Email comments received on the draft Local Nature Recovery Strategy for Hampshire during the consultation period

| Respondent | Consultation Comment |
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| **Resident 1** | I'm a resident in Fareham [redacted] whose genuinely concerned with the wildlife health. We are on a twice daily trail for a young fox and badger's who frequent the seeds spilt under the bird table.<br><br>The fox has no brush at all and barely any coat, he's covered in bald patches. On discussions with neighbours this appears to be the plight of the fox population in Hampshire. I will contact the fox Protection league for medication to treat the visiting fox but as the disease is wild spread, should it not be a council concern?<br><br>I'm also fortunate enough to have sponsored a memorial tree in Salterns park. I've tried to leave flowers in water at the base of the tree but have found the wildlife, birds and local dogs all drinking the water. I'm well aware the winter pool has dried up recently but also know the English climate is increasingly warmer. I'm not aware of any streams in this area and having been raised in [redacted] know of Man built troughs for cattle and wildlife. May I request you give serious consideration to perhaps building a low trough at salterns park to support wildlife and passing pets please. The infrastructure is already there with the toilets and sailing club.<br><br>I do think with the increasingly hot summers we should actively help wildlife with water and in extreme cases of disease surely take some responsibility and help our wildlife populations. |
| **Resident 2** | It seems to me that in many public areas local to me in West End - specifically, Hatch Grange, Telegraph Woods, West End Copse, and Riverside Walk, *very precious* small areas of countryside left because of massive developments in the area over the last few decades - one of the main dangers to wildlife and the aims you set out in your plan, is occasional vandalism.<br><br>In just the past few weeks I have personally seen these areas subject to random fires, a swan was shot (with an air rifle I think), rubbish bin was tipped into the River Itchen downstream of the White Swan Pub, and a stream in West End Copse was polluted and damned with rubbish. These vandals are probably a small minority but it only takes a couple of teenagers to cause havoc, and they know they can get away with what they do as there is no one to stop them, and probably no comeback if they are reported.<br><br>It seems to me that an adequate policing presence by some sort of Caretaker/official is required in your plan on a regular basis. Or at the very least somewhere that the public can report such incidents that are injurious |

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| | to flora and fauna. With regard to Access for those of limited mobility, only Riverside Park offers access of the four sites I mentioned above. |
| **Wessex Rivers Trust** | River Avon:<br>Barriers to fish migration are absent from the Hampshire Avon. Significant opportunities to restore biodiversity, including Atlantic salmon and European eel, are possible via easement/removal of these barriers. Many are captured on the AMBER Atlas data set<br>- https://data.catchmentbasedapproach.org/datasets/theriverstrust::amber-barrier-atlas-gb/about<br><br>River Meon:<br>Consideration of the opportunity to re-naturalise and restore biodiversity to the man-made Titchfield Haven site. Tidal barriers associated with the Haven are a key barrier limiting fish passage, including Atlantic salmon and European eel (both under threat). Re-naturalisation aligns closely with the issues flagged under Coastal erosion and squeeze (page 67), as opposed to trying to hang on to these man-made habitats. |
| **Resident 3** | Thank you for emailing me about the draft strategy and inviting me to join the webinar. I found the draft interesting reading and fully support the concept of "more, bigger, better and more connected". I thought the document was detailed and as a landowner, very useful. (I have forwarded it to other landowners in North Hampshire in case they are unaware of it and hope that is ok). Sadly, I will not be able to join the webinar but do have comments/ questions.<br><br>Firstly, while I totally support what the Nature Recovery Strategy is trying to do, much of it will rely on landowners, some of whom sadly (in my experience) really aren't interested. How will this be addressed? How will changes be monitored and identified? For instance, if woodlands become better managed, how will this be verified and recorded?<br><br>Some of the comments in your draft seem at odds with agendas of other organisations. How will that be managed? For instance, we have a PAWS on our land which we hope to largely clear fell this summer and replace with broad leaved deciuous trees. We wanted to replace with a wide range of native species (to increase resilience against climate change, pests and disease) and allow some natural regeneration, but the Forestry Commission conditions do not encourage this as they have identified five species, one of which is Sweet Chestnut and planting of 1100 whips per hectare within two years. |

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| | Please do not see these comments as negative. I am really excited at the possibility of increasing biodiversity across our area and will 100% wish to support this, but I am curious about how it will be achieved and wondering if there is any role for those landowners who are committed to improving our area for nature? |
| **Resident 4** | Seems like a wise and valuable strategy. How about protecting environment too by tracking down or cctv'ing flybtippers in the countryside. I cycle and see it alongside the same road over and over. Why can't they be caught? |
| **Councillor 1** | As I am sure you are aware we are under pressure to build houses everywhere. Our local flood plains are currently farmed, but in times of extreme weather we have used them for sacrificial flooding. The wetlands also provide a biodiversity site for some species, and of course attenuation of pollutants. So wearing my planning hat as a [redacted] I would like to be able to use the LNRS to protect some areas from development. The current draft is weak on the value of those areas.<br><br>One more change, the watercress beds at West lea Farm Shop are the subject of an SDNP conversation about making an education and awareness facility. But we do need to get more of the monkey flower out first, can you mark it as needing removal of INNS? |
| **Resident 5** | Nature is an extremely important part of everyone's lives and, more critically, our future. If we don't preserve our forests, seas, nature reserves etc., we will lose everything we value. There will be no wildlife either on land or in the sea, there will be nowhere we can walk to enjoy the environment, there will just be bricks, bricks and more bricks, and if we don't curtail our housebuilding nightmare we will lose everything. I know people need houses, but we have to build these alongside nature NOT destroy it. |
| **Resident 6** | [redacted]. Yes, a very complex issue and without the appropriate support and funding difficult to understand how feasible any of it is. I hope you manage to secure the appropriate funding that makes most of this work viable.<br><br>I tried to access the live map this afternoon, but couldn't find a way to add information, so, if that's okay with you I thought I would suggest these two areas. The first image shows Lanham Down, off Lanham Lane, Winchester. In the many years I have been aware of this site it has been grassland. It is occasionally mown but not, as I am aware, farmed. Its value is as chalk downland with a good variety of well-established grasses. It is crossed by a prehistoric trackway. |

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| | The second image shows a long tree belt that runs in two sections, the first section is north of Salters Lane, Winchester and is approx. ten meters deep. The second section runs west of the intersection with Lanham Lane and Teg Down Meads and connects with Crab Wood. It is wider, up to 20m, as the bridleway and restricted byway that it follows runs between two banks of trees. It's value is as a green route that links the City of Winchester with the irreplaceable woodland at Crab Wood. It would be good to establish how old this route is, and whether it is of a similar age to Crab Wood. |
| **Telegraph Woods Nature Recovery Group** | As agreed, please find attached a document based on your local habitats map, which suggests some changes to "Areas that Could Become of particular Importance for Biodiversity (ACB) adjacent to the SINC of Telegraph Woods in West End. I am not sure as to how to the Habitats Map is referred to in the online questions, so I will separately fill out the form with my other feedback as well. |
| **Hampshire County Council (National Trails Team)** | These comments are submitted from the perspective of the National Trails team, specifically regarding the King Charles III England Coast Path (KCIIIECP) and the South Downs Way (SDW). It is understood that colleagues within Countryside Access may also be submitting comments relating to wider public access, including the public rights of way (PRoW) network.<br><br>**General Observations:**<br>• The strategy is described as setting out to 'identify locations to create restore and enhance habitats' and it 'seeks to identify where action can provide wider environmental benefits' including health and wellbeing. This report from the Mental Health Foundation highlights some of the benefits of access to nature, the quality and connectedness however the strategy is not clear/does not include how using the existing public rights of way and access provision can help with the 'wider environmental benefits' and it would be useful for the strategy to acknowledge the role that responsible public access to the coast and countryside can have in connecting people with nature and ultimately helping to restore and enhance habitats.<br>• The Hampshire LNRS region is home to 48 km (30 miles) of the South Downs Way and will soon host 208 km (130 miles) of the newly established King Charles III England Coast Path, soon to be one of the longest managed coast path in the world at 2,700 miles. These are two of the thirteen National Trails in England, designated from the same 1949 National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act as the National Parks and National Landscapes. National Trails are the 'gold standard' for public access in the UK, these National Trails adhere to Natural England Quality Standards that set them apart from other public access routes. One of the quality standards that each national trail has to adhere to is to "improve the landscape, nature and historic features within the trail corridor". It therefore seems that there is synergy between National Trails and LNRS's and it would be helpful to highlight this synergy in this LNRS. |

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| | • The Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 designated the area which primarily falls between the coastal path and the seaward foreshore - 'coastal margin'. The coastal margin is designated open access land (under the Countryside Rights of Way Act 2000) and is accessible to the public for the purpose of enjoyment. Once the complete KCIIIECP is open in Hampshire there will be the opportunity to become involved in the 'Coastal Wildbelt' initiative and manage the land within the coastal margin with nature and nature recovery as key goals alongside facilitating responsible access. The Coastal Wildbelt is an initiative that aims to unlock the potential of the land that stretches around our coastline – amplifying its importance and influence. This area is a living landscape—rich in wildlife, heritage, and opportunity—where people can connect with the coast, and where vital habitats, natural landscapes, and communities can thrive together. There is therefore an opportunity to unlock the potential of the KCIIIECP and associated coastal margin to ensure that our coastal environments are cherished, restored, and open for all to enjoy—as a place where people, nature, culture, and community are celebrated and supported.<br>• Not only key areas to support access to nature, the verges of these National Trails and coastal margin can deliver outcomes for nature, particularly as the golden thread that connects protected sites. I therefore request that the SDW and KCIIIECP National Trails and associated coastal margin to be recognised in the LNRS in their capacity to connect people with nature and their potential as green corridors. These nationally significant trails are not only cherished recreational assets but also represent powerful, linear green corridors that can support habitat connectivity, species migration, and public engagement with nature. The King Charles III England Coast Path, for example, is poised to become the world's longest managed coastal trail, with a unique coastal margin that could contribute significantly to the 30x30 biodiversity target. Similarly, the South Downs Way, offers a ready-made landscape for nature recovery interventions. These routes are uniquely positioned to deliver on both ecological and social outcomes, and their omission risks overlooking one of Hampshire's most accessible and visible opportunities for nature recovery.<br><br>**Specific Comments**<br>**Protected Landscapes Page 21**<br>• Please include the SDW and KCIIIECP National Trails in the Protected Landscapes description. National Trails were designated under the 1949 National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act and are part of the National 'Protected Landscapes Partnership' including National Trails in this section acknowledges the role that these vital national public assets do to support access, nature and heritage.<br><br>**Coastal and Marine Page 27** |

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| | • Please include reference to the KCIIIECP as one of the points here. The KCIIIECP (when fully open) will follow the whole coastline of Hampshire and therefore the public will have public access to both a linear route and the coastal margin – this provides great opportunities for engagement, education and connecting people to nature and as a green corridor. In addition the creation of a coastal wildbelt within that coastal margin will help to achieve many of the main aims of the LNRS.<br><br>**Greenspace, health, and access to nature Pages 35-38**<br>• Paragraph 2.96 mentions the 4200km of PRoW but omits the South Downs Way or King Charles III England Coast Path. Of the 208km of the KCIIIECP much of this is additional public access to the PRoW network and is newly created in Hampshire and this needs to be included as an opportunity for access to nature.<br>• Paragraph 2.105 Connectivity - does not reference the SDW or KCIIIECP, despite their potential to link high nature value sites and support a landscape-scale approach to access. Inclusion of the Coastal access provision in a website showing accessible greenspace and the connections would be great and something that the Solent to Sussex Trail Partnership who manage the KCIIIECP could potentially help with.<br><br>**Biodiversity Priorities Pages 98-101 Coastal**<br>• The priority outcomes mentioned in this section are all positive and these are supported. The KCIIIECP may be able to support and help with these particularly disturbance from dogs on coastal wildfowl – the project manager works closely with officers from Bird Aware Solent, Chichester Harbour Conservancy and Langstone Harbour and will continue to do so. Route realignments as a result of erosion may facilitate opportunities for habitat creation or improvement in the vicinity of the trail.<br><br>**Pages 107-110 Greenspace, access and transport related**<br>• Please include National Trails under U5 as a mechanism for improving biodiversity along new and existing travel routes.<br><br>**Glossary Page 248**<br>• Please include coastal margin under the definition of ‘open access land’<br><br>**Appendices Page 278** |

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| | • Please include the establishment works of the King Charles III England Coast Path & continued management of the opened sections and South Downs Way as projects that improve access to nature and health and<br>wellbeing. |
| **Resident 7** | I have read most of the very impressive and detailed strategy document. If all these things could be achieved, how wonderful it would be for our wildlife and our climate. But in response, I can do no better than echo the sentiments of the Hand and IOW Trust (See below) I think Nature should be at the heart of every policy decision that Local Authorities take. The situation is critically urgent and needs a similarly urgent and effective response.<br>My biggest concern is that the fine words and ambitions, will end up being no more than that. This is why it is important, to set targets and monitor progress. We need more nature, in far better condition and far more joined up. Please ensure that it's possible to deliver this, for all our sakes. |
| **Resident 8** | Hampshire is rich in beautiful and rare wildlife, including the Duke of Burgundy butterfly and internationally important populations of Brent geese. Our county is also home to spectacular habitats such as the internationally renowned lowland heath of the New Forest, vital seagrass beds in Portsmouth and chalk rivers such as the Itchen that support an abundance of wildlife including otters, water crowfoot and crayfish. These vital ecosystems - our natural capital – support every aspect of life and work in the county, enabling our communities to flourish. They protect us from floods and droughts, support our health, and underpin the entire economy. However, 48% of Hampshire's 50 most 'notable species' are in trouble. With just a few more years to reach national legal targets of halting wildlife decline and protecting 30% of land and sea by 2030, the Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) has an essential and urgent role to play. Hampshire's LNRS must now drive tangible action on the ground to ensure that we have a healthy natural environment, now and in the future.<br><br>Key asks:<br>• Prioritise improvement of existing protected areas that are in poor condition: Despite having a high percentage of land and coast designated for its importance for wildlife, only 44% of our Sites of Special Scientific Importance (SSSIs) are in good condition. These are the critical nodes in our Nature Recovery Network and should be restored as a priority.<br>• Incorporate climate mitigation and adaptation: The LNRS must include proper consideration of climate change uncertainties and adaptation, taking into account projected changes in habitats and |

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| | distributions of species. The strategy currently lacks robust measures to combat climate impacts, including the vital need for adaptation to reduce the pressures of sea level rise on the protection and restoration of coastal wetlands.<br>• Set targets and track progress: The LNRS must be a living strategy, with utility and teeth. At present, the LNRS fails to set out specific, measurable targets or mechanisms for monitoring progress. While the strategy mentions a review every 3-10 years, there is no further detail on monitoring or accountability frameworks to ensure the LNRS is effective in delivering for nature.<br>• Proper governance and leadership are needed, with opportunities for the new Mayoral Authority to play a strategic role in implementation across the county. Embed LNRS in policy, with mechanisms to ensure flow of funds for nature's recovery: The LNRS must be embedded into decision-making and policy, including those relating to land use, planning and development and economic strategies. Implementation plans must set out the mechanisms to drive investment into nature restoration. This will include statutory requirements, such as BNG, but should also harness emerging private sector nature markets.<br>Devolution offers a powerful opportunity for our region to champion a nature-positive future, guided by the LNRS as a critical roadmap. Delivering a strong, evidence-based LNRS offers a valuable and vital chance to shape a stronger, healthier future for our county. The natural world is dying. Bold, effective strategies are needed to mitigate its design and promote its recovery. This is a significant opportunity that cannot be missed. |
| **Resident 9** | Hampshire is rich in beautiful and rare wildlife, including the Duke of Burgundy butterfly and internationally important populations of Brent geese. Our county is also home to spectacular habitats such as the internationally renowned lowland heath of the New Forest, vital seagrass beds in Portsmouth and chalk rivers such as the Itchen that support an abundance of wildlife including otters, water crowfoot and crayfish. These vital ecosystems - our natural capital – support every aspect of life and work in the county, enabling our communities to flourish. They protect us from floods and droughts, support our health, and underpin the entire economy. However, 48% of Hampshire's 50 most 'notable species' are in trouble. With just a few more years to reach national legal targets of halting wildlife decline and protecting 30% of land and sea by 2030, the Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) has an essential and urgent role to play. Hampshire's LNRS must now drive tangible action on the ground to ensure that we have a healthy natural environment, now and in the future.<br><br>Key demands: |

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| **Resident 10** | Hampshire is rich in beautiful and rare wildlife, including the Duke of Burgundy butterfly and internationally important populations of Brent geese. Our county is also home to spectacular habitats such as the internationally renowned lowland heath of the New Forest, vital seagrass beds in Portsmouth and chalk rivers such as the Itchen that support an abundance of wildlife including otters, water crowfoot and crayfish. |

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| **Portsmouth City Council** | Overall Portsmouth City Council is supportive of the approach taken in the Hampshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy. The City Council especially welcomes the recognition of the importance of Coastal Habitats and their inclusion as priority habitats and as the target of measures. The City Council especially welcomes the recognition of the Portsmouth Harbour SPA and Chichester and Langstone Harbours SPA as 'crown jewel' sites.<br><br>As a Supporting Authority the City Council has worked closely with Hampshire County Council through officer working groups inputting into the draft LNRS as it has progressed. The City Council has previously provided detailed comments on the draft LNRS and is pleased to see these have been taken on board in the consultation draft. The two Councils will continue to work together to promote a joined-up approach to nature and the environment and collaborate closely on cross boundary opportunities.<br><br>The table below sets out detailed points on the draft LNRS:<br><br>2.32 The Council welcomes the recognition of the importance of the coastal and marine habitats including the specific reference to Portsmouth and Langstone Harbours.<br>2.90The Council welcomes the reference to the Natural England Green Infrastructure Framework and Accessible Green Space which is of particular importance to a city like Portsmouth.<br>2.99 The Council welcomes the reference to barriers to access, this is a particular issue for Portsmouth.<br>2.107 The Council welcomes the reference to the good work that has been undertaken in Portsmouth on community gardens and orchards.<br>Section 2.5 The Council welcomes the identification of the 'Portsmouth Harbour SPA, Chichester and Langstone Harbours SPA, Solent and Southampton Water SPA' as 'crown jewel' sites.<br>Section 2.5 The Council welcomes the recognition of the habitats: lowland meadows, coastal and floodplain grazing marsh, saltmarsh and mudflats, coastal vegetation shingle and saline lagoons as Key Priority habitats for the South Hampshire Lowlands and South Coast Plain.<br>Page 67 The Council welcomes the proposed opportunity identified for Coastal habitat creation and enhancement to off-set coastal squeeze and coastal erosion including restoration and creation of coastal floodplain grazing marsh.<br>2.245 The Council welcomes the inclusion of the recognition of the importance of pollution and water quality however we would welcome recognition of the substantial work that has been undertaken to date to tackle these issues by the Solent Authorities. |

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| | 2.246 The Council welcomes the recognition of Coastal erosion and squeeze<br>2.250 The Council welcomes the recognition of recreational pressure. We would welcome further reference to the work done to date through Bird Aware to tackle this issue.<br>2.261 The Council would welcome the inclusion of SPAs in this paragraph as key habitat around Portsmouth.<br>Page 98 The Council welcomes the inclusion of coastal sand dunes and vegetated shingle in the measures, however, it should be recognised that these are two separate types of habitat.<br>Page 100 The Council welcomes the inclusion of seagrass beds as a measure, though it needs to be recognised that this is a marine habitat so interventions may be more difficult to achieve.<br>P101 Under the section on dog control measures the City Council would welcome further detail of the significant works being undertaken by Bird Aware Solent.<br>4.12 The Council welcomes the inclusion of the additional sites suggested by Portsmouth City Council in the LNRS.<br>Page 117 It may be worth adding additional details on Brent Geese and Godwit from the Bird Aware Solent work here.<br>Map 4.11 It may be worth referencing that there is live online mapping for the Solent Wader and Brent Goose Strategy and that this is a snapshot at a particular point in time.<br>Map 4.12 The Council welcomes the inclusion of the suggested additional sites at Portsdown Hill and the Hilsea Lines<br>Page 281 The Council welcomes the reference to the Portsmouth Green Infrastructure Delivery Plan<br>Page 282 The Council welcomes the reference to the Biodiversity and Portsmouth Background Paper |
| **Resident 11** | Hampshire is rich in beautiful and rare wildlife, including the Duke of Burgundy butterfly and internationally important populations of Brent geese. Our county is also home to spectacular habitats such as the internationally renowned lowland heath of the New Forest, vital seagrass beds in Portsmouth and chalk rivers such as the Itchen that support an abundance of wildlife including otters, water crowfoot and crayfish. These vital ecosystems - our natural capital – support every aspect of life and work in the county, enabling our communities to flourish. They protect us from floods and droughts, support our health, and underpin the entire economy. However, 48% of Hampshire's 50 most 'notable species' are in trouble. With just a few more years to reach national legal targets of halting wildlife decline and protecting 30% of land and sea by 2030, the Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) has an essential and urgent role to play. Hampshire's LNRS must now drive tangible action on the ground to ensure that we have a healthy natural environment, now and in the future. Key asks: 1. Prioritise improvement of existing protected areas that are in poor condition: Despite having a high percentage of land and coast designated for its importance for wildlife, only 44% of our Sites of |

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| | Key asks:<br>1. Prioritise improvement of existing protected areas that are in poor condition: Despite having a high percentage of land and coast designated for its importance for wildlife, only 44% of our Sites of Special Scientific Importance (SSSIs) are in good condition. These are the critical nodes in our Nature Recovery Network and should be restored as a priority.<br>2. Incorporate climate mitigation and adaptation: The LNRS must include proper consideration of climate change uncertainties and adaptation, taking into account projected changes in habitats and distributions of species. The strategy currently lacks robust measures to combat climate impacts, including the vital need for adaptation to reduce the pressures of sea level rise on the protection and restoration of coastal wetlands.<br>3. Set targets and track progress: The LNRS must be a living strategy, with utility and teeth. At present, the LNRS fails to set out specific, measurable targets or mechanisms for monitoring progress. While the strategy mentions a review every 3-10 years, there is no further detail on monitoring or accountability frameworks to ensure the LNRS is effective in delivering for nature. Proper governance and leadership are needed, with opportunities for the new Mayoral Authority to play a strategic role in implementation across the county.<br>4. Embed LNRS in policy, with mechanisms to ensure flow of funds for nature's recovery: The LNRS must be embedded into decision-making and policy, including those relating to land use, planning and development and economic strategies. Implementation plans must set out the mechanisms to drive investment into nature restoration. This will include statutory requirements, such as BNG, but should also harness emerging private sector nature markets.<br>Devolution offers a powerful opportunity for our region to champion a nature-positive future, guided by the LNRS as a critical roadmap. Delivering a strong, evidence-based LNRS offers a valuable and vital chance to shape a stronger, healthier future for our county. |
| **Resident 14** | I was born in Hampshire and have been lucky enough to be able to marvel at its beautiful and rare wildlife and its spectacular habitats such as the New Forest, the South Downs, the seagrass beds of Portsmouth, and the many chalk rivers and streams. Walking the Test and Itchen routes has been a joy, an opportunity to revive and breathe. But more than this, many of these fragile ecosystems support us from flood and drought and underpin our economy. However, we have been sadly lacking in protecting our precious ecosystems. 48% of Hampshire's 50 most 'notable species' are in trouble and we have just a few more years to meet national legal targets of halting wildlife decline and protecting 30% of land and sea by 2030. |

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| | The Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) has an essential and urgent role to play. Hampshire's LNRS must drive tangible action on the ground to ensure that we have a healthy natural environment, now and in the future.<br>It is time to:<br>Prioritise improvement of existing protected areas that are in poor condition: Despite having a high percentage of land and coast designated for its importance for wildlife, only 44% of our Sites of Special Scientific Importance (SSSIs) are in good condition. These are the critical nodes in our Nature Recovery Network and should be restored as a priority.<br><br>Incorporate climate mitigation and adaptation: The LNRS must include proper consideration of climate change uncertainties and adaptation, taking into account projected changes in habitats and distributions of species. The strategy currently lacks robust measures to combat climate impacts, including the vital need for adaptation to reduce the pressures of sea level rise on the protection and restoration of coastal wetlands.<br><br>Set targets and track progress: The LNRS must be a living strategy, with utility and teeth. At present, the LNRS fails to set out specific, measurable targets or mechanisms for monitoring progress. While the strategy mentions a review every 3-10 years, there is no further detail on monitoring or accountability frameworks to ensure the LNRS is effective in delivering for nature. Proper governance and leadership are needed, with opportunities for the new Mayoral Authority to play a strategic role in implementation across the county.<br><br>Embed LNRS in policy, with mechanisms to ensure flow of funds for nature's recovery: The LNRS must be embedded into decision-making and policy, including those relating to land use, planning and development and economic strategies. Implementation plans must set out the mechanisms to drive investment into nature restoration. This will include statutory requirements, such as BNG, but should also harness emerging private sector nature markets. Devolution offers a powerful opportunity for our region to champion a nature-positive future, guided by the LNRS as a critical roadmap. Delivering a strong, evidence-based LNRS offers a valuable and vital chance to shape a stronger, healthier future for our county.<br><br>This is not the time for more toothless reports, written, but not acted upon. We need to be strong, robust and unyielding in our targets. I urge you to take this forward with drive and vigour. Thank you and with best wishes |
| **Basingstoke and Deane** | • **Rivers and wetlands** |

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| **Borough Council** | We consider all the key issues and opportunities identified for Rivers and Wetlands are important. We note and welcome the role for local authorities in driving nature recovery through the planning process. The borough's main rivers and their tributaries, in particular the chalk streams, are already identified as very important ecological corridors, and the council already requires impacts on these and the wider water environment to be considered and appropriately addressed through existing local policy and planning guidance. We are currently updating our Local Plan and we will seek to ensure it aligns closely with the LNRS. More widely we will look to support river and wetland projects and promote habitat restoration through biodiversity net gain schemes.<br>We request that the sub-heading for paragraphs 2.27 and 2.28 is changed from 'Local authorities and planning' to just 'Local authorities', to reflect more broadly the council's wider remit rather than what it can do strictly under planning. Additionally, we suggest some extra paragraphs are added under the Opportunities section to capture the roles of the relevant statutory authorities and the water companies in promoting and driving the recovery of wet habitats and reflecting their statutory obligations in this area.<br>• **Woodland**<br>We consider all the key issues and opportunities identified for Woodland are important. We would suggest predation of woodland fauna by pets is also identified as a key issue for new development proposed close to woodlands, particularly those supporting protected species such as dormice and nesting birds. Appropriately sized buffers for woodlands and trees should be added into the list of Opportunities to ensure resilient and graded woodland edges and allow enough room for natural processes of tree death and decay to occur without unnecessary risk to people or property. This should apply to all semi natural woodlands, as the non-ancient semi-natural woodlands are the ancient woodlands of the future. Additionally, can the LNRS reflect individual trees somewhere (all trees, as opposed to just ancient and/or veteran), to reflect the current value they provide and to highlight the risks and opportunities particularly in urban situations? For example, the planting of trees to contribute towards climate adaptation and 'greening' urban areas. It is also imperative that proposed trees in new developments are designed in with enough space to allow growth expansion and avoid conflict with buildings or people over the long term, to avoid or minimise the risk of the need for felling; it would be useful for the LNRS to reflect this. Under Opportunities, with particular regard to addressing urbanisation impacts on ancient woodland (including recreation, pet predation, fly tipping etc), it is felt that the LNRS should also highlight the provision of extra greenspace for people (and dogs) and wide buffers, alongside new planting for habitat connectivity and long-term woodland management plans for existing and proposed new woodland. Such a package of measures can provide multiple benefits to people and wildlife in terms of |

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| | greenspace provision, access to nature and health and wellbeing, whilst protecting ancient woodland irreplaceable habitat and the fauna and flora it supports.<br>• **Greenspace, health and access to nature**<br>We consider all the key issues and opportunities identified for Greenspace, health and access to nature are important. We suggest the 'Opportunities' section should be expanded to encourage the provision of meaningful, linked Green and Blue Infrastructure (GBI) plans for new development as this will form a key mechanism for delivery. GBI plans should also ensure links beyond the development site into the wider environment.<br>• **Thames Basin Heaths and Lowlands, and Wealden Heaths**<br>We consider all the key issues and opportunities identified for Thames Basin Heaths and Lowlands, and Wealden Heaths area are important and covered appropriately. Regarding paragraph 2.146, it is suggested that this paragraph is modified to also reflect non-chalk rivers, as the typical geology in this area is acidic or neutral and not all watercourses are classed as chalk streams. Additionally, rivers are not reflected in the main table on p42 of the document.<br>• **Central Chalk Belt**<br>We consider all the key issues and opportunities identified for Central Chalk Belt area are important and covered appropriately. Regarding the ''Crown jewel' sites' in the main table on p49, we would recommend the River Test compensatory SAC is listed, as the River Meon compensatory SAC has been. Additionally, on p51 paragraph 2.157, River Test compensatory SAC should be listed. It is recommended the nutrient issues relating to this region from wastewater and farming, impacting the Solent designated sites and the Rivers Test and Itchen (and their tributaries) should be acknowledged. This should be reflected under both Key Issues and Opportunities sections for this area. This would keep consistency with such a mention under other affected areas in the county such as South Hampshire lowlands.<br>• **North Hampshire**<br>We consider all the key issues and opportunities identified for the North Hampshire area are important and generally covered appropriately. We would recommend that the third bullet under paragraph 2.193 on p59, regarding chalk grassland connectivity, would be more appropriate put into the Central Chalk Belt area section, considering the dominant geology in the North Hampshire area is predominantly acid/neutral.<br><br><u>Section 4 - feedback on whether we have selected the right outcomes and measures to focus on for a number of priority areas</u><br>• **Chalk streams, other watercourses, headwaters and groundwater protection zones** |

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| | The council considers the range of priority outcomes and associated measures identified within the LNRS are appropriate for this group of habitats and would welcome their achievement for nature recovery.<br>It is noted priority R1 'Creation and management of buffer strips on land next to watercourses' is mapped as 10m for primary (main) rivers and 5m for secondary and tertiary streams. We suggest the LNRS provides more explanation/clarity on what a secondary and tertiary stream is. Additionally, the description within the Measures mapping for R1 could be possibly misinterpreted by users. We recommend that the buffer width under this priority is brought in line with Biodiversity Net Gain guidance for the riparian zone, which is set as 10m from the top of each bank for all rivers and streams, and 5m for ditches.<br>Please note, on p78 the heading row 'Priority Outcome – Road surface water…' should have a background colour consistent with other rows for Priority outcomes, for clarity of use.<br>• **Wetlands, ponds and ditches**<br>The council considers the range of priority outcomes and associated measures identified within the LNRS are appropriate for this group of habitats and would welcome their achievement for nature recovery.<br>• **Species rich grasslands**<br>The council considers the range of priority outcomes and associated measures identified within the LNRS are appropriate for this group of habitats and would welcome their achievement for nature recovery.<br>• **Heathland and acid grassland mosaics**<br>The council considers the range of priority outcomes and associated measures identified within the LNRS are appropriate for this group of habitats and would welcome their achievement for nature recovery.<br>• **Woodlands**<br>The council considers the range of priority outcomes and associated measures identified within the LNRS are appropriate for this habitat and would welcome their achievement for nature recovery. It would be beneficial to also insert a measure regarding the specific management of recreational impacts from people and dogs for woodlands near to urbanised areas, e.g. incorporate into measure W1 (direct management), W8 (improving access) or create a new measure.<br>• **Wood pasture and parklands**<br>The council considers the range of priority outcomes and associated measures identified within the LNRS are appropriate for this habitat and would welcome their achievement for nature recovery.<br>• **Farming and nature**<br>The council considers the range of priority outcomes and associated measures identified within the LNRS are appropriate for this habitat and would welcome their achievement for nature recovery.<br>• **Hedgerows** |

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| | The council considers the range of priority outcomes and associated measures identified within the LNRS are appropriate for this habitat and would welcome their achievement for nature recovery.<br>• **Greenspace, access and transport related**<br>The council considers the range of priority outcomes and associated measures identified within the LNRS are appropriate for this habitat and would welcome their achievement for nature recovery.<br>• **Sites of importance for nature conservation (SINCs)**<br>The council considers the range of priority outcomes and associated measures identified within the LNRS are appropriate and would welcome their achievement for nature recovery.<br>It is noted this is not a specific mapped measure, as measures for the relevant habitat(s) will be mapped.<br>• **Improving knowledge of priority species and priority habitats**<br>The council considers the range of priority outcomes and associated measures identified within the LNRS are appropriate for this habitat and would welcome their achievement for nature recovery.<br><u>Section 5 – do we agree with the process that has been adopted to prioritise species for recovery, and whether there are any species not on the list that you think should be (and conversely if there are any on the list that you feel should not be)</u><br>The council is happy with the process that has been used to prioritise species for focus, which has been thorough, and a process into which the council has participated as a supporting authority.<br>**Any further comments**<br>We recommend the delivery of the strategy and status of habitats and species within the county is monitored closely and regularly reported, to ensure the Strategy remains relevant. |
| **Resident 15** | Hampshire is rich in beautiful and rare wildlife, including the Duke of Burgundy butterfly and internationally important populations of Brent geese. Our county is also home to spectacular habitats such as the internationally renowned lowland heath of the New Forest, vital seagrass beds in Portsmouth and chalk rivers such as the Itchen that support an abundance of wildlife including otters, water crowfoot and crayfish.<br><br>48% of Hampshire's 50 most 'notable species' are currently in trouble and important environment areas are threatened. The Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) has an essential and urgent role to play.<br><br>I ask you to prioritise:<br>1. Better management of Sites of Special Scientific Importance (SSSI)<br>2. Robust measures to combat climate impacts, including adapting to reduce the pressures of sea level rise on coastal wetlands. |

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| **Resident 16** | Hampshire is rich in beautiful and rare wildlife, including the Duke of Burgundy butterfly and internationally important populations of Brent geese. Our county is also home to spectacular habitats such as the internationally renowned lowland heath of the New Forest, vital seagrass beds in Portsmouth and chalk rivers such as the Itchen that support an abundance of wildlife including otters, water crowfoot and crayfish.<br><br>These vital ecosystems - our natural capital – support every aspect of life and work in the county, enabling our communities to flourish. They protect us from floods and droughts, support our health, and underpin the entire economy. However, 48% of Hampshire's 50 most 'notable species' are in trouble. With just a few more years to reach national legal targets of halting wildlife decline and protecting 30% of land and sea by 2030, the Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) has an essential and urgent role to play. Hampshire's LNRS must now drive tangible action on the ground to ensure that we have a healthy natural environment, now and in the future.<br><br>**Key asks:**<br>**1. Prioritise improvement of existing protected areas that are in poor condition:** Despite having a high percentage of land and coast designated for its importance for wildlife, only 44% of our Sites of Special Scientific Importance (SSSIs) are in good condition. These are the critical nodes in our Nature Recovery Network and should be restored as a priority.<br>**2. Incorporate climate mitigation and adaptation:** The LNRS must include proper consideration of climate change uncertainties and adaptation, taking into account projected changes in habitats and distributions of species. The strategy currently lacks robust measures to combat climate impacts, including the vital need for adaptation to reduce the pressures of sea level rise on the protection and restoration of coastal wetlands.<br>**3. Set targets and track progress:** The LNRS must be a living strategy, with utility and teeth. At present, the LNRS fails to set out specific, measurable targets or mechanisms for monitoring progress. While the strategy mentions a review every 3-10 years, there is no further detail on monitoring or accountability frameworks to ensure the LNRS is effective in delivering for nature. Proper governance and leadership are needed, with opportunities for the new Mayoral Authority to play a strategic role in implementation across the county.<br>**4. Embed LNRS in policy, with mechanisms to ensure flow of funds for nature's recovery:** The LNRS must be embedded into decision-making and policy, including those relating to land use, planning and development and economic strategies. Implementation plans must set out the mechanisms to drive investment into nature restoration. This will include statutory requirements, such as BNG, but should also harness emerging private sector nature markets. Devolution offers a powerful opportunity for our region to |

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| | champion a nature-positive future, guided by the LNRS as a critical roadmap. Delivering a strong, evidence-based LNRS offers a valuable and vital chance to shape a stronger, healthier future for our county. |
| **Resident 17** | Hampshire is rich in beautiful and rare wildlife, including the Duke of Burgundy butterfly and internationally important populations of Brent geese. Our county is also home to spectacular habitats such as the internationally renowned lowland heath of the New Forest, vital seagrass beds in Portsmouth and chalk rivers such as the Itchen that support an abundance of wildlife including otters, water crowfoot and crayfish. These vital ecosystems - our natural capital – support every aspect of life and work in the county, enabling our communities to flourish. They protect us from floods and droughts, support our health, and underpin the entire economy.<br>However, 48% of Hampshire's 50 most 'notable species' are in trouble. With just a few more years to reach national legal targets of halting wildlife decline and protecting 30% of land and sea by 2030, the Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) has an essential and urgent role to play. Hampshire's LNRS must now drive tangible action on the ground to ensure that we have a healthy natural environment, now and in the future.<br>Key asks:<br>1. 2. 3. 4. Prioritise improvement of existing protected areas that are in poor condition: Despite having a high percentage of land and coast designated for its importance for wildlife, only 44% of our Sites of Special Scientific Importance (SSSIs) are in good condition. These are the critical nodes in our Nature Recovery Network and should be restored as a priority. Incorporate climate mitigation and adaptation: The LNRS must include proper consideration of climate change uncertainties and adaptation, taking into account projected changes in habitats and distributions of species. The strategy currently lacks robust measures to combat climate impacts, including the vital need for adaptation to reduce the pressures of sea level rise on the protection and restoration of coastal wetlands.<br>Set targets and track progress: The LNRS must be a living strategy, with utility and teeth. At present, the LNRS fails to set out specific, measurable targets or mechanisms for monitoring progress. While the strategy mentions a review every 3-10 years, there is no further detail on monitoring or accountability frameworks to ensure the LNRS is effective in delivering for nature. Proper governance and leadership are needed, with opportunities for the new Mayoral Authority to play a strategic role in implementation across the county.<br>Embed LNRS in policy, with mechanisms to ensure flow of funds for nature's recovery: The LNRS must be embedded into decision-making and policy, including those relating to land use, planning and development and economic strategies. Implementation plans must set out the mechanisms to drive investment into nature restoration. This will include statutory requirements, such as BNG, but should also harness emerging private sector nature markets. |

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| **Resident 18** | Hampshire is home to some beautiful and rare wildlife, including the Duke of Burgundy butterfly and populations of Brent geese which are internationally important. Our county is also home to incredible habitats such as the Portsmouth sea grass beds, the lowland heath of the Bew Forest and globally important chalk rivers such as the Itchen that support an abundance of wildlife including otters, water crowfoot and crayfish.<br><br>These vital ecosystems - our natural capital – support every aspect of life and work in the county. They protect us from floods and droughts, support our health, and underpin the economy. Worryingly, 48% of Hampshire's 50 most 'notable species' are in trouble. With just five years to reach national legal targets of halting wildlife decline and protecting 30% of land and sea by 2030, the Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) has an essential and urgent role to play. Hampshire's LNRS must produce rapid action on the ground to ensure that we have a healthy natural environment, now and in future.<br><br>Key points:<br>1. Prioritise improvement of existing protected areas that are in poor condition: Despite having a high percentage of land and coast designated for its importance for wildlife, only 44% of our SSSIs are in good condition. These are the critical nodes in our Nature Recovery Network and should be restored as a priority.<br>2. Incorporate climate mitigation and adaptation: The LNRS must include proper consideration of climate change uncertainties and adaptation, taking into account projected changes in habitats and distributions of species. The strategy currently lacks robust measures to combat climate impacts, including the vital need for adaptation to reduce the pressures of sea level rise on the protection and restoration of coastal wetlands.<br>3. Set targets and track progress: The LNRS must be a living strategy, with utility and teeth. At present, the LNRS fails to set out specific, measurable targets or mechanisms for monitoring progress. While the strategy mentions a review every 3-10 years, there is no further detail on monitoring or accountability frameworks to ensure the LNRS is effective in delivering for nature. Proper governance and leadership are needed, with opportunities for the new Mayoral Authority to play a strategic role in implementation across the county.<br>4. Embed LNRS in policy, with mechanisms to ensure flow of funds for nature's recovery: The LNRS must be embedded into decision-making and policy, including those relating to land use, planning and development and economic strategies. Implementation plans must set out the mechanisms to drive investment into nature |

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| **Resident 19** | Hampshire is rich in beautiful and rare wildlife, including the Duke of Burgundy butterfly and internationally important populations of Brent geese. Our county is also home to spectacular habitats such as the internationally renowned lowland heath of the New Forest, vital seagrass beds in Portsmouth and chalk rivers such as the Itchen that support an abundance of wildlife including otters, water crowfoot and crayfish. These vital ecosystems - our natural capital – support every aspect of life and work in the county, enabling our communities to flourish. They protect us from floods and droughts, support our health, and underpin the entire economy. However, 48% of Hampshire's 50 most 'notable species' are in trouble. With just a few more years to reach national legal targets of halting wildlife decline and protecting 30% of land and sea by 2030, the Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) has an essential and urgent role to play. Hampshire's LNRS must now drive tangible action on the ground to ensure that we have a healthy natural environment, now and in the future.<br>Key asks:<br>1. 2. 3. 4. Prioritise improvement of existing protected areas that are in poor condition: Despite having a high percentage of land and coast designated for its importance for wildlife, only 44% of our Sites of Special Scientific Importance (SSSIs) are in good condition. These are the critical nodes in our Nature Recovery Network and should be restored as a priority.<br>Incorporate climate mitigation and adaptation: The LNRS must include proper consideration of climate change uncertainties and adaptation, taking into account projected changes in habitats and distributions of species. The strategy currently lacks robust measures to combat climate impacts, including the vital need for adaptation to reduce the pressures of sea level rise on the protection and restoration of coastal wetlands.<br>Set targets and track progress: The LNRS must be a living strategy, with utility and teeth. At present, the LNRS fails to set out specific, measurable targets or mechanisms for monitoring progress. While the strategy mentions a review every 3-10 years, there is no further detail on monitoring or accountability frameworks to ensure the LNRS is effective in delivering for nature. Proper governance and leadership are needed, with opportunities for the new Mayoral Authority to play a strategic role in implementation across the county.<br>Embed LNRS in policy, with mechanisms to ensure flow of funds for nature's recovery: The LNRS must be embedded into decision-making and policy, including those relating to land use, planning and development |

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| **Resident 20** | Hampshire is rich in beautiful and rare wildlife, including the Duke of Burgundy butterfly and internationally important populations of Brent geese. Our county is also home to spectacular habitats such as the internationally renowned lowland heath of the New Forest, vital seagrass beds in Portsmouth and chalk rivers such as the Itchen that support an abundance of wildlife including otters, water crowfoot and crayfish. These vital ecosystems - our natural capital – support every aspect of life and work in the county, enabling our communities to flourish. They protect us from floods and droughts, support our health, and underpin the entire economy. However, 48% of Hampshire's 50 most 'notable species' are in trouble. With just a few more years to reach national legal targets of halting wildlife decline and protecting 30% of land and sea by 2030, the Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) has an essential and urgent role to play.<br><br>Hampshire's LNRS must now drive tangible action on the ground to ensure that we have a healthy natural environment, now and in the future.<br><br>Key asks: 1. Prioritise improvement of existing protected areas that are in poor condition: Despite having a high percentage of land and coast designated for its importance for wildlife, only 44% of our Sites of Special Scientific Importance (SSSIs) are in good condition. These are the critical nodes in our Nature Recovery Network and should be restored as a priority.<br>2. Incorporate climate mitigation and adaptation: The LNRS must include proper consideration of climate change uncertainties and adaptation, taking into account projected changes in habitats and distributions of species. The strategy currently lacks robust measures to combat climate impacts, including the vital need for adaptation to reduce the pressures of sea level rise on the protection and restoration of coastal wetlands.<br>3. Set targets and track progress: The LNRS must be a living strategy, with utility and teeth. At present, the LNRS fails to set out specific, measurable targets or mechanisms for monitoring progress. While the strategy mentions a review every 3-10 years, there is no further detail on monitoring or accountability frameworks to ensure the LNRS is effective in delivering for nature. Proper governance and leadership are needed, with opportunities for the new Mayoral Authority to play a strategic role in implementation across the county. |

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| **Resident 21** | I've read your template which is thorough and well written with a lovely placating 'vibe' to it. As someone who has been trying to just do 'walk through' surveys on parish council managed sites and have been met with opposition from that parish council- they have done their biodiversity report ( several years ago) and other than reducing mowing of one small area from 6 x a year to 2x - have done little else. They state they have done what they needed to do. Your letter refers to this, but clear directives that are easy to judge if there is compliance or not , would make it easier for concerned individuals and the public bodies to see if they do comply or where they can be held to account. Wildlife isn't yet suing councils for damages but dog walkers whose dogs have been 'injured ' by meadowsweet or a child twisting an ankle in a mole hill do moles are trapped and all areas mown ! |
| **Resident 22** | Hampshire is rich in beautiful and rare wildlife, including the Duke of Burgundy butterfly and internationally important populations of Brent geese. Our county is also home to spectacular habitats such as the internationally renowned lowland heath of the New Forest, vital seagrass beds in Portsmouth and chalk rivers such as the Itchen that support an abundance of wildlife including otters, water crowfoot and crayfish. These vital ecosystems - our natural capital – support every aspect of life and work in the county, enabling our communities to flourish. They protect us from floods and droughts, support our health, and underpin the entire economy. However, 48% of Hampshire's 50 most 'notable species' are in trouble. With just a few more years to reach national legal targets of halting wildlife decline and protecting 30% of land and sea by 2030, the Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) has an essential and urgent role to play. Hampshire's LNRS must now drive tangible action on the ground to ensure that we have a healthy natural environment, now and in the future. Key asks: 1. Prioritise improvement of existing protected areas that are in poor condition: Despite having a high percentage of land and coast designated for its importance for wildlife, only 44% of our Sites of Special Scientific Importance (SSSIs) are in good condition. These are the critical nodes in our Nature Recovery Network and should be restored as a priority. 2. Incorporate climate mitigation and adaptation: The |

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| **Resident 23** | Hampshire is rich in beautiful and rare wildlife, including the Duke of Burgundy butterfly and internationally important populations of Brent geese. Our county is also home to spectacular habitats such as the internationally renowned lowland heath of the New Forest, vital seagrass beds in Portsmouth and chalk rivers such as the Itchen that support an abundance of wildlife including otters, water crowfoot and crayfish. These vital ecosystems - our natural capital – support every aspect of life and work in the county, enabling our communities to flourish. They protect us from floods and droughts, support our health, and underpin the entire economy. However, 48% of Hampshire's 50 most 'notable species' are in trouble. With just a few more years to reach national legal targets of halting wildlife decline and protecting 30% of land and sea by 2030, the Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) has an essential and urgent role to play. Hampshire's LNRS must now drive tangible action on the ground to ensure that we have a healthy natural environment, now and in the future.<br><br>Key asks:<br>1. Prioritise improvement of existing protected areas that are in poor condition: Despite having a high percentage of land and coast designated for its importance for wildlife, only 44% of our Sites of Special |

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| | Scientific Importance (SSSIs) are in good condition. These are the critical nodes in our Nature Recovery Network and should be restored as a priority.<br>2. Incorporate climate mitigation and adaptation: The LNRS must include proper consideration of climate change uncertainties and adaptation, taking into account projected changes in habitats and distributions of species. The strategy currently lacks robust measures to combat climate impacts, including the vital need for adaptation to reduce the pressures of sea level rise on the protection and restoration of coastal wetlands.<br>3. Set targets and track progress: The LNRS must be a living strategy, with utility and teeth. At present, the LNRS fails to set out specific, measurable targets or mechanisms for monitoring progress. While the strategy mentions a review every 3-10 years, there is no further detail on monitoring or accountability frameworks to ensure the LNRS is effective in delivering for nature. Proper governance and leadership are needed, with opportunities for the new Mayoral Authority to play a strategic role in implementation across the county.<br>4. Embed LNRS in policy, with mechanisms to ensure flow of funds for nature's recovery: The LNRS must be embedded into decision-making and policy, including those relating to land use, planning and development and economic strategies. Implementation plans must set out the mechanisms to drive investment into nature restoration. This will include statutory requirements, such as BNG, but should also harness emerging private sector nature markets.<br><br>Devolution offers a powerful opportunity for our region to champion a nature-positive future, guided by the LNRS as a critical roadmap. Delivering a strong, evidence-based LNRS offers a valuable and vital chance to shape a stronger, healthier future for our county. |
| **Resident 24** | Hampshire is rich in beautiful and rare wildlife, including the Duke of Burgundy butterfly and internationally important populations of Brent geese. Our county is also home to spectacular habitats such as the internationally renowned lowland heath of the New Forest, vital seagrass beds in Portsmouth and chalk rivers such as the Itchen that support an abundance of wildlife including otters, water crowfoot and crayfish. These vital ecosystems - our natural capital – support every aspect of life and work in the county, enabling our communities to flourish. They protect us from floods and droughts, support our health, and underpin the entire economy. However, 48% of Hampshire's 50 most 'notable species' are in trouble. With just a few more years to reach national legal targets of halting wildlife decline and protecting 30% of land and sea by 2030, the Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) has an essential and urgent role to play. Hampshire's LNRS must now drive tangible action on the ground to ensure that we have a healthy natural environment, now and in the future. |

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| | Key asks:<br>Prioritise improvement of existing protected areas that are in poor condition: Despite having a high percentage of land and coast designated for its importance for wildlife, only 44% of our Sites of Special Scientific Importance (SSSIs) are in good condition. These are the critical nodes in our Nature Recovery Network and should be restored as a priority.<br><br>Incorporate climate mitigation and adaptation: The LNRS must include proper consideration of climate change uncertainties and adaptation, taking into account projected changes in habitats and distributions of species. The strategy currently lacks robust measures to combat climate impacts, including the vital need for adaptation to reduce the pressures of sea level rise on the protection and restoration of coastal wetlands.<br><br>Set targets and track progress: The LNRS must be a living strategy, with utility and teeth. At present, the LNRS fails to set out specific, measurable targets or mechanisms for monitoring progress. While the strategy mentions a review every 3-10 years, there is no further detail on monitoring or accountability frameworks to ensure the LNRS is effective in delivering for nature. Proper governance and leadership are needed, with opportunities for the new Mayoral Authority to play a strategic role in implementation across the county.<br>Embed LNRS in policy, with mechanisms to ensure flow of funds for nature's recovery: The LNRS must be embedded into decision-making and policy, including those relating to land use, planning and development and economic strategies.<br>Implementation plans must set out the mechanisms to drive investment into nature restoration. This will include statutory requirements, such as BNG, but should also harness emerging private sector nature markets.<br>Devolution offers a powerful opportunity for our region to champion a nature-positive future, guided by the LNRS as a critical roadmap. Delivering a strong, evidence-based LNRS offers a valuable and vital chance to shape a stronger, healthier future for our county. |
| **Littleton and Harestock Parish Council** | Littleton & Harestock Parish Council (LHPC) welcomes the publication of Hampshire's draft Strategy, believing it offers the potential to protect and enhance nature in our region, especially in our local area which is categorised as the Central Chalk Belt. As much as it is welcomed in the face of continued pressures on nature, we would also like to see attention given to the types of proactive initiatives LHPC has adopted around biodiversity. Unfortunately, the role and involvement of parish councils appears to have been overlooked. There is no reason why parish councils cannot be supportive collaborative partners. In addition, LHPC calls for stronger protections of the nature sites on the Sir John Moore Barracks (SJMB) site. |

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| | LHPC advocates that:<br>i. Local parish and town councils are given a far more prominent role, and are central to tapping into local knowledge and making the “local” viable<br>ii. Encourage Parish Councils to adopt and implement a parish biodiversity policy<br>iii. Support Candidate SINCs as potential areas for improvement and importance, including advocating the full adoption of that at Flowerdown (SJMB) MoD base<br>iv. Ensure that the LNRS is embedded into Local Plans and the planning system generally, marking it out as a major material consideration<br>v. Develop a robust monitoring system to assess the Strategy’s progress to help it become a living and evolving Strategy.<br>Given that England has witnessed the extensive depletion of nature, Littleton & Harestock Parish Council (LHPC) are pleased and encouraged by the Draft Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) and believe it is beneficial and coherent to bring together all the knowledge and activities in one place. Our parish lies within the Central Chalk Belt, as defined in the Strategy. It therefore provides a significant opportunity to guide, support and initiate further work to enhance biodiversity in our region.<br>However, we are concerned that the strategy appears to distance itself from having any influence over owners and land managers to help them make decisions that favour and improve biodiversity. We would like to see the Strategy suggest potential options within a framework of constraints and mitigations that might be expected of them for particular land uses. It is regrettable that there are insufficient commitments to drive progress, whether from the County Council itself or in partnership with others, to enhance biodiversity. It is also vital that a clear monitoring programme is established to be able to assess whether progress is being made or not. This will be necessary to give the LNRS teeth, or it risks just becoming one of good intention with no bite.<br>Once approved, local planning authorities will be required to have regard to the Strategy in their local plans and in the decision-making process on applications. The details of how the LNRS and its content will be embedded in practice remains unclear. We concur with the comments of the Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust: “The Local Nature Recovery Strategy for Hampshire (LNRS) is a vital tool to drive real, urgent action, including influencing planning and investment decisions across the county. To succeed, the LNRS must be supported by robust delivery mechanisms, ambitious targets, and strong monitoring to track progress, along with clear accountability and good governance. We look forward to seeing the LNRS becoming a real road map to recovery, driving forward the restoration of ecosystems, improving the protection of our unique |

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| | landscapes and supporting a resilient, prosperous, healthy nature-positive economy." [Debbie Tann MBE, Chief Executive<br>of Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust]<br>To help provide the best chance for the Strategy to achieve what it aspires, we offer some practical suggestions:<br>Integration of Parish Involvement. The Strategy makes clear that the LNRS needs to be collaborative and locally led (see Executive Summary, p.7). As an aid in this respect, LHPC has developed its own Biodiversity Policy (see Appendix A) which includes a range of approaches; from conservation within its own open spaces, promotion of mini-meadows in shared or leased spaces, management of community assets in a way that enhances biodiversity and taking an approach to planning applications that promotes conservation of existing nature.<br>Unfortunately, the Strategy mentions very little parish activity and therefore largely overlooks a significant potential partner. Although the Strategy does mention the role of Parish Councils in the designation of Local Nature Reserves and the promotion of SINCs, there are no mentions of Candidate SINCs. This would be a highly suitable designation to include under Areas that could become of Importance for Biodiversity (ACBs). LHPC has advocated that an area within its parish is a suitable candidate for SINC status. In 2023, the Parish analysed recent ecology surveys of the Flowerdown MoD base which had found evidence of it providing habitats for bats, badgers, birds, hazel dormice and reptiles as well as butterflies, moths, grasshoppers and pollinators. For example, in addition to over 30 common species of birds, the survey area hosts some species of conservation concern, including the specially protected firecrest along with its close relation, the goldcrest. The surveys also recorded 158 species of invertebrates including some nationally notable species such as solitary bees Hylaeus cornutus and Lasioglossum pauxillum, and the rare Striped Lychnis moth, Shargacucullia lychnitis. An emphasis was also placed on the need to avoid fragmented areas of wildlife and the need to create wildlife corridors, including for some redlisted species as well as nationally scarce species and species with local distributions. In terms of protecting species, the LNRS identifies a range of flora and fauna, assigning them a Habitat Recover Class (A-E). A number of species in the candidate SINC are listed with a HRC B status meaning that they are assigned priority in the LNRS. See table 5.1 (p. 137) and the listing of species, pp. 141ff.<br>Hampshire's Biodiversity Information Centre (HBIC) essentially agreed in 2023 that these ecology surveys demonstrated that there is much to be conserved on the site. It recommended that it should be designated a Candidate SINC and considered it to be an extension of the existing Flowerdown SINC. To date, this has not |

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| | been adopted by the City Council and its status is being ignored in the current masterplanning process for the development of this area.<br>This therefore raises the concerns over what steps HCC is taking to ensure Candidate SINCs are fully integrated into the LNRS given the ecological importance they have even if not formally adopted by local authorities. The Parish Council strongly encourages this and believes this particular site should have its status enhanced thus becoming a much more important material consideration for this proposed development.<br>The LNRS has focused on priority areas for biodiversity enhancement, confirming APIB (Areas of Particular Importance for Biodiversity). It has identified locations to create, restore and enhance habitats that provide opportunities to deliver nature's recovery, and with a focus on areas outside of designated sites. This is based on the connectivity of existing habitats and where there are opportunities to improve ecological connectivity further. These are laudable aims and also include a source of evidence for local planning authorities to help them understand those locations important for conserving and restoring biodiversity. It is not clear how this will be actioned and neither is it clear what happens if local planning authorities do not take account of these priority areas.<br>Priority areas<br>The focus on priority areas is positive in that it aims to preserve areas which have already been deemed to be important for nature/biodiversity conservation. However, there is a danger that habitats outside these priority areas will become more vulnerable and that opportunities to enhance biodiversity in smaller, local settings will be lost or sacrificed.<br>The LNRS will help to determine locations of off-site potential for Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG). This is important but it does provide the opportunity for planning authorities and developers to ignore local biodiversity by exporting mitigation to other areas.<br>There is recognition of the importance of verges as grassland habitats (10,000km across Hampshire) and mention of Road Verges of Ecological Importance (p. 32). This of course has great potential. Yet it has proven difficult to maintain RVEI status in LHPC due to inappropriate mowing and litter (despite the efforts of parishioners to preserve it). It will be very important to ensure that there are joined-up strategies to balance road safety and biodiversity, as well as an attempt to shift perceptions amongst the public as to the ecological value of "untidy" verges. This is potentially another area in which collaborating with parish councils could pay biodiversity dividends. Similarly, hedgerows are also included as a priority area and this will be important for those responsible for cutting, including the Parish Councils' engagement of the lengthsman's services (see p. 105). |

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| | The priority areas are outlined and include species rich grassland (p.85). The strategy recommends management in certain sites and removal of scrub (something that will be important in our own conservation area). It also recommends that "all SINC grasslands and other open habitat are mapped where known to be in poor condition due to scrub encroachment." This seems vital to help stimulate improved management, as it seems many SINCs, including Flowerdown in our own parish has been neglected.<br>Improving nature in public areas and the creation of wildlife corridors (another priority area, see p. 107) will be an important part of urban and suburban planning guidance. An acknowledgment that access to green space is welcome but more work is required on approaches for resolving potential conflicting needs (e.g. dog-walking, accessibility) beyond the suggestions set out on p. 38.<br>The Strategy states that it offers a range of solutions to facilitate the enhancement of biodiversity in urban and suburban settings. However, these are peppered throughout the report and it is difficult to be access them easily. Some examples are about planting street trees, others are about water run-off, others relate to hedgerows, or connectivity between gardens. There is also a mention of swift bricks being made mandatory in all new developments but this is only a suggestion and could carry little weight, especially if the Government is intent on not making it a legal requirement in legislation currently before Parliament. The Parish Council recognises that there is much merit in the Draft Local Nature Recovery Strategy, yet at the same time can see where it can be strengthened. Whilst we do not comment on the whole strategy, we can see how a parish council can play an important part in helping the Strategy fulfil its ambitions. This is a chance to be bold and give nature a<br>welcome holding hand. In particular we highlight some suggestions from our own local experience and knowledge which can be used to this end. In particular, we advocate that:<br>vi. Local parish and town councils are given a far more prominent role, and are central to tapping into local knowledge and making the "local" viable<br>vii. Encourage Parish Councils to adopt and implement a parish biodiversity policy<br>viii. Support Candidate SINCs as potential areas for improvement and importance, including advocating the full adoption of that at Flowerdown MoD base<br>ix. Ensure that the LNRS is embedded into Local Plans and the planning system generally, marking it out as a major material consideration<br>x. Develop a robust monitoring system to assess the Strategy's progress to help it become a living and evolving Strategy |
| **Resident 25** | I live in Emsworth and cherish the region and its fauna and flora. Unfortunately, it is increasingly suffering from substantial reduction in the maintenance and support necessary to help it. Much of this is historic, and |

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| | earlier generations were responsible for a huge decline and enormous damage to our environment. However, we are now much better informed and more aware of the damage and what we can do. I know that resources are tight and there are always hard choices to be made, but I urge you to find the ways that you can to preserve, protect and enhance our natural environment. Below is set out the text of a standard letter which I am sure you will have seen many times.<br><br>Hampshire is rich in beautiful and rare wildlife, including the Duke of Burgundy butterfly and internationally important populations of Brent geese. Our county is also home to spectacular habitats such as the internationally renowned lowland heath of the New Forest, vital seagrass beds in Portsmouth and chalk rivers such as the Itchen that support an abundance of wildlife including otters, water crowfoot and crayfish. These vital ecosystems - our natural capital – support every aspect of life and work in the county, enabling our communities to flourish. They protect us from floods and droughts, support our health, and underpin the entire economy. However, 48% of Hampshire's 50 most 'notable species' are in trouble. With just a few more years to reach national legal targets of halting wildlife decline and protecting 30% of land and sea by 2030, the Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) has an essential and urgent role to play. Hampshire's LNRS must now drive tangible action on the ground to ensure that we have a healthy natural environment, now and in the future.<br><br>Key asks:<br>1 Prioritise improvement of existing protected areas that are in poor condition: Despite having a high percentage of land and coast designated for its importance for wildlife, only 44% of our Sites of Special Scientific Importance (SSSIs) are in good condition. These are the critical nodes in our Nature Recovery Network and should be restored as a priority.<br>2 Incorporate climate mitigation and adaptation: The LNRS must include proper consideration of climate change uncertainties and adaptation, taking into account projected changes in habitats and distributions of species. The strategy currently lacks robust measures to combat climate impacts, including the vital need for adaptation to reduce the pressures of sea level rise on the protection and restoration of coastal wetlands.<br>3 Set targets and track progress: The LNRS must be a living strategy, with utility and teeth. At present, the LNRS fails to set out specific, measurable targets or mechanisms for monitoring progress. While the strategy mentions a review every 3-10 years, there is no further detail on monitoring or accountability frameworks to ensure the LNRS is effective in delivering for nature. Proper governance and leadership are |

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| | needed, with opportunities for the new Mayoral Authority to play a strategic role in implementation across the county.<br>4 Embed LNRS in policy, with mechanisms to ensure flow of funds for nature's recovery: The LNRS must be embedded into decision-making and policy, including those relating to land use, planning and development and economic strategies. Implementation plans must set out the mechanisms to drive investment into nature restoration. This will include statutory requirements, such as BNG, but should also harness emerging private sector nature markets.<br>Devolution offers a powerful opportunity for our region to champion a nature-positive future, guided by the LNRS as a critical roadmap. Delivering a strong, evidence-based LNRS offers a valuable and vital chance to shape a stronger, healthier future for our county. |
| **Resident 26** | Hampshire is rich in beautiful and rare wildlife, including the Duke of Burgundy butterfly and internationally important populations of Brent geese. Our county is also home to spectacular habitats such as the internationally renowned lowland heath of the New Forest, vital seagrass beds in Portsmouth and chalk rivers such as the Itchen that support an abundance of wildlife including otters, water crowfoot and crayfish. These vital ecosystems - our natural capital – support every aspect of life and work in the county, enabling our communities to flourish. They protect us from floods and droughts, support our health, and underpin the entire economy. However, 48% of Hampshire's 50 most 'notable species' are in trouble. With just a few more years to reach national legal targets of halting wildlife decline and protecting 30% of land and sea by 2030, the Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) has an essential and urgent role to play. Hampshire's LNRS must now drive tangible action on the ground to ensure that we have a healthy natural environment, now and in the future. Key asks: 1. Prioritise improvement of existing protected areas that are in poor condition: Despite having a high percentage of land and coast designated for its importance for wildlife, only 44% of our Sites of Special Scientific Importance (SSSIs) are in good condition. These are the critical nodes in our Nature Recovery Network and should be restored as a priority. 2. Incorporate climate mitigation and adaptation: The LNRS must include proper consideration of climate change uncertainties and adaptation, taking into account projected changes in habitats and distributions of species. The strategy currently lacks robust measures to combat climate impacts, including the vital need for adaptation to reduce the pressures of sea level rise on the protection and restoration of coastal wetlands. 3. Set targets and track progress: The LNRS must be a living strategy, with utility and teeth. At present, the LNRS fails to set out specific, measurable targets or mechanisms for monitoring progress. While the strategy mentions a review every 3-10 years, there is no further detail on monitoring or accountability frameworks to ensure the LNRS is effective in delivering for nature. Proper governance and leadership are needed, with opportunities for the new Mayoral Authority to |

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| **Resident 27** | Hampshire is rich in beautiful and rare wildlife, including the Duke of Burgundy butterfly and internationally important populations of Brent geese. Our county is also home to spectacular habitats such as the internationally renowned lowland heath of the New Forest, vital seagrass beds in Portsmouth and chalk rivers such as the Itchen that support an abundance of wildlife including otters, water crowfoot and crayfish.<br><br>These vital ecosystems - our natural capital – support every aspect of life and work in the county, enabling our communities to flourish. They protect us from floods and droughts, support our health, and underpin the entire economy. However, 48% of Hampshire's 50 most 'notable species' are in trouble. With just a few more years to reach national legal targets of halting wildlife decline and protecting 30% of land and sea by 2030, the Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) has an essential and urgent role to play. Hampshire's LNRS must now drive tangible action on the ground to ensure that we have a healthy natural environment, now and in the future.<br><br>Key asks:<br>1. Prioritise improvement of existing protected areas that are in poor condition: Despite having a high percentage of land and coast designated for its importance for wildlife, only 44% of our Sites of Special Scientific Importance (SSSIs) are in good condition. These are the critical nodes in our Nature Recovery Network and should be restored as a priority.<br>2. Incorporate climate mitigation and adaptation: The LNRS must include proper consideration of climate change uncertainties and adaptation, taking into account projected changes in habitats and distributions of species. The strategy currently lacks robust measures to combat climate impacts, including the vital need for adaptation to reduce the pressures of sea level rise on the protection and restoration of coastal wetlands.<br>3. Set targets and track progress: The LNRS must be a living strategy, with utility and teeth. At present, the LNRS fails to set out specific, measurable targets or mechanisms for monitoring progress. While the strategy |

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| **Resident 28** | Hampshire is rich in beautiful and rare wildlife, including the Duke of Burgundy butterfly and internationally important populations of Brent geese. Our county is also home to spectacular habitats such as the internationally renowned lowland heath of the New Forest, vital seagrass beds in Portsmouth and chalk rivers such as the Itchen that support an abundance of wildlife including otters, water crowfoot and crayfish. These vital ecosystems - our natural capital – support every aspect of life and work in the county, enabling our communities to flourish. They protect us from floods and droughts, support our health, and underpin the entire economy. However, 48% of Hampshire's 50 most 'notable species' are in trouble. With just a few more years to<br>reach national legal targets of halting wildlife decline and protecting 30% of land and sea by 2030, the Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) has an essential and urgent role to play. Hampshire's LNRS must now drive tangible action on the ground to ensure that we have a healthy natural environment, now and in the future.<br>Key asks:<br>1. Prioritise improvement of existing protected areas that are in poor condition: Despite having a high percentage of land and coast designated for its importance for wildlife, only 44% of our Sites of Special Scientific Importance (SSSIs) are in good condition. These are the critical nodes in our Nature Recovery Network and should be restored as a priority.<br>2. Incorporate climate mitigation and adaptation: The LNRS must include proper consideration of climate change uncertainties and adaptation, taking into account projected changes in habitats and distributions of |

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| **Resident 29** | It is imperative with so many new housing developments and all the other changes to infrastructure that we protect and improve the natural areas left. Climate change, loss of biodiversity affects us all. Please don't allow Waterlooville to lose yet another vital space at Campdown Crookhorn, that is an important green corridor and breathing space. Too many toxic blue tennis courts lie empty, caged plastic grass football on and black play surfaces that are left without tree shade and are now too unbearablely hot for children to use safely. Restore traditional green spaces everybody could enjoy freely. HBC have spent so much replacing natural grass areas with paid for sport. No surprise there is such loss of money. People want spaces they can all share with nature. We don't need more plastic pollution and loss of nature |
| **Winchester City Council** | Positive feedback on the draft Strategy<br>• The Strategy clearly sets out that the strategic significance uplift for BNG applies to the measures map. The map also provides clarity on what measures apply to specific locations.<br>• The majority of SINCs are included in the measures map. Only SINCs which have been surveyed since 2005 and recorded as being in good management have been excluded, (except for woodland SINCs which have no priority species with targeted actions).<br>• The woodland creation measure is now focused on connecting ancient woodland which supports priority species or replanting 'lost' ancient woodland or PAWs within 10m of existing ancient woodland. This prioritisation is supported as it relies on existing seedbanks and facilitates recolonisation of species. Given the |

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| | high coverage of woodland across the county it is important that this measure focuses on the most important areas, while other measures cover the restoration of priority areas of existing woodland habitat.<br>• Greenspace, health, and access to nature is covered in detail and there is an outcome which is 'nature conservation value of public space enhanced'. This shows that the value of natural spaces within urban areas particularly has not been overlooked.<br>• Habitats/themes have not been prioritised as all priority outcomes are important to halt and reverse the decline in biodiversity and deliver wider environmental benefits. This is important for Winchester as the district supports a wide variety of habitats and no particular type of habitat should be favoured over another because to deliver nature recovery a mosaic of different habitats and species should benefit.<br>• Priority outcomes, measures, benefits and potential funding streams (for each habitat theme) are clearly detailed in Table 3.1. This table also refers to priority species that will benefit from the measures in each habitat theme.<br>• Additional sites proposed by LPAs are included in the ACB layer with a range of measures proposed for nature recovery. These include sites for BNG, nutrients, local plan biodiversity sites, SANGs, mineral restoration sites, neighbourhood development plans, and local BAPs. For Winchester City Council (WCC) this includes Topfield, St Giles Cemetery, Magdalen Hill Cemetery Extension, Somers Close, Greenacres, and Newlands. Other council sites are covered by SINC measures including Whiteshute Ridge and West Hill Cemetery.<br>• Opportunity Focus Areas (OFA) have been developed which include 11 different habitat networks (including grassland, heathland and wetland habitats). This allows for several different measures and flexibility depending on changes to soil and hydrology. Queries and proposed amendments to the draft Strategy<br>• The River Meon should be included as an internationally designated site on the APIB map due to the recognition of it being a compensatory SAC habitat.<br>• Are NNR, LNR and Ancient woodlands in poor condition included on the measures map? What survey data is this based on? There appear to be many areas of ancient woodland which are not included in the measures map, is this correct?<br>• Is 20-year-old SINC survey data reliable? would 10-year survey data (2015) be a better cut off?<br>• Woodland SINCs with no priority species have been excluded from the measures map. Should those in poor condition still be included?<br>• In the habitat section for Rivers and Wetland (p14) there is a helpful section on Local Authority and planning opportunities for nature recovery. Other habitat sections such as grassland do not have these useful paragraphs on issues and opportunities or any specific recommendations for certain audiences such as LPAs |

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| | and land managers. Is there a reason there is more detail for Rivers and Wetland? Will more information be added to the other sections?<br>• For species that benefit from specific management measures (Class B and D) could the measures that apply be stated in Table 5.2? This would allow quick identification of relevant measures if a certain species was identified.<br>• In Appendix 4 'Current Projects and Schemes' the Meon Valley Partnership should be included.<br><br>Queries and proposed amendments to the mapping<br>• Add Bramdean Common to the additional site measures map for grassland restoration (the site is included for 'restore and manage lowland wood pasture and parkland').<br>• The recreation ground on Chaundler Road is included on the additional site measures layer. WCC did not request this area so it can possibly be removed. There is an alternative area at Abbots Barton which is managed for nature recovery that could be added.<br>• Not all the measures proposed for North Walls/River Park are appropriate and some seem to conflict (R3 reversion of arable land to grassland and management of intensive grassland with low fertiliser input, restore/create species rich grassland, provide flood mitigation) and Hilliers Haven is an additional site for create/restore fen habitat.<br><br>Allocated sites<br>• W2 Sir John Moor Barracks – remove the small area included in the ACB and measures map to the south of the site because it is proposed for development within the Concept Masterplan approved by Cabinet on 12 February 2025 (CAB3473 Appendix SJM Masterplan-FINAL.pdf), and is therefore not deliverable.<br>• Groundwater Source Protection Zones have been mapped in their entirety and therefore the measure (R5: Application of very low nitrogen input to slow or reverse nutrient levels in groundwaters) covers entire or large proportions of some allocation sites (e.g. CC3, KW2 and OT01). The council agrees there is an opportunity to pursue measures related to Groundwater Source Protection Zones but is concerned that this will not be possible across entire sites proposed for development, so requests further clarity on the potential implications of this. Would it be appropriate to reduce the coverage on the ACB/measures map for these sites to what is deliverable within policy? Or is this not considered to be a concern, and the mapping coverage provides flexibility for delivery of these measures? Finally, how does this measure relate to nutrient neutrality? |
| **Resident 30** | Hampshire is rich in beautiful and rare wildlife, including the Duke of Burgundy butterfly, internationally important populations of Brent geese plus three regular breeding tern species. It also has important but |

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| | diminishing numbers of ground-nesting birds across the Solent coastline e.g. red-listed Ringed Plover, plus Oystercatcher and Redshank. Our county is also home to spectacular habitats such as the internationally renowned lowland heath of the New Forest, vital seagrass beds in Portsmouth and chalk streams and rivers such as the Itchen that support an abundance of wildlife including otters, water crowfoot and crayfish. These vital ecosystems - our natural capital – support every aspect of life and work in the county, enabling our communities to flourish. They protect us from floods and droughts, support our health, and underpin the entire economy. However, 48% of Hampshire's 50 most 'notable species' are in trouble. With just a few more years to reach national legal targets of halting wildlife decline and protecting 30% of land and sea by 2030. The Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) has an essential and urgent role to play. Hampshire's LNRS must now drive tangible action on the ground to ensure that we have a healthy natural environment, now and in the future.<br>Key Aspirations and Targets:<br>1. Prioritise improvement of existing protected areas that are in poor condition: Despite having a high percentage of land and coast designated for its importance for wildlife, only 44% of our Sites of Special Scientific Importance (SSSIs) are in good condition. These are the critical nodes in our Nature Recovery Network and should be restored as a priority.<br>2. Incorporate climate mitigation and adaptation: The LNRS must include proper consideration of climate change uncertainties and adaptation, taking into account projected changes in habitats and distributions of species. The strategy currently lacks robust measures to combat climate impacts, including the vital need for adaptation to reduce the pressures of sea level rise on the protection and restoration of coastal wetlands.<br>3. Set targets and track progress: The LNRS must be a living strategy, with utility and teeth. At present, the LNRS fails to set out specific, measurable targets or mechanisms for monitoring progress. While the strategy mentions a review every 3-10 years, there is no further detail on monitoring or accountability frameworks to ensure the LNRS is effective in delivering for nature. Proper governance and leadership are needed, with opportunities for the new Mayoral Authority to play a strategic role in implementation across the county.<br>4. Embed LNRS in policy, with mechanisms to ensure flow of funds for nature's recovery: The LNRS must be embedded into decision-making and policy, including those relating to land use, planning and development and economic strategies. Implementation plans must set out the mechanisms to drive investment into nature restoration. This will include statutory requirements, such as BNG, but should also harness emerging private sector nature markets. |

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| | 5. Devolution: offers a powerful opportunity for our region to champion a nature-positive future, guided by the LNRS as a critical roadmap. Delivering a strong, evidence-based LNRS offers a valuable and vital chance to shape a stronger, healthier future for our county.<br>6. Nature Pockets: Devolution will again mean that small, but often important pockets of land, currently owned by local authorities who may be devolved, will need to pass on these tracts of land. HCC must take advantage of these pockets so that they can be linked to existing nature reserves so that they create larger, easier to manage sites, under one management body. Such sites might include Sturt Pond Nature Reserve, Hordle Cliff – cliff-top vegetation, parts of Hurst Spit, Keyhaven River and the saltmarsh between. |
| **Resident 31** | I am a member of the Hampshire Wildlife Trust and the RSPB and I understand you are undertaking a review. I would just like to say that I concur with the Trusts views and I would like you to give due consideration and to act on their suggestions which are:<br><br>- To prioritise the improvement of existing protected areas that are in a poor condition.<br>- To include climate change protections.<br>- Set targets and check progress.<br>- Ensure there is the money available to follow your plans. |
| **Wings Wildlife Heritage** | Dear Hampshire County Council,<br>Hampshire is rich in beautiful and rare wildlife, including the Duke of Burgundy butterfly, internationally important populations of Brent geese plus three regular breeding tern species. It also has important but diminishing numbers of ground-nesting birds across the Solent coastline e.g. red-listed Ringed Plover, plus Oystercatcher and Redshank.<br>Our county is also home to spectacular habitats such as the internationally renowned lowland heath of the New Forest, vital seagrass beds in Portsmouth and chalk streams and rivers such as the Itchen that support an abundance of wildlife including otters, water crowfoot and crayfish.<br>These vital ecosystems - our natural capital – support every aspect of life and work in the county, enabling our communities to flourish. They protect us from floods and droughts, support our health, and underpin the entire economy. However, 48% of Hampshire's 50 most 'notable species' are in trouble. With just a few more years to reach national legal targets of halting wildlife decline and protecting 30% of land and sea by 2030.<br>The Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) has an essential and urgent role to play. Hampshire's LNRS must now drive tangible action on the ground to ensure that we have a healthy natural environment, now and in the future. |

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| **Resident 32** | Hampshire is rich in beautiful and rare wildlife, including the Duke of Burgundy butterfly and internationally important populations of Brent geese. Our county is also home to spectacular habitats such as the internationally renowned lowland heath of the New Forest, vital seagrass beds in Portsmouth and chalk rivers such as the Itchen that support an abundance of wildlife including otters, water crowfoot and crayfish. These |

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Email comments received on the draft Local Nature Recovery Strategy for Hampshire during the consultation period

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| **Resident 33** | I am asking for delivery of an evidence-based LNRS which will ensure protection for Hampshire's " notable species" ( otters, crayfish, Brent geese, rare butterflies such as the Duke of Burgundy) and for our precious habitats such as seagrass beds, heathland and chalkstreams.<br><br>Through the LNRS it is essential to:<br><br>• Embed the LNRS in policy, to ensure the retention and flow of funds, including decisions relating to land use, planning and development.<br>• Make targets measurable; this is lacking at present in the LNRS. A review every 3 to 10 years is mentioned in only general terms. There is no further detail to pinpoint accountability and to underline the urgency of the need for nature recovery.<br>• Place emphasis on the challenges caused by climate change, formulating concrete plans to combat climate impacts, such as pressures upon valuable coastal wetlands.<br>• Restore the condition of SSSIs, as a matter of urgency. Only 44% of the county's SSSIs are currently in good condition. |
| **Resident 34** | Hampshire is rich in beautiful and rare wildlife, including the Duke of Burgundy butterfly and internationally important populations of Brent geese. Our county is also home to spectacular habitats such as the internationally renowned lowland heath of the New Forest, vital seagrass beds in Portsmouth and chalk rivers such as the Itchen that support an abundance of wildlife including otters, water crowfoot and crayfish. These vital ecosystems - our natural capital – support every aspect of life and work in the county, enabling our communities to flourish. They protect us from floods and droughts, support our health, and underpin the entire economy. However, 48% of Hampshire's 50 most 'notable species' are in trouble. With just a few more years to reach national legal targets of halting wildlife decline and protecting 30% of land and sea by 2030, the Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) has an essential and urgent role to play. Hampshire's LNRS must now drive tangible action on the ground to ensure that we have a healthy natural environment, now and in the future.<br>Key asks:<br>1. Prioritise improvement of existing protected areas that are in poor condition: Despite having a high percentage of land and coast designated for its importance for wildlife, only 44% of our Sites of Special Scientific Importance (SSSIs) are in good condition. These are the critical nodes in our Nature Recovery Network and should be restored as a priority. |

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| **Resident 35** | Hampshire is rich in beautiful and rare wildlife, including the Duke of Burgundy butterfly and internationally important populations of Brent geese. Our county is also home to spectacular habitats such as the internationally renowned lowland heath of the New Forest, vital seagrass beds in Portsmouth and chalk rivers such as the Itchen that support an abundance of wildlife including otters, water crowfoot and crayfish. These vital ecosystems - our natural capital – support every aspect of life and work in the county, enabling our communities to flourish. They protect us from floods and droughts, support our health, and underpin the entire economy. However, 48% of Hampshire's 50 most 'notable species' are in trouble. With just a few more years to reach national legal targets of halting wildlife decline and protecting 30% of land and sea by 2030, the Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) has an essential and urgent role to play. Hampshire's LNRS must now drive tangible action on the ground to ensure that we have a healthy natural environment, now and in the future. |

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| **Resident 36** | Hampshire is rich in beautiful and rare wildlife, including the Duke of Burgundy butterfly and internationally important populations of Brent geese. Our county is also home to spectacular habitats such as the internationally renowned lowland heath of the New Forest, vital seagrass beds in Portsmouth and chalk rivers such as the Itchen that support an abundance of wildlife including otters, water crowfoot and crayfish. These vital ecosystems - our natural capital – support every aspect of life and work in the county, enabling our communities to flourish. They protect us from floods and droughts, support our health, and underpin the entire economy. However, 48% of Hampshire's 50 most 'notable species' are in trouble. With just a few more years to reach national legal targets of halting wildlife decline and protecting 30% of land and sea by 2030, the Local |

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| | Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) has an essential and urgent role to play. Hampshire's LNRS must now drive tangible action on the ground to ensure that we have a healthy natural environment, now and in the future.<br><br>Priorities:<br>1. Prioritise improvement of existing protected areas that are in poor condition: Despite having a high percentage of land and coast designated for its importance for wildlife, only 44% of our Sites of Special Scientific Importance (SSSIs) are in good condition. These are the critical nodes in our Nature Recovery Network and should be restored as a priority.<br>2. Incorporate climate mitigation and adaptation: The LNRS must include proper consideration of climate change uncertainties and adaptation, taking into account projected changes in habitats and distributions of species. The strategy currently lacks robust measures to combat climate impacts, including the vital need for adaptation to reduce the pressures of sea level rise on the protection and restoration of coastal wetlands.<br>3. Set targets and track progress: The LNRS must be a living strategy, with utility and teeth. At present, the LNRS fails to set out specific, measurable targets or mechanisms for monitoring progress. While the strategy mentions a review every 3-10 years, there is no further detail on monitoring or accountability frameworks to ensure the LNRS is effective in delivering for nature. Proper governance and leadership are needed, with opportunities for the new Mayoral Authority to play a strategic role in implementation across the county.<br>4. Embed LNRS in policy, with mechanisms to ensure flow of funds for nature's recovery: The LNRS must be embedded into decision-making and policy, including those relating to land use, planning and development and economic strategies. Implementation plans must set out the mechanisms to drive investment into nature restoration. This will include statutory requirements, such as BNG, but should also harness emerging private sector nature markets.<br><br>Devolution offers a powerful opportunity for our region to champion a nature-positive future, guided by the LNRS as a critical roadmap. Delivering a strong, evidence-based LNRS offers a valuable and vital chance to shape a stronger, healthier future for our county. |
| **Alton and Villages Local Action for Nature** | I am writing in response to the ongoing Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) consultation. Alton & Villages Local Action For Nature (AVLAN) would like to praise the diligent and comprehensive work on display in the LNRS so far and have some feedback we would like to put forward for consideration.<br>As community nature groups we are concerned about the lack of ecological and environmental expertise in local government, especially at town/parish level in order to help implement the LNRS. We ask that support is |

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| | given to help parish and town councils to understand the biodiversity duty and to ensure that green infrastructure policies are carefully assessed for their impact on conservation. It is concerning that the draft LNRS lacks timeframes for delivery of biodiversity improvement or a plan to implement the strategy, which we hope will manifest themselves at a future point in the process.<br>Biodiversity Action Plans should be a best practice standard for all councils, and this requires prioritisation and funding. We feel that public support and engagement with the LNRS are essential to its future success; and as urban areas are increasingly recognised as refuges for wildlife that is declining in the farmed landscape, it is important the LNRS engages local authorities and facilitates local democracy to aid nature recovery.<br>We propose that the final LNRS should make special emphasis on the statement in section 3.8 (p.g. 76) that '*mapping should be interpreted flexibly to achieve improvements in biodiversity...'* Alton and local villages are located in the Central Chalk Belt. This is lightly mapped in the LNRS, yet there are huge opportunities to improve biodiversity at the local level. For example urban and peri-urban Alton has substantial populations of UKBAP Priority species such as hedgehogs, slow worms and bats. Between Alton and Farnham the River Wey is ecologically a chalk stream but isn't specifically mentioned in the LNRS, etc. We are concerned that lightly mapped areas like ours could lose out on funding opportunities or biodiversity-enhancing projects if the partial mapping created at this draft stage is adhered to too rigidly. This in turn would have a detrimental impact on other areas as habitat isolation is a significant driver of biodiversity loss. In a future of increasingly erratic climate change-fuelled weather there is a risk that, should their neighbourhoods be neglected through the LNRS, species of today's biodiversity hotspots will be unable to find new habitat that might become available via climate change when their existing habitat dwindles because of climate change. |
| **Resident 37** | Hampshire is rich in beautiful and rare wildlife, including the Duke of Burgundy butterfly and internationally important populations of Brent geese. Hampshire is also home to spectacular habitats such as the internationally renowned lowland heath of the New Forest, vital seagrass beds in Portsmouth and chalk rivers such as the Itchen that support an abundance of wildlife including otters, water crowfoot and crayfish. These vital ecosystems - our natural capital – support every aspect of life and work in the county, enabling our communities to flourish. They protect us from floods and droughts, support our health, and underpin the entire economy. However, 48% of Hampshire's 50 most 'notable species' are in trouble. With just a few more years to reach national legal targets of halting wildlife decline and protecting 30% of land and sea by 2030, the Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) has an essential and urgent role to play. Hampshire's LNRS must now drive tangible action on the ground to ensure that we have a healthy natural environment, now and in the future. Key asks: |

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| **Resident 38** | Hampshire is rich in beautiful and rare wildlife, including the Duke of Burgundy butterfly and internationally important populations of Brent geese. Our county is also home to spectacular habitats such as the internationally renowned lowland heath of the New Forest, vital seagrass beds in Portsmouth and chalk rivers such as the Itchen that support an abundance of wildlife including otters, water crowfoot and crayfish. These vital ecosystems - our natural capital – support every aspect of life and work in the county, enabling our communities to flourish. They protect us from floods and droughts, support our health, and underpin the entire economy. However, 48% of Hampshire's 50 most 'notable species' are in trouble. With just a few more years to reach national legal targets of halting wildlife decline and protecting 30% of land and sea by 2030, the Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) has an essential and urgent role to play. Hampshire's LNRS must now |

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| | drive tangible action on the ground to ensure that we have a healthy natural environment, now and in the future.<br><br>**Key asks:**<br><br>**1. Prioritise improvement of existing protected areas that are in poor condition:** Despite having a high percentage of land and coast designated for its importance for wildlife, only 44% of our Sites of Special Scientific Importance (SSSIs) are in good condition. These are the critical nodes in our Nature Recovery Network and should be restored as a priority.<br><br>**2. Incorporate climate mitigation and adaptation:** The LNRS must include proper consideration of climate change uncertainties and adaptation, taking into account projected changes in habitats and distributions of species. The strategy currently lacks robust measures to combat climate impacts, including the vital need for adaptation to reduce the pressures of sea level rise on the protection and restoration of coastal wetlands.<br><br>**3. Set targets and track progress:** The LNRS must be a living strategy, with utility and teeth. At present, the LNRS fails to set out specific, measurable targets or mechanisms for monitoring progress. While the strategy mentions a review every 3-10 years, there is no further detail on monitoring or accountability frameworks to ensure the LNRS is effective in delivering for nature. Proper governance and leadership are needed, with opportunities for the new Mayoral Authority to play a strategic role in implementation across the county.<br><br>**4. Embed LNRS in policy, with mechanisms to ensure flow of funds for nature's recovery:** The LNRS must be embedded into decision-making and policy, including those relating to land use, planning and development and economic strategies. Implementation plans must set out the mechanisms to drive investment into nature restoration. This will include statutory requirements, such as BNG, but should also harness emerging private sector nature markets.<br><br>Devolution offers a powerful opportunity for our region to champion a nature-positive future, guided by the LNRS as a critical roadmap. Delivering a strong, evidence-based LNRS offers a valuable and vital chance to shape a stronger, healthier future for our county. |
| **Resident 39** | I have been closely involved with Hampshire 's wildlife for decades: - |

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| | I am a life member of HIOWT, since the 1970 's, I was village Tree warden for [redacted] for many years, I was a voluntary reserve manage for [redacted] for many years, and managed thee reserves for Butterfly conservation for almost fourteen years. Since 1983 I have developed a thriving wildlife patch of 5 acres.. Why tell you this? Because I care really care about the County 's wildlife! I must add that I am also an active supporter of Hampshire Swifts and DESPERATELY want to see the installation of Swift bricks in new builds mandatory. But this is maybe not in the purview of this review. It would be great if it was.<br><br>Anyway here are the comments I support...<br><br>Hampshire is rich in beautiful and rare wildlife, including the Duke of Burgundy butterfly and internationally important populations of Brent geese. Our county is also home to spectacular habitats such as the internationally renowned lowland heath of the New Forest, vital seagrass beds in Portsmouth and chalk rivers such as the Itchen that support an abundance of wildlife including otters, water crowfoot and crayfish. These vital ecosystems - our natural capital – support every aspect of life and work in the county, enabling our communities to flourish. They protect us from floods and droughts, support our health, and underpin the entire economy. However, 48% of Hampshire's 50 most 'notable species' are in trouble. With just a few more years to<br>reach national legal targets of halting wildlife decline and protecting 30% of land and sea by 2030, the Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) has an essential and urgent role to play. Hampshire's LNRS must now drive tangible action on the ground to ensure that we have a healthy natural environment, now and in the future.<br>Key asks:<br>1. 2. 3. 4. Prioritise improvement of existing protected areas that are in poor condition: Despite having a high percentage of land and coast designated for its importance for wildlife, only 44% of our Sites of Special Scientific Importance (SSSIs) are in good condition. These are the critical nodes in our Nature Recovery Network and should be restored as a priority.<br>Incorporate climate mitigation and adaptation: The LNRS must include proper consideration of climate change uncertainties and adaptation, taking into account projected changes in habitats and distributions of species. The strategy currently lacks robust measures to combat climate impacts, including the vital need for adaptation to reduce the pressures of sea level rise on the protection and restoration of coastal wetlands.<br>Set targets and track progress: The LNRS must be a living strategy, with utility and teeth. At present, the LNRS fails to set out specific, measurable targets or mechanisms for monitoring progress. While the strategy |

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| **Old Down Wildlife Group** | 1 Section 1.4.A<br>This section states that the Environment Act requires that each Strategy contains "Proposals for potential measures related to those priorities". On referring to the Priority Outcomes and Measures in Table 3.4, none of them have any specified timescale. It is well established that measures and targets are more likely to be achieved if they are SMART:<br>• Specific<br>• Measurable<br>• Achievable<br>• Relevant, and<br>• Time-Bound<br>We strongly encourage HCC to add time-bound targets to all measures in the LNRS, based on expert advice about what is realistically achievable, as a way of focussing the minds of Councils on delivery.<br>2 Section 1.28<br>The review period for the LNRS for Hampshire is stated as being "every 3 to 10 years". With government policy likely to change with any change of governing party, at national or local level, we are concerned that a 10 year review cycle is wholly inadequate. We recommend that a more ambitious target be set for a review "every 4 years" as a minimum.<br>3 Priority G3 / R3<br>The Priority Outcome is "New areas of species-rich grassland created (including habitat expansion), linking existing areas of grasslands." The land currently under intense agricultural production, immediately to the west of Old Down Woodland Park, is part of the Manydown Estate jointly owned by HCC and B&DBC. Old Down is |

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| | a designated SINC due to its rich lowland grassland flora and fauna and recognised by Butterfly Conservation as the premium site in Hampshire for the Small Blue butterfly. As part of the LNRS, we highly recommend that these fields are designated as Areas of Potential Importance to Biodiversity (APIB). Basingstoke and Deane's adopted Local Plan shows no intention to develop this land in the current 2016-2029 window. Further, there is an opportunity to identify further land, owned by the two councils, which would connect the Old Down SINC to the planned Countryside Park in North Manydown and create a wildlife corridor allowing flora and fauna to migrate and boost the diversity of the new Park. These fields, west of Basingstoke, used to support nesting Skylarks and Green Plover (Lapwings). Numbers of Skylarks have declined in recent years due to changed farming practices and Lapwings haven't nested in these fields since 2014. Returning the fields to natural grassland would provide an opportunity for their recovery.<br>4 Wildlife Corridors<br>The LNRS makes 44 references to wildlife corridors. In many cases, the suggestion is that an existing canal or river/stream should be viewed as a wildlife corridor. Or that a transit path for humans – cycle lanes or footpaths with hedging – could act as one. However, there is a body of academic research which suggests that, for many species, a much larger and wider corridor is required and that the fauna in the corridor needs to be specific to the species being targeted for migration. For instance, the Basingstoke Canal might make a good corridor for Brown Trout, but unless it is extensively planted with Vetch (of which there is almost none today) it won't<br>act as a corridor for certain butterfly species. For each corridor that is identified, local wildlife expertise (for example the Wildlife Trusts and local conservation groups) should be engaged to help ascertain the size, nature and flora required for the corridor to be effective. |
| **Petersfield Climate Action Network** | I welcome this initiative and I was pleased to contribute to the mapping exercise last year that underpins our LNRS. My main concerns are the ongoing and escalating decline in species and in wild populations - 48% of Hampshire's 50 most 'notable species' are in trouble. With just a few more years to reach national legal targets of halting wildlife decline and protecting 30% of land and sea by 2030, the Hampshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) has an urgent role to play in contribution towards this target. Hampshire's LNRS must now drive tangible action on the ground to ensure that we have a healthy natural environment, now and in the future. I would urge you to strengthen certain aspects of the published Strategy as follows:<br><u>1. Prioritise improvement of existing protected areas that are in poor condition:</u><br>Despite having a high percentage of land and coast designated for its importance for wildlife, *only 44% of our Sites of Special Scientific Importance (SSSIs) are in good condition.* These are the critical nodes in our Nature Recovery Network and should be restored as a priority. This will require investment in qualified staff to make |

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| | assessments and drive recovery measures across many sites in the county. A good proportion of SSSIs are simply neglected and unwisely managed owing to ignorance. More support is needed to land owners of such sites.<br>2. Incorporate climate mitigation and adaptation:<br>The LNRS must include proper consideration of climate change uncertainties and adaptation, taking into account projected changes in habitats and distributions of species. The strategy currently lacks robust measures to combat climate impacts, including the vital need for adaptation to reduce the pressures of sea level rise on the protection and restoration of coastal wetlands. Farmland will have to be sacrificed in marginal areas and people may have to be moved away from these areas.<br>3. Set targets and track progress:<br>The LNRS must be a living strategy, with utility and teeth. *At present, the LNRS fails to set out specific, measurable targets or mechanisms for monitoring progress*. While the strategy mentions a review every 3-10 years, there is no further detail on monitoring or accountability frameworks to ensure the LNRS is effective in delivering for nature. The document could well follow the demise of BAPs which were great in word only, then sat on the shelves of local councils.<br>Proper governance and leadership are needed, with opportunities for the new Mayoral Authority to play a strategic role in implementation across the county.<br>4. Embed LNRS in policy, with mechanisms to ensure flow of funds for nature's recovery:<br>The LNRS must be embedded into decision-making and policy, including those relating to land use, planning and development and economic strategies. Implementation plans must set out the mechanisms to drive investment into nature restoration, including the creation of more regenerative farming clusters across the county.<br>5. Be more ambitious:<br>Devolution offers a powerful opportunity for our region to champion a nature-positive future, guided by the LNRS as a critical roadmap. I sense a lack of ambition here - eg. on rivers and streams the LNRS talks about a 10m 'buffer zone' for river and stream banks throughout the county - how will this be achieved? By compulsory purchase? Why not propose a 100m buffer zone protected for nature? And since the wild release of beavers is now legal, why have these environmental engineers not been mentioned as part of the nature recovery plan?<br>Delivering a strong, evidence-based LNRS offers a valuable and vital chance to shape a stronger, healthier future for our county. Let's grab it with both hands. |

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| **Southampton National park City** | Overall a very ambitious and exciting plan but it is unclear exactly who will carry out all the work/oversee the implementation and how they will go about it. Is it a strategy or is it a wishlist at this point?<br>Maps<br>The maps are difficult to interpret when it comes to the detail of exactly which area is being referred to because the road names and significant landmarks are not marked within them. The exact detail of what might be done with each site is not entirely clear as the accompanying descriptions are quite generalised. This level of detail would be useful to locally active groups such as ourselves looking to implement specific improvements in specific places. If there is an overarching strategy proposed for a specific piece of land then we would tailor our activities in line with that.<br>Riparian Biodiversity and Drainage Systems<br>Options for riparian biodiversity creation are being explored in the Southampton area. Ongoing conversations are taking place regarding the implementation of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) to improve water quality and biodiversity within the estuary. Mudflats are SPA and SCA LNR potential in Southampton - Lordsdale Greenway has LNR potential which is being actively worked towards by ourselves and Southampton City Council.<br>Riverbank creation<br>Bristol's Historic Harbour Comes to Life - Biomatrix would introducing artificial riverbank such as this be a potential measure? We are specifically interested in the potential in Southampton, given much of the Itchen Navigation is industrialised.<br>Community engagement<br>Engaging with communities, especially marginalised ones, requires a likely individualised approach of reaching out to people where they are based, at times that work for them, in areas of particular interest. Marginalised communities, and many community based volunteers, are unlikely to comment on this 305 page document pertaining to an area much wider than the locality of interest to them. Places marked as having potential on the map need to be looked at in terms of the communities who have an interest or stake in them in order to seek their views in an accessible way.<br>Urban Nature Recovery Opportunities (Page 20)<br>Current Assessment<br>Urban greenspace is discussed in general terms, with insufficient ambition for enhancing biodiversity in towns and cities. While greenspace is addressed, strategic ambitions for urban nature initiatives—such as swift boxes, green roofs, urban wetlands, and SuDS—are underplayed. This represents a missed opportunity to |

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| | drive urban nature engagement and make effective use of tools like Local Nature Recovery Networks in cities such as Southampton and Portsmouth.<br>Recommendations<br>● Include urban nature recovery targets and metrics (e.g., swift and bat box deployment, pollinator corridors, green infrastructure)<br>● Table actions such as mapping and prioritising urban biodiversity hotspots, including areas of high opportunity<br>● Recognise urban initiatives as case studies or partners, including community engagement projects and Southampton National Park City |
| **Tadley and Pamber Rural Protection Group** | The LNRS Draft and accompanying maps contain useful information and suggestions. However, the document lacks detail about methods of delivery and action plans with measurable targets and performance monitoring. In short, the LNRS Draft reads like a well-researched but purely aspirational wish list and one without substance when it comes to implementation.<br><br>If the objectives are to be met, what is the empirical measure of success? That question applies both to the concept as a whole, as well as to individual approaches, habitats and sites. Perhaps the equivalent of an Environmental Impact Statement should be included in the final report? One that clearly differentiates between the impacts of climate change, inadequate previous management, and impacts of developments; and provides a measure by which success can be judged. By so doing, recoveries, mitigations of damage, and the benefit of management become more readily plannable and actionable. And any failures would be highlighted making them easier to remedy.<br><br>For the LNRS to achieve anything meaningful, there needs to be a clear and robust legal statement, conforming to Planning Regulations, of what ‘due regard’ means. It would be a shameful waste of hundreds of thousands of pounds of HCC taxpayer money, and millions of pounds nationally, if in implementation terms the reality of ‘due regard’ meant ‘read, ignore and carry on as usual’.<br><br>We would like to understand how the LNRS Strategy will be incorporated into adopted Local Plans and how quickly adoption can actually be achieved through amending Local Policies or SPDs. As an example, in North Hampshire the importance of ‘Enhancement of road and rail verges/embankments’ is recognised. However, how, in practical terms, will that be achieved specifically and via what mechanisms? Continuing with this example, these approaches might include: change of mowing regimes; modifying drainage networks; the use |

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| | of cuttings in composting / digesters (or not, with green-hay-seeding in mind); elimination of the use of herbicides; retaining ownership of hedges and verges when publicly-owned land is sold for development.<br><br>Specific comments on area-by-area plans<br>• The whole Strategy Report would benefit from showing the links, with overlays, for each LPA's spatial strategy against recommendations for improvement.<br>• the final document should not be produced until the output of the Land Use Framework Consultation is given due regard in the report; and until the term 'due regard' has been defined.<br>• Much comment is made in the Strategy report regarding ecological buffer zones for protecting trees, hedgerows and waterways. However, the report does not consider how will these be influenced by changing Planning Policies and SPDs, and how the environmental goals and benefits achieved via buffer zones will be maintained if Government decides to replace Local Policy and SPDs with National guidelines (a stated aim).<br>• Much is written in the report about monetary sources for improvement projects. These sources of funding include: the Water Environment Improvement Fund; Environmental Land Management; Countryside Stewardship Schemes; Landscape Recovery Schemes. However, the ambitions highlighted above in regard in the Strategy are meaningless until those fundings have been secured. Is there a plan for the final report to contain commitments to funding made by those sources?<br>• Land use is key to achieving the aims of this Strategy. Does HCC have a plan to undertake Land Use Forums with each LPA? Such discussions would enable more detailed and locationspecific implementation plans to be agreed, which should include: Solar and Wind electricity generation; Agricultural use; Commercial use; Residential use; Habitat Banking; Leisure and Recreation; Local Nature Recovery; Environmental Buffer Zones and Green Corridors; Stewardship Schemes; Consultation advice regard Access to and Expertise in the sourcing of funding.<br><br>Proposed further APIB/ACB's<br>In north Hampshire, including areas highlighted in yellow on the map below, land use has changed markedly over the last two decades; over the past five decades the change has been even more noticeable. Land use has shifted over time from woodland-based exploitation to farming (including arable, dairy and mixed uses); today, the land is now given over predominantly to hay production with very small quantities of beef / sheep grazing, a tiny dairy sector and, increasingly, commercial speculative development outside Settlement Boundaries. We propose that the areas highlighted in yellow are considered for APIB status to provide ecological connectivity and networks in the wider landscape; gradually returning the landscape to land uses |

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| | that enable nature recovery. Anecdotally, there is clear evidence in the landscape depicted in the map of the potential for nature recovery. In locations where the land is currently used in a manner sympathetic to nature, populations of apex predators are more in evidence than in the past; these include species Buzzard, Barn Owl, Tawny Owl, Fox and Badger. Mammal populations across the board appear to be benefiting with notable species including Hazel Dormice, Harvest Mouse, Brown Hare, Water Shrew and Pygmy Shrews. Hedgerows harbouring wildflower species associated with and indicative of ancient woodland are doing well; species include Common Solomon's-seal, Common Cow-wheat and Wood Anemone. Joining up and linking this fragmented ecological landscape would initiate and accelerate nature recovery across the board. |
| **Alton Climate Action Network** | This response is from Alton Climate Action Network (ACAN) (www.altonclimatenetwork.org.uk ) which has a very active programme of nature recovery and management of green spaces and verges for wildlife through its nature group.<br><br>The context: 48% of Hampshire's 50 most 'notable species' are in trouble. With just a few more years to reach national legal targets of halting wildlife decline and protecting 30% of land and sea by 2030, the Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) has an essential and urgent role to play. Hampshire's LNRS must now drive tangible action on the ground to ensure that we have a healthy natural environment.<br><br>**We strongly support the response of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust.** I am a member personally, and ACAN is involved with HIWWT's Team Wilder. The Wildlife Trust's key asks are:<br><br>**1. Prioritise improvement of existing protected areas that are in poor condition:** Despite having a high percentage of land and coast designated for its importance for wildlife, only 44% of our Sites of Special Scientific Importance (SSSIs) are in good condition. These are the critical nodes in our Nature Recovery Network and should be restored as a priority.<br><br>2. **Incorporate climate mitigation and adaptation:** The LNRS must include proper consideration of climate change uncertainties and adaptation, taking into account projected changes in habitats and distributions of species. The strategy currently lacks robust measures to combat climate impacts, including the vital need for adaptation to reduce the pressures of sea level rise on the protection and restoration of coastal wetlands.<br><br>3. **Set targets and track progress:** The LNRS must be a living strategy, with utility and teeth. At present, the LNRS fails to set out specific, measurable targets or mechanisms for monitoring progress. While the strategy |

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| | mentions a review every 3-10 years, there is no further detail on monitoring or accountability frameworks to ensure the LNRS is effective in delivering for nature. Proper governance and leadership are needed, with opportunities for the new Mayoral Authority to play a strategic role in implementation across the county.<br><br>4. **Embed LNRS in policy, with mechanisms to ensure flow of funds for nature's recovery:** The LNRS must be embedded into decision-making and policy, including those relating to land use, planning and development and economic strategies. Implementation plans must set out the mechanisms to drive investment into nature restoration. This will include statutory requirements, such as BNG, but should also harness emerging private sector nature markets. Devolution offers a powerful opportunity for our region to champion a nature-positive future, guided by the LNRS as a critical roadmap. Delivering a strong, evidence-based LNRS offers a valuable and vital chance to shape a stronger, healthier future for our county.<br><br>We look forward to next steps in the development and execution of nature recovery in Hampshire. |
| **Associated British Ports (ABP)** | I write on behalf of Associated British Ports (ABP) – the owner and operator of the Port of Southampton. We welcome the opportunity to contribute to the Hampshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy consultation. However, having reviewed the information that has been published we have specific queries and concerns regarding the selection of sites identified, in particular those sites identified as 'Areas that could become of particular importance for biodiversity' (ACB).<br>In addition to the operational port estate at Southampton, ABP is the freehold owner of a significant landholding in Hampshire. ABP's estate in the area spans approximately 2,000 acres, including the Eastern and Western Docks, Eling Wharf, Marchwood Industrial Park and the Port's Strategic Land Reserve located between Marchwood and Hythe. ABP also benefits from a long term concession to operate the Solent Gateway facility (formerly known as Marchwood Military Port). ABP notes that certain areas of the land it controls – in particular those areas that are likely to be necessary for the future development of the Solent Gateway facility and the Strategic Land Reserve – are identified as ACB. It is not clear to ABP why it's particular land holdings have been identified as ACB in comparison to other adjacent and nearby areas that appear to be no different in character, which have not been identified. We expand on these matters below.<br>In order for the Hampshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy to be effective, it is essential that it is developed in close collaboration with landowners and land managers. This aligns with DEFRA's statutory guidance on the production of such strategies, which states that responsible authorities should involve those who own and manage the land in shaping and delivering the strategy (Local nature recovery strategy statutory guidance). |

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| | Early and meaningful engagement with these stakeholders will be key to ensuring long-term success and practical delivery on the ground.<br>One key section under “Working with local partners”, within the guidance, states: “Responsible authorities must work together with partners when preparing their strategy... This should involve the people who own and manage the land, and the people who take regulatory decisions, so they can contribute to what action is being proposed, where and why”.<br>We have tried to understand the methodology that has been utilised in identifying the draft ACB areas (which we believe is the subject of Appendix 6 of the draft strategy) and have to say we do not know how such areas (particularly as in the case of ABP owned land where the areas identified are not publicly accessible) can be identified, even in draft, without meaningful engagement with the relevant landowner. As far as ABP is concerned, there has been no substantive or meaningful engagement with it on this issue.<br>If such meaningful engagement with it had taken place, ABP would have been able to make it clear, for example, that a part of the area now identified as a draft ACB site is operational land at Marchwood Military Port (Solent Gateway) which constitutes strategic infrastructure owned by the Crown in support of UK Armed Forces operations. The area benefits from extensive extant planning permissions for port-related development, as approved by the New Forest District Local Plan, and parts of the site are already subject to legal agreements (Section 106) for biodiversity enhancement, and some areas have been developed. Given its operational status and existing commitments, its inclusion in the LNRS appears counter-productive and may conflict with its designated strategic use (Planning Application Number: 21/11156).<br>In addition, land owned by Associated British Ports in the area known locally as Dibden Bay should be removed from the LNRS. Much of the land shown in the LRNS is identified as port operational land and forms part of ABP’s Strategic Land Reserve for future port development. The Strategic Land Reserve is identified in the New Forest District Council Local Plan as the only area where significant expansion of the port of Southampton can take place.<br>It is noted that there are parcels of land adjacent to the A326 that are identified as areas for potential environmental and biodiversity improvement. We are aware that Hampshire County Council is bringing forward proposals to improve the A326 for all users.<br>For the above reasons, which are of necessity a summary only, we consider that a number of the land parcels identified as having potential for biodiversity improvement do not represent such sites. At the very least, further engagement with the relevant landowner and consideration of all relevant information is necessary before such sites are identified as ACBs, even in draft.<br>We welcome the opportunity to discuss the above issues with the County Council at your convenience. |

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| **Resident 40** | I have been completing my online response to the consultation which finishes 11:59pm on 23 June 2025. There are a number of Thoughts and Comments that I would like to make, but because of their more general nature there was no place for them on the online form.<br><br>The Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) is a key policy initiative aimed at reversing the decline of wildlife and natural habitats across Hampshire. It sets out a vision for restoring nature, key priorities and measures enhancing biodiversity, and creating a more resilient natural landscape for generations to come. It is hugely important for our wildlife and their habitats. Hampshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) is vital in helping to safeguard and restore our natural environment in Hampshire. An important step forward to reversing the decline of habitats and nature in Hampshire.<br><br>We need a robust plan of action to help Nature recover locally, and this consultation is the first step to solving many of the problems facing Hampshire's Nature right now. The Challenges are great, but by working together and having a robust plan with checks and balances in place there is a good chance we can save nature in Hampshire. The government has made legally binding commitments to end these declines and to help nature recover. This is important for nature's own sake and for all the things that we rely on nature for, like fresh air, clean water and climate regulation, to food, medicines, and more. For nature to recover, targeted, co-ordinated and collaborative action is required.<br><br>Currently over 48% of Hampshire's 50 most 'notable species' are in decline such as Nightingales, Turtle Doves, Great Crested Newts and Duke of Burgundy Butterflies. 20% of Hampshire's insect and pollinator species are classed as rare, threatened, or declining and 19 of the 46 butterfly species found in Hampshire are declining. To reverse this, we must ensure that the strategy not only sets out ambitious goals, but also includes clear, measurable targets and metrics to track progress. Vague ambitions won't suffice – we need concrete actions and accountability.<br><br>Hampshire is rich in beautiful and rare wildlife, including the Duke of Burgundy butterfly and internationally important populations of Brent geese. Our county is also home to spectacular habitats such as the internationally renowned lowland heath of the New Forest, vital seagrass beds in Portsmouth and chalk rivers such as the Itchen that support an abundance of wildlife including otters, water crowfoot and crayfish. These vital ecosystems - our natural capital – support every aspect of life and work in the county, enabling our communities to flourish. They protect us from floods and droughts, support our health, and underpin the entire |

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| | economy. With less than 5 years to reach national legal targets of halting wildlife decline and protecting 30% of land and sea by 2030, the Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) has an vital and important role.<br><br>Hampshire's LNRS must now drive tangible and urgent action on the ground to ensure that we have a healthy natural environment, now and in the future. The Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS): Hampshire requires robust and specific plans to help build resilience for our natural world, which in turn will protect us from the dangers of extreme weather and water shortages.<br><br>**We need to ensure that the LNRS includes:**<br>· Improvement of existing protected areas that are in poor condition<br>· Climate mitigation and adaptation particularly drought and flooding<br>· Ambitious targets and progress tracking<br>· Mechanisms to ensure flow of funds for nature's recovery<br><br>**The Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS): Hampshire needs to:**<br><br>1. Prioritise improvement of existing protected areas that are in poor condition: Despite having a high percentage of land and coast designated for its importance for wildlife, only 44% of our Sites of Special Scientific Importance (SSSIs) are in good condition. These are the critical nodes in our Nature Recovery Network and should be restored as a priority.<br>2. Incorporate climate mitigation and adaptation: The LNRS must include proper consideration of climate change uncertainties and adaptation, taking into account projected changes in habitats and distributions of species. The strategy currently lacks robust measures to combat climate impacts, including the vital need for adaptation to reduce the pressures of sea level rise on the protection and restoration of coastal wetlands.<br>3. Set targets and track progress: The LNRS must be a living strategy, with utility and teeth. At present, the LNRS fails to set out specific, measurable targets or mechanisms for monitoring progress. While the strategy mentions a review every 3-10 years, there is no further detail on monitoring or accountability frameworks to ensure the LNRS is effective in delivering for nature. Proper governance and leadership are needed, with opportunities for the new Mayoral Authority to play a strategic role in implementation across the county.<br>4. Embed LNRS in policy, with mechanisms to ensure flow of funds for nature's recovery: The LNRS must be embedded into decision-making and policy, including those relating to land use, planning and development |

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| | and economic strategies. Implementation plans must set out the mechanisms to drive investment into nature restoration.<br>5. This will include statutory requirements, such as BNG, but should also harness emerging private sector nature markets. Devolution offers a powerful opportunity for our region to champion a nature-positive future, guided by the LNRS as a critical roadmap.<br><br>Delivering a strong, evidence-based LNRS offers a valuable and vital chance to shape a stronger, healthier future for our county. |
| **Resident 41** | Hampshire is rich in beautiful and rare wildlife, including the Duke of Burgundy butterfly and internationally important populations of Brent geese. Our county is also home to spectacular habitats such as the internationally renowned lowland heath of the New Forest, vital seagrass beds in Portsmouth and chalk rivers such as the Itchen that support an abundance of wildlife including otters, water crowfoot and crayfish.<br>These vital ecosystems - our natural capital – support every aspect of life and work in the county, enabling our communities to flourish. They protect us from floods and droughts, support our health, and underpin the entire economy.<br>However, 48% of Hampshire's 50 most 'notable species' are in trouble. With just a few more years to reach national legal targets of halting wildlife decline and protecting 30% of land and sea by 2030, the Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) has an essential and urgent role to play. Hampshire's LNRS must now drive tangible action on the ground to ensure that we have a healthy natural environment, now and in the future.<br>Key requests:<br>1. **Prioritise improvement of existing protected areas that are in poor condition:** Despite having a high percentage of land and coast designated for its importance for wildlife, only 44% of our Sites of Special Scientific Importance (SSSIs) are in good condition. These are the critical nodes in our Nature Recovery Network and should be restored as a priority.<br>2. **Incorporate climate mitigation and adaptation:** The LNRS must include proper consideration of climate change uncertainties and adaptation, taking into account projected changes in habitats and distributions of species. The strategy currently lacks robust measures to combat climate impacts, including the vital need for adaptation to reduce the pressures of sea level rise on the protection and restoration of coastal wetlands.<br>3. **Set targets and track progress:** The LNRS must be a living strategy, with utility and teeth. At present, the LNRS fails to set out specific, measurable targets or mechanisms for monitoring progress. While the strategy mentions a review every 3-10 years, there is no further detail on monitoring or accountability frameworks to |

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| | ensure the LNRS is effective in delivering for nature. Proper governance and leadership are needed, with opportunities for the new Mayoral Authority to play a strategic role in implementation across the county.<br>4. **Embed LNRS in policy, with mechanisms to ensure flow of funds for nature's recovery:** The LNRS must be embedded into decision-making and policy, including those relating to land use, planning and development and economic strategies. Implementation plans must set out the mechanisms to drive investment into nature restoration. This will include statutory requirements, such as BNG, but should also harness emerging private sector nature markets.<br>Devolution offers a powerful opportunity for our region to champion a nature-positive future, guided by the LNRS as a critical roadmap. Delivering a strong, evidence-based LNRS offers a valuable and vital chance to shape a stronger, healthier future for our county. |
| **East Hampshire District Council** | Firstly, I would like to commend Hampshire County Council (HCC) for producing such a comprehensive and detailed draft Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) covering the whole of the county. East Hampshire District Council (EHDC), as a Supporting Authority (SA), has welcomed the opportunity to be actively involved in the LNRS' creation both on the Steering Group and through the Local Authority working group, as well as helping out at key workshops.<br>The Council, under the Local Nature Recovery Regulations 7, 8 & 11 already previously confirmed that, as one of the SAs, we were content that HCC ran the statutory public consultation on the draft LNRS. It is noted that EHDC's previous comments on the Strategy have been incorporated into the draft used for the consultation which is welcomed. We have the following additional informal comments we would like to make on the Draft Strategy as set out below:<br>• A number of the locations mapped in the LNRS as the best areas to deliver nature's recovery by creating, restoring and enhancing habitats overlap with some of the council's proposed Local Plan allocations. Some of these sites have already been given planning permission. As acknowledged in the draft LNRS, guidance states that the identification of such areas within the LNRS is not meant to dictate how land is used or to be used and the LNRS should not therefore be seen as a constraint to development. It will, however, be important that such opportunities within proposed allocation sites are highlighted at an early stage in the planning process to ensure the best outcomes for nature recovery can be considered. EHDC welcomes this and the Council will work<br>with the Government's Planning Policy Guidance as well as relevant partners/stakeholders and developers to ensure the balance between safeguarding the ability for the LNRS's proposed actions to be delivered along with meeting our required housing numbers is maintained. The mapping associated with the Strategy will be particularly critical in helping with the delivery of Biodiversity Net Gain within the District. |

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| | • The LNRS includes information on some of the different Area Specific Projects and Schemes operating within Hampshire. EHDC is the landowner of two Local Nature Reserves within the District and we have been working with the Western Sussex Rivers Trust to improve the habitats within those nature reserves, through which the western stretch of the River Rother flows. The Western Sussex Rivers Trust seems to be missing from the list of projects/schemes documented: Home · Western Sussex Rivers Trust<br>• Finally, the Council has highlighted any mapping errors or queries that we are currently aware of. Subject to those errors/queries being amended the Council believes the mapping is likely to be as accurate as it can be. EHDC is already part of the Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre (HBIC) partnership and therefore we recognise Hampshire is fortunate to have such good ecological data for the county on which the LNRS can be based albeit it can never be completely definitive. |
| **Resident 42** | I attended the CLA webinar last week regarding the LNRS consultation and as per [redacted] comment about identifying unsuitable locations I wanted to provide feedback but I couldn't see anywhere in the response forms to do this effectively.<br><br>I just wanted to feedback about a few areas which are identified as ACBs, but that are already developed. I thought it would be easier to mark this up on a map with some commentary. The sites are all at the far north of the county in Mortimer West End, closet post code RG7 3UA. The yellow line is public highway (Welshmans Rd), which I assume has been included in error.<br><br>Ther Orange line is Ramptons Lane, which is also a public highway. The outlined site with the single red dot is our Forestry Yard (with barns etc.) and a residential property, this is developed land, with buildings and infrastructure.<br>The outlined site with 2 red dots is an electricity substation. The outlined site with 3 red dots is a developed site with buildings and infrastructure. Please excuse my child-like marking up of the map, but I hope this is clear enough. |
| **Hampshire Bet Group** | I'm delighted to see 8 bat species in the LNRS document and it is sensible to group them in the two Priority species assemblages. There is very little that I can add that I didn't mention on my email of 14/1/25. I would recommend including the alcathoe bat in the woodland assemblage. I still have some reservations about the inclusion of the Leisler's and lesser horseshoe bats, but appreciate that these are being recommended on a national scale. I note that you mention mandatory inclusion of swift boxes in new developments. Surely much the same could be said about inclusion of integral bat bricks and similar roost provision. |

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| | For your general information, we are in the middle of an extensive research project on the greater horseshoe bats in the Avon Valley, in conjunction with the NFDC and the Avon Valley Farmer Cluster. A record number of GHS bats were at the Moyles Court roost in April and radio tracking allowed us to follow some well into Dorset. We are also working on a bat project with the Selborne landscape partnership. In addition we are leading an assessment of the status of barbastelle bats in the Mottisfont SAC, in conjunction with the Bat Conservation Trust and NE. |
| **Hart District Council** | Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Draft Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) for Hampshire.<br>Hart District Council (HDC) has been a member of the Local Planning Authority Working Group and has worked proactively with Hampshire County Council (HCC). We have had discussions around a number of principles of the LNRS and appreciate the balance that has been achieved. That said, detailed below are our remaining<br>concerns.<br>• We have concerns regarding the length, focus, and usability of the Strategy, particularly as there is a risk this will impact on levels of public engagement with the LNRS.<br>• We are aware that there were limitations on the extent of the opportunity areas and measures mapping that HCC had to adhere to, but it is still regarded as a generic limitation on the extent of potential nature recovery in<br>Hampshire when, by not being included or by having some measures watered down (such as riverine buffers), areas that are no less deserving of focus are arbitrarily discounted.<br>• There are a number of minor mapping errors as a result of the large-scale mapping exercise, and we accept that these can be addressed in a future review. There are areas that have been plotted over roads and properties in a number of cases e.g. York Lane, Dilly Lane and the A30. Given the “maximum” area HCC were told they had to adhere to, correcting these mapping errors may allow for further inclusions (such as those suggested below) in the future.<br>• We have concerns relating to the lack of inclusion of some Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs) in the LNRS. SINCs “in management” have not been included and therefore the LNRS contains no context as to the level or quality of their management, or indeed whether they could be improved through better management. Aside from nationally designated sites, SINCs are the most biodiverse areas in Hampshire and unlike nationally designated sites, SINCs could still benefit from key focus areas of the LNRS such as Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG). It seems a missed opportunity not to highlight the existing sites with biodiversity worth conserving and improving where possible. |

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| | • We would like to see Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspaces (SANGs) given higher priority in the LNRS; despite not being nature conservation designations, SANGs are crucial sites both for biodiversity protection as mitigation sites, but also as sites managed for their semi-natural feel and biodiversity. SANGs are one of the few areas Councils may have control over and that are secured for a long period of time |
| **Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust** | Hampshire is rich in beautiful and rare wildlife, including the Duke of Burgundy butterfly and internationally important populations of Brent geese. Our county is also home to spectacular habitats such as the internationally renowned lowland heath of the New Forest, vital seagrass beds in Portsmouth and chalk rivers such as the Itchen that support an abundance of wildlife including otters, water crowfoot and crayfish. These vital ecosystems - our natural capital – support every aspect of life and work in the county, enabling our communities to flourish. They protect us from floods and droughts, support our health, and underpin the entire economy. However, 48% of Hampshire's 50 most 'notable species' are in trouble. With just a few more years to reach national legal targets of halting wildlife decline and protecting 30% of land and sea by 2030, the Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) has an essential and urgent role to play. Hampshire's LNRS must now drive<br>tangible action on the ground to ensure that we have a healthy natural environment, now and in the future. Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust have contributed to the development of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy – both as members of the steering group and through participation in a number of workshops. We recognise and applaud the huge effort that has gone into the creation of this strategy and the wealth of data and evidence that has been brought together. We are pleased to see the identification of priority outcomes and potential measures for key habitats across the county and we are not including detailed comments on these in this response. The focus of our feedback - in line with the principles we published early in the development of the strategy – is on the lack of specific targets, mechanisms for delivery and accountability frameworks. Whilst we acknowledge the specific guidance set out by the Government, we would like to see Hampshire's LNRS go beyond the minimum requirements, towards creating a robust and ambitious roadmap for nature's recovery.<br><br>Key asks:<br>Prioritise improvement of existing protected areas that are in poor condition: Despite having a high percentage of land and coast designated for its importance for wildlife, less than half of our Sites of Special Scientific Importance (SSSIs) are in good condition. As discussed within the LNRS (pg. 20), the designation of areas does not guarantee that they are well managed for nature or that nature is recovering. For example, only 10% of river SSSIs and associated wetland habitats are in favourable condition. These are the critical nodes in our |

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| | Nature Recovery Network and should be restored as a priority. The Environmental Improvement Plan identifies the restoration of SSSIs to a favourable condition as a key interim target for nature's recovery. By 2028 actions must be on-track to achieve favourable condition on 50% of SSSI features by 2028. To achieve this, the LNRS must prioritise the improvement of SSSIs in poor condition across the county – setting out ambitious targets, delivery mechanisms and accountability measures to achieve this.<br>Incorporate climate mitigation and adaptation:<br>Natures recovery is vital for tackling climate change, research suggests that nature-based solutions such as rewilding and restoring damaged ecosystems, can provide over one-third of the cost-effective climate mitigation needed by 2030 under the Paris Agreement. The LNRS must include proper consideration of climate change uncertainties and adaptation, taking into account projected changes in habitats and distributions of species. The strategy currently lacks robust measures to combat or mitigate climate impacts, including the vital need for adaptation to reduce the pressures of sea level rise on the protection and restoration of coastal wetlands.<br>Set targets and track progress:<br>The LNRS must be a living strategy, with utility and teeth. At present, the LNRS fails to set out specific, measurable targets or mechanisms for monitoring progress. While the strategy mentions a review every 3-10 years, there is no further detail on monitoring or accountability frameworks to ensure the LNRS is effective in delivering for nature. To be effective, the LNRS must provide further detail on how monitoring will be conducted, who will be responsible and what indicators will be used to measure success. In addition, a clear mechanism for course correction should prepared to address the risk of stalled progress. Proper governance and leadership are essential. The creation of a combined Mayoral Authority with responsibility for the natural environment, provides a timely opportunity to embed nature recovery targets to underpin effective spatial and economic planning. To harness the opportunity of devolution, the LNRS must set ambitious targets, clear delivery plans and mechanisms for accountability, which can be adopted by the combined Mayoral Authority to drive progress.<br>Embed LNRS in policy, with mechanisms to ensure flow of funds for nature's recovery:<br>The LNRS must be embedded into decision-making and policy, including those relating to land use, planning and development and economic strategies. Implementation plans must set out the mechanisms to drive investment into nature restoration. This will include statutory requirements, such as BNG, but should also harness emerging private sector nature markets. |

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| | Devolution offers a powerful opportunity for our region to champion a nature-positive future. We look forward to continuing to work with the Responsible Authority and other partners to ensure that the LNRS plays a pivotal role in driving nature's recovery in the coming years – helping to create a stronger, healthier future for our county. We hope that you will find our comments helpful and, if you have any questions or wish to discuss these matters further, please do not hesitate to contact us. |
| **Resident 43** | Hampshire is rich in beautiful and rare wildlife, including the Duke of Burgundy butterfly and internationally important populations of Brent geese. Our county is also home to spectacular habitats such as the internationally renowned lowland heath of the New Forest, vital seagrass beds in Portsmouth and chalk rivers such as the Itchen that support an abundance of wildlife including otters, water crowfoot and crayfish. These vital ecosystems - our natural capital – support every aspect of life and work in the county, enabling our communities to flourish. They protect us from floods and droughts, support our health, and underpin the entire economy. However, 48% of Hampshire's 50 most 'notable species' are in trouble. With just a few more years to<br>reach national legal targets of halting wildlife decline and protecting 30% of land and sea by 2030, the Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) has an essential and urgent role to play. Hampshire's LNRS must now drive tangible action on the ground to ensure that we have a healthy natural environment, now and in the future.<br><br>Key asks:<br>1. Prioritise improvement of existing protected areas that are in poor condition: Despite having a high percentage of land and coast designated for its importance for wildlife, only 44% of our Sites of Special Scientific Importance (SSSIs) are in good condition. These are the critical nodes in our Nature Recovery Network and should be restored as a priority.<br>2. Incorporate climate mitigation and adaptation: The LNRS must include proper consideration of climate change uncertainties and adaptation, taking into account projected changes in habitats and distributions of species. The strategy currently lacks robust measures to combat climate impacts, including the vital need for adaptation to reduce the pressures of sea level rise on the protection and restoration of coastal wetlands.<br>3. Set targets and track progress: The LNRS must be a living strategy, with utility and teeth. At present, the LNRS fails to set out specific, measurable targets or mechanisms for monitoring progress. While the strategy mentions a review every 3-10 years, there is no further detail on monitoring or accountability frameworks to ensure the LNRS is effective in delivering for nature. Proper governance and leadership are needed, with opportunities for the new Mayoral Authority to play a strategic role in implementation across the county. |

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| | 4. Embed LNRS in policy, with mechanisms to ensure flow of funds for nature's recovery: The LNRS must be embedded into decision-making and policy, including those relating to land use, planning and development and economic strategies. Implementation plans must set out the mechanisms to drive investment into nature restoration. This will include statutory requirements, such as BNG, but should also harness emerging private sector nature markets.<br><br>Devolution offers a powerful opportunity for our region to champion a nature-positive future, guided by the LNRS as a critical roadmap. Delivering a strong, evidence-based LNRS offers a valuable and vital chance to shape a stronger, healthier future for our county. |
| **Resident 44** | Hampshire is rich in beautiful and rare wildlife, including the Duke of Burgundy butterfly and internationally important populations of Brent geese. Our county is also home to spectacular habitats such as the internationally renowned lowland heath of the New Forest, vital seagrass beds in Portsmouth and chalk rivers such as the Itchen that support an abundance of wildlife including otters, water crowfoot and crayfish. These vital ecosystems - our natural capital – support every aspect of life and work in the county, enabling our communities to flourish. They protect us from floods and droughts, support our health, and underpin the entire economy. However, 48% of Hampshire's 50 most 'notable species' are in trouble. With just a few more years to reach national legal targets of halting wildlife decline and protecting 30% of land and sea by 2030, the Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) has an essential and urgent role to play. Hampshire's LNRS must now drive tangible action on the ground to ensure that we have a healthy natural environment, now and in the future.<br><br>Key asks:<br>1. Prioritise improvement of existing protected areas that are in poor condition: Despite having a high percentage of land and coast designated for its importance for wildlife, only 44% of our Sites of Special Scientific Importance (SSSIs) are in good condition. These are the critical nodes in our Nature Recovery Network and should be restored as a priority.<br>2. Incorporate climate mitigation and adaptation: The LNRS must include proper consideration of climate change uncertainties and adaptation, taking into account projected changes in habitats and distributions of species. The strategy currently lacks robust measures to combat climate impacts, including the vital need for adaptation to reduce the pressures of sea level rise on the protection and restoration of coastal wetlands.<br>3. Set targets and track progress: The LNRS must be a living strategy, with utility and teeth. At present, the LNRS fails to set out specific, measurable targets or mechanisms for monitoring progress. While the strategy |

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| | mentions a review every 3-10 years, there is no further detail on monitoring or accountability frameworks to ensure the LNRS is effective in delivering for nature. Proper governance and leadership are needed, with opportunities for the new Mayoral Authority to play a strategic role in implementation across the county.<br>4. Embed LNRS in policy, with mechanisms to ensure flow of funds for nature's recovery: The LNRS must be embedded into decision-making and policy, including those relating to land use, planning and development and economic strategies. Implementation plans must set out the mechanisms to drive investment into nature restoration. This will include statutory requirements, such as BNG, but should also harness emerging private sector nature markets.<br><br>Devolution offers a powerful opportunity for our region to champion a nature-positive future, guided by the LNRS as a critical roadmap. Delivering a strong, evidence-based LNRS offers a valuable and vital chance to shape a stronger, healthier future for our county. |
| **Langstone Harbour Board** | We are broadly supportive of the LNRS's overarching aims to reverse biodiversity loss and to foster a more resilient and connected ecological network across Hampshire. The strategy's emphasis on local engagement, habitat mapping, and prioritisation of nature recovery actions aligns well with our objectives for sustainable harbour management. Langstone Harbour is recognised nationally and internationally for its environmental significance – it is one of the most important wetland habitats on the South Coast for breeding seabirds and supports a substantial population of overwintering waders and wildfowl. As the statutory authority, we have a duty to manage activity in the harbour in a responsible manner, in line with conservation objectives. We are pleased to see Langstone Harbour identified within the Local Habitat Map and referenced in the strategy's coastal and estuarine habitat priorities. We would welcome closer alignment between the LNRS and the South Marine Plan, as well as the Solent Seascape Project, to ensure that terrestrial and marine nature recovery efforts are effectively coordinated. This is particularly important for intertidal and transitional habitats, which Hampshire has an extensive portfolio of.<br><br>Local Habitat Map<br>We would like to highlight some inaccuracies within the spatial mapping. Specifically, under the "Irreplaceable Habitat" category, Coastal Sand Dunes are incorrectly mapped on three of the RSPB islands, where this habitat type is not present. Additionally, the map omits a layer for Coastal Vegetated Shingle – an Annex I habitat, and a qualifying feature for the Solent Maritime Special Area of Conservation, although it is included in Figure 2.5.3. Several areas identified as coastal sand dunes are, in fact, coastal vegetated shingle or coastal saltmarsh. Langstone Harbour contains important sections of coastal vegetated shingle that support breeding |

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| | populations of Ringed Plover and Oystercatcher, both of which are vulnerable to recreational disturbance during nesting season.<br><br>South Hampshire Lowlands South Coast Plain<br>The “Notable Species” section does not specify which species are included under the term ‘breeding seabird colonies’. Langstone Harbour hosts the Solent’s largest breeding seabird colony, and we recommend including a comprehensive list of species to support effective planning for recovery actions. Furthermore, the text does not reference overwintering and migratory waders and wildfowl, despite the fact that over 125,000 migratory birds use the Solent during the winter months. These species are under increased pressure and will require targeted intervention and active management to ensure their continued viability. There are many pressures facing Langstone Harbour and the wider Hampshire coast, and these are comprehensively assessed in the Draft LNRS. Of significance to Langstone Harbour is the coastal squeeze. With Portsmouth city on the harbour’s western bank, there is limited scope for realignment to allow the natural succession of fringe habitats such as saltmarsh. The LNRS currently does not mention the creation, enhancement, or restoration of saltmarsh habitats. These actions have been successfully implemented elsewhere in the Solent and have demonstrated benefits for breeding seabirds, as well as waders and winter assemblages that many of Hampshire’s designated sites are important for.<br><br>In Langstone Harbour, the only viable option for stabilising saltmarsh habitats in the harbour, particularly the RSPB islands, is through the Beneficial use of Dredged Sediment (BuDS), following the successes at Lymington, Itchenor, and on the Medina estuary. We strongly recommend that the LNRS reflect BuDS as a potential tool for managing the degradation of vital coastal habitats. We note that the opportunities for nature recovery along the South Coast plain do not currently include any mention of habitat restoration, despite the clear potential for such initiatives. We encourage the inclusion of coastal habitat restoration opportunities to ensure a comprehensive and forward-looking strategy. In comparison the Isle of Wight LNRS, there is a lack of focus and opportunity with regard to our coasts and estuaries, specifically the intertidal region. Many of Hampshire’s most important habitats are found in intertidal spaces e.g. saltmarsh and seagrass beds. We feel that it is a missed opportunity for these not to be included in the LNRS, especially given prior investment and community engagement with seascape restoration.<br><br>Conclusion |

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| | Langstone Harbour is a vital ecological and community asset. We support the Hampshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy, in principle. We look forward to continued collaboration to ensure that the Strategy supports the long-term health and sustainability of Langstone Harbour. It is of note that the Langstone Harbour Management Plan is undergoing review. We are keen for the Plan to act as a supplementary document to the LNRS, effectively discharging the conservation management objectives outlined in the LNRS. |
| **Resident 45** | As you know, Hampshire is rich in beautiful and rare wildlife, including the Duke of Burgundy butterfly and internationally important populations of Brent geese. Our county is also home to spectacular habitats such as the internationally renowned lowland heath of the New Forest, vital seagrass beds in Portsmouth and chalk rivers such as the Itchen that support an abundance of wildlife including otters, water crowfoot and crayfish. These vital ecosystems - our natural capital – support every aspect of life and work in the county, enabling our communities to flourish. They protect us from floods and droughts, support our health, and underpin the entire economy. However, 48% of Hampshire's 50 most 'notable species' are in trouble. With just a few more years to reach national legal targets of halting wildlife decline and protecting 30% of land and sea by 2030, the Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) has an essential and urgent role to play. Hampshire's LNRS must now drive tangible action on the ground to ensure that we have a healthy natural environment, now and in the future.<br><br>Key asks:<br><br>1. Prioritise improvement of existing protected areas that are in poor condition: Despite having a high percentage of land and coast designated for its importance for wildlife, only 44% of our Sites of Special Scientific Importance (SSSIs) are in good condition. These are the critical nodes in our Nature Recovery Network and should be restored as a priority.<br>2. Incorporate climate mitigation and adaptation: The LNRS must include proper consideration of climate change uncertainties and adaptation, taking into account projected changes in habitats and distributions of species. The strategy currently lacks robust measures to combat climate impacts, including the vital need for adaptation to reduce the pressures of sea level rise on the protection and restoration of coastal wetlands.<br>3. Set targets and track progress: The LNRS must be a living strategy, with utility and teeth. At present, the LNRS fails to set out specific, measurable targets or mechanisms for monitoring progress. While the strategy mentions a review every 3-10 years, there is no further detail on monitoring or accountability frameworks to ensure the LNRS is effective in delivering for nature. Proper governance and leadership are needed, with opportunities for the new Mayoral Authority to play a strategic role in implementation across the county. |

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| | 4. Embed LNRS in policy, with mechanisms to ensure flow of funds for nature's recovery: The LNRS must be embedded into decision-making and policy, including those relating to land use, planning and development and economic strategies. Implementation plans must set out the mechanisms to drive investment into nature restoration. This will include statutory requirements, such as BNG, but should also harness emerging private sector nature markets.<br><br>Devolution offers a powerful opportunity for our region to champion a nature-positive future, guided by the LNRS as a critical roadmap. Delivering a strong, evidence-based LNRS offers a valuable and vital chance to shape a stronger, healthier future for our county. |
| **New Forest Association** | The Association recognises the potential importance of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy in the future funding of environmental initiatives in the New Forest. We were therefore active participants in the public meetings relating to this Strategy. At the public meetings we contributed our understanding of the strategic issues relating to the maintenance and recovery of nature in the New Forest. This understanding is drawn from many studies commissioned by the Association and others, all of which are in the public domain. In turn, the studies of the Association have informed the recent strategic review of wildlife priorities chaired by Mike Clarke which then fed into the National Park's New Nature Challenge which was incorporated into the relevant sections of the National Park Management Plan.<br><br>The New Forest supports one of the largest and most diverse wildlife-rich landscapes in the lowlands of North-West Europe. The scale and dynamism of the Forest's ecosystems means that nature rapidly reasserts itself whenever opportunities are presented and therefore represents one of the best value landscapes in England to receive investment for nature recovery. The main driver of these dynamic ecosystems is herbivory by large mammals (along with associated prescribed fires and ground disturbance), fundamental to which is the health of the Forest's commoning economy.<br><br>The challenges are therefore to maintain what we have and to reconnect the Forest with the wider landscape. The consensus of those working on the New Nature Challenge was to focus on landuse change to reverse historical encroachments (and respond to coastal realignments), on targeted support for the Forest's pastural economy along with the effective management of recreational demands. The draft Strategy recognises some of these challenges but does not articulate the best available evidence which helps define these issues. We are therefore disappointed that the draft Strategy does not address these challenges when identifying opportunities for nature recovery. Our criticism is twofold. The opportunities presented for nature recovery in |

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| | the New Forest are generic actions more suited to typical lowland landscapes depleted of nature. They do not address the strategic needs and opportunities of the Forest. Worryingly, some of the proposed opportunities represent acts of attrition to the conservation of the Forest as they encroach upon the enclosed landscapes upon which the commoning economy is dependant. The emphasis on reinforcing field boundaries also runs contrary to reversing historical acts of enclosure which have diminished and fragmented the habitats for which the Forest has international importance. Secondly, the draft Strategy summarises a raft of current projects without seeking to identify strategic themes or assess the compatibility of individual and collective projects with the Forest's strategic<br>needs. The risk is that funds will be redirected into projects which have no strategic relevance and may undermine the ecological drivers upon which the Forest's ecosystems depend.<br><br>There is a substantial threat to the conservation of the Forest's wildlife if central government redirect resources to align to the Local Nature Recovery Strategy as currently drafted. Current investment is reasonably well aligned to the New Nature Challenge and the New Forest SAC Management Plan which are informing bids for agrienvironment schemes to replace the existing Higher Level Stewardship schemes. In its current draft, the Local Nature Recovery Strategy is not supportive of the initiatives of those whose work currently supports the Forest's wildlife.<br><br>We therefore request that the County Council revisit the draft Strategy and in response to the consultation, take the opportunity to recast the priorities and opportunities so they align with the New Nature Challenge, the National Park Management Plan and the New Forest SAC Management Plan. |
| **Hampshire County Council (Public Health)** | Inequalities (Throughout the document but relates to comments on 1.17–1.20, 1.27, and Section 4 Maps)<br>The document references the importance of "pinpointing" areas within the local community to prioritise for nature recovery. However, this approach risks favouring communities that already have the time, resources, and capacity to engage with such initiatives. There is little clarity on how these priority areas will be identified, and no explicit recognition of the need to ensure equal focus on communities with more limited access to green space or those experiencing significant health inequalities. In areas where residents face socioeconomic challenges, individuals may lack the time, financial means, or organisational capacity to participate in nature recovery efforts. Without targeted support, these communities may be left further behind. The strategy would benefit from a clearer commitment to equity, ensuring that nature recovery actively addresses disparities in access to green space and supports those most affected by green space, environmental and health impacts and inequalities. |

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| | Recreational Impacts<br>While the document thoroughly outlines the negative impacts of recreational activities on wildlife, it does not equally emphasise the positive health outcomes associated with access to nature. This imbalance risks portraying human interaction with nature as primarily harmful, rather than recognising the potential for co-benefits. Access to natural spaces has been consistently linked to improved physical and mental health. Activities such as walking, wheeling, cycling, and spending time in green environments can reduce stress, enhance mood, and promote physical activity. Through design approach the strategy could map a more balanced approach that would acknowledge these benefits and explore how responsible recreation can be integrated into conservation strategies. This would help frame nature recovery not only as an ecological imperative but also as a public health opportunity.<br><br>Health and Wellbeing<br>The document briefly mentions that nature supports health and well-being, but this point could be significantly strengthened with more specific evidence. Numerous studies have demonstrated that access to green space is associated with:<br>• Reduced levels of stress and anxiety<br>• Improved mood and cognitive function<br>• Increased physical activity and reduced obesity rates<br>• Lower incidence of cardiovascular disease<br>• Enhanced social cohesion and community resilience<br>Incorporating such evidence would reinforce the argument that nature recovery is not only about biodiversity but also about creating healthier, more resilient communities. In light of the challenges faced by Hampshire this would demonstrate a strategy that seek to combine approaches to addressing this. This is particularly important in urban and deprived areas, where green space may be more limited and health outcomes are often poorer.<br><br>Climate Change<br>The document identifies climate change as a threat to biodiversity, but it does not fully explore its direct and indirect impacts on human health. A more comprehensive approach would include:<br>• The increased risk of heat-related illnesses due to rising temperatures<br>• The spread of vector-borne diseases such as Lyme disease and West Nile virus |

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| | • Respiratory issues linked to air pollution and pollen<br>• Food and water insecurity resulting from extreme weather events and ecosystem disruption<br>By highlighting these connections, the strategy could present a more integrated narrative—one that links climate resilience, biodiversity, and public health. This would help build broader support for nature recovery by demonstrating its relevance to everyday human well-being.<br><br>Document Specific Comments.<br>1.17-1.20 not an error but feels like a key omission this LNRS should mention 'seeking to address inequalities in access to nature, as one of its aims. Inequalities in greenspace and nature access in Hampshire are widely recognised and were highlighted in PUSH work back in 2017 and this has not improved since (picked up in the JSNA). There is a danger that if not considered as an aim, then the strategy and measures may inadvertently exacerbate inequalities (see Map section comment below). Joining up nature recovery and health priorities – Natural England. Within section 'what does this LRNS aim to achieve' 1.17 onwards. It should say something a<br>little more about building resilience to climate change. Perhaps that should be included in relation to things like nature-based solutions to flood prevention and extreme heat? It does mention carbon capture but worth thinking more broadly here about adapting to future changes because of climate change.<br>1.22 - could mention health benefits and nature connection for wellbeing<br>1.23 - missing green and blue space benefits for health and wellbeing, addressing inequalities and improving accessibility<br>1.24 - Should include green social prescribing opportunities for health and wellbeing<br>1.26 – Should specifically mention communities and not just others<br>1.27 and section 4 Maps – Should consider inequalities and access to green space, the mapping for this in JSNA should be included. If the strategy seeks to identify and add to existing habitat areas it could become a tool that prioritises those areas and inadvertently increases inequalities in other areas for access to nature and green space. Suggest adding JSNA Green Space Map Layer as a consideration for prioritisation/action.<br>2.1-2.2 – This summary doesn't mention the picture in more urban natural environments and reads as more of a focus on specific nature designations and rural areas. There is plenty of research now on the need for urban nature recovery and it feels missing from this Hampshire summary. See work in Bristol WENP<br>2.23 - The document mentions the pollution on the health of rivers, which can affect water quality but doesn't emphasise that poor water quality can lead to health issues for communities living near these water sources – suggest adding impacts on human health. |

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| | 2.61 - could include health needs of population<br>2.86 – This point feels like an unclear definition and omission as it doesn't mention accessibility. This meaning has evolved greatly since the publication of the 2010 referenced document and in a much more broader context it is defined within this DEFRA 2024 Access to green space in England - GOV.UK among others. Suggest a broader assessment of what accessibility and inclusion covers. It doesn't appear to be covered elsewhere in the document.<br>2.88 - Some caution suggested with this data set. While green space access data often includes proximity measurements, these measures alone will not fully capture the complexities of access. Proximity data, like the presence of green spaces within a certain distance, is a basic indicator, but it doesn't account for other factors like green space quality, accessibility, or the actual utilisation of those spaces. In addition to those who don't have green space within 15min proximity of their homes, the document should also be making reference to how accessible the green space is for those with additional needs?<br>2.92 – Ideally should include access reference to this PHE document in addition to the green flag guidance. Improving access to greenspace: 2020 review<br>2.98 This section is missing - lack of walking, wheeling and cycling infrastructure, accessible entries and exits and peoples feeling of safety and security in greenspace. The mention of 'elderly people' is an outdated term and needs changing to 'older people and those with additional needs'<br>2.100 – The mention of women, girls and vulnerable people should be included in addition to younger people. Latest research demonstrates that spaces often fail to cater for safe access for these groups.<br>Conclusion<br>To be truly effective and equitable, the strategy must go beyond broad commitments and clearly articulate how nature recovery will address the intersecting challenges of inequality, public health, and climate resilience. While the document outlines important ecological goals, it currently underrepresents the social dimensions of nature recovery—particularly the needs of communities with limited access to green space and those facing health disparities. A more inclusive approach would ensure that nature recovery efforts are not only environmentally sound but also socially just. This means actively prioritising underserved areas, recognising the health co-benefits of access to nature, and integrating public health outcomes into conservation planning. Furthermore, a deeper exploration of the health impacts of climate change would strengthen the case for urgent, coordinated action. By embedding these considerations more fully into the strategy, the document can present a compelling, holistic vision—one that positions nature recovery as a vital tool for improving both ecological and human well-being, and for building healthier, more resilient communities for the future. |

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| **Rushmoor Borough Council** | Thank you for inviting us to comment on the draft Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) for Hampshire. As active members of the Local Planning Authority Working Group, we welcome the opportunity to review the draft LNRS and provide our feedback.<br>This follows our recent response to the pre-consultation with Supporting Authorities. As part of discussions on the pre-consultation draft, we made officers at Hampshire County Council (HCC) aware of some concerns we have about the draft LNRS and asked for clarification on some of the issues raised. We have received reassurance that these matters will be addressed as the final LNRS is prepared. We welcome the continuing engagement with HCC officers. However, we have reiterated the some of the issues raised in our formal pre-consultation response below, pending the successful outcome of these discussions. We have concerns regarding length, focus and usability of the Strategy, particularly as there is a risk this will impact on levels of public engagement with the LNRS. We would welcome the opportunity to further engage on this as part of the Local Planning Authority Working Group as you prepare the final LNRS. Our most significant concern is how Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs) have been addressed in the LNRS. We have consistently raised our concerns about the exclusion of urban SINCs, as have other urban authorities across the area. We agree that it is acceptable to exclude some SINCs, where it is unlikely that changes to site management are feasible or desirable, such as cemeteries. However, we are concerned about the exclusion of the following SINCs within our area:<br>• Claycart Hill Open Space (ref RU0010)<br>• Claycart Hill Flash (ref RU0038)<br>• Chalk Farm Lake (ref RU0032)<br>• Ramillies Park / North Camp Lakes (ref RU0035)<br>• Brickfields Park (ref RU0022)<br>• Rushmoor Arena (ref RU0039)<br>These SINCs would benefit from more appropriate management as may be secured through an LNRS and should be included. We have asked in writing for these to be included previously and see no clear reason why these remain excluded. We welcome the reassurance already received from officers that these matters will be addressed and would welcome further engagement to enable our approval at the next stage. We are happy to assist with the preparation of the final LNRS. |
| **Resident 46** | [redacted] is a large and diverse rural estate within the Hampshire Downs NCA. It is an active member of the Candover Valley Farm Cluster and the Upper Itchen Initiative. [redacted] has several natural capital projects addressing nutrient neutrality and biodiversity net gain in addition to areas under Stewardship and woodland management. [redacted] is well placed to help deliver further environmental improvements |

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| | following the Lawton principles of Bigger, Better and More Connected. [redacted] would welcome the opportunity of a detailed discussion and investigation of the identified opportunities in the ACB map. As such the LNRS is welcomed. [redacted] would make the following observations and comments in respect of the May 2025 draft.<br><br>Position of Landowners<br>Almost all of the desirable outcomes of the strategy rely upon landowners and managers to engage in a positive manner yet in our experience we have not been able to detect much real enthusiasm for cooperation from other parties. The whole environment sphere is acknowledged to be complex and the LNRS is recognised as helping to set out the many different existing and possible interventions and roles. It is felt however that there is a need for the local planning authorities and statutory bodies to have a strong 'duty to cooperate' with landowners, and<br>particularly those offering private provision of Nutrient Neutrality and BNG projects. [redacted] has been frustrated by the different approaches adopted by local planning authorities and some consultees and the resulting delays.<br>Chalk Streams<br>The Candover Brook is an important feature within [redacted]. [redacted] is custodian of most of the non-ephemeral course of the river and has supported numerous measures to seek its protection and improvement. The area hosts noted priority species including the Southern Damselfly and theWhite Clawed Crayfish. The identification of priority outcomes for Chalk Streams is therefore welcomed and [redacted] believes the LNRS should investigate further their designation as local wildlife sites. At all times however, the vulnerability of the Chalks Streams habitat to any increase in access needs to be taken into account. [redacted] believes there is scope for water quality improvements by taking the Grange Park lakes offline and [redacted] working with the Environment Agency and Southern Water in this regard. Clearer mapping of the chalk streams including winterbournes would be welcome. |
| **NFU** | A LNRS could influence a farm planning application and access to environmental funding. Due to this and the vital role that farmers play in delivering for nature, the NFU 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.<br>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. It is up to the individual farmer or landowner how or if they engage. The NFU has worked with the Hampshire Nature Recovery team to give |

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| | farmers the opportunity to feed into the process and promoted the public consultation, including a webinar on the consultation presented by the LNRS team. We do however feel that more farmer engagement would have been possible with further guidance regarding the planning implications of mapping and future delivery of the scheme.<br><br>Key consideration for Local Nature Recovery Strategies:<br>It is vital that Hampshire County Council as RA and the 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.<br><br>The NFU has identified the following key considerations for Responsible Authorities developing the LNRS:<br>Thorough farmer engagement and consultation. The Responsible Authority must engage and consult farmers thoroughly. It is important this is from the early stages to ensure that the strategy reflects what is happening on the ground and what farm businesses wants to achieve. Defra has created Responsible Authority guidance on engaging with landowners and farmers with input from the NFU. It provides useful information on how best to engage with the agricultural sector including when, how and the key messaging to use. It is important that the Responsible Authority is transparent with farmers about the links with planning and funding which could impact their business. Responsible Authorities must recognise the value of farmers time in engaging with the LNRS development.<br>• 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, with consent this should be recognised in the LNRS.<br>• Use sound scientific data. Data used to inform the LNRS must be from sound scientific sources. Data about agri-environment schemes such as Countryside Stewardship is available on Magic Maps and could be used in the LNRS if agreed by the landowner/farmer. Farm level data should be considered where relevant. It is important ground truth data is used.<br>• 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 |

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| | of this. Identifying Best and Most Versatile 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.<br>• 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.<br>• Consider impact on farm developments. Farms need to diversity, 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.<br>• 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.<br>• 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.<br>• 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. |
| **Eastleigh Borough Council** | • Provide clarity in the detailed maps included in the document. Can the detailed maps be moved from the document to the website – the countywide map is too small to see much detail and the maps are easier to navigate and understand when you can zoom in and click on areas (perhaps only keep the overview maps showing all the Measures and ACB).<br>• Improve the contents page to make document navigation easier– include more detail e.g. Section 3 – list all the separate habitats for the biodiversity priorities chalk streams, wetlands etc.<br>• Add a new section that explains how the LNRS is to be used and interpreted including what the LNRS will not do - possibly include 'How to use the LNRS', clearly shown in the contents page (make it more practical than the current 'What does it aim to achieve' section). |

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| | • Clearer emphasis is needed on the fact the LNRS is a guide and does not prevent development i.e. these areas are the priority for off-site BNG / the location of BNG on strategic sites, there is scope to deliver different actions (but these wouldn't achieve the 15% BNG uplift), and these areas can still be considered for development. Also suggest adding text to the Local Plans section on page 285 to state that, while Local Plans need to take account of the LNRS, areas shown on the Measures Map may still be considered for development.<br>• We suggest a text box stating 'the LNRS will not…' – i.e. does not force landowners, councils etc to deliver the actions identified, does not prevent development or other legitimate land uses on identified land, does not prevent nature conservation work on other sites not identified in the LNRS etc. (although this could also note the requirement for plans to 'take account of' LNRS as set out on page 256).<br>• Avoid jargon where possible, e.g. Dorset LNRS refers to 'High Opportunity Nature Areas' and 'Potential Activities' throughout and just notes that DEFRA calls these 'Areas that could become of Importance for Biodiversity (ACB)' and 'Potential Measures'.<br>• Clarity is required regarding the difference/ connection between areas identified as ACB, Measures and Opportunity Focus Areas and if the BNG uplift applies to all of these areas (page 270) – also suggest adding clear definitions into the glossary.<br>• Investigate whether clearer, more relevant base mapping could be used (see page 114) – not sure where the base mapping is from, but it doesn't include many names and some of these are not in common use (i.e. Upton, north west of Southampton and Northfields, Twyford).<br>• More emphasis is needed on the suburban parts of the county through use of photographs – suggest including photos with buildings / new development / urban areas as none of the photos currently reflect the urban/suburban nature of south Hampshire and the opportunities for sustainable development to enhance biodiversity.<br>• Add a glossary for the GIS map layers to make these easier to understand – some of the layers aren't clear unless read alongside the main document i.e. additional sites, Opportunity Focus Areas (and also need to be clearer in the main document).<br>• Regarding the GIS mapping, it's difficult to get an overview of an area as it's currently set up as you need to individually click all the most detailed measures for them to show on the map.<br><br>**Clarification on how we can apply the LNRS measures map:**<br>• Is the LNRS boundary shown the absolute alignment for the LNRS or is, for example for a planning application, there flexibility for the LPA to use its judgement to include other directly connected habitat |

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| | for the 15% uplift e.g. the remainder of a field parcel, or any other connected/ integral habitat (e.g. wider river corridors) as this fits into the bigger, better and more joined up principle? [We note your email of 16/6/25 to this query].<br>• If at a later date, we spot an error in the LNRS measures map, e.g. if a river/ stream is not shown on the measures map, can we use our discretion to include it under the generic rivers and streams measure?<br>• Similarly, if we have evidence that a SINC is in poor condition but isn't included on the LNRS measures map, can we attribute the 15% uplift?<br>• [We note your email of 16/6/25 that only the measures specifically identified in the LNRS will achieve 15% uplift].<br><br>**Additional areas to be included in the LNRS:**<br>• Can more links be added to the LNRS to fully connect APIBs and currently shown ACBs, such as links across river catchments, in particular links between the Itchen and Hamble catchments (e.g. see map below). Additional links would create a more extensive, joined up green network. This is particularly important give the development pressure and the need to incentivise maintaining and enhancing appropriately sized green links through development areas.<br>• Can links be added to any currently isolated important habitats e.g. Tipners Copse, ancient woodland (see map below) is not connected to the rest of the LNRS.<br>• Can Stoke Park Farm be added to the LNRS please? The site is now owned by EBC and has been set aside for environmental mitigation. The exact nature of future use is unknown but is likely to include woodland creation and grassland management and riparian improvements to the Bow Lake Stream corridor. We can provide a shape file.<br>• Can rivers and streams in the LNRS be extended closer to source or to a consistent extent. For example below, the full extent of the watercourse network as shown on an OS map is included (circled pink) but other areas are not (blue dashed). Additionally channels exist (dashed yellow) but are not shown on OS maps but potentially should also be included in the LNRS.<br>• Can the width of all river/ stream corridors in the LNRS be to a standard 10m width on both sides. This will tie in with the BNG metric. Even if a stretch of river/ stream is currently developed within 10m, it could potentially provide extra incentive to restore or enhance the river/ stream.<br>• For information, part of West Horton Farm is hoping to become a BNG habitat bank. |

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| | **Potential errors/ other alterations:**<br>• ACB layer does not currently include all Measures e.g. river buffers<br>• Wood pasture and Parkland measures at the Stoneham development are currently included for housing parcels. It may be worth excluding these from the LNRS, leaving the retained wood pasture and parkland central strip within the LNRS. River/ stream corridors present within the development will also remain in the LNRS.<br>• The name Opportunity Focus Area is slightly misleading. A Focus Area could be perceived to be a priority area which can deliver elevated gains. In reality, they are areas with many environmental variables and have uncertain attributable measures without further site investigation. As suggested by you, Opportunity Area could be a more appropriate name. |
| **Resident 47** | Hampshire is rich in beautiful and rare wildlife, including the Duke of Burgundy butterfly and internationally important populations of Brent geese. Our county is also home to spectacular habitats such as the internationally renowned lowland heath of the New Forest, vital seagrass beds in Portsmouth and chalk rivers such as the Itchen that support an abundance of wildlife including otters, water crowfoot and crayfish. These vital ecosystems - our natural capital - support every aspect of life and work in the county, enabling our communities to flourish. They protect us from floods and droughts, support our health, and underpin the entire economy.<br>However, 48% of Hampshire's 50 most 'notable species' are in trouble. With just a few more years to reach national legal targets of halting wildlife decline and protecting 30% of land and sea by 2030, the Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) has an essential and urgent role to play. Hampshire's LNRS must now drive tangible action on the ground to ensure that we have a healthy natural environment, now and in the future.<br>Key asks:<br>1. Prioritise improvement of existing protected areas that are in poor condition: Despite having a high percentage of land and coast designated for its importance for wildlife, only 44% of our Sites of Special Scientific Importance (SSS Is) are in good condition. These are the critical nodes in our Nature Recovery Network and should be restored as a priority.<br>2. Incorporate climate mitigation and adaptation: The LNRS must include proper consideration of climate change uncertainties and adaptation, taking into account projected changes in habitats and distributions of |

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| **Resident 48** | Hampshire is rich in beautiful and rare wildlife, including the Duke of Burgundy butterfly and internationally important populations of Brent geese. Our county is also home to spectacular habitats such as the internationally renowned lowland heath of the New Forest, vital seagrass beds in Portsmouth and chalk rivers such as the Itchen that support an abundance of wildlife including otters, water crowfoot and crayfish. These vital ecosystems - our natural capital – support every aspect of life and work in the county, enabling our communities to flourish. They protect us from floods and droughts, support our health, and underpin the entire economy. However, 48% of Hampshire's 50 most 'notable species' are in trouble. With just a few more years to reach national legal targets of halting wildlife decline and protecting 30% of land and sea by 2030, the Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) has an essential and urgent role to play. Hampshire's LNRS must now drive tangible action on the ground to ensure that we have a healthy natural environment, now and in the future.<br>**Key asks:**<br>1. **Prioritise improvement of existing protected areas that are in poor condition:** Despite having a high percentage of land and coast designated for its importance for wildlife, only 44% of our Sites of Special Scientific Importance (SSSIs) are in good condition. These are the critical nodes in our Nature Recovery Network and should be restored as a priority. |

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| **Resident 49** | Hampshire is rich in beautiful and rare wildlife, including the Duke of Burgundy butterfly and internationally important populations of Brent geese. Our county is also home to spectacular habitats such as the internationally renowned lowland heath of the New Forest, vital seagrass beds in Portsmouth and chalk rivers such as the Itchen that support an abundance of wildlife including otters, water crowfoot and crayfish.<br>Having lived all of my life in Hampshire, growing up in Winchester close to the chalk rivers and downland, and then spending my adult life at the edge of the New Forest, I am deeply committed to protecting these amazing and valuable habitats. These vital ecosystems - our natural capital – support every aspect of life and work in the county, enabling our communities to flourish. They protect us from floods and droughts, support our health, and<br>underpin the entire economy. However, 48% of Hampshire's 50 most 'notable species' are in trouble. With just a few more years to reach national legal targets of halting wildlife decline and protecting 30% of land and sea by 2030, the Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) has an essential and urgent role to play. Hampshire's |

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| **Resident 50** | Hampshire is rich in beautiful and rare wildlife, including the Duke of Burgundy butterfly and internationally important populations of Brent geese. Our county is also home to spectacular habitats such as the internationally renowned lowland heath of the New Forest, vital seagrass beds in Portsmouth and chalk rivers such as the Itchen that support an abundance of wildlife including otters, water crowfoot and crayfish. These |

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| **Resident 56** | Hampshire is rich in beautiful and rare wildlife, including the Duke of Burgundy butterfly and internationally important populations of Brent geese. Our county is also home to spectacular habitats such as the internationally renowned lowland heath of the New Forest, vital seagrass beds in Portsmouth and chalk rivers such as the Itchen that support an abundance of wildlife including otters, water crowfoot and crayfish. These vital ecosystems - our natural capital – support every aspect of life and work in the county, enabling our communities to flourish. They protect us from floods and droughts, support our health, and underpin the entire economy. However, 48% of Hampshire's 50 most 'notable species' are in trouble. With just a few more years to reach national legal targets of halting wildlife decline and protecting 30% of land and sea by 2030, the Local |

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| **British Association for Shooting and Conservation** | BASC produced two high level reports in 2024 on the social, environmental and economic benefits of recreational shooting. BASC's inaugural Natural Capital Benefits of Shooting report places a value on the financial and social benefits the public enjoy from our natural environment due to shooting. The careful management of natural capital is a theme within the Hampshire LNRS. The headline findings of our natural capital benefits account 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.<br><br>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:<br>• the increase in habitat extent and better quality of woodland condition related to pheasant shooting leading to greater carbon storage; and<br>• the carbon-loss avoided through existing levels of deer and grey squirrel management, supporting successful establishment of woodland plantations and natural regeneration.<br><br>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.<br><br>The Value of Shooting is the second report published in 2024, and that 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 costs of nature recovery is too large for the public purse and requires private investment. This report demonstrates that shooting is materially contributing towards meeting the funding gap. |

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| | **Woodland key issues and opportunities**<br>Woodland and hedgerows are key habitats managed by the shooting community and so provide excellent opportunities for their management, creation and associated species. The long-term evidence base is clear that land with pheasant shooting is likely to have a greater extent of better managed woodland and hedgerows than areas without it. In terms of contemporary evidence, BASC commissioned a review in 2024 of over 1,000 shoots where driven shooting takes place and compared them with matched control sites to see if there were differences in woodland and hedgerows. This analysis found that areas with pheasant shooting had woodlands with significantly better vertical structure and that there was over twice the length of hedgerows when compared with control sites. This supports the science that release of game is a driver for higher levels of woodland management, such as rides, glades and coppicing and improvements in hedgerow extent. BASC will assist the LNRS to deliver improvement in woodland management through our education and advice to shoots. This advice is aligned with Forest Research's woodland ecological condition criteria and is available as an advice pack to members on our website. Our regional teams and Game and Wildlife Management team can provide detailed support and advice to members with specific queries.<br><br>We are particularly pleased with the draft LNRS priority measures for grey squirrel and deer at W6. Shooting is a core control method for these species and our Deer Team at BASC provide advice, training and support to stalkers and to government to enable the humane management of deer and to open the UK venison market to more people. Our regional and Game and Wildlife Management team provide support and guidance on grey squirrel management to shoots. From a national perspective, BASC are part of the UK Squirrel Accord and have pushed forward the work for both the non-lethal and lethal options for grey squirrel management.<br><br>**Wetlands**<br>The plan has segments on wetlands, ponds and ditches as well as highlighting the importance of chalk streams to the county. Shooting is a driver for the creation and management of agricultural wetlands; ponds and wet scrapes can be created and managed to be nature rich in order to provide just a few evenings opportunity to harvest duck and geese in the winter months. In terms of the LNRS content what I want to do is highlight two cross-links to two wetland species specific actions. BASC have been active in water vole conservation for over 25 years and have trained thousands of volunteers and nature conservation staff how to humanely monitor, capture and cull mink. The Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust has excellent experience as does the Waterlife Recovery Trust, who have been extremely successful in East Anglia. We were very pleased to see this action. What matters is to undertake it strategically, so mink eradication is rapidly |

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| | achieved. We hope the LNRS will use the forthcoming support options under ELMS to encourage multiple landowners to cluster together to form catchment scale efforts so mink are eradicated over the coming years.<br><br>The second is a cross-link to the measures under Priority species assemblages for birds - breeding waders – wet grassland and heathland. That section states 'consider use of predator fencing to protect nests and chicks'. Predation is one of three common issues for breeding waders alongside the extent of suitable habitat and then how that habitat is managed. All must be addressed together. To effectively reduce predation to the point where breeding success is likely, both non-lethal and lethal control options need to work together. This is because fences to protect nests do not protect chicks as they move around the landscape to forage before they fledge. We recommend adding in a need to consider lethal control as well as predator fencing into the LNRS. Reading our comments under Hedgerows also has important considerations for this assemblage of species.<br><br>**Hedgerows**<br>In the online survey I selected ‘don't know’ for the planting of standard trees because the concept of right tree in the right place needs to apply to hedgerows. The LNRS has an assemblage for breeding waders identified. These species require open landscapes for breeding sites, especially the management scheme for curlew, lapwing etc is to keep hedgerows wide but short and to remove standard trees, as these can act as predator perches. Therefore, it needs a caveat to exclude it as an action where the area is important or could be important for ground nesting birds, especially wading birds. Outside of this, hedgerows are another habitat where shooting, especially game shooting, is an ally in delivery. As mentioned in the woodland section, an analysis of 1,000 pheasant shoots compared with 1,000 matched sites without pheasant shoots revealed that those with pheasant shoots had over twice the hedgerow length. This supports the existing scientific evidence base that shooting is a reason for hedgerow planting and management.<br><br>**Coastal**<br>BASC has a network of affiliated wildfowling clubs across the UK, including Hampshire. Clubs manage intertidal habitats to ensure they are in good condition for domestic waterfowl and the large influx of migratory waterfowl we get in winter. This network collaborates with statutory agencies on habitat creation projects, such as seagrass and saltmarsh, and those that own land use the agri-environment schemes to improve extent and condition of coastal habitats. This work underpins sustainable harvest of ducks and geese in the winter months and the clubs regulate their level of activity closely, often under a consent with Natural England. |

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| | Wildfowling clubs are an excellent ally for delivery of this element of LNRS and our national Wildfowl and Wetland Team would be happy to have a discussion with the LNRS about this.<br><br>The coastal section highlights dog walking providing a risk of disturbance and the action above on providing disturbance free feeding areas, leads me to make the point about understanding the difference between any disturbance and the level of disturbance that is significant. In short, significant disturbance differs from disturbance in general terms because it needs to result in material impacts on a population.<br><br>BASC has worked with Natural England, research institutions and with international partners on management of disturbance for decades. One of the best definitions for significant disturbance is from the African and Eurasian Waterbird Agreement. It considers this to be, changed location or distribution on a continuing basis, changed local abundance on a sustained basis or reduction in the ability of any significant group of birds to survive, breed, or rear their young. It is important to have this concept because it is virtually impossible to have disturbance-free areas. Farm vehicles, birds of prey, nearby roads and paths and land and species management activities to mention a few things could and do cause short-term disturbance events. However, they may not lead to significant disturbance. Therefore, what is important is to note in the document, and most certainly in delivery, is that the objective is to avoid significant disturbance.<br><br>Finally, we commend you on a clear and focussed LNRS. Shooting is an ally for delivery and BASC staff will be using the LNRS resources in our work with those that shoot across Hampshire. If the LNRS team or wider partnership have ideas for collaboration with BASC and our members, we would be delighted to discuss them. |
| **Gosport Borough Council** | Gosport Borough Council has been a supporting authority on the development of the LNRS and welcome its introduction as a tool to assist in achieving nature recovery within the Borough and the county. This document will assist in delivering other Council aims such as improving water quality and reducing levels of pollution and achieving its Biodiversity Duty.<br><br>Paragraph 1.23 of the document provides a number of benefits the LNRS will provide local authorities, which the Council agrees with. An additional benefit could be supporting funding applications for nature recovery and recreation projects. The River Alver may be suitable as an addition to the list of notable waterways in Hampshire, as shown in paragraph 2.10. |

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| | Paragraph 2.46 of the LNRS, and the New Forest Recreation Mitigation Strategy have highlighted the need to relieve recreational pressure on the New Forest National Park. To achieve this, a South Hampshire Regional Park could be created, as suggested in a 2023 PfSH/LUC study. This would be of great benefit to the residents of Gosport in terms of creating a new space for recreation and biodiversity. One project to achieve this would be to consolidate the Forest of Bere, for which multiple surviving fragments already exist. It is therefore welcomed that the LNRS contains large '*Areas that Could Become of Importance for Biodiversity'* (ACB land) adjoining Ancient Woodland in the Forest's historic domain, particularly around Horndean and Wickham. With landowner consent, these areas could be extended to lay the groundworks for a Regional Park, for which funding could be sought for its delivery.<br><br>In the South Hampshire Lowlands and South Coast Plain (page 72-73), an additional 'Opportunity for nature recovery' area could be to make greenspaces and roadside verges more biodiverse. It is noted that these are listed as Priority Measures U1 and U4.<br><br>The ACB map contains lots of tiny fragments within Gosport. We query whether these are meant to be included. GBC officers are happy to meet to go through these individual fragments in more detail if needed.<br><br>Wilson's pottia (*Tortula wilsonii*), is listed as a Priority Species, and that Gosport is one of only two sites within the county where this rare liverwort/moss has been recorded. We note the need to raise awareness with the landowner and that appropriate management is required. We also note the the Gilkicker weevil (*Pachytychius haematocephalus*) is also another Priority Species and is only currently found at Fort Gilkicker in Gosport and enhanced management measures are required.<br><br>There are a number of biodiversity 'opportunity' areas shown with Gosport, particularly within the Alver Valley. The Council is aware of the biodiversity value of the country park, and welcomes the designation, and is working to expand and enhance the park wherever possible.<br><br>The document contains a shortlist of priority outcomes and associated potential measures. We have no objection to any of the document's priority outcomes or associated measures. In addition, we support the outcomes and measures below, which we consider will provide direct biodiversity benefits for the Borough of Gosport. |

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| | • Priority outcome - Riparian buffer strips created and managed to protect the area's watercourses and headwaters, along with other potential measures aimed at reducing the amount of nutrients and pollutants entering the water courses and groundwaters, and improving habitat connectivity.<br>○ R1* - Creation and management of buffer strips on land next to watercourses.<br>○ R2 - Improve the conditions of in-channel physical habitat and water quality.<br>○ R5* - Application of very low nitrogen input to slow or reverse nutrient levels in groundwaters.<br><br>• Priority Outcome – Road surface water runoff is intercepted by natural flood management structures, with no direct pathways to watercourses.<br>○ R7 - Reduce the impact of road and urban runoff.<br><br>• Priority Outcome – Bankside trees are managed.<br>○ R9 - Managing bankside trees.<br><br>• Priority Outcome – Invasive non-native species (INNS) (aquatic and riparian) are controlled, and preferably eradicated.<br>○ NN1 - Control and, where possible, eradicate invasive non-native aquatic and riparian species.<br><br>• Priority Outcome – Reedbeds are created, restored, and managed.<br>○ FR2 - Creation, restoration and management of reedbed.<br><br>• Priority Outcome - All existing species-rich grassland in positive management<br>○ G1 - Management of species-rich grassland.<br><br>• Priority Outcome – Degraded species-rich grassland restored back to species-rich grassland.<br>○ G2 - Restoration of grassland towards species-rich grassland.<br>○ G4 - Control scrub – applies across all types of grassland.<br><br>• Priority Outcome – Existing woodlands enhanced through suitable active management. |

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| | ○ W2 - Woodland improvements.<br>○ W3 - Management for priority woodland species.<br>○ W8 - Improve access and educational opportunities within woodlands.<br>○ W9 - Control of rhododendron, laurel and other invasive non-native woodland species<br><br>• Priority Outcome – New woodlands created with native tree species linking existing areas of woodland.<br>○ W1 - Woodland Creation and maintenance.<br>○ W9 - Control of rhododendron, laurel and other invasive non-native woodland species.<br><br>• Priority Outcome – Coastal sand dunes and vegetated shingle protected and managed.<br>○ C1 - Creation and management of coastal sand dunes and vegetated shingle.<br>○ C2 - Management and restoration of coastal saltmarsh.<br><br>• Priority Outcome – Seagrass beds to be restored.<br>○ C5 - Restore seagrass beds.<br>○ C6 - Establish native oyster reefs<br><br>• Priority Outcome – Disturbance from dogs on coastal wildfowl minimised.<br>○ C7 - Dog control measures.<br><br>• Priority Outcome – New species-rich hedgerows created using local native species to improve hedgerow connectivity and join up other species-rich habitats, like woodlands<br>○ HD2 - Planting new hedges<br><br>• Priority Outcome – The nature conservation value of public spaces is enhanced.<br>○ U1 - Improve nature in public spaces and create wildlife corridors.<br>○ U2 - Improving biodiversity on brownfield sites.<br><br>• Priority Outcome – Increased tree canopy cover in urban areas.<br>○ U3 - Plant more Street Trees. |

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| | • Priority Outcome – Transport corridors, including new and existing road verges and rights of way are enhanced for biodiversity.<br>o U4 - Improve biodiversity on Road Verges.<br>o U5 - Improve biodiversity along new & existing travel routes.<br><br>• Priority Outcome – Impacts from recreational disturbance on the Thames Basin Heaths SPA, Wealden Heaths SPA Phase II, New Forest SPA and coastal SPAs are mitigated through the creation of alternative greenspace and habitats<br>o U1 - Improve nature in public spaces and create wildlife corridors.<br><br>• Priority Outcome – The condition of SINC habitats is improved.<br><br>• Priority Outcome – Priority habitats and priority species populations are enhanced and sustained with the most up to date supporting evidence.<br>o S1 - Species survey, monitoring and evaluation.<br>o S2 - Managing land specifically for priority species.<br>o S3 – Ensuring the most up-to-date habitat surveys are available to guide management options and monitor progress.<br><br>The Council looks forward to working with HCC and other stakeholders in helping to deliver the aims and objectives of the LNRS and achieve nature recovery both within the Borough and county. |
| **Fareham Borough Council** | Whilst previously recommending that the 'additional sites' for Fareham be amended, the final version of the LNRS now seems to present a half and half position. It includes some sites at Stubbington that have been purchased for Nitrates and BNG but not all. For completeness, I would suggest that all sites are included as below. If you need an electronic version, this can be provided. In addition, it may help with the implementation if the section regarding Local Plans is moved forward within the main heart of the document to highlight the role in which local authorities can use the LNRS to help direct and steer decisions within plan and decision making.<br><br>We would support the final publication being in separate sections to aid use. |
| **Resident 58** | Hampshire is rich in beautiful and rare wildlife, including the Duke of Burgundy butterfly and internationally important populations of Brent geese. Our county is also home to spectacular habitats such as the |

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| | internationally renowned lowland heath of the New Forest, vital seagrass beds in Portsmouth and chalk rivers such as the Itchen that support an abundance of wildlife including otters, water crowfoot and crayfish. These vital ecosystems - our natural capital – support every aspect of life and work in the county, enabling our communities to flourish. They protect us from floods and droughts, support our health, and underpin the entire economy. However, 48% of Hampshire's 50 most 'notable species' are in trouble. With just a few more years to reach national legal targets of halting wildlife decline and protecting 30% of land and sea by 2030, the Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) has an essential and urgent role to play. Hampshire's LNRS must now drive tangible action on the ground to ensure that we have a healthy natural environment, now and in the future.<br><br>**Key asks:**<br><br>1. **Prioritise improvement of existing protected areas that are in poor condition:** Despite having a high percentage of land and coast designated for its importance for wildlife, only 44% of our Sites of Special Scientific Importance (SSSIs) are in good condition. These are the critical nodes in our Nature Recovery Network and should be restored as a priority.<br>2. **Incorporate climate mitigation and adaptation:** The LNRS must include proper consideration of climate change uncertainties and adaptation, taking into account projected changes in habitats and distributions of species. The strategy currently lacks robust measures to combat climate impacts, including the vital need for adaptation to reduce the pressures of sea level rise on the protection and restoration of coastal wetlands.<br>3. **Set targets and track progress:** The LNRS must be a living strategy, with utility and teeth. At present, the LNRS fails to set out specific, measurable targets or mechanisms for monitoring progress. While the strategy mentions a review every 3-10 years, there is no further detail on monitoring or accountability frameworks to ensure the LNRS is effective in delivering for nature. Proper governance and leadership are needed, with opportunities for the new Mayoral Authority to play a strategic role in implementation across the county.<br>4. **Embed LNRS in policy, with mechanisms to ensure flow of funds for nature's recovery:** The LNRS must be embedded into decision-making and policy, including those relating to land use, planning and development and economic strategies. Implementation plans must set out the mechanisms to drive investment into nature restoration. This will include statutory requirements, such as BNG, but should also harness emerging private sector nature markets. |

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| | Devolution offers a powerful opportunity for our region to champion a nature-positive future, guided by the LNRS as a critical roadmap. Delivering a strong, evidence-based LNRS offers a valuable and vital chance to shape a stronger, healthier future for our county. On a personal note, I enjoy very much the butterfly meadows that Hampshire has to offer, of course with all the biodiversity of species that accompanies them, and I really hope I can continue to enjoy them in the next few decades of my life. |
| **Resident 59** | As a family, we are very passionate about the environment ([redacted] reintroduced sand lizards to Weavers Down - [redacted] - with the Amphibian and Reptile Conservation Trust in 1991, and [redacted] of Hampshire Swifts and the British Waterfowl Association). [redacted], we've begun steering our traditional farm towards a future that's focused entirely around conservation, wildlife and education. Our land encompasses just over 650 acres in the national park, and sits between two SSSI's [redacted]. There's wonderful scope for habitat enhancement across our land, which would help bridge these two important areas. We are also exploring the reintroduction of beavers and natterjack toads with the national park and the ARC. We think [redacted] perfect for inclusion in the LNRS!<br><br>Unfortunately, the current draft of the LNRS Map includes the entirety of [redacted] but only highlights a couple of tiny areas for habitat improvement. Inexplicably, two of these areas are the gardens (including lawns and patios!) of [redacted]. If at all possible, we would like to include much larger areas of [redacted] in the Strategic Map and to take out those two very strange entries.<br><br>The current map, [redacted], is attached as Map 1. The areas we would love to include are marked in Map 2. These new sections would be fantastic additions to the LNRS - helping to restore wet heath and wet woodland which could provide vital interconnection with existing protected areas (which are home to some of the UK's rarest birds, dragonflies, amphibians and reptiles). We're already working on this strategy with the National Park through a Whole Estate Plan. It would be a strange anomaly and really unfortunate if our nature recovery journey was not also joined up with the LNRS as well. |

In addition to these comments, we received some emails with letters that were too large to include in a table. These can be found as separate attachments on this webpage - https://www.hants.gov.uk/landplanningandenvironment/nature-recovery-hampshire/draft-strategy