



Westmorland  
& Furness  
Council

# Cumbria Local Nature Recovery Strategy

Recorders' Conference  
24<sup>th</sup> February 2024





What? Why? Who? Where? When? How?



# What is a LNRS and why do we need it?

Cumbria is one of 48 strategy areas that are required by the Environment Act to develop a Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) for their area by March 2025.

The LNRS will aim to restore Cumbria's wildlife by drawing on existing data, strategies and guidance, alongside local knowledge, to ensure that nature recovery happens in a way that delivers maximum benefit.

The LNRS will identify the key priorities and measures for nature recovery in Cumbria and show the areas that are most suitable for these.

Map areas that are of particular importance for biodiversity.

- Designated sites.
- Irreplaceable habitats.



Describe Cumbria's current biodiversity and opportunities for recovery.

- Main habitats, species, and character areas.
- Pressures on biodiversity.
- Opportunities to halt the decline of biodiversity in Cumbria.



Identify the priorities for biodiversity recovery and measures to achieve these.

- Habitat/ species specific priorities that are measurable, achievable and relevant.
- Measures for achieving these priorities that link to other existing guidance and policies.



Map the areas that could become of particular importance for biodiversity.

- Restore / Enhance.
- Create / Connect.
- Create / Extend.



# What LNRs are not...

- **LNRs are not delivery plans**, instead they are a mechanism through which other measures and interventions may be delivered
- **LNRs are non-binding** – Responsible Authorities must prepare an LNR but are not required to deliver the opportunities identified. However, the Environment Act does require that LNRs are reviewed and republished. This will enable progress on delivery to be monitored and to reflect on what has been achieved.
- **LNRs are not lines on maps that confer any level of protection**/prevent land uses such as intensive farming or development. LNRs Local Habitat Maps are opportunity maps that will guide and inform planning and nature recovery activities
- **LNRs do not give permission to create habitat** without consulting specialists in Historic Environment, Landscape, Access etc...

# Who will produce the Cumbria LNRS?

A 'Responsible Authority' has been appointed for each strategy area to lead on the development of their LNRS.

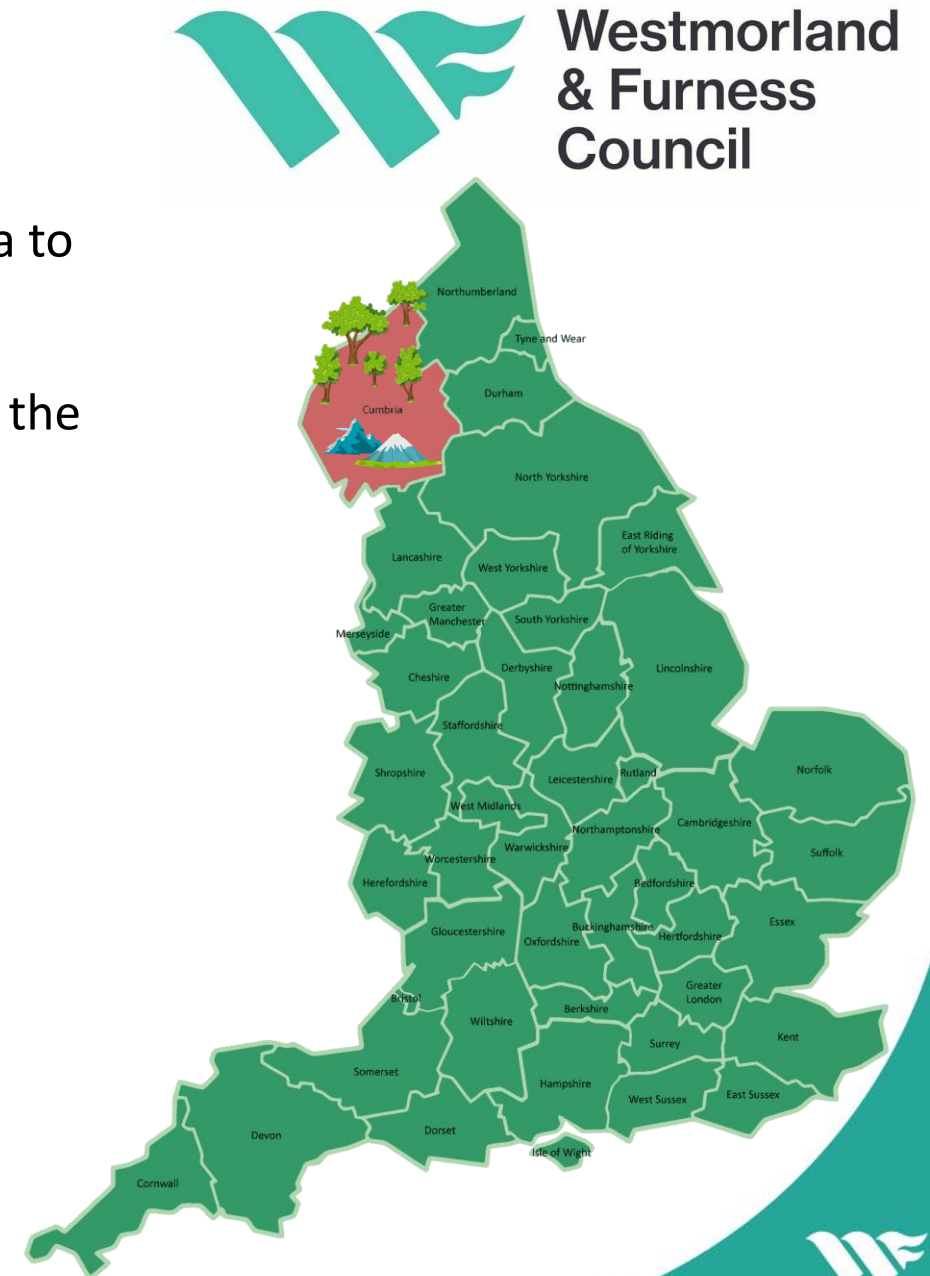
Westmorland and Furness Council are the responsible authority for the Cumbria LNRS.

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The generic email is [Cumbria.LNRS@westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk](mailto:Cumbria.LNRS@westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk)  
which we ask that you use for general enquiries.



## Who will produce the LNRs?

There are four appointed Supporting Authorities for Cumbria, with many other organisations and individuals supporting the development of the LNRs. Our stakeholder contact list has over 560 organisations and interested parties included and will be engaged with at some point throughout the LNRs development.





# How will the LNRS be used?

There are many ways in which the LNRS should be used:

Organisations seeking funding for schemes in their area could use it to support their application.

Local planning authorities could use it to inform the detail and location of biodiversity net gain.

Landowners could use it to identify opportunities for environmental enhancement on their land, as well as potential revenue from Environmental Land Management Schemes or private investors (e.g. carbon offsetting).

Developers could refer to it when planning habitat creation or compensation.

Private investors looking to achieve carbon off-setting could use the LNRS to identify appropriate schemes.

Members of the public wanting to increase biodiversity in their garden, at work or in their local area.

## Who else is involved?

The LNRS will be developed collaboratively with a wide range of stakeholders in Cumbria.

Current stakeholders include but are not limited to:

- Cumbria Biodiversity Data Centre
- Nature Conservation Bodies
- Statutory Bodies
- Partnership / Strategy Groups
- Farmers and Landowners
- Infrastructure and Utilities Groups







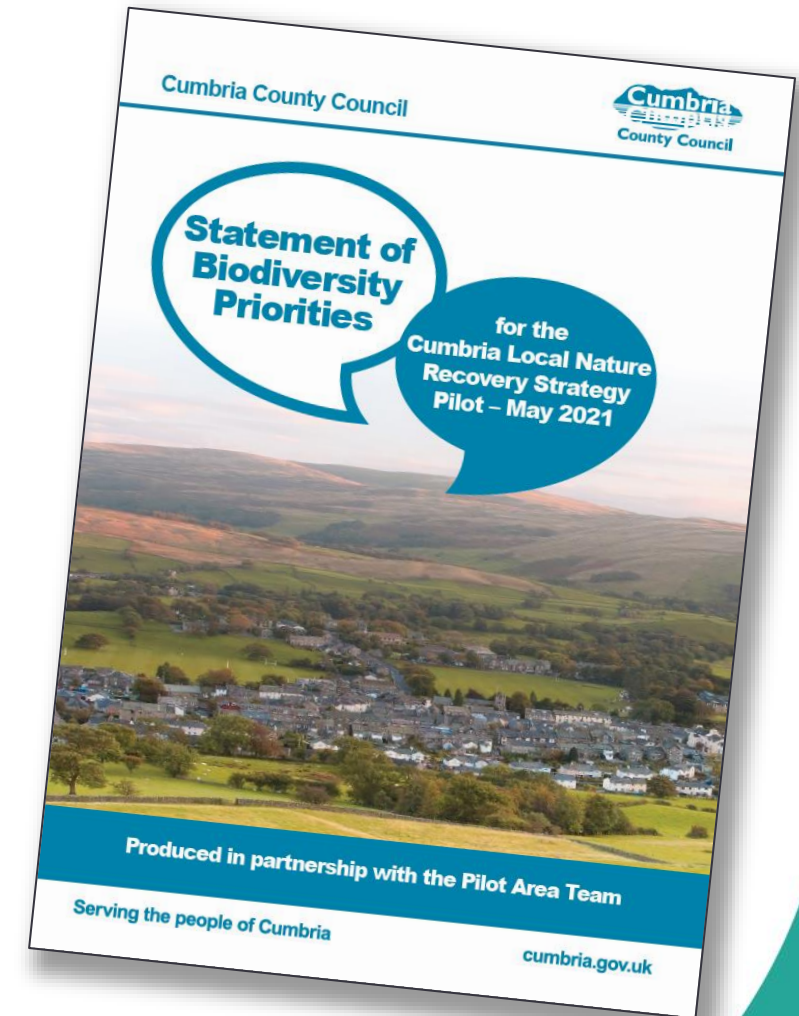


# Pilot Scheme

In 2021 Cumbria was chosen as one of five pilot areas to trial the development of an LNRS. The [pilot scheme](#) was widely praised and gives us a good basis to work from when developing the current LNRS.

A review of the pilot scheme identified several opportunities to further build on the work already done:

-  Increase consultation and engagement with a wider range of stakeholders.
-  Refine the priorities and measures.
-  Integrate existing strategies and plans into the LNRS.
-  Develop the mapping element so that the written statement and the map are fully aligned.



How does all this relate to today's Records' Conference?

**Clue: it's all about species and data!**



# Species in the LNRS

- Working closely with CBDC, the recording community and multiple eNGOs, work is underway to create our shortlist of species to prioritise in the LNRS.
- This is a list of species that the LNRS can best support according to Natural England non-statutory guidance.
- We are also asked to produce ‘species assemblages’ which are ways in which we may choose to group species.
  - Actions to improve a particular habitat will have positive implications for a variety of species.
  - Actions to support one particular species requiring specific intervention has positive implications for a further group of species.

Criteria			
Criteria for species to consider in LNRS	Critical	Threatened	Any native species which have been assessed as Red List Threatened against IUCN criteria.
		Significant	Any native species which have not been formally assessed against IUCN Red List criteria but where strong evidence is provided to show that they would meet the criteria for Threatened status (note: such species may fall into the category of ‘other species of local significance’ inputted by stakeholders - Section 4.3.
		Extinct	Any native species considered to be <u>nationally extinct that re-establish themselves or are rediscovered</u>
	Important	N. Threatened	Any native species which have been assessed as Red List Near Threatened against IUCN criteria.
		NE Input	Any native species which NE suggest as suitable candidates for conservation translocation, or any native species already subject to translocation efforts (aligning with Reintroductions and other conservation translocations: code and guidance for England) that, on NE’s advice, need to be scaled up to maximise success.





## Stage 1: create a Long List

An initial list including all potential species that could be included was produced by CBDC. This identified a total of 1,684 species that could be included within the LNRS.

Category	Number of species
Critical to Consider	308
Important to Consider	186
Locally Significant (?)	1069
Included in the Pilot	121
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1684</b>

The guidance estimates that '*the species longlist is likely to comprise between 150 and 500 species*'.



# Rationalising the Long List

Volunteers took responsibility for each of the taxon groups in the 'long-long' list and decided which species to retain in the 'long list' (full guidance and process was provided).

- Step 1: Retain in long list? Y/N
  - Prioritise 'Critical to consider' and 'important to consider' species.
  - Exclude Cumbria BAP, rare and scarce, red data species unless a specific case is made to include them on a case-by-case basis.
  - Exclude species where the age of most recent record exceeds 25 years.
  - Exclude species where there are only a small number of records.





## Stage 2: create a LNRS species priorities list

- Identify the species the LNRS can best support.
- Group species into habitat-based assemblages
- Identify LNRS priorities based on urgency, deliverability, contribution to species recovery, climate change, cross boundary considerations etc.

**A: Needs more / bigger / better-connected habitat.**

**B: Needs targeted habitat management.**

**C: Needs improvements in environmental quality.**

**D: Needs bespoke conservation action/s.**

**E: Needs better evidence base / on-the-ground action is not a priority.**

**F: Needs action outside England.**

**G: Vagrants / occasional visitors.**





# How to get involved

- All the decisions we make have to be based on data and evidence – the more of this that you can provide, the better our LNRS species prioritisation will be.
  - Means that your data and recordings are extremely valuable to this project!
  - The LNRS is updated every 3-10 years – value of your data and support over time.
- Join our species group: if you want to get involved in the process please let us know.



More information on the  
LNRS including updates  
can be found at  
[cumbrialnrs.org.uk](http://cumbrialnrs.org.uk)



Email us at  
[Cumbria.LNRS@westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk](mailto:Cumbria.LNRS@westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk)



Complete our  
questionnaire at  
[cumbrialnrs.org.uk](http://cumbrialnrs.org.uk)



Any questions, thoughts or comments?

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