Cumbria's Local Nature Recovery Strategy: A new approach or just another plan?

That's down to us!

Paul Evans (Cumbria Local Nature Partnership)

Setting the Scene – Nature Recovery Networks

'Making Space for Nature 2010' — More, Bigger, Better and Joined up

The development of a Nature Recovery

Network (NRN) is a major commitment in
the government's 25 Year Environment Plan

Aiming to create:

A national network of wildlife-rich places connected across our cities, towns, countryside and coast.



What are Local Nature Recovery Strategies?

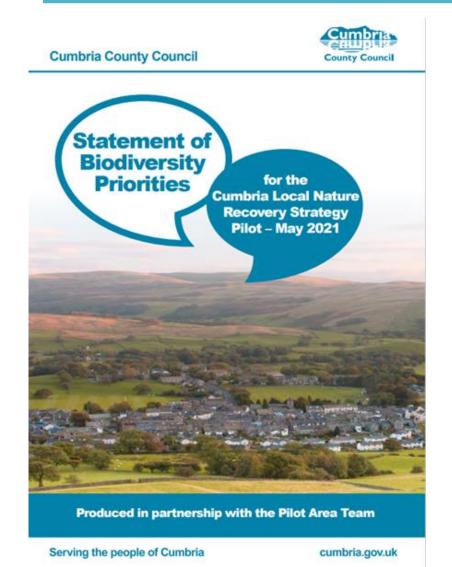
Part 6: Sections 104-108 of the Environment Act 2021

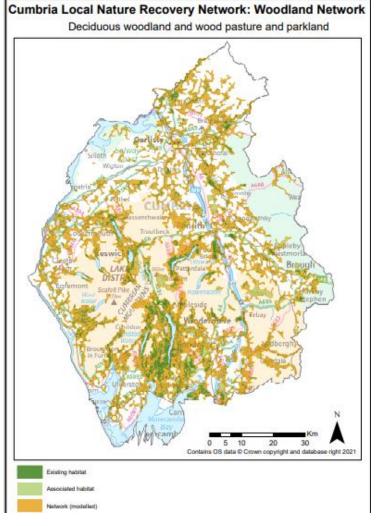
Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRSs) are the key mechanism for mapping and planning local delivery of the national Nature Recovery Network

- Map the most valuable existing areas for nature;
- Agree priorities for nature's recovery;
- Map locations for creating/improving wildlife habitat,
 'nature based solutions' and health and wellbeing



Local Nature Recovery Strategies: What will they look like?





A written plan: Statement of Biodiversity Priorities

A spatial representation of the plan: The Local Habitat Map

Led by local authorities

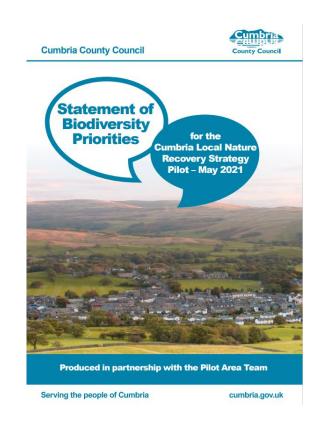
Local Nature Recovery Strategies: What do we hope they will achieve?

Not just another Biodiversity Action Plan.

It will:

- Be a spatial plan
- Have a clear focus on priorities and delivery
- Joint strategy development leading to joint decision making and delivery
- Better align funding and partner resources Biodiversity
 Net Gain & Environmental Land Management
- Have actions for all so will become a 'plan for everyone'

Will help us to develop our part of England's Nature Recovery Network



The Cumbria LNRS: How and when?

We will have a Cumbria-wide plan

Westmorland and Furness Council will be lead authority (working closely with Cumberland Council)

Potential start April 2023 (c.12-18 months development)

It will build on work done in the pilot

Cumbria-wide consultation and involvement in its preparation



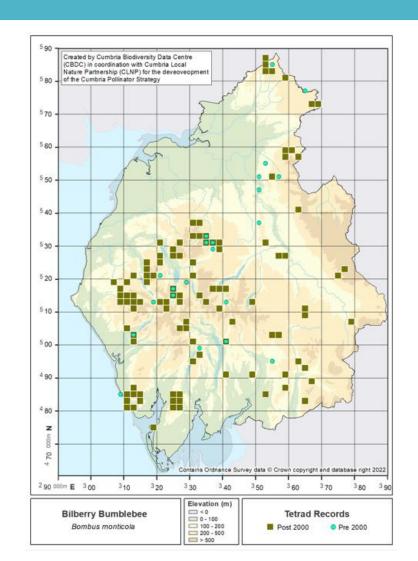
The Cumbria LNRS: Importance of good data

Good data = a good plan

Cumbria's LNRS will be a spatial plan – primarily a 'habitat focussed plan'

We need to:

- Improve age and coverage of habitat data (including habitat 'condition')
- Update our County Wildlife Sites data through a programme of resurvey
- Continue to collect species data for key species and locations



The Cumbria LNRS: How our data is already being used

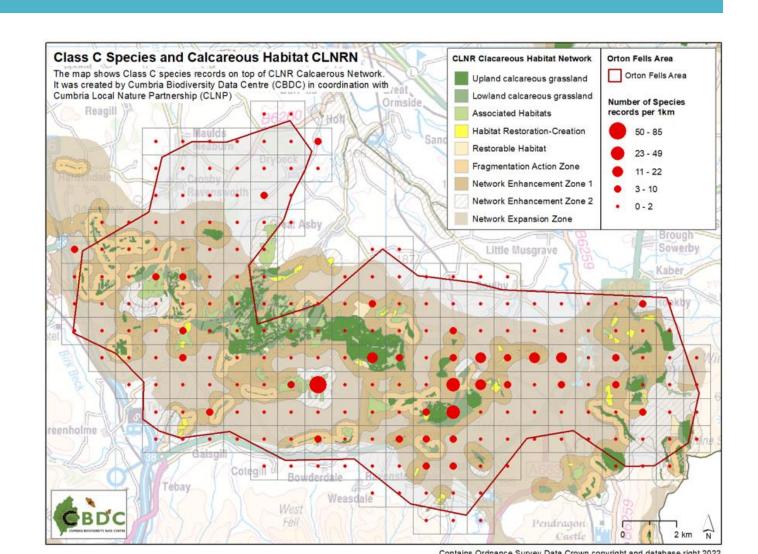
- CBDC is leading on the habitat and species data/mapping for the LNRS and is the current repository for the LNRS data
- A provisional 'Priority Species' (rare and threatened species) list
- Work to link species to a habitat based approach
- Using data to guide and develop species recovery programmes



The Cumbria LNRS: How our data is already being used

Orton Fells mapping of rare and threatened species

- Relationships between species and habitats/habitat networks
- A focus for advice to land managers and for pro-active conservation action.

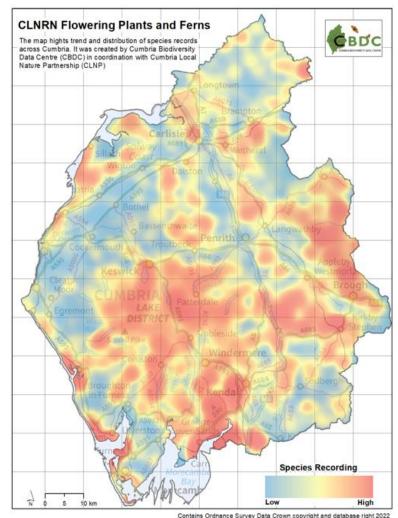


The Cumbria LNRS: Cumbria leading the way

A BIG THANK YOU.

Minimal reference to species in the Defra pilot LNRS guidance.....

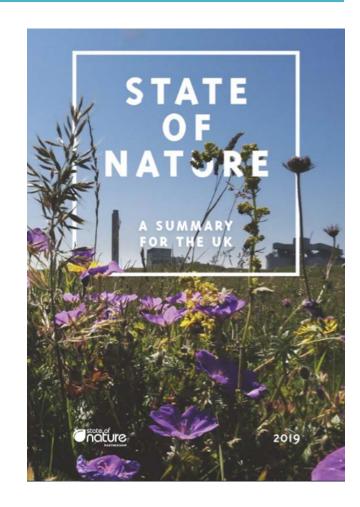
..... with Cumbria's push, work now being taken forward by species NGOS, Natural **England and DEFRA**



The Cumbria LNRS: So will it succeed?

We need:

- A well evidenced plan more species data and updated habitat maps
- The best data and also the best expertise we can provide
- Increased survey and recording potentially increased focus on certain species or locations



The Cumbria LNRS: So will it succeed?

We need:

- People, communities and organisations to engage with the LNRS development and participate in the consultation (process likely to start soon after April)
- Ideas, local knowledge and expertise
- Local support



The Cumbria LNRS: So will it succeed?

And going forward we need:

To monitor success and make sure we continue to do the right things...

- More and up to date species records
- More uptake of national recording scheme (helping us analyse data for local trends)
- More people and organisations taking action where they can



The Cumbria LNRS: It's down to all of us!

So it really is **down to all of us** to help make this work and use this new 'tool' to help address the Biodiversity Crisis

Thank you

