

# Gloucestershire Local Nature Recovery Strategy

Technical Appendix B - Public Consultation Report



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## Introduction

As part of the statutory requirements for the preparation of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) and the Gloucestershire County Council (GCC) standard process for adopting a strategy, a public consultation on the LNRS draft documents and mapping was required. This was also considered an important stage in the development process of the LNRS, to ensure input from the public was considered, and to gather insight and information from those that had not been reached through the engagement sessions. It was also an opportunity to get feedback on the layout, structure and functionality of the mapping.

The public consultation ran from the 6th September to 19th October 2025 and was hosted and promoted through the GCC website. The consultation invited the public to review the following documents and feedback via an online form, where it was possible to upload attachments, such as maps and further information:

- Part 1 - Gloucestershire's Biodiversity and Opportunities for Nature Recovery (PDF)
- Part 2 - Biodiversity Priorities and Potential Measures (PDF)
- List of Priority Species and Species Assemblages (Excel document)
- Draft Local Habitat Map (hyperlink to interactive GIS webmap)
- Written and video user guide for how to navigate the mapping

An LNRS email address was also provided for enquiries or sending additional information. A prompt was given on the website to inform the public of how paper copies of the documents could be requested. To further support the public in reviewing the LNRS documents and mapping, six online Zoom meetings were held, hosted by the Gloucestershire Local Nature Partnership Manager, and attended by the GCC Ecologist and/or Local Nature Recovery Officer. During the meeting the LNRS was explained in accessible language, covering its purpose, broadly how it was developed, and how to use the mapping and Potential Measures.

## Promoting the Public Consultation

It was important to try and reach a wide range of people, to ensure the strategy had been reviewed by both those that would have local knowledge, expertise or personal interest, and those that may contribute to delivery. To do this the consultation was promoted via:

- GCC social media platforms and press release
- Directly contacting contributors to the strategy (such as those from the steering groups)
- Asking those contacted to also share amongst contacts
- Directly contacting National Farmers Union (NFU), Countryside Land and Business Association (CLA) to ask them to distribute the Public Consultation to members.

This document summarises in detail the ways in which feedback was gathered as part of the public consultation, the comments and feedback gathered, and how we responded to it.



## Gathering Feedback

### Online video conferencing sessions

Six online video conferencing sessions were held during the Consultation, to provide additional support and information to attendees. The aim of these sessions was to further engage with the public and facilitate their understanding of the LNRS and its documents, in order to encourage feedback. During the meetings, a presentation was delivered explaining the LNRS in accessible/non-technical language, including how it had been developed, what its intended purpose is, and how to use it. A demonstration was also given on how to use the mapping feature. There were multiple opportunities for attendees to ask questions throughout the meeting. To ensure the meeting could be joined by a broad range of people, sessions were run at a range of times, including in the evening.

### The Questionnaire

The questionnaire was in an online form format, but a link to a document version was available on the consultation website, to allow for collaborative responses, or printing. It was also possible for respondents to email GCC and request a hard copy of the supporting documents, with the email address provided on the website and during the video conferencing sessions.

### Demographic data and the reach of the consultation

The questionnaire comprised a series of demographic questions, to allow us to understand and analyse the reach and the level of response of the public consultation amongst various demographic groups. These were all optional questions and designed to ensure anonymity if required.

### Feedback on Part 1, Part 2, Priority Species and the Local Habitat Map

The main part of the questionnaire asked respondents whether they broadly agreed or disagreed with the following, using a 5-point scale:

- Key Messages
- Biodiversity Priorities
- Potential Measures (text)
- Potential Measures (mapping/spatial)

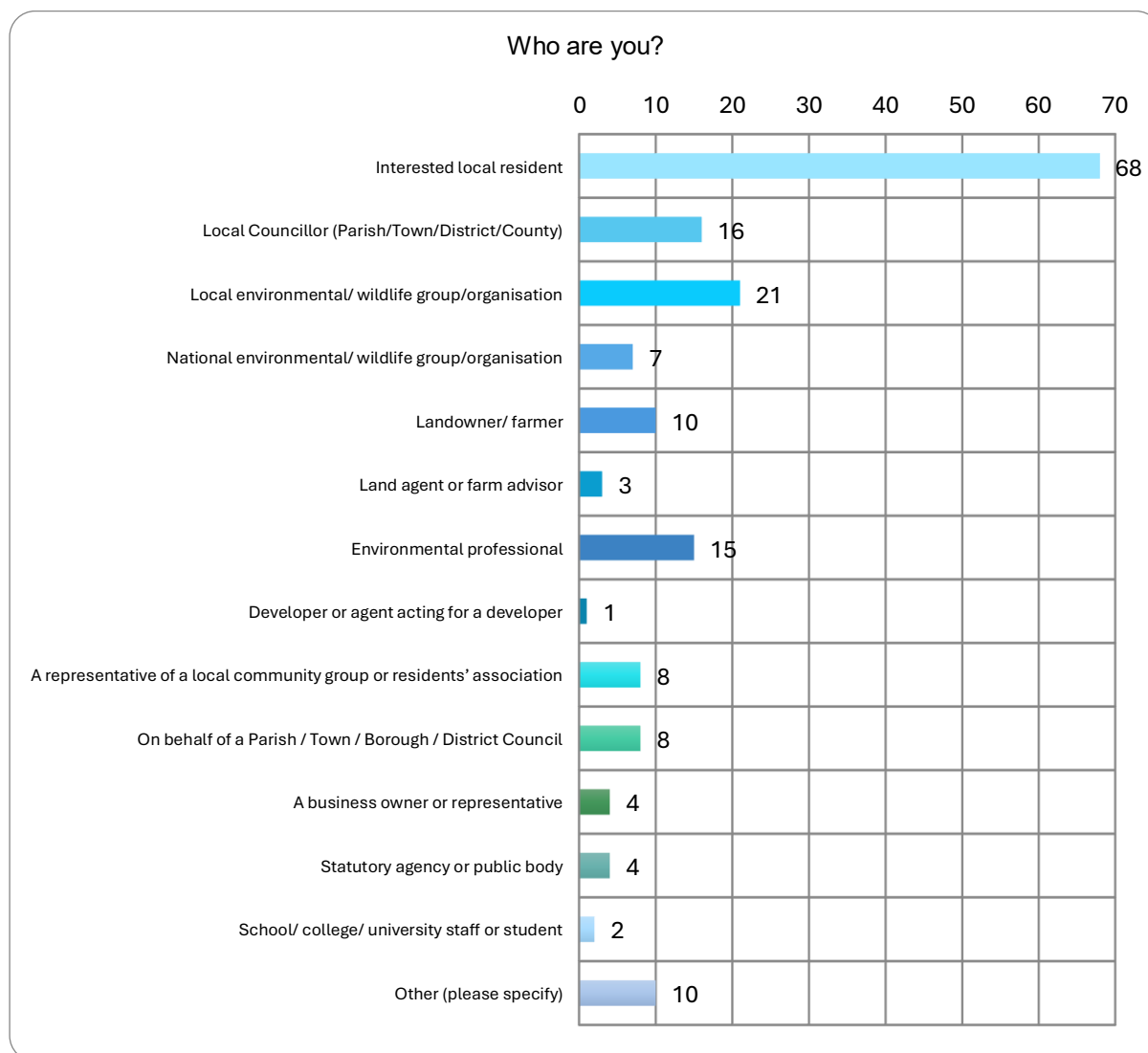
In addition to these fixed response questions, open response follow-up questions allowed respondents to provide additional information via a free text box. Respondents were also given the opportunity to upload files should they wish.



## Results - fixed response questions

The public consultation received a total of 110 responses to the online survey, with an additional seven more detailed written responses received from organisations via the LNRS email inbox. The below results reflect the answers to the questionnaire only. Note that as no questions were mandatory, some do not have 110 responses.

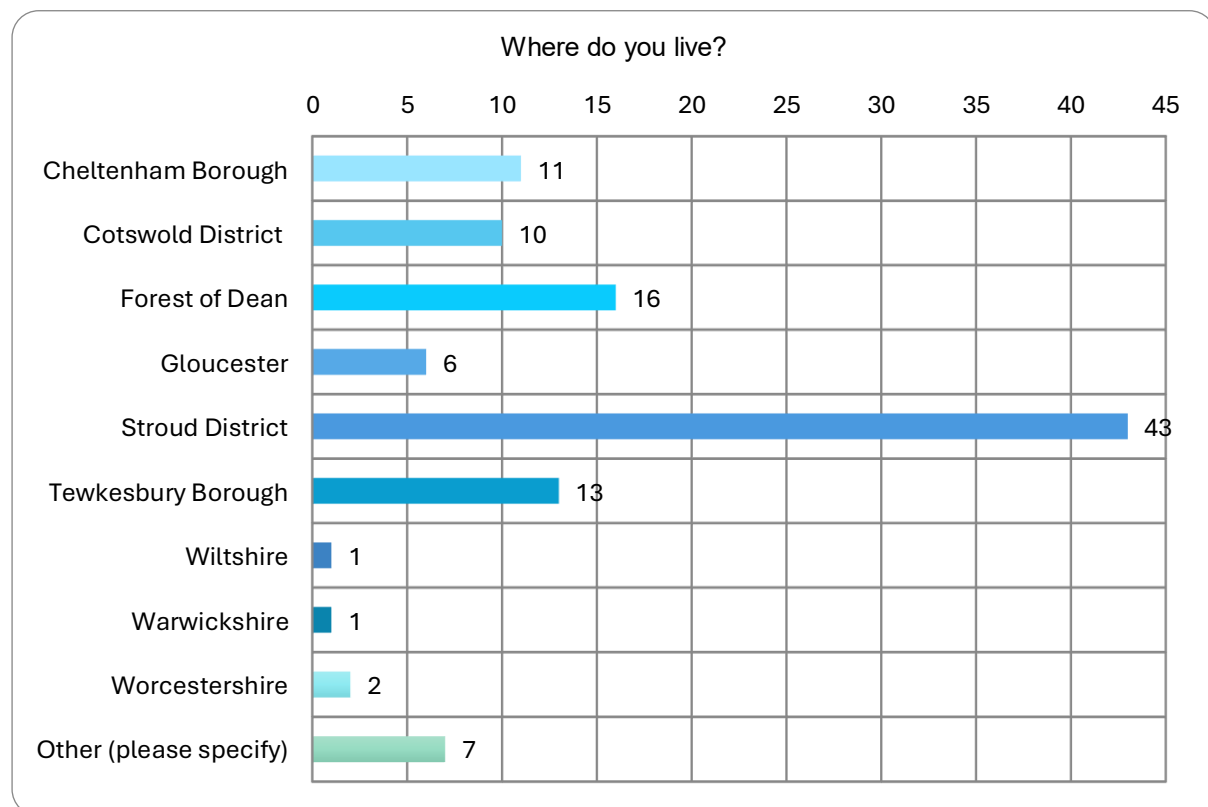
### Question: Who are you? (you can select more than one option)



Out of the survey respondents, the majority (68 individuals - 64%) were *Interested Local Residents*. The survey received responses from 15 *environmental professionals*, 10 *landowners* and 21 *local environmental or wildlife organisations*, seven *national wildlife organisations*, and eight representatives of *local councils* along with 16 *local councillors*; all of whom are considered frequent users of the document and mapping.



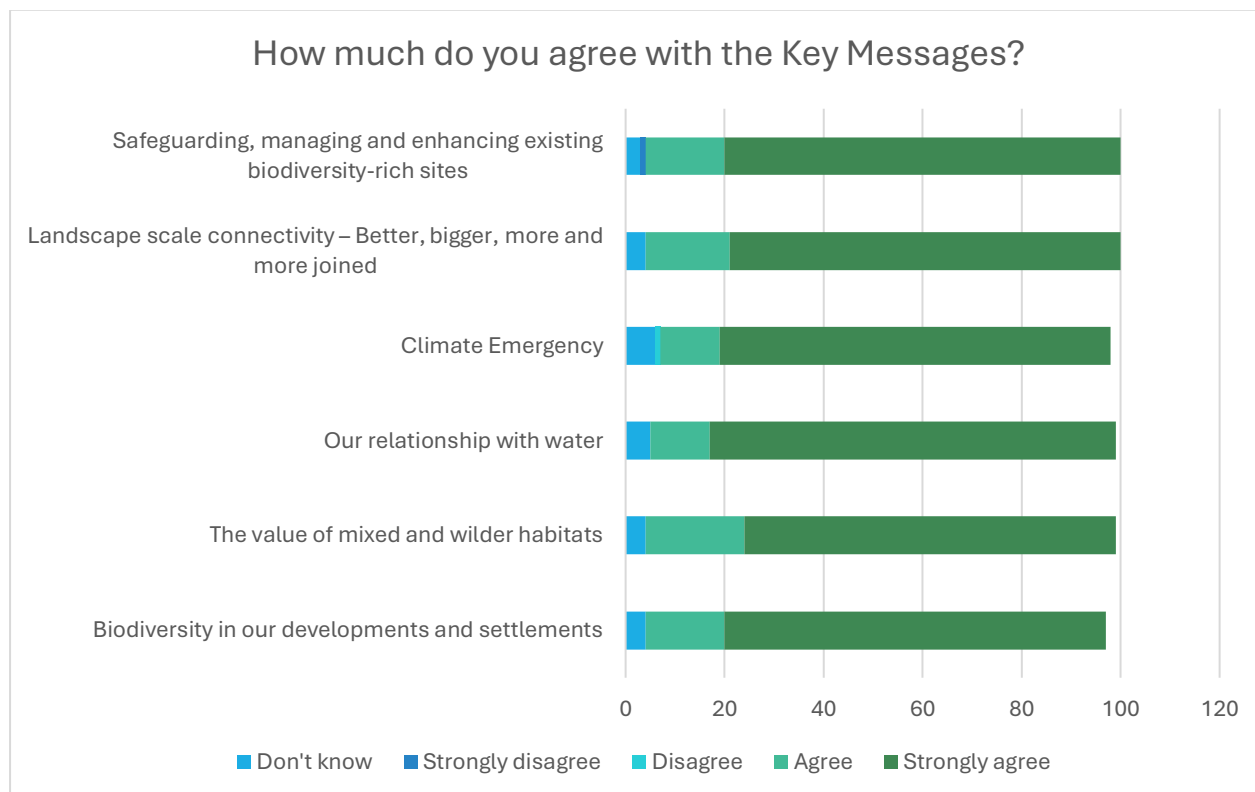
## Question: Where do you live?



There were more survey respondents who lived in Stroud district when completing the questionnaire compared to the other districts of Gloucestershire, with 43 respondents (40.2%) from Stroud district. Some of the respondents to “Other” included people living in Swindon, Somerset, Buckinghamshire or Wales but whose work is in or covers Gloucestershire.



## Question: How much do you agree with the six Key Messages of the Gloucestershire Local Nature Recovery Strategy?



There is strong agreement for all of the six Key Messages of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy, with over 90% of respondents agreeing or strongly agreeing with them, and over 75% of respondents strongly agreeing with them.

## Question: How much do you agree with the ten Biodiversity Priorities of the Gloucestershire Local Nature Recovery Strategy?

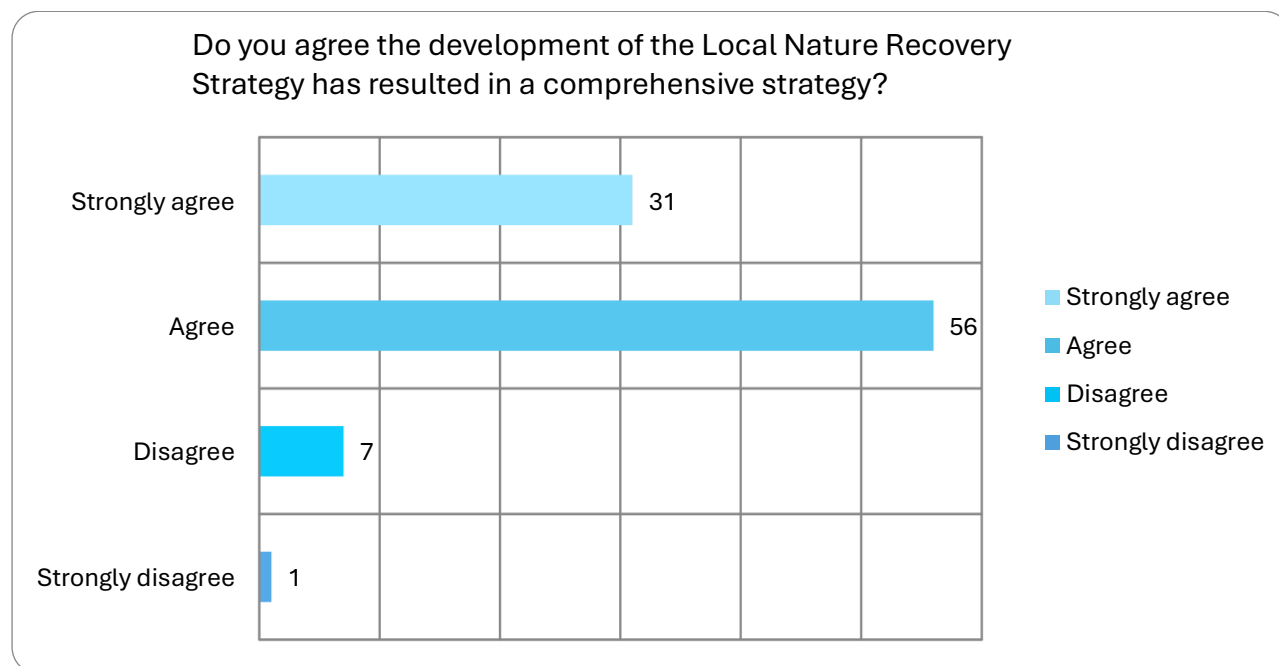
There is strong agreement for the ten Biodiversity Priorities of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy, with around 90% of respondents agreeing or strongly agreeing with most of them, and over 60% of respondents strongly agreeing with them.



### How much do you agree with the ten Biodiversity Priorities of the Gloucestershire Local Nature Recovery Strategy?



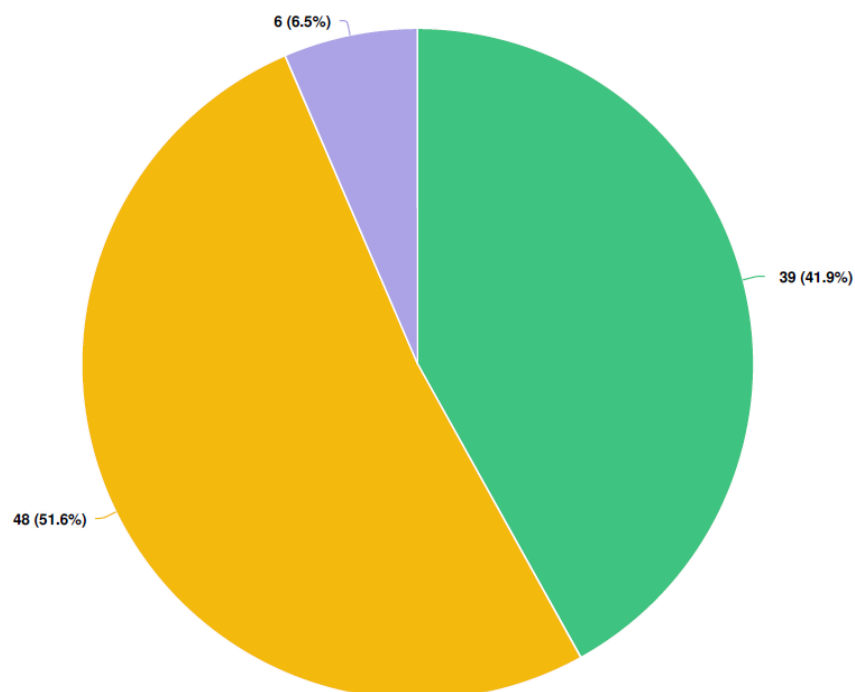
**Question: Do you agree the development of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy has resulted in a comprehensive strategy?**



A high proportion of respondents, 91.6%, agreed or strongly agreed that the development of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy has resulted in a comprehensive strategy.



Question: How much do you agree that this set of Potential Measures will help to support action of nature recovery?



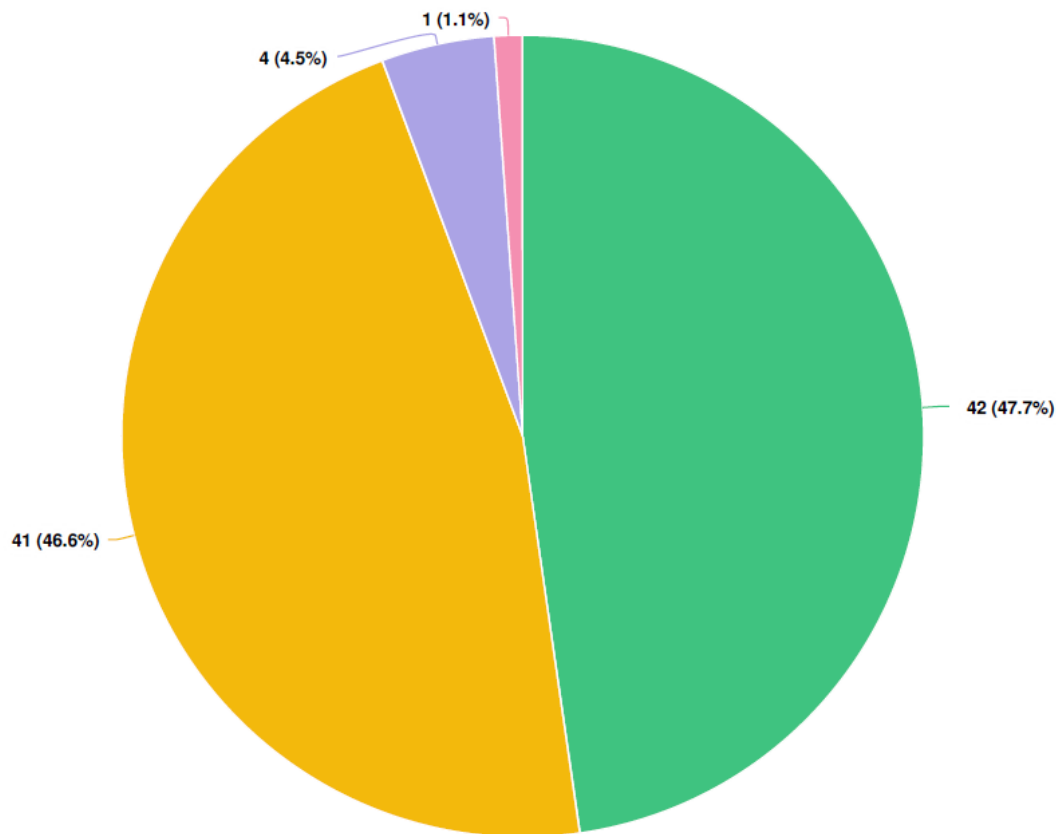
**Question options**

Strongly disagree Disagree Agree Strongly agree

A very high proportion of respondents, 93.5%, agreed or strongly agreed that the set of Potential Measures will help to support action for nature recovery.



Question: The Local Nature Recovery Strategy identifies a list of Priority rare and threatened species in Gloucestershire, and groups these into the main habitats that support them. Do you agree with the Priority Species and the groups?



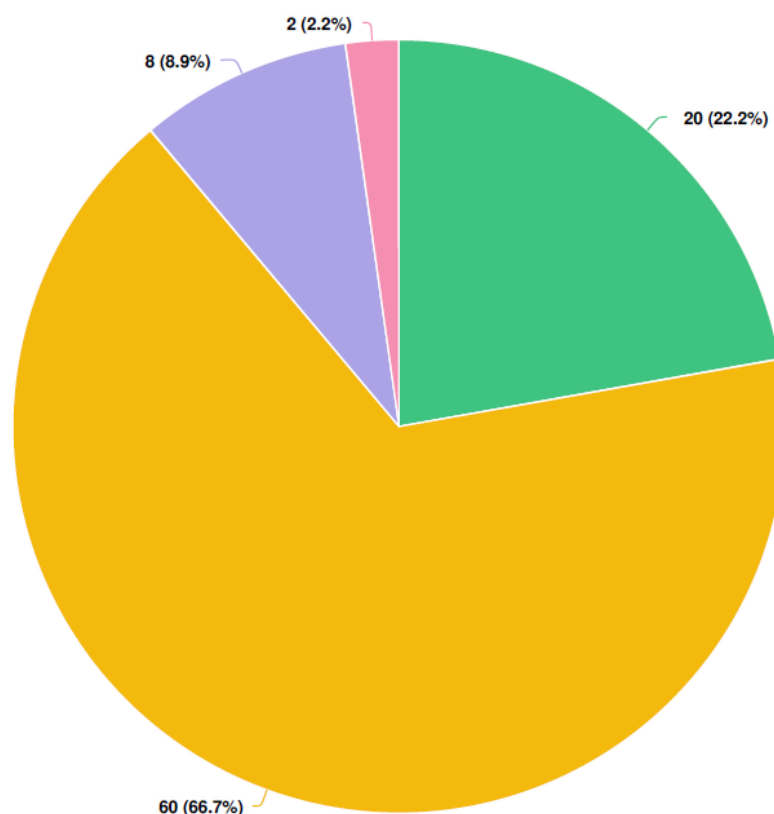
**Question options**

Strongly disagree Disagree Agree Strongly agree

A very high proportion of the 88 respondents who answered this question (94.3%) agreed or strongly agreed with the Priority Species List and its groups.



Question: Do you agree that the Local Habitat Map helps you to understand what Potential Measures are the best opportunities in a particular place?



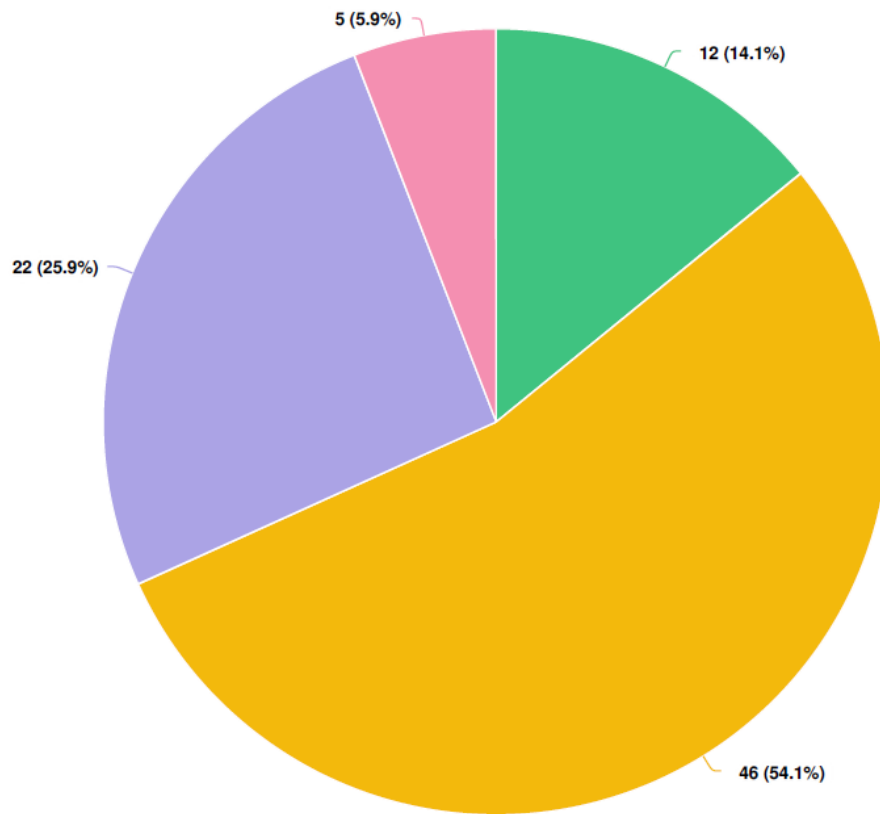
**Question options**

Strongly disagree Disagree Agree Strongly agree

A high proportion of the 90 respondents who answered this question, 88.9%, agreed or strongly agreed that the Local Habitat Map helps people to understand what Potential Measures are the best opportunities in a particular place.



## Question: How easy did you find it to use the map?



### Question options

● Not at all easy
 ● Not easy
 ● Easy
 ● Very easy

Just under a third (31.8%) of the 85 people who answered this question found it not easy or not at all easy to use the Local Habitat Map. We have made some user and functionality changes in response to feedback and suggestions, within the technical limitations of a complex website. The table below also shows how many people within each type of response are people who are likely to use the Local Habitat Map for professional purposes, such as environmental professionals, landowners, farmers, local authority officers or councilors. A slightly higher percentage of potential professional users found it easier to use the map. This still points to a need for training and advice for users during the delivery of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy.



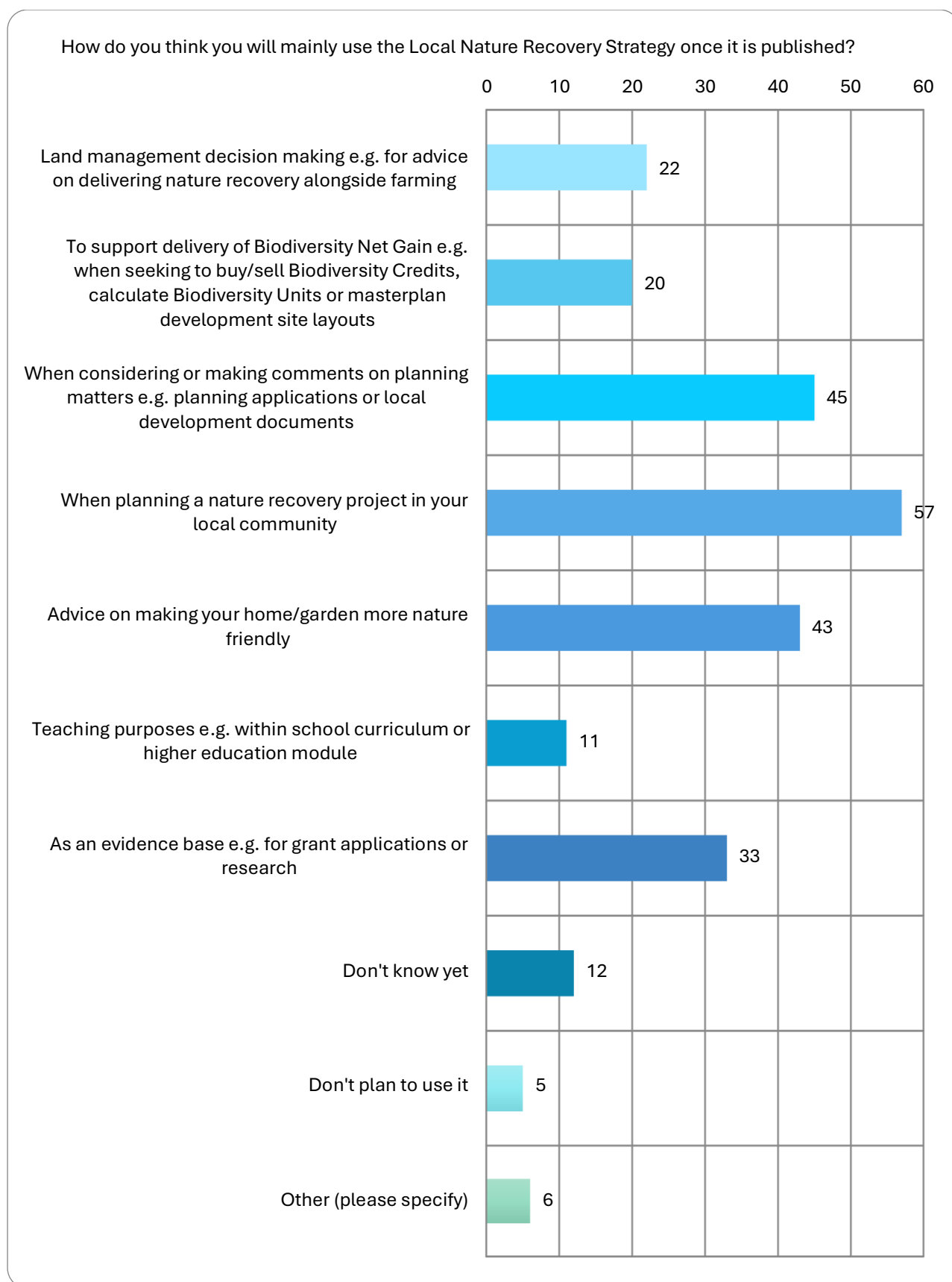
How easy did you find it to use the map?	Number of respondents	Percentage of respondents	Number of these respondents who could use the strategy professionally	Percentage of professional users
<b>Very easy</b>	12	14.1%	8	67%
<b>Easy</b>	46	54.1%	25	54%
<b>Not easy</b>	22	25.9%	11	50%
<b>Not at all easy</b>	5	5.9%	2	40%

### Question: How do you think you will mainly use the Local Nature Recovery Strategy once it is published?

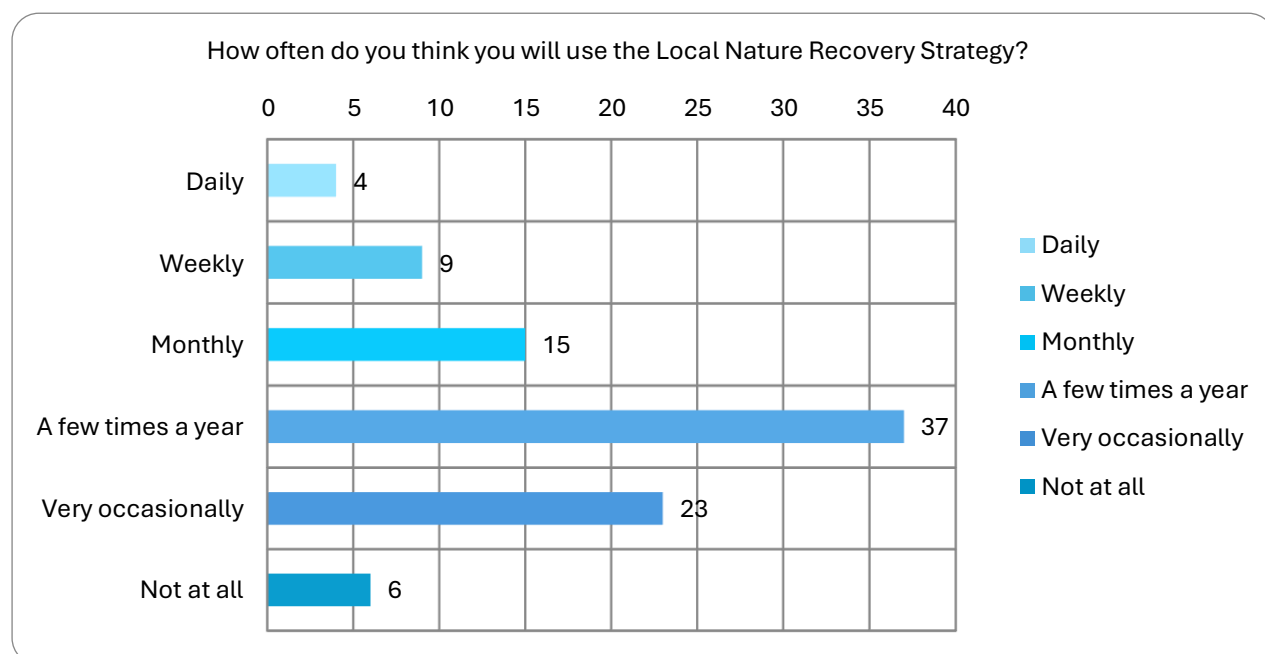
Most respondents anticipated future use of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy, with the most likely application being “When planning a nature recovery project in your local community”.

Responses specified under “other” included “Supporting landscape scale National Trail Nature Recovery Projects and influencing National Trail maintenance” and that the strategy should “be a reference point for all community and council thinking and action”.





## Question: How often do you think you will use the Local Nature Recovery Strategy?



Over 90% of respondents think they will use the Local Nature Recovery Strategy in some way, with most people reporting that they will use it monthly, a few times a year, or very occasionally.



## Analysis of qualitative responses

Ten of the questionnaire questions had free text answers, allowing the respondent to provide more detailed answers to the question or earlier parts of the questionnaire. These answers prompted responses which often provided detailed suggestions for correction or re-wording, and requests for alterations to the mapping. Qualitative questionnaire answers, along with written responses received via the LNRS email inbox, were therefore processed and sorted to produce an action list. Not all responses were actionable however and the following methodology was used to review and make decisions about how, or whether to action comments:

- Key themes were identified within consultee written responses. Depending on the following factors, the comments were either reviewed with steering groups, actioned, or deemed not relevant / no action needed.
- Points were actioned or further reviewed when:
  - They had been raised multiple times by different respondents
  - They raised a clearly actionable point, such as technical detail being incorrect, or issues with formatting, layout and readability
  - They had been made by a larger organisation with expertise or particular influence
- Points were deemed not actionable when:
  - They were simply proving a general positive or neutral comment (see summary table of non-actionable comments)
  - Their comment requested a change, or was in relation to a topic outside of the scope of the LNRS
  - Their comment was not clear or misinterpreted the LNRS documents or mapping. Note that where issues/functionality/elements were clearly misunderstood or misinterpreted, an action was still made to review the useability of documents/mapping, signposting and user guides.

To discuss any points or potential actions that needed further input, three meetings were held with the technical steering group, the Species Task and Finish Group, and a specific group relating to aquatic ecology and watercourses. Where more information was required from a detailed response, and their contact details were provided, an online meeting was arranged to discuss their comments further.

The following tables summarise the actionable and non-actionable comments from the consultation questionnaire and email responses. Each response is categorised by theme, and GCC's response is detailed, with explanation and justification given for why a decision was made, if relevant. Whilst no personal details are given below, it is stated if an action was taken in part due to the known expertise of the respondent. Where a potential measure is referred to, the number is given, which corresponds to the numbering in Part 2 of the LNRS.



## Actionable responses - summary table

Theme	Overview of comments	Response
<b>Ecosystem services</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Suggestions for adding additional Ecosystem Service 'icons' to farming measures</li> </ul>	Measures have been reviewed to confirm if additional Ecosystem Service 'icons' could be added, which have been included where appropriate.
<b>Public health</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A request was made for strengthening the narrative around how measures can benefit public health</li> <li>Other comments highlighted the need to link nature to benefits for people and health.</li> </ul>	The text pertaining to these themes was reviewed. These themes are not absent from part 1 and are present in the key messages. Additional detail has been added where appropriate.
<b>Rewilding and natural regeneration</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Requests to add more information regarding natural regeneration in both the measures and narrative in Part 1</li> </ul>	More information was added to section 1 on the importance of wilder mixed mosaic habitats, giving more specific examples of how the idea of rewilding can be used to create a messy landscape, with examples of specific livestock and methods that can be used taken from the “conservation grazing” section (and subsequently removing this from the Pressures and Opportunities section to reduce repetition). A case study example of a rewilding project in Gloucestershire was subsequently added.
<b>Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Asking whether measure or measure detail is necessary to achieve BNG</li> <li>Request for more clarity on other text surrounding BNG</li> </ul>	The mapping layers and groupings were reviewed. Resultingly, the ACIB <sup>1</sup> measures have been aligned with the measures that contribute to BNG. It is recognised that prior to this, some misalignment existed making it difficult to understand how to apply strategic significance in relation to BNG. This has now been simplified, with guidance text

<sup>1</sup> Areas that Could Become Important for Biodiversity

Theme	Overview of comments	Response
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Request for clarity needed over how to apply strategic significance where measures are not mapped to field boundaries.</li> </ul>	<p>updated in Part 1 and 2. A BNG specific user guide has been created, and the County wide BNG guidance from GCC will be updated.</p> <p>It has been confirmed by Defra that users will only be able to get high Strategic Significance for areas of habitat creation that are fully within the LNRS mapping, and this will be made clear in the user guides.</p>
<b>Key messages wording</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Comments regarding language used in key messages, asking for more specificity around actions</li> <li>Request to add reference to how mixed and wilder habitats help with climate resilience.</li> </ul>	<p>The Key messages have been reviewed and edited, adding more context and amending language.</p> <p>Climate resilience has been added to the "mixed and wilder habitats" Key Message.</p>
<b>Biodiversity Priorities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Requests made for the strengthening of the language used to describe each biodiversity priority</li> <li>Some specific text was provided as a suggestion</li> </ul>	<p>It was recognised that the description for each biodiversity priority was generic with a lack of detail of specific actions for each habitat. The descriptions were therefore reviewed and amended to contain more detail. Neutral and descriptive language was used, drawing from the ideas in the suggested text from the respondent.</p>
<b>Anthropogenic pressures</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Comments made about the importance of limiting dog access</li> <li>Comments made about balancing public access with keeping nature protected from disturbance and recreational pressure</li> </ul>	<p>The LNRS Part 1 documentation did already include a section and paragraphs about anthropogenic pressures, and the use of SANGs to alleviate pressures.</p> <p>In response to these comments we have, however, added more detail around dogs, along with suggestions for how to protect sites and use information boards at public sites to help educate the public on the risks dogs can pose to wildlife.</p> <p>A new specific measure for "Disturbance from dogs" has been added. This encourages management of sites to use measures including natural barriers (such as scrub) to section off sensitive areas, temporary fencing or demarcation of areas that are seasonally sensitive (such as grasslands)</p>

Theme	Overview of comments	Response
		with ground nesting birds) and the inclusion information boards for educational purposes. It has subsequently been emphasised that these actions should be implemented on appropriate wildlife rich sites as research suggests that 41% of visits / walkers in the countryside and farmland are to walk a dog. <sup>2</sup> Care has been taken to ensure that the language used emphasises the importance of protecting nature and encouraging nature connection without blaming or scapegoating dog owners.
<b>Methodology</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Comments about not being able to pass judgement on measures without methodology of how they were created</li> <li>Comments that demonstrated confusion over understanding of the mapping or measures (e.g. not understanding what the APIB<sup>3</sup> layer consists of)</li> </ul>	<p>Whilst some methods were provided at the end of Part 1 of the draft document available during the public consultation, it was recognised that these measures may not have been adequately signposted and that more explanation, particularly relating to how the mapping layers have been developed, was needed. To aid the user, full methods have been compiled using text from Part 1 (now removed from Part 1) and additional information to form a new standalone document, accessible via the GCC website (Technical Appendix A).</p> <p>Where relevant, text has also been added to Part 1 for added clarification. One example is the inclusion of explanation and rationale for the data used to construct the 'Areas of Particular Importance for Biodiversity' map layer.</p>
<b>Canals</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Comments pointed out that canals were sometimes mapped with the "river re-</li> </ul>	It was acknowledged that mapping river re-naturalisation over canals was inappropriate and resultingly, this layer has been edited to remove the inclusion of canals.

<sup>2</sup> Defra – The People and Nature Survey for England <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/the-people-and-nature-surveys-for-england-adults-data-y5q4-january-2025-march-2025>

<sup>3</sup> Areas of Particular Importance for Biodiversity

Theme	Overview of comments	Response
	<p>naturalisation” Potential Measures, which was deemed inappropriate</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Requests were made to highlight the benefits of canals for wildlife</li> </ul>	<p>Existing un-mapped measures that referred to canals, such as wildlife corridors and green and blue infrastructure were included in the initial draft LNRS. However, additional information has now been added to measures that refer to canals (061, 068), to highlight the opportunities for creating wildlife rich riparian habitat, and creating soft banks that are suitable for water voles.</p> <p>The above changes were considered sufficient and following consultation with the technical steering group it was deemed most appropriate to focus Part 1 text on rivers and the improvement of water quality in general.</p>
<b>Swifts</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Multiple responses mentioned National Planning Policy Framework guidance on the requirement for swift boxes in new builds, along with technical advice on installation</li> </ul>	<p>These comments were deemed appropriate. An existing measure relating to swifts (Measure 063) was already included and has been updated with the suggested text.</p>
<b>New woodlands</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Multiple responses requested newer woodlands be added to mapping in some form</li> </ul>	<p>It was acknowledged that the mapping or measures only included "long-established" woodlands, not newer woodlands. However, further analyse of the mapping revealed that some new woodlands were mapped when planted as part of an agri-environment scheme and were therefore known to be native broadleaved species, with ongoing management. To ensure consistency, this measure has been broaden to include newer broadleaved woodlands in the manage layer. This was in response to acknowledging the importance of encouraging good management of newer woods and preventing a perception of lower ecological value resulting in their loss to development. Whilst newer woodlands may lack the higher functionality and value of a mature woodland, they have potential to become high value with time and with good management. As such, this measure now includes the aim of ensuring the longevity of newer woodlands.</p>



Theme	Overview of comments	Response
<b>Farming Potential Measures</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Requests for mention of the impact of chemicals and pesticides</li> <li>• Requests to emphasise the use of Regenerative farming</li> <li>• Request for agroforestry to be mentioned within Part 1</li> </ul>	<p>Although Part 1 does not have a section related specifically to farming, it does highlight the need to create connectivity through the farmed landscape and to reduce source and diffuse pollution to waterways. The Part 2 document contained a range of measures, pertaining directly to nature-friendly farming. However, it was recognised that as these were located in multiple parts of the document, challenges existed in locating and reviewing them in their entirety. As such, they have now been grouped together with updated numbering.</p> <p>Agroforestry was already covered by Potential Measures but not mentioned in Part 1. It has therefore been added in the NCA<sup>4</sup> section.</p>
<b>Caveat</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Request to add consulting with regulators as well as others on the list of bodies or organisations</li> <li>• Other comments relating to minor tweaks to the “important caveat” i.e. making sure</li> </ul>	<p>Adjustments were made in response to these comments which were raised in the technical steering group. These were done to add clarity and flexibility for the caveat to apply to all projects. It was changed from:</p>
<b>Linking Potential Measures</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Comments suggested linking/adding additional Potential Measures to the “other measures that apply...” column of Part 2.</li> </ul>	<p>These have been reviewed and added where appropriate. Following discussions in the Species Task and Finish Group, further connections, particularly with regards to species, have been added.</p>
<b>Fish</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Queries regarding the River Severn fish measures asking for more fish representation and inclusion within the text and measures</li> <li>• Comments suggested edits to the technical detail regarding some fish ecology</li> </ul>	<p>It was acknowledged that there had been a lack of equal input from experts in this area, compared to terrestrial species. This was primarily due to the lack of availability of the experts contacted. An additional meeting with representatives from Severn Rivers Trust and the Environment Agency was subsequently arranged to collectively amend this measure, along with the water quality measure (038).</p>

Theme	Overview of comments	Response
		It was noted that fish were absent from the “rivers” species assemblage (and therefore not reflected in Potential Measures) – this was an error that has been rectified.
<b>Map functionality</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Submitted comments stated that the map was difficult to navigate, with 31.8% of questionnaire respondents reporting that the map was either "not easy" or "not at all easy" to use</li> <li>Sometimes comments demonstrated that there had been confusion in understanding of the map layers , e.g. flagging an unmapped priority habitat, which was in fact mapped but under a different category than expected by the respondent</li> </ul>	<p>It is recognised that the map is an integral part of the LNRS, and will likely be the statutory element most frequently utilised by users. Comments regarding map functionality were therefore considered very important. A slightly higher proportion who found the map difficult to use were individuals who are unlikely to be regular “end users”, however many came from groups considered end users such as. Ecological Consultants, Planners, and Developers, and those in Local Government. It is acknowledged that due to a lack of operational experience, some elements the webmap were naturally less familiar to the general public, but that improvements could be made to the layout and layer menu categorisation to help aid the user. Functionality must be maintained however, and there is a limit to how much it can be simplified without compromising the functionality and intended purpose.</p> <p>Changes were deemed appropriate where symbology for adjacent measures was too similar or indistinguishable. The webmap layout has also been changed slightly, to make it easier to view a summary key, so the user can clearly see in one place the symbology for each visible layer. The layer group titles have also been amended to benefit users that will use the mapping for BNG purposes (see row relating to BNG), and to add clarity around what constitutes a Measures that forms the ACIB.</p> <p>Text in Part 1 has been updated to clarify the reasoning behind the data used for the APIB and ACIB layers.</p>



Theme	Overview of comments	Response
<b>Requests for additional sites to be added</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A range of specific requests were made to add sites to the LNRS in some form, including in Hucclecote, Twyning Green and The Heavens</li> </ul>	<p>Where adequate evidence that a site does support good habitat was provided, such as UKHab or FWAG mapping, these have been added to the “manage...” Potential Measure mapping.</p> <p>For examples of where sites were <i>not</i> added, see non-actionable comments summary table.</p>
<b>Requests for edits to existing mapping</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A number of requests queried mapping layers, primarily due to overlapping or habitat inappropriate layers</li> <li>Some comments related to existing areas that are mapped with an inappropriate Potential Measure</li> <li>It was noted that wood pasture and parkland (irreplaceable habitat) particularly were overlain with multiple Potential Measures, which could cause confusion</li> </ul>	<p>Where alternative habitats overlay woodland, these will be amended, except for where open mosaic habitat overlays a plantation woodland, or where acid grassland overlays coniferous woodland.</p> <p>Potential Measures that overlay residential and urban areas have not been altered. Although the strategy does not suggest that built areas are removed in place of wildlife friendly habitat, it is hoped that overlaying Potential Measures on residential areas will encourage individuals to undertake measure-related actions, if even on a small scale.</p> <p>Areas of wood pasture and parkland "irreplaceable habitat" have now been removed from all habitat measures, except the "manage wood pasture and parkland" layer.</p>
<b>Requests for additional species or species measures</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Accessibility of species spreadsheet – numerous comments stated digital version would not open</li> <li>Request to edit text relating to corn buntings and their habitat requirements</li> <li>Requests to edit food plants detailed for butterflies</li> </ul>	<p>Comments related to species were reviewed during a meeting with the Species Task and Finish Group. Through discussions around each comment or theme, appropriate changes were agreed for the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The species spreadsheet will also be available in PDF format</li> <li>- Corn bunting text has been amended appropriately</li> <li>- Food plants for butterflies have been reviewed and edited</li> <li>- A measure for wood white butterfly has been added, due to there being a stronghold in Gloucestershire and its specific habitat needs (not covered by other measures)</li> </ul>

Theme	Overview of comments	Response
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Request for specific reference to wood white butterfly, due to Gloucestershire being a stronghold</li> <li>• Request for Nightjar to be added to priority species list</li> <li>• Request for orchids to be “top of the list”</li> <li>• Changes to species long list suggested by local botanists</li> <li>• Request for water vole to be mentioned</li> <li>• Request for more emphasis on colonisation of new species as a result of climate change</li> <li>• Requests for soprano pipistrelle mapping to be extended to a village and to include modelling from wetlands</li> <li>• Request to extend adder measure to known historic site</li> <li>• Request for better fish representation within river measures.</li> <li>• Request for wild privet to be specified for barred tooth striped moth</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A specific nightjar measure was not deemed necessary, but text was added to the sustainable forestry measure to encourage management that will benefit Nightjar</li> <li>- Orchids are considered to be covered sufficiently by grassland measures. However, it was noted that fly orchid requires specific management that could be targeted through a new measure</li> <li>- The changes proposed by botanists were acknowledged and applied</li> <li>- The inclusion of water vole was discussed and it was raised that their key threats are habitat loss and American Mink. The strategy already encourages control of invasives and a range of measures to improve water quality and river condition, so a specific measure has not been added. The species has been discussed further in the “control of invasive species” section of Part 1, however.</li> <li>- A species assemblage covering possible re-introductions and colonisations was discussed. It was decided that as the assemblage was not linked to any measures and reintroductions had not been a core part of the strategy, this should be removed. Part 1 of the LNRS covers how climate change will result in movement of species, but it is not necessary to draw attention to or focus on hypothetical colonisation of species at this time. This can be reviewed during the next iteration of the LNRS.</li> <li>- The soprano pipistrelle measure has not been changed spatially. It was considered that the mapping needed to prioritise areas for this species, rather than expanding to cover a wider, less specific area. Other more general measures relating to connectivity and wetlands will benefit a range of bat species including soprano pipistrelle. The Potential Measure text has been amended however to reflect their ecology more accurately.</li> </ul>

Theme	Overview of comments	Response
		<p>- The adder measure has been extended to cover an area that used to be populated. This area is still suitable and there is connectivity from the edge of the original mapped measure.</p> <p>- Wild privet has been specified in the garden measure.</p> <p>As a result of the Species Task and Finish Group meeting and some submitted comments, a review of the existing assemblages and long-list was initiated. Whilst the birds included on the list are all 'Amber' or 'Red' on the Birds of Conservation Concern (BOCC) list, it was noted that due to the lack of specific threats and currently increasing population figures, wood pigeon may soon become listed as 'Green' and therefore do not warrant inclusion.</p>



## Non-actionable comments: summary table

Theme	Details	Response
<b>Monitoring and evaluation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Comment suggesting the Environmental Benefits for Nature (EBN) tool is used for measuring Ecosystem Services</li> <li>• Comments suggesting the addition of how projects and delivery progress will be monitored and evaluated</li> <li>• Suggestion to add targets to the LNRS regarding amount of creation we should aim for</li> </ul>	<p>These suggested additions are considered outside the scope of these documents, and at the time of finalising the documents, the guidance on the monitoring requirement from Defra was in the early stages of development and not published. Details on how delivery will be monitored will be added to the website as and when it is known.</p> <p>Similarly, it is considered inappropriate to set targets for creation without knowing the mechanism for how this would be measured. This can be developed when further Defra guidance on delivery and monitoring is made available.</p>
<b>Neighbouring LNRSs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Comments requesting clarity on what collaboration had been done with neighbouring Counties/ responsible authorities</li> <li>• Specific comments were received from West of England Combined Authority (WECA) about continuity across boundaries</li> </ul>	<p>The Part 2 document did contain information about the development process, which included how the Gloucestershire LNRS would interact with adjoining LNRSs. This will be included in the new appended Methodology document. Apart from WECA, no other consultation feedback from neighbouring Responsible Authorities was received.</p> <p>A meeting with WECA was arranged to discuss the issues raised in further detail. GCC have since undertaken an internal discussion on this matter. Whilst it was evident there was some inconsistencies in the habitat measures across the WECA / Gloucestershire boundary, it is acknowledged by GCC that different methodologies were used in the creation of the two LNRS maps. As such, the Gloucestershire LNRS has a higher proportion of land mapped in ACIB layer, compared to the WECA LNRS. Subsequently, the disparity in WECA / Gloucestershire boundary habitat measures is considered reasonable, and changes to the Gloucestershire LNRS are not required.</p>



Theme	Details	Response
<b>Potential measure resources and guidance</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Requests were made to add guidance and resources links to the Potential Measures</li> </ul>	<p>Guidance links are provided on the PDF pop-up documents accessible via the Local Habitat Map. It is important that any additional guidance and resources can be updated to reflect the latest updates. Whilst the current location of additional guidance and resources may not be immediately obvious to some users, including guidance and resources with the Local Habitat Map is considered preferable to inclusion in Part 2 as, post-publication, Plan 2 will not be amendable, thus preventing the inclusion of any future guidance or resource updates. As such, PDF pop-up documents accessible via the Local Habitat Map are still considered the most appropriate means of providing addition guidance and resources.</p> <p>Suggestions from steering groups and submitted comments for the inclusion of additional resources and guidance have been considered and included where appropriate within the PDF Potential Measure documents.</p>
<b>Urban areas</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Requests for more focus on urban habitats</li> <li>Requests for more info on how the respondent can contribute in their garden or direct local area</li> </ul>	<p>The Strategy already included sections relating to urban areas, with this being the focus of one of the Key Messages. There are also Potential Measures focussed around urban habitats, green and blue infrastructure, and gardens.</p> <p>As the LNRS is designed to be a landscape scale strategy to encourage nature recovery in specific "strategic" areas, it was not considered that adding more focus on actions in urban areas, was necessary and in the scope of the strategy. There are also considerable resources online through various organisations, to help local people carry out actions for nature in their garden and local spaces.</p>
<b>Requests for sites to be added</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Some comments requested watercourses to be added to Proposed Measures. However, these did not provide an explanation or specificity on what measure they should be added to or in what context.</li> </ul>	<p>Where a piece of land or watercourse was requested with no context of explanation, and was a standalone request, this was not applied. Due to the volume of responses to analyse, it was not proportionate to respond to every response directly or go back for more information unless it was immediately obvious there was an error.</p>

Theme	Details	Response
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Requests were made to add parcels of land to the “create and restore” measures, sometimes with the hope that this would help support a proposed project, either by allowing them to achieve more BNG units or with the hope that this may allow them to get funding for a project</li> <li>Comments were made that known priority habitats were not mapped</li> </ul>	<p>Where requests were made to add a site to the LNRS mapping for the benefit of a project or to "protect" an area of land, it was not deemed appropriate to grant these requests, unless they were the result of an error in our existing mapping. The LNRS does not <i>discourage</i> habitat creation or enhancement outside of the mapped areas, and it is emphasised that nature recovery projects are welcomed outside of mapped areas. To grant these requests would be to negate from the purpose of having strategic mapping. As the aim of the LNRS is to encourage nature recovery in strategic areas.</p> <p>An exception was made for a Habitat Bank site where open habitat Potential Measures intersected but did not cover the entirety of the fields that constituted the site. In this instance, evidence was provided that the fields' soil conditions were contiguous. It was therefore deemed appropriate to extend the open habitats measure to the field boundaries to aid BNG calculations. It has been acknowledged that mapping to field boundaries may be more user-friendly and aid users in BNG calculations and reporting, so this may be considered for the next update of the LNRS.</p> <p>Where known priority habitats were flagged, this was checked. It transpired that there was a misunderstanding with viewing these layers, with respondents expecting the priority habitats to be on the APIB layers. They are in fact within the ACIB as “manage” layers, and this has now been explained within Part 1.</p>
<b>General positive comments</b>	<p>Examples of comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Good messages, need to increase spread of communication.</i></li> <li><i>Really pleased to see both water and the human element (nature in our developments) included</i></li> </ul>	No action required



Theme	Details	Response
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>I wholeheartedly agree with the ten biodiversity priorities.</i></li> </ul>	
<b>General neutral comments</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>I absolutely agree that these are appropriate aims. Action is long overdue, to the extent that goals for 2030 are probably already unachievable. Not suggesting that is the fault of anyone involved with the LNRS.</i></li> <li><i>Habitats can change or be changed by human activity relatively fast.</i></li> <li><i>Climate has changed over eons of Geological time, world wide and very dramatically. It continues to do so.</i></li> <li><i>Again, none of these measures will work if while trying to protect areas we then build on others.</i></li> </ul>	No action required



## Pre-publication Panel meeting

As part of the statutory requirements for the LNRS, the final documents and mapping were presented to a panel of representatives from Defra's Arms Length Bodies (ALBs): Natural England, the Environment Agency, and the Forestry Commission, in December 2025.

Following this meeting, conditional approval of the LNRS was granted, with a number of additional changes requested to enable full approval. These were made in December and January 2026, before adoption of the strategy by GCC. As the changes requested were considered essential, it was not deemed necessary to re-consult with the public or stakeholders from the LNRS development groups. These changes are detailed below to explain and demonstrate why, in addition to the changes brought up by the public consultation, some of the mapping will have changed in response to this ALB meeting.

- The panel requested a need for more prioritisation of the mapping and the number of Potential Measures that were displayed on the mapping, in particular the number of species measures.
- The percent coverage of the Areas that Could Become of Importance for Biodiversity was required to be reduced by around 10%, with coverage around 63% of the county at the time of the pre-publication meeting. This was done further prioritising a selection of potential measures. No habitat measures were removed. Key changes included:
  - Reducing the coverage of the orchard measure to focus on 3 priority locations.
  - Reducing the neutral grassland creation measure to include high priority areas of the Nature Recovery Network Mapping only, instead of high and medium areas.
  - Reducing the woodland creation layer to focus on the Natural England woodland network, with additional areas that had covered project areas removed.
  - Removing a large area of mosaic habitat added to cover a project area in Westonbirt.
- It was highlighted that species measures should, as per LNRS guidance, form the Areas that Could Become Important for Biodiversity. There are a number of other LNRSs across the country however, that do not list species measures, so a compromise was agreed: where possible, existing species measures would be added to ACIB layer where this would have minimal impact of the % coverage of the ACIB. Additionally:
  - Where a species measure had mapping that covered a particularly large area, and the measure text did not specify actions that were not covered by other habitat measures, they were removed from the mapping entirely and will exist as un-mapped supporting measures.
  - Where a species measure contained useful mapping information and species-specific actions, but where adding to the ACIB would increase the % cover over the threshold specified by Defra, the measure was kept as an "other Potential Measure"
  - The "species" layer heading has been removed from the mapping layer drop down menu, as all Potential Measures have either been moved to the ACIB, Other Potential Measures heading, or removed from the mapping.

