bare ground and maintain structural diversity’

as this reflects some of the wording in the neighbouring Saltfleetby to Theddlethorpe Dunes SSSI Views About Management document.

Little tern is a key species in this area and this aligns with [REDACTED]’s vision to help support this species in the Lincolnshire Coast landscape.

We overall, primarily support the actions for this area of coastline. However, with the threat of climate breakdown and rising sea levels, we would wish to see the area for these actions expanded to include further inland areas, such as an increase in area behind Roman Bank Road, to allow for habitats which can be transitional and resilient long-term to accelerating climate impacts.

Gunby

- Action 146 – create buffers around existing LWSs and link to appropriate habitats to build resilience.
- Action 15 – Implement appropriate grazing levels and draw up management plans to enhance structural and species diversity on wood pasture and parkland.
- Action 14 – Buffer existing wood pastures and parklands by planting and managing specimen trees within grazed grassland.
- Action 76 – Reduce sediment run-off by creating habitat buffers along rivers, streams and connected water courses to improve water quality.

The buffer around the Gunby estate for parkland appears general and does not appear strategic. We would wish to see this buffer expanded further south into areas of the estate owned by [REDACTED] and where it is logistically possible to create new wood pasture.

We would also suggest that including Action 29 for creation of neutral grassland, and Action 1 to buffer and link existing semi-natural woodland with a mix of appropriate native and climate resilient species, would be appropriate within this area.

Belton

- Action 146 – create buffers around existing LWSs and link to appropriate habitats to build resilience.
- Action 15 – Implement appropriate grazing levels and draw up management plans to enhance structural and species diversity on wood pasture and parkland.
- Action 14 – Buffer existing wood pastures and parklands by planting and managing specimen trees within grazed grassland.

As stated with the Gunby Estate, Action 14 does not appear to be a strategic or logical buffer area around the parkland for implementation of trees within grazed grassland as it includes urban areas.

We are pleased that the key species included within the Southern Lincolnshire Edge and Trent and Belvoir Vales include white clawed crayfish, otter and crystal moss animal, which are species the Belton Estate currently supports, but are under threat and need further conservation action.

Tattershall

- Action 146 – create buffers around existing LWSs and link to appropriate habitats to build resilience.
- Action 76 – Reduce sediment run-off by creating habitat buffers along rivers, streams and connected water courses to improve water quality.

Tattershall holds a regionally important population of great crested newts which are threatened by the impacts of climate breakdown and the drying of the moat. We therefore query why creation of ponds has only been included in the “nature in built environment” section and suggest this could be further expanded into other areas. Creation and connection of ponds would be a worthwhile action within the Tattershall area.

General Comments On Document

Overall, the mapping and accompanying document are very well laid out, user friendly and easy to navigate and understand.

However...

However, we feel that the information provided is lacking in some areas. For example, paragraph 73, p16, of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy statutory guidance (2023), states that:

‘In the final, most important stage of the strategy, responsible authorities need to map areas which they believe ‘could become of particular importance for biodiversity’ or ‘where the recovery or enhancement of biodiversity could make a particular contribution to other environmental benefits’. These areas are collectively referred to as ‘areas that could become of particular importance’. They are where the responsible authority and local partners propose that effort should be concentrated to restore habitat, to achieve the most for biodiversity and the wider environment’.

We note that areas where the different actions could be implemented have been mapped, but it may be worthwhile to map areas which are buffers of Local Wildlife Sites and connect them up better to make “Areas that could become important for biodiversity”, and help establish larger, more resilient networks of high-quality habitat across the landscape.

It is also felt that the LNRS could be more ambitious in the areas it maps. At present, the focus is mainly on streams, rivers, and buffering around existing Local Wildlife Sites, but these areas could be connected more strategically. The strategy appears to lack emphasis on creating new habitats, with the mapping showing actions concentrated largely on existing habitats and their buffers rather than identifying opportunities for new habitat creation across the wider Lincolnshire landscape.

We would like to see a stronger focus on connectivity and broader, landscape-scale initiatives that incorporate larger areas of new habitat creation.

More broadly the mapping and accompanying document appears insufficient in addressing climate breakdown, and the need for habitat resilience and adaptation. Although there is some acknowledgment of this within the context of woodland planting, it is felt the strategy should more fully account for environmental pressures, such as water and sea level changes.

[REDACTED]’s recent strategy highlights the importance to improve community access to nature, and to inspire greater engagement. We are pleased to see this reflected within the LNRS, particularly the recognition that Lincolnshire has some of the lowest levels of public access in the country. However, we would like to see this go further by identifying and mapping specific opportunities to increase access, especially in areas currently most deprived of natural spaces.



Conclusions

We trust that the comments made in this representation are taken into account and the Lincolnshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy revised accordingly. [REDACTED] look forward to the Local Nature Recovery Strategy progressing further and contributing as appropriate.

Email Response 12

[REDACTED]

In reference to the paragraph labelled 'agriculture' on page 17 – [REDACTED] would like comment specifically on this.

- Farming has played a key role in shaping the countryside we all enjoy today. Every sector and every type of farm continue to carry out a huge amount of work to protect and enhance the landscape, encourage wildlife, benefit soil and water, and reduce their impact on the climate. With agriculture occupying over 70% of the UK landmass, farm businesses play an irreplaceable role in looking after our cherished natural environment.
- Evidence shows that habitat loss and fragmentation in the UK arise from a mix of drivers including urban development, landscape modification, invasive species, infrastructure and agricultural change. Pollinator declines result from multiple interacting pressures such as habitat degradation, climate change, invasive species, pests, pathogens and pesticide exposure, rather than agriculture alone. UK farmers rely heavily on pollinators for food production and therefore have strong incentives to maintain healthy pollinator populations. LNRS delivery should reflect this more balanced understanding of the causes of habitat and pollinator decline.
- [REDACTED] much of the data that is currently collected on biodiversity focuses on specific species and habitats, particularly birds. Evidence collected on the impact of a type of habitat management tends to focus on one species, not all the species benefitting from that habitat. This means more common plant and animal life is often forgotten and leads to significant gaps in the data because information simply is not recorded. This lack of data means the role of more general farm management in providing for more common biodiversity gets underplayed, even though it is still important

- In reference to water quality specifically – ‘Farming Evidence – Key Statistics’ produced by Defra, highlights that between 1990 and 2024 there has been a 72% reduction in manufactured phosphate fertiliser used in the UK. Furthermore, between 1990 and 2024 there has been a 45% reduction in manufactured nitrogen fertiliser used in the UK. (*[Farming evidence - key statistics (accessible version) - GOV.UK]*)

Therefore, it must be acknowledged that farmers want to play their part in improving water, soil and air quality but [REDACTED] feel the explanation of agriculture within the pressures section of the LNRS, is not balanced in understanding nor reflects positive actions being carried out on farm.

Although every effort has been made to ensure accuracy, neither the [REDACTED] nor the author can accept liability for errors and or omissions.

[REDACTED] representatives have been part of discussions with Lincolnshire County Council on developing the Greater Lincolnshire LNRS and have fed in throughout the process. The [REDACTED] consultation response is an overview of our key considerations for the LNRS. We have encouraged our members engage on more specific aspects of the LNRS.

Farmer and Landowner Engagement in the Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS)

A LNRS could influence a farm planning application and access to environmental funding. Due to this and the vital role that farmers and landowners play in delivering for nature, [REDACTED] has highlighted the need for all RAs to ensure that farming representatives, farmers, and landowners have had the opportunity to engage in the development of these strategies to ensure they work for farm businesses including their own ambitions for nature.

Our ask from RAs has been that farmers and landowners are given adequate time and opportunity to engage with the strategy at various levels and stages throughout its development. [REDACTED] has promoted the public consultation, encouraged its members to engage directly and highlighted the need for dedicated in-person engagement sessions with farmers and landowners during the public consultation period.

However, dedicated engagement sessions with farmers and landowners at this stage of the process were not prioritised or delivered. [REDACTED] raised the importance of engagement with the RA and offered to facilitate a dedicated meeting to support this, however, disappointingly the RA chose not to proceed with this offer. Meaningful engagement with farmers and landowners during the public consultation stage is essential to help ensure actions are practical, locally appropriate and supported by those expected to deliver them.

To help ensure the strategy accurately represents what is happening on the ground and what could be achieved alongside farm businesses and food production. We strongly urge that further consultation with farmers and landowners takes place before the final publication of the strategy and that ongoing engagement continues throughout the delivery phase of the LNRS. It is important that the RA recognises the value of farmers time spent engaging with this process.

Key considerations for Local Nature Recovery Strategies:

It is vital that the Lincolnshire County Council and LNRS recognise agriculture as a keystone activity in the countryside. Farms produce food, fibre and energy whilst also caring for the environment, these businesses will be at the forefront of delivering the strategies.

The LNRS should therefore not prevent or add cost to farms trying to diversify, modernise and develop infrastructure, create unintended consequences on farm operations or act as a barrier to funding (private and public).

It should be a tool to help inform local land management decisions about nature.

[REDACTED] has identified the following key considerations for the Responsible Authority developing the Greater Lincolnshire LNRS:

- **Recognition of farm contributions to nature.** The LNRS must recognise the environmental contributions and improvements that farmers have already made, as well as any planned future contributions e.g. Environmental Land Management (ELMs), off-site Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) etc. Farms will have their own priorities for nature, and with consent, this should be recognised in the LNRS.
- **Use sound scientific data.** Data used to inform the LNRS must be from sound scientific sources. If the LNRS incorporate interactive maps that allow users to

pinpoint areas for nature recovery, it is essential that these contributions are validated by individuals with the requisite expertise to ensure they accurately represent the on-the-ground conditions and that permission for inclusion has been granted by the landowner or farmer. Data about agri-environment schemes such as Countryside Stewardship is available on Magic Maps and could be included in the LNRS, provided it is agreed upon by the landowner or farmer. Additionally, farm level data should be considered where relevant.

- **Appropriate mapping.** Depending on the area, certain parts of the farmed landscaped would be more appropriate to include and prioritise/map in the strategies compared with others, hedges may be an example of this. Identifying Best and Most Versatile (BMV) agricultural land for nature and potentially land use change could have unintended consequences and many not be in line with the farmers own ambitions for that land. It is also important to acknowledge that land not classified as BMV can also be used for food production, and as such, the incorporation of environmental measures on these areas must also be carefully considered and align with the farmer or landowners' objectives.

Should at any time the LNRS be used as a targeting tool for funding or the delivery of environmental outcomes, we do not feel the mapping in its current form has sufficient granularity. Without greater granularity and precision, there is a risk that funding and actions may be misdirected or unfairly applied. Any future shift in how the LNRS is applied must be subject to further consultation and improvement in the mapping quality.

- **Access to funding.** Many farms will already be involved or will be planning to enter into ELMs or private markets agreements. The LNRS should help enable farmers to access funding for nature alongside productive agriculture, the priorities in the strategy should account for this. The LNRS should not be the only mechanism for targeting funding under ELMs. ELMs must remain an equitable and accessible scheme for all farmers. Relying solely on LNRS could exclude farmers in areas not covered by these strategies, limiting their ability to access support for sustainable practices. ELMs should offer flexibility, ensuring all farmers, regardless of location, can benefit from funding to support environmental improvements.

- **Consider impact on farm developments.** Farms need to diversify, modernise, and develop farm infrastructure to remain economically and environmentally sustainable businesses. The LNRS and associated local plans have potential to impact on a farm planning decision and how many BNG units a farm development might need to create. This could prevent or add costs to these developments. The LNRS mapping should where possible exclude planned developments.
- **Careful consideration of species and actions for wildlife.** The list of priority species created as part of each LNRS should be consulted on and align with the government's national species target and ambitions. Actions to support certain species must be carefully considered to avoid causing unintended consequences on farm businesses and food production. If wildlife crossings e.g. green bridges, are being considered in the LNRS, it is important to be aware of the potential risks created by these structures, such as the spread of animal diseases and the need to consult with landowners about their potential location.
- **Priority to increase beaver populations in Lincolnshire.** In addition to this above, projects must be based on sound scientific research including feasibility studies and impact assessments. Both assessments must consider the short, medium, and longer-term requirements, risks and impacts of the project. Each project should also assess and demonstrate the social, economic, and environmental impacts (positive and negative) of that species reintroduction including how it could affect farming and food production, other species, and infrastructure. The assessments must further consider what future species management may be required and what impact this could have on landowners and managers, who must be fully consulted. [REDACTED] do not feel this level of information and scrutiny is currently proposed within measures 159-164.
- **Farmer choice and flexibility.** Prior to publishing the LNRS farmers must be consulted with and given the opportunity to check their lands data and choose how or if their land is mapped in the LNRS. Please do consider the consultation feedback received from the farming industry and if further consultation may be required. Farm businesses evolve and change, the LNRS must be flexible and include a mechanism

which enables landowners and farmers to remove, add or change their mapped land or data at any time including once published.

Furthermore, under no circumstances should the inclusion of land in the LNRS lead to compulsory purchase or mandatory land use change. Participation must be based on incentive and choice, not compulsion.

- **Joined up LNRS across farmland.** Farm businesses cross over LNRS areas, it is vital that neighbouring strategies work together to ensure consistency across boundaries especially in the mapping. There is also lack of clarity how the LNRS will interact with other existing or future initiatives, such as the Land Use Framework and ELMs, it is therefore essential that the government provides guidance and offers further consultation as necessary if overlaps between initiatives arise.
- **Public access to farmland must not be a priority of the LNRS.** Public access can bring biosecurity risks, management challenges, and liability issues for farmers. As such, access to farmland should not be prioritised within the LNRS at the expense of food production or nature recovery, and it must remain at the discretion and approval of the farmer or landowner.
- **River and floodplain reconnection measures.** Proposals to enable rivers to reconnect with floodplains, by the removal of flood banks, must be carefully considered. Lincolnshire has experienced significant flooding in recent years therefore, any such measures must be informed by detailed catchment modelling, appropriate local expertise and full engagement not only with the landowner delivering the measure but also with neighbouring landowners who may be impacted.

Email Response 13

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the strategy. My comments and observations relate to the role of the natural environment as a contributor to public health and wider health and wellbeing.

General point: While the document acknowledges impacts on mental and physical health, the strategy could go further by using specific examples to illustrate how environmental and climate-related factors affect human health (for example, heat exhaustion, heatstroke, dehydration and acute kidney injury). This would provide a clearer link between environmental change and health outcomes and help demonstrate how the actions set out in the strategy could play a positive role in mitigating these impacts.

This could be framed within the context of human geography. The table below shows an example how we could link the benefits of good biodiversity with human health – this is for illustration, but we could work on this to produce an impactful model / graphic showing the interplay between health and biodiversity. This would strengthen the case for improved biodiversity by ensuring it is linked specifically to health outcomes (also links with North Lincolnshire Council plan priority 1 “Keeping people safe and well”).

Illustrative example: links between biodiversity and human health

(for concept development only)

Table-3 – Submission from Email Response 13

Feature from the Strategy	Potential Impact on Human Health if Unmitigated	Benefits of Good Biodiversity on Health
Enhanced natural resilience to extreme weather events and climate change	Increased risk of injury, displacement, mental health stress from floods, droughts, and storms	Reduced risk of disaster-related injuries, improved mental wellbeing, greater community stability
Excess heat	Increase in heat related illnesses	Reduction in conditions such as Heat exhaustion, heatstroke, dehydration, acute kidney injury

Feature from the Strategy	Potential Impact on Human Health if Unmitigated	Benefits of Good Biodiversity on Health
Reduced impacts of sea level rise, drought and flooding	Water scarcity, contamination, increased disease outbreaks, stress and anxiety	Reliable water supply, reduced disease risk, improved mental health and security
Improved soil quality for agriculture	Poor crop yields leading to possible food insecurity	Better nutrition, food security, and reduced health inequalities
Improved air quality	Respiratory illnesses, cardiovascular disease, premature mortality	Reduced respiratory and heart conditions, improved life expectancy
Stabilised river flows, reducing flooding	Flood-related injuries, property loss, mental health impacts	Safer communities, reduced stress, improved wellbeing
Reduced greenhouse gas emissions from degraded peat soils	Increased climate-related health risks, heat stress	Lower climate-related risks, improved long-term health outcomes
Urban cooling	Heat-related illnesses, dehydration, increased mortality during heatwaves	Reduced heat stress, improved comfort and productivity
Carbon sequestration	Accelerated climate change impacts on health	Climate stability, reduced health risks from extreme weather
Pollination	Reduced crop yields, food insecurity	Improved diet diversity, better nutrition

(NB this would need much more work and careful references to make sure it is evidence based)

Thank you for considering the feedback and please let me know if I can be of further assistance.

Email Response 14

[REDACTED] welcomes the principles underpinning the Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) and supports the objective of enhancing biodiversity across Lincolnshire.

The Company operates a number of established, low-impact oil and gas facilities within the county. These sites have modest land-take, are well screened, and are subject to robust planning and environmental regulation. Many already deliver biodiversity enhancements through planning obligations and ecological mitigation.

Our primary concern is to ensure that the LNRS does not introduce duplication, overlap, or additional layers of obligation beyond existing regulatory requirements, including the mandatory 10% Biodiversity Net Gain framework. The Strategy should be applied proportionately and recognise established, lawful rural land uses.

We would welcome continued engagement to ensure nature recovery objectives and responsible domestic energy production can coexist effectively.

Formal Response

We write in response to the above consultation, ahead of the consultation deadline of 8 March 2026.

As a domestic oil and gas operator active across the UK, we have a significant operational presence within Lincolnshire, comprising facilities at:

- Egmanton
- Gainsborough
- Beckingham
- Bothamsall
- South Leverton
- Welton
- Scampton
- Stainton
- Cold Hanworth
- Corringham
- Glentworth



- Nettleham

Email Response 15

[REDACTED] thanks for taking the time to talk people through the latest stage of the LNRS. I hope you found my comments constructive. I appreciate that some of the delays to the Lincolnshire process - and government's not very constructive approach to land management - have been out of your control. For a business like us that is trying to balance a variety of demands on land it is still on balance about opportunities, but the frustrations have been mounting.

Anyway, I wanted to follow up on a few things. I am happy to feed them into the consultation if appropriate:

- The big one is probably to highlight some of your lowland fen designations (85). I have a suspicion that these might have arisen from LWS surveys, but I don't think they have any place in our landscape, and seem to mostly relate to areas where poor management of road infrastructure has created water build-up around assets. I am not sure further wetting is desirable (screenshot with J4 of the M180 attached)!
- More generally are you likely to use datasets comprising infrastructure (roads, gas pipelines and power cables) as constraints? Roads are obviously areas where actions for nature cannot take place, but pipelines also impose very considerable constraints on land management actions. I should imagine Cadent, National Grid, Northern Powergrid and Exolum would give you access to their GI data? Also water features - on 14 and maybe some other layers the map is suggesting we plant woodlands in lakes.
- Extending from existing sites. My understanding is that SSSIs are not eligible, for instance, for BNG projects, because there is in some sense an obligation (though little coercion and only occasionally funding) for improvement. I assume they are not being included on an opportunity map. Is the same the case for LWS? It's hard to tell from 146 whether LWS themselves are going to be treated as opportunities.
- Ancholme Carrs - don't see many options in there bar 76 and 146 which are both quite general. Is this based on IDB/EA push-back?
- Links to Countryside Stewardship. First as inputs - a lot of our HLS options have been subsequently designated as LWS (see above). For areas that are not (mostly

some spots in the Ancholme Carrs) is there any benefit to putting them forward? Also, as far as you are aware is there any benefit to the CS process to areas appearing on the LNRS as opportunities? We hope to sign a new agreement in the next year or so. 15 has areas that are already grazed under HLS options encouraging us to implement grazing, which is great, but we don't have opportunities to maintain eg bird nesting habitats near the river

And I would like to discuss three areas I want to put forward, but which all have constraints.

1) We are working with the [REDACTED] on a BNG project by the Humber at South Ferriby. We are still waiting to get an idea of what habitat creation is most appropriate. 29, 68 and 69 do cover this area, but may not cover everything we may want to do. If any other priority actions might cover a poor quality, wet site on the Humber bank with an EA asset running through the middle, then let me know, or I'm happy for you to consult with the [REDACTED] provided we can get a final look.

2) Another [REDACTED] one. We started a project to map habitat along the entire Scawby Beck sub catchment, and put it forward for a natural flood management pilot (which I think went nowhere). A lot of it, but not all, has LWS designations, and we want to check that the LWS will not get in the way of us accessing enhanced funding for habitat improvement (so for 14 the area with a designation as an LWS cannot be covered by 14, but areas within the same parkland that is not LWS can - is that what you intended?). For the rest, we would be interested in some extensions. HOWEVER some of it is tenanted. Is the owner or the occupier allowed to put sites forward, and do both have a veto on their inclusion?

3) Last one is a site where mineral extraction is almost going into planning. Absolutely nothing can be done to disturb that process, but we have a lot of interest not just in the post extraction restoration process, but also in areas nearby, which are covered by a lot of opportunity layers. We would be happy to look at extending them to create a heathland/woodland mosaic as long as there is not danger to the minerals planning process. What reassurance can we get.



Sorry, there is a LOT in here. But as I hope you can tell, we have tried to engage with the LNRS process as conscientiously as we can. If you can provide some clarification on the above - happy to do a call - then I'd love to hear from you

Best regards

[REDACTED]



Email Response 16

Dear Sir or Madam,

Lincolnshire County Council – Consultation on the Draft Greater Lincolnshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS)

Introduction

These comments are submitted by [REDACTED] who have land and mineral interests within the Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) area. These representations are submitted in response to the Draft Greater Lincolnshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) consultation, which closes on 8th March 2026.

This letter has been prepared in response to the data contained within the Local Habitat Map, with specific reference to two of [REDACTED] sites in Lincolnshire. These comprise their Freehold Surface and Mineral interest at West Deeping which currently comprises an operational quarry and a large section of lake, as well as their Freehold Mineral interest at Lincoln, a currently operational as a [REDACTED] concrete plant, surrounded by other industrial uses within the Great Northern Terrace Employment Area, designated as such under the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan (April 2023).

In summary, whilst [REDACTED] support the overall aims of the LNRS, as a means of enhancing Greater Lincolnshire's natural environment, it is of crucial importance that the designations contained within this do not constrain sustainable development. This consultation response is made in specific reference to [REDACTED] sites at West Deeping and Lincoln.

[REDACTED] and Nature Recovery

Tarmac is one of the UK's leading sustainable building material companies with innovative products, solutions and services not only delivering infrastructure needed to grow the UK economy but also enabling a more sustainable built environment for the country's long-term future. [REDACTED] has contributed to some of the UK's biggest construction projects including Wembley Stadium, Heathrow Terminal 5, The Shard, and the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. They have strong partnerships that have been forged with wildlife trusts and other leading conservation bodies in the UK and work closely with local communities, steering groups, local councils, and Mineral Planning Authorities (MPA).

[REDACTED] are a key facilitator of nature recovery and are recognised within the sustainable construction industry for their high-quality restoration schemes. [REDACTED] published an ambitious sustainability strategy in May 2025, referred to as ‘Act’, which covers 3 key themes: people, planet and solutions. The key areas of focus in relation to the planet are climate action, environmental stewardship and a circular economy.

Regarding environmental stewardship, [REDACTED] manages over 330 strategically located sites across the UK, encompassing over 60,000 acres of land. 88 of these sites are designated as having high biodiversity value.

Each site has a dedicated Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP), which identifies targets and sets out methods to improve the existing biodiversity and create new areas through progressive quarry restoration and longterm ecological management. As a national minerals operator, the site BAPs help to monitor progress and make a significant contribution towards local and national biodiversity targets. These, in turn, contribute to global action for biodiversity.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] are therefore key stakeholders involved in the delivery of nature recovery both nationally and at a local LNRS level.

Comments on the Local Habitat Map

West Deeping W303

It is recognised that it is a requirement (within The Environment (Local Nature Recovery Strategies) (Procedure) Regulations 2023) of the Responsible Authority (RA) (Lincolnshire County Council in this case) to identify and map Areas of Particular Importance to Biodiversity (APIBs) and Areas that could become of Particular Importance to Biodiversity (ACBs). Aside from this, the LNRS identifies opportunities for improvement and establishes local priorities for habitat creation and restoration.

That said, it is also of note that the LNRS is not designed to be prescriptive and should be seen as a tool to help recover nature within Greater Lincolnshire. Paragraph 1.7 of the draft strategy sets out what the LNRS is not designed to do, as follows:

- “Require land managers to make changes to their land. This will remain their choice.
- Place new restrictions on developing land

- Create new nature reserves or legal nature designations
- Prevent nature conservation work in areas not prioritised by the LNRS”

[REDACTED] freehold surface and mineral interest at West Deeping is shown in Figure 1 below.

[REDACTED] site comprises approximately 37 hectares of land, with a large section of lake within its north-eastern boundary. This area of water abuts the Tallington Lakes Leisure Park, which offers a variety of water sports as well as overnight accommodation on the banks of the lake.

The southern, terrestrial part of the site is currently used as a quarry and ready-mix concrete plant, leased by Breedon. East of King Street, outside of [REDACTED] ownership, is a quarry operated by [REDACTED], with [REDACTED] operating a quarry to the east of the [REDACTED] site. To the immediate south of the site, along King Street, is the village of West Deeping.

As per the habitat map at Figure 2, [REDACTED] land incorporates two designations, numbers 76 and 132, which represent measures and priorities for this land within the context of nature recovery.

Designation number 76 seeks to “reduce nutrient and sediment run-off by creating habitat buffers along rivers, streams and connected water courses to improve water quality”. Designation 132 seeks to “reduce nutrient and sediment run-off into lakes by creating appropriate buffer habitat”.

[REDACTED] would like to affirm that these designations should be seen as merely a guide to nature recovery and should not preclude future development of the site, for any purpose.

[REDACTED] land currently contains a mineral operation, situated between another quarry across King Street and a tourism / leisure facility. However, as per the committee report for planning applications S23/0102 and S23/0103, dated November 2023, [REDACTED] estimated the quarry which [REDACTED] site is served by will have worked all permitted sand and gravel reserves remaining by late 2026, early 2027. Considering this and the sites proximity to an existing tourism and leisure facility, it is considered that the site could represent an excellent opportunity for sustainable development following its restoration and it is important that the Draft LNRS does not constrain this through its measures and

priorities, which as aforementioned are not designed to be prescriptive and should not automatically prevent development or carry a legal status in the planning system. We are therefore pleased that paragraph 1.7 is clear that LNRS should not prohibit development nor place new restrictions on development. It should therefore be made clear that the habitat and buffer creation sought by action 76 and 132 can be completed within mandatory BNG parameters, as opposed to it being an additional requirement.

Furthermore, Natural England guidance sets out that nutrient neutrality measures must be targeted at sites that demonstrably contribute to eutrophication risk in designated waterbodies. It is understood that whilst this is not with regard to nutrient neutrality, the aim to reduce nutrient run-off through actions 76 and 132 is in the same vein. This site likely has low soil nutrient due to its mineral history and current intensive use therefore it is likely that this action will only provide negligible ecological benefit for this site.

It is therefore very important that in this event, the LNRS does not seek disproportionate requirements and includes a caveat that this action does not require consideration in the event of negligible ecological benefits being achieved. This would also accord with the right measure, right place principle for a strategic document of this nature.

Lincoln Readymix Plant

[REDACTED] interest at Lincoln, postcode LN5 8HJ, is an operational ready mix concrete plant, within the 'Great Northern Terrace' designated employment area, just South-East of Lincoln City Centre. It is bound to its immediate south, east and west by other industrial uses and to its north by Great Northern Terrace, the road which serves the surrounding industrial estate. Beyond this is the Sincil Dike, which forms part of the 'Witham Corridor Local Wildlife Site'. Notwithstanding the ecological designation of the Sincil Dike, the character of the area is overwhelmingly industrial and covered by hardstanding, with minimal green spaces. The site itself is no exception of this. The designation of the wider area as an 'Important Established Employment Area' (IEEA), under Policy S31 of the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan, safeguards it for industrial uses, and the policy notes the 'substantial contribution' made by IEEA's to the Central Lincolnshire economy.

[REDACTED] interest is shown in red trim in Figure 3 below.

By virtue of its relative proximity to a local wildlife designation, the site is shown to be the subject of designation number 146 in the Local Habitat Plan accompanying the LNRS. This



seeks to ensure that buffers are created around existing Local Wildlife Sites and that they should link to appropriate habitats to build resilience. This is elaborated on in the Statement of Biodiversity Priorities document, which states that the aim of designation number 146 is to create 'more and better managed Local Wildlife Sites to enhance and support the resilience of the ecological network, increase biodiversity and maximise wider environmental benefits.' The importance of safeguarding local wildlife sites is understood, however the LNRS should not restrict economic development unduly, particularly where this is existing, well-established and sustainably located. As the LWS buffer zone washes over parts of the Great Northern Terrace designated employment site, including [REDACTED] Readymix concrete plant, there is the potential for the aims of the LNRS to conflict with the operations undertaken at the plant and surrounding industrial sites. Whilst [REDACTED] would not wish to prejudice the delivery and aims of the LNRS, this should not take precedence over the industrial function of the Great Northern Terrace and should not be used to hold occupiers of the designated employment site to ecological commitments which would run counter to its stated purpose as an Important Established Employment Area. Ultimately, [REDACTED] support the preparation of the LNRS and wish to assist in their delivery as part of national nature recovery ambitions, it is important that this document does not jeopardise the delivery of future development proposals where these are deemed to be the most sustainable use of the land. We wish for this to be reflected in the LNRS, should it be adopted.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this consultation. Should you have any queries please do

not hesitate to contact us.

Yours faithfully,

[REDACTED]

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We welcome the draft Greater Lincolnshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy as an important framework to guide where nature recovery priorities and actions should be focused. We are pleased to have the chance to comment on it. We wish to comment both for [REDACTED], and for the wider [REDACTED] project.

1. The strategy currently does not explicitly reference or map Government funded **Landscape Recovery initiatives** within Greater Lincolnshire - such as the [REDACTED] projects. We suggest that whilst it may not be possible to 'map' entire areas, that it should be feasible to add a section into the overall written strategy document recognising the importance of these new initiatives, that are part of the governments Bigger, Better, More Joined Up approach. It also does not mention explicitly the significant re-wilding restoration projects at Boothby and Wilder Doddington, where long term changes to land management have already been made and could now be mapped. We feel that their omission from the document and maps is an oversight that could weaken the ability for these important leading projects to attract funding and prioritisation for delivery. Soe of the reasoning is below

- Local Nature Recovery Strategies are designed to help to identify suitable locations for nature recovery activities and build support for these from landowners and local people. And in return, funding for these activities will help the local nature recovery strategies be delivered.
- The Government's guidelines clearly state that LNRSs will play a critical role in identifying the locations and prioritising the activities that will be eligible for funding under ELMs and Landscape Recovery so this does need addressing for Lincolnshire.
- Furthermore, the guidelines state that Government has a goal to raise at least £500 million per year of private finance for nature recovery by 2027 and more than £1 billion by 2030. "Local nature recovery strategies can support this ambition by identifying viable and well-scrutinised proposals for nature recovery at the scale needed to be attractive to private finance."

- There is currently no mention at all of Landscape Recovery in the draft document and this omission means that a major, strategic delivery mechanism for long-term habitat recovery, landscape restoration and private sector investment in nature recovery is not fully integrated into the strategy.
 - We would therefore ask that the document itself is amended to reflect the importance of Landscape Recovery and make reference to the proposed projects in Lincolnshire.
 - That would then allow these projects to demonstrate that they have been identified in the LNRS and lever the priority and potential funding in order to move them forward.
 - We note that other similar strategies, including neighbouring Norfolk and Cambridgeshire make specific mention of their landscape recovery projects and indeed, Norfolk has included the Waveney and Little Ouse Landscape Recovery project as a specific case study.
 - We would suggest that landscape recovery projects could be mentioned in the following places:
 - 1.4 – policy context.
 - 1.8 – how LNRS can support the people of Greater Lincolnshire
 - 4 – NCA descriptions:
 - 4.17 – Trent and Belvoir Vales – mention Doddington and Lincoln & Witham LR in the description
 - 4.19 – The Wash – mention the Lincoln and Wash LR in the description
 - 4.18 - Kesteven Uplands – mention Boothby Rewilding and/or Boothby Wildlands LR in the description.
 - We would be happy to work with you to on the above and to create a case study that covers Landscape Recovery and covers how some of the principles of the LNRS can be put into practice. This would add depth and value to the strategy document.
2. With regards to **mapping**, we accept that simply creating a map layer showing the area that the LR project covers is not a useful tool.

- However, using the example of the Lincoln and Witham LR, within the c6,500ha total area, there is around 2,000ha of specific long term habitat creation, across a number of landowners that if successful, would address many of the principles and actions that the strategy seeks to facilitate.
 - We would therefore like reassurance that this land can be mapped by the LNRS assuming that the project moves to the delivery phase – likely to be around January 2027.
3. With regards to [REDACTED], the rewilding project here began in 2021 and much has already been achieved.
- As the largest inland nature site in Lincolnshire, 5 years into a 400 year ambition for nature recovery across the whole site, we would like to see Doddington and its habitats reflected better in the existing mapping [can expand here on detail, shape files, evidence, if needed].
 - Doddington has a number of important wildlife sites:
 - SSSI – Doddington Clay Woods (Old Hag and Little Sale)
 - LWSs – Cinder Plot, Ash Lound & Brick Kiln Holt, Strunch Hill Wood, Donkey Close Meadow, Fox Holt, Whisby Stocking and Hurn Wood.
 - We note that there is a buffer (Action 146) surrounding the Local Wildlife Sites but nothing similar exists for the other important biodiversity sites such as SSSI's and NNRs. This would seem like an omission and one that could be easily rectified before the maps are finalised.
 - We understand that fundamental changes to the maps are not possible but our understanding from the public consultation event is that *“where a project plans habitat creation (or has commenced habitat creation after the 2023 cut off) which overlaps and aligns with a mapped LNRS action, the boundary of the action can be extended to include the habitat creation of the project.”* There are one or two areas where we feel that changes of this nature should be made.

- The easiest would be to extend Action 146 - *Create buffers around existing LWSs and link to appropriate habitats to build resilience*. And/or, if SSSI buffering is added to the mapping, then this would be a valid option too.
- In addition, we have been carrying out extensive work with long term 'hard-to-reverse' changes within an area of around 200ha of the landscape at Doddington to create and restore freshwater habitats.
- Part of this work has been to slow the flow and improve water quality using stage zero natural flood management approaches within the main channels. We have also broken under-field drains and we have added 30 large new ponds. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] both agree that [REDACTED] is now a regionally important centre of excellence/demonstration site for freshwater habitats and river restoration.
- We feel that all this merits inclusion and the simplest way might be to extend Action 76 - *Reduce nutrient and sediment run-off by creating habitat buffers along rivers, streams and connected water courses to improve water quality*.
- We note that phosphate, attached to sediment, appears to be a trigger for buffering water courses. We would like to do more hydrological changes across the estate. For some reason water courses are marked up with buffering zones for phosphate outside the estate, but very few within the estate. We are keen to do more works and cannot understand why the buffering and water courses are not evidenced within the estate. The [Freshwater Habitats Trust](#), work on these all important Headwater catchments, that appear to have been missed. We are working with [REDACTED] across the estate and the wider Landscape Recovery area to define the best actions. It would help to have the buffers marked on the map to help encourage inward investment. We can supply you with shape files for these changes identifying our wetter changes if this is helpful.
- **Cinder Plot at Doddington** is a local wildlife site and surrounding sandier land. The LNRS narrative identifies heathland as important but then drills down into just talking about acid grassland. It is important to note that in this county, and more widely, heathland is much more than just acid grass: it is a mosaic of heathers, gorse, acid grass species and scrub. Often in association with mire communities where wet

heath is present. We have remnants of this habitat all over Cinder Plot that we hope to restore and expand. It would be helpful to highlight this, especially buffering for the field just north of the west end corner of Cinder plot, running up to the crossroads, since with enough funding we will be restoring and expanding this heathland mosaic. Our overall objective for the eastern sandy side of the estate is to restore it to mosaic heathland, which we know it was historically (we have maps and evidence from 1749 and earlier if required). The 10 year Higher Tier CS scheme isn't long enough to get to heathland. The Landscape Recovery, LR, will allow us to articulate and achieve this longer term ambition to create a large area of lowland heath mosaic habitat across woodland, plantation and previously arable land. Note that our neighbours in the LWLR to the east of us are ALSO seeking to restore/create heathland.

- Finally, on heathland, if the LNRS strategy is restricted to just acid grassland, then that feels like a weakness in the draft to fail to address the wider mosaic.
- **Wood Pasture at Doddington.** All the clay land in the N and West of the estate was recorded in the Domesday book as “wood affording pasturage” (along with Skellingthorpe Old Wood). Now it is either still ASNW, or was historically ASNW. Our 10 year CSHT scheme commits us to creating wood pasture across all the previously arable land. The LR scheme will commit us to this across both the woodland and the previously arable land for 30 years. As a back up we are also negotiating a new CSHT scheme with Forestry Commission to integrate our woodlands into what we have already commenced on the previously arable land, ie creation of Wood Pasture. We hope these long-term ambitions currently supported by Natural England Countryside Stewardship payments and which we hope will be transferred into the longer-term Landscape Recovery Scheme need some sort of wholesale recognition within LNRS? Can the buffers that should be around woods be expanded where you have evidence or our sort to justify wider areas and connections. It seems a weakness to only create ‘strips’ without that we are trying to somehow cover it all with buffer strips etc. Again we can quickly supply you with shape files of these adjustments. It seems akin to the expansion of the water buffer at Boothby Wildland (a younger site than Doddington), where the buffer



has been enlarged (up to the road) so that it now includes much of their land in their animal enclosure.

[REDACTED]

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1. Introduction

[REDACTED] welcomes the opportunity to respond to the draft Greater Lincolnshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS). As the UK's largest woodland conservation charity, [REDACTED] has a long-standing presence in Greater Lincolnshire, working with local authorities, landowners, farmers and communities to protect, restore and expand native woods and trees for the benefit of nature, climate and people.

The LNRS represents a significant milestone arising from the Environment Act 2021. It provides, for the first time, a statutory, spatially explicit framework through which nature recovery priorities can be agreed and coordinated across sectors and boundaries. For a large, predominantly rural and intensively farmed area such as Greater Lincolnshire, the LNRS has the potential to be genuinely transformative if its ambitions are matched by clarity, prioritisation and strong mechanisms for delivery.

Greater Lincolnshire contains some of England's most productive agricultural land, alongside internationally important wetland systems, lowland farmland landscapes, river corridors and remnant woodland habitats. Woodland cover remains low, fragmented and unevenly distributed, and many existing woods and trees are under pressure from climate change, pests and diseases, inappropriate management and development. Against this backdrop, [REDACTED] strongly supports the LNRS process and its overall direction, but considers that the strategy would benefit from a clearer and more ambitious articulation of the role of native woodland, trees and hedgerows as foundational elements of nature recovery.

Our comments are intended to be constructive and to support refinement of the strategy prior to adoption and implementation.

2. Strategic Importance of Woods, Trees and Hedgerows in Greater Lincolnshire

2.1 Current Context and Challenges

Greater Lincolnshire is one of the least wooded areas of England, with overall tree cover significantly below the national average. Woodland is highly fragmented, often confined to small parcels, shelterbelts, historic estates and river corridors. Hedgerow networks, while extensive in parts of the area, have experienced long-term decline in both extent and condition, reducing their effectiveness as wildlife corridors and carbon stores.

At the same time, the area faces acute challenges associated with climate change, including increased flood risk, drought stress, soil degradation and biodiversity loss. Woods, trees and hedgerows offer cost-effective, multifunctional solutions to many of these challenges, yet their role within the Draft LNRS is not always sufficiently explicit or strategically prioritised.

[REDACTED] believes that the LNRS should more clearly position woodland and tree recovery as a cross-cutting mechanism that underpins delivery of multiple LNRS objectives, rather than as a discrete or secondary habitat option.

2.1 Ancient Woodland, Ancient and Veteran Trees

Ancient woodland is an irreplaceable habitat, representing the richest terrestrial ecosystem in the UK. Greater Lincolnshire contains a limited but highly valuable resource of ancient woodland sites, alongside numerous ancient and veteran trees embedded within farmland, parkland and settlement landscapes.

We welcome the recognition of these assets within the strategy but recommend that the LNRS goes further by:

- Fully integrating the Ancient Woodland Inventory (AWI) and Ancient Tree Inventory (ATI)¹ into all relevant opportunity and constraint mapping layers.
- Explicitly recognising ancient woodland, ancient trees and veteran trees as irreplaceable assets that must be protected from direct loss and indirect harm.
- Establishing clear principles for minimum buffer zones around ancient woodland (at least 50 metres) and robust root protection areas for veteran trees.²

- Prioritising the restoration of Plantations on Ancient Woodland Sites (PAWS) as a key nature recovery intervention, particularly where these sites can act as ecological cores within wider networks.
- Recognising wood pasture and parkland as distinct and highly valuable habitats requiring tailored management approaches.

Without these measures, there is a risk that the LNRS underplays the vulnerability of irreplaceable woodland assets and misses opportunities for targeted, high-impact recovery.

The LNRS should therefore:

- Clearly distinguish between woodland creation, natural regeneration and scrub development, recognising the biodiversity value of each.
- Prioritise natural regeneration wherever conditions allow, particularly adjacent to existing ancient and long-established woods.
- Identify opportunity areas where woodland creation can deliver the greatest connectivity gains, rather than focusing solely on gross increases in canopy cover.
- Promote a diversity of native woodland types appropriate to local soil, hydrology and landscape character.

3.2 Connectivity and Nature Recovery Networks

Given the fragmented nature of existing habitats, ecological connectivity must be a central organising principle of the LNRS. Woods, trees and hedgerows are particularly effective in creating functional links between isolated habitat patches. We recommend that the LNRS:

- Identifies and maps core woodland areas, buffer zones and stepping-stone habitats.
- Uses hedgerow restoration and enhancement as a primary mechanism for reconnecting landscapes, particularly across arable farmland.
- Recognises the role of small woods, copses, shelterbelts and linear tree features in facilitating species movement.
- Integrates woodland connectivity priorities with river catchments, green infrastructure strategies and cross-boundary initiatives.

4. Trees, Water and Climate Resilience

4.1 Riparian and Floodplain Woodlands

Greater Lincolnshire's extensive river systems and low-lying landscapes present significant opportunities for riparian and floodplain woodland creation. These habitats are currently underrepresented but can deliver substantial benefits for biodiversity, water quality and flood risk management.

The LNRS should:

- Embed riparian woodland and wet woodland creation within catchment-based approaches.
- Explicitly link tree establishment with natural flood management objectives.
- Promote woodland creation on marginal or flood-prone agricultural land where this aligns with landowner objectives.
- Encourage collaboration between flood authorities, internal drainage boards and nature recovery partners.

4.1 Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation

Native woodland and trees are essential to both mitigating climate change through carbon sequestration and helping landscapes adapt to changing conditions. The LNRS should more clearly articulate how woodland measures contribute to climate resilience.

This should include:

- Emphasising structural and species diversity to increase resilience to pests, diseases and climatic extremes.
- Prioritising locally appropriate native species, sourced and grown in the UK and Ireland to minimise biosecurity risks.
- Recognising the role of trees in soil protection, microclimate regulation and drought mitigation.

5. Urban and Community Tree Cover

Although much of Greater Lincolnshire is rural, its towns and villages face many of the same challenges as larger urban areas, including poor air quality, heat stress and health inequalities.

Urban and community trees can deliver disproportionate social and environmental benefits in these settings.

[REDACTED] recommends that the LNRS:

- Includes a clear commitment to increasing urban and peri-urban tree canopy cover.
- Supports the principle of Tree Equity,³ ensuring that access to tree benefits is not determined by postcode or deprivation.
- Encourages community-led planting and stewardship initiatives, including school and street tree programmes.
- Integrates urban tree priorities with local authority planning, public health and green infrastructure strategies.

6. Policy Integration, Delivery and Governance

6.1 Embedding the LNRS in Decision-Making

For the LNRS to be effective, it must be embedded across relevant policy and delivery mechanisms. We strongly recommend that local authorities treat the LNRS as a material consideration in:

- Local Plan preparation and review.
- Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) site selection and strategic offsetting.
- Green infrastructure and open space strategies.#
- Flood risk and water management planning.

Clear alignment between the LNRS and these processes will be critical to avoiding fragmentation and ensuring consistent decision-making.

6.2 Funding, Monitoring and Adaptive Management

[REDACTED] welcomes recognition of the need for long-term delivery mechanisms. To strengthen this further, the LNRS should:

- Be accompanied by a clear delivery plan with identified lead partners and indicative funding sources.
- Align woodland and tree priorities with Environmental Land Management schemes, particularly Countryside Stewardship and Landscape Recovery.

- Establish measurable indicators for woodland condition, canopy cover, connectivity and community engagement.
- Commit to adaptive management, allowing priorities to evolve as evidence and monitoring data improve.

7. Species Recovery and Woodland Biodiversity

Woodland habitats support a wide range of priority species in Greater Lincolnshire, including woodland birds, bats, invertebrates and fungi. The LNRS should ensure that species recovery objectives are clearly linked to habitat measures.

We recommend:

- Explicit recognition of woodland-dependent and tree-associated species within species opportunity statements.
- Targeted action for declining and locally characteristic native tree species.
- Greater emphasis on the importance of veteran trees and deadwood habitats.

8. Conclusion

[REDACTED] strongly supports the ambition behind the Greater Lincolnshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy and commends the partnership working that has underpinned its development. The strategy provides a critical opportunity to set a long-term, coherent direction for nature recovery across a complex and heavily managed landscape.

To maximise its effectiveness, we believe the LNRS should more clearly and consistently position woods, trees and hedgerows as fundamental components of nature recovery, climate resilience and community wellbeing. With stronger emphasis on irreplaceable habitats, targeted expansion, connectivity and robust delivery mechanisms, Greater Lincolnshire can make meaningful progress towards a more resilient and nature-rich future.

[REDACTED] looks forward to continuing to work with partners across Greater Lincolnshire to refine and implement the LNRS, and we would welcome ongoing dialogue as the strategy moves from consultation to delivery.



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