



# Greater Lincolnshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy

Development of Priorities and Actions 2026

Luke Bamforth (Greater Lincolnshire Nature Partnership)

Aiden Davies (Greater Lincolnshire Nature Partnership)

## **Development of Priorities and Actions 2026**

### **Contents**

- 1. Introduction**
- 2. Public engagement**
- 3. Stakeholder engagement**
- 4. Habitat priorities and action**
- 5. Species priorities and actions**
- 6. Pre-Consultation**
- 7. Post-Consultation**

## 1. Introduction

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

Introduced by the Environment Act 2021, Local Nature Recovery Strategies aim to find local priorities for nature recovery, directing action to places where it will have the most benefit for wildlife and the wider environment.

As part of the creation of the LNRS, the responsible authority is required to create a statement of biodiversity priorities. This involved assessing the public, and various other stakeholders' opinions on important habitats and species to the local area. Following this engagement, various experts and stakeholders were consulted to generate specific priorities and actions for nature recovery across the LNRS area. To assist in delivery, wherever feasible these priorities were mapped to ensure effective, targeted action to assist in nature recovery. This report details the process that was undertaken to generate the statement of biodiversity priorities.

Definitions of priorities and actions:

**Priorities** – *“The end result of what the strategy is seeking to achieve”*

**Actions** – *“The on the ground actions that will help to deliver the priorities”*

## 2. Engagement

To identify the public's biodiversity priorities, a public survey was hosted on Let's Talk Lincolnshire from the 18<sup>th</sup> of September – 15<sup>th</sup> December 2023, which received over 1200 responses. Farmers and Land managers were also invited to input into the Land managers survey, which received over 300 visitors and 140 responses. The results of the surveys were analysed to assess the habitat and species priorities held by the public.

Following the public engagement, various stakeholders were engaged through meetings and webinars to develop a longlist of biodiversity priorities for nature recovery.

The groups consulted were as follows: Consultation Groups – Community Benefit, Economic Benefit, Environmental Professionals, Farmers and Land Managers, Supporting Authorities.

The Species Recovery Group were engaged to develop species priorities and actions, this process is explained later in section 5.

## 3. Habitats priorities and actions

The diagram below displays the process of shortlisting habitat priorities and actions from the initial longlist.



### **Creating the initial longlist**

Following the engagement process, the initial longlist was created using the results of the public and land manager surveys, existing plans and strategies for nature recovery, and workshops with environmental experts.

### **Rationalised to create shortlist of priorities and actions**

The initial longlist was then rationalised by the Greater Lincolnshire Nature Partnership to create a shortlist of priorities and actions.

### **Approval by management board for workshop**

The shortlist of priorities and actions was approved by the LNRS management board for workshops with environmental experts.

### **Environmental experts workshops**

The environmental experts workshops were used to alter wording and decide if the priorities and actions were appropriate, and if they were mappable.

### **Follow up meetings**

There were then further discussion on key comments with organisations such as the Forestry Commission, Natural England and the Environment Agency, to ensure strategic alignment across organisations.

### **Feedback implemented**

The feedback from the workshops and follow up meetings was implemented into the priorities and actions.

#### Shared with SAs for comment

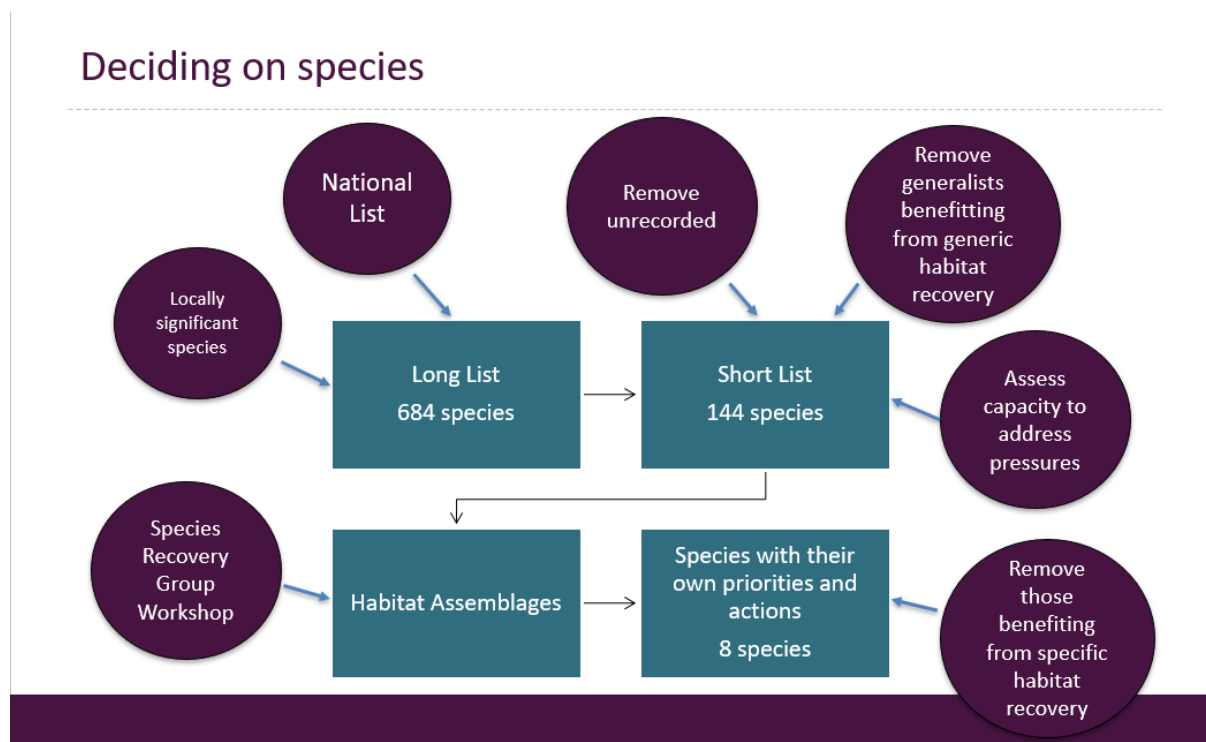
After implementing the feedback, the shortlist of priorities and actions were shared with supporting authorities to review and comment on the shortlisted priorities.

#### Final review by management board

After implementing feedback from supporting authorities, a draft statement of biodiversity priorities was produced, it contained around 50 priorities and 150 actions. This was then reviewed by the LNRS management board and approved for publication in the public consultation draft of the LNRS.

### 4. Species priorities and actions

The Species Recovery Group for Greater Lincolnshire brought together expertise from many areas of species conservation, and advised on the selection of the priority species and the actions needed for their recovery. The following steps were followed to create the list of species priorities and actions for the Greater Lincolnshire LNRS.



#### Creating the Species longlist

Initially the national criteria were used to identify species in the strategic area. Locally significant species were identified, to create an initial species longlist for later refinement. There were 684 species in the longlist

#### Creating the Species shortlist

The Species Recovery Group collaborated and combined their expertise in order to prioritise the species longlist into a shortlist, containing 144 species. The criteria they used included:

- The scale and nature of pressures on the species, for example, many long-listed species will probably benefit from habitat creation and improvement actions and so were not shortlisted
- Local capacity to address pressures on the species may not be available
- whether there were existing opportunities to deliver actions for recovery, e.g., existing or planned local projects.

### **Creating the LNRS Species priorities and actions**

From the shortlist, the LNRS Species priorities and actions list was created in order to guide nature recovery to specifically support the prioritised species.

### **Creating habitat assemblages**

Species were grouped into habitat assemblages for further categorisation. The suitability of existing Priorities and Actions were considered against the habitat assemblages, and in most cases were judged likely to be effective.

### **Species with their own Priorities and Actions**

Following this process, eight species were found suitable for their own Priorities and Actions. There are several reasons for their selection:

- Some species need their own focused projects to deliver their recovery;
- Some species have a lot of local interest in their recovery
- Good flagship species for wider nature recovery actions
- Greater Lincolnshire has nationally important populations of some of the species, and so extra focus should be made to support their populations.
- Required Bespoke action

## **5. Pre-Consultation**

Prior to the release of the public consultation draft, the draft statement of biodiversity priorities was shared with supporting authorities, and neighbouring authorities for approval and to ensure high level strategic alignment of priorities and actions for nature recovery. It is worth noting that there may be differences between LNRSs as the priorities and actions are designed to address local nature recovery and there may be regional differences in priorities for nature.

## **6. Post Consultation**

Following the release of the public consultation draft, over a period of 6 weeks the public were able to comment on the LNRS, including the proposed priorities and actions, and the proposed locations of mapped actions. This allowed the public, and other authorities to comment on the mapping and the text of the LNRS, and to use their local knowledge to help refine the opportunities for nature recovery.