Norfolk's Local Nature Recovery Strategy

Public consultation report

August 2025

Norfolk & Suffolk Nature Recovery Partnership

More nature for Norfolk

Norfolk County Council

Summary

This report summarises the response to the public consultation on Norfolk's draft Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS), which ran from 16th April until 11th June 2025.

Overall, a total of 655 responses to the public consultation were received. 288 online survey responses, 15 detailed stakeholder responses and 352 comments on the Local Habitat Map. The responses were analysed using a combination of artificial intelligence and manual approaches to identify key themes, which are presented in this report.

The survey responses reflected strong support for and engagement with both the draft strategy and the Local Habitat Map. The responses demonstrated a high level of local knowledge throughout. The public consultation has provided evidence that there is consensus with the draft LNRS:

- 78% agreed or strongly agreed that the purpose and aims of the Norfolk LNRS are clear
- 78% agreed or strongly agreed that the strategy explains what nature recovery could take place in each area
- 74% agreed or strongly agreed that the draft strategy was easy to understand
- 69% agreed or strongly agreed that the mapping was easy to understand, with 63% agreeing or strongly agreeing that the mapping was easy to use
- 92% agreed or somewhat agreed with the proposed priority habitats and recovery measures, with only 8% expressing disagreement
- 89% agreed or somewhat agreed with the identified priority species and associated recovery measures, and just 11% disagreed

10 key themes emerged around how the strategy could be improved and strengthened:

1. Document Accessibility and Length
2. Mapping, Data and Evidence
3. Nature Recovery Scope
4. Implementation, Monitoring and Governance
5. Development and Land Use Pressures
6. Environmental Pressures and Climate Change
7. Benefits and Co-Benefits of Nature Recovery
8. Social Engagement and Inclusion
9. Funding, Incentives and Feasibility
10. Habitats and Species

What is next?

Norfolk County Council, as the Responsible Authority, is working to action these responses as far as possible. These changes will be reflected in the final version of the strategy document and Local Habitat Map, demonstrating how the public consultation impacted the final document and supported the path to publication.

By integrating this feedback, we will ensure that Norfolk's LNRS is locally significant and geographically and ecologically relevant, reflecting the views and knowledge of Norfolk's population.

Contents

Glossary

Key terms used:

- **ACB:** Areas that could become of importance for biodiversity
- **APIB:** Areas that are of importance for biodiversity
- **Defra:** Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
- **eNGOs:** Environmental Non-Governmental Organisations e.g. Norfolk Wildlife Trust, Suffolk Wildlife Trust, RSPB, The National Trust
- **LHM:** Local Habitat Map
- **LNRS:** Local Nature Recovery Strategy
- **LRS:** Landscape Recovery Scheme
- **NE:** Natural England
- **NSNRP:** Norfolk and Suffolk Nature Recovery Partnership
- **PHI:** Priority Habitat Inventory
- **Pin:** A point shown on a map denoting a particular location or set of coordinates.
- **RA:** Responsible Authority
- **Steering Group:** Governance group within the process of LNRS development and the NSNRP
- **SSSI:** Site of Special Scientific Interest

1. What was consulted on?

The Norfolk Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) is designed to be part of the nationwide move to create the space and connectivity needed across our region for nature to thrive, recover and be resilient. It is a requirement of the Environment Act of 2021 and will be part of 48 planned strategies across England.

The LNRS for Norfolk has been produced by Norfolk County Council (NCC), acting as the Responsible Authority. NCC is working in partnership via the Norfolk and Suffolk Nature Recovery Partnership (NSNRP), ensuring collaboration, engagement and continuity across the two counties.

The LNRS aims to identify opportunities and priorities for nature recovery at the local level. There are 4 key sections in Norfolk's Local Nature Recovery Strategy, in addition to the Local Habitat Map and Appendices. These are:

- **Part A:** '**Strategy Area Description'**. This provides a description of the current state of nature, including a summary of the habitats found in Norfolk and the pressures they face.
- **Part B: 'Opportunities Identified'.** This sets out the opportunities to restore and enhance habitats in Norfolk. It focuses on practical actions which target key habitat types, address biodiversity loss and strengthen ecological resilience. This section also includes wider environmental co-benefits that could be realised through recovering nature.
- **Part C: Norfolk's 'Priority Habitats, Assemblages and Species'** outlines the practical actions identified for the habitats, species, and habitat-based species assemblages most in need of recovery.
- **Part D: 'Locations for Action'** that have been mapped onto the LNRS Local Habitat Map and which are based on the potential measures from the statement of biodiversity priorities. These locations for action are where the measures could have the greatest impact in terms of delivering Norfolk's nature recovery priorities.
- The **Local Habitat Map** displays**:**
    - **Areas of Particular Importance for Biodiversity (APIB)**: These are strictly defined in the statutory guidance to include only certain types of designated sites (SSSIs, National Nature Reserves, Local Nature Reserves, Local Wildlife Sites, Special Areas of Conservation) and 'irreplaceable habitats', which includes ancient woodlands and ancient or veteran trees. Nature recovery actions ('potential measures') can be

mapped to all these areas except SSSIs, as these are expected to have legally binding suitable management plans.

    - **Areas that Could Become of Particular Importance (ACB)**: These are the identified highest priority target areas for taking nature recovery action ('potential measures') to maintain and enhance existing habitats and create new habitats where suitable.

- The **Appendices** provide an overview of:
    - the legislative background and analysis of related strategies and documents
    - the methods used for species and habitat priority generation
    - how the LNRS links to delivering wider environmental benefits
    - the methods used to create the mapping
    - the methods used during the engagement and consultation process to gather information and feedback
    - background on the Norfolk and Suffolk Nature Recovery Partnership (NSNRP)

The draft Local Habitat Map was shared as an interactive map that allowed people to view different component layers. The map included the core APIB layer of designated sites and irreplaceable habitats, as well as the proposed target areas for future nature recovery action. These were presented as a set of mapped layers for specific habitat restoration actions, referred to as 'potential measures'. Some 'potential measures' in the written Statement of Biodiversity Priorities are not mapped to locations. This is either because they are important across wide areas of the county, or because there is not yet sufficient spatial data to add them to the map. This included potential measures in urban areas.

1.1. Next steps – response to this consultation report

The remainder of this report provides an overview of the feedback received during the public consultation on the draft LNRS. Norfolk County Council will begin actioning changes to the strategy based on the consultation responses. The changes will be reviewed and signed off by the NSNRP Steering Group, which includes a range of local, regional, and national partners (see Appendix 2 for membership of this group). The findings of this report will be used to make changes to the draft map and documents to create a final version of the LNRS. Before the LNRS is finalised, Norfolk County Council will publish this report demonstrating changes made as a result of the consultation.

2. Consultation and engagement process

2.1. Consultation period overview

The online consultation ran for 56 days (from 16 April to 11 June 2025) and was hosted on Citizen Space. The consultation page held the draft strategy document and a link to the draft LNRS Local Habitat Map (LHM), which was hosted on ArcGIS. During the consultation, the page was viewed 4,513 times, and the draft LNRS strategy document was downloaded 1,137 times. The map was viewed 4,319 times. In total there were 655 responses to the public consultation.

People could engage with and respond to the consultation in three ways:

- **Online survey.** People could respond to a series of questions on the draft LNRS documents and LHM. Survey responses could be submitted online. The full list of questions asked is at Appendix 3.
- **Map.** Users were able to add location pins and directly comment on the online map (LHM).
- **Email.** In addition, users could submit attachments such as mapping data sets, and word document responses via the natural.norfolk@norfolk.gov.uk email address.

2.1.1. Online survey statistics

288 survey responses were received during the public consultation. 77% of these were from Norfolk residents and 19% were from landowners, land managers or farmers. In addition, the survey was completed by:

- 18 councillors
- 26 nature recovery organisations
- 31 local community groups
- 18 businesses
- 1 developer

There was a good distribution of responses from across Norfolk, see Figure 1 below:

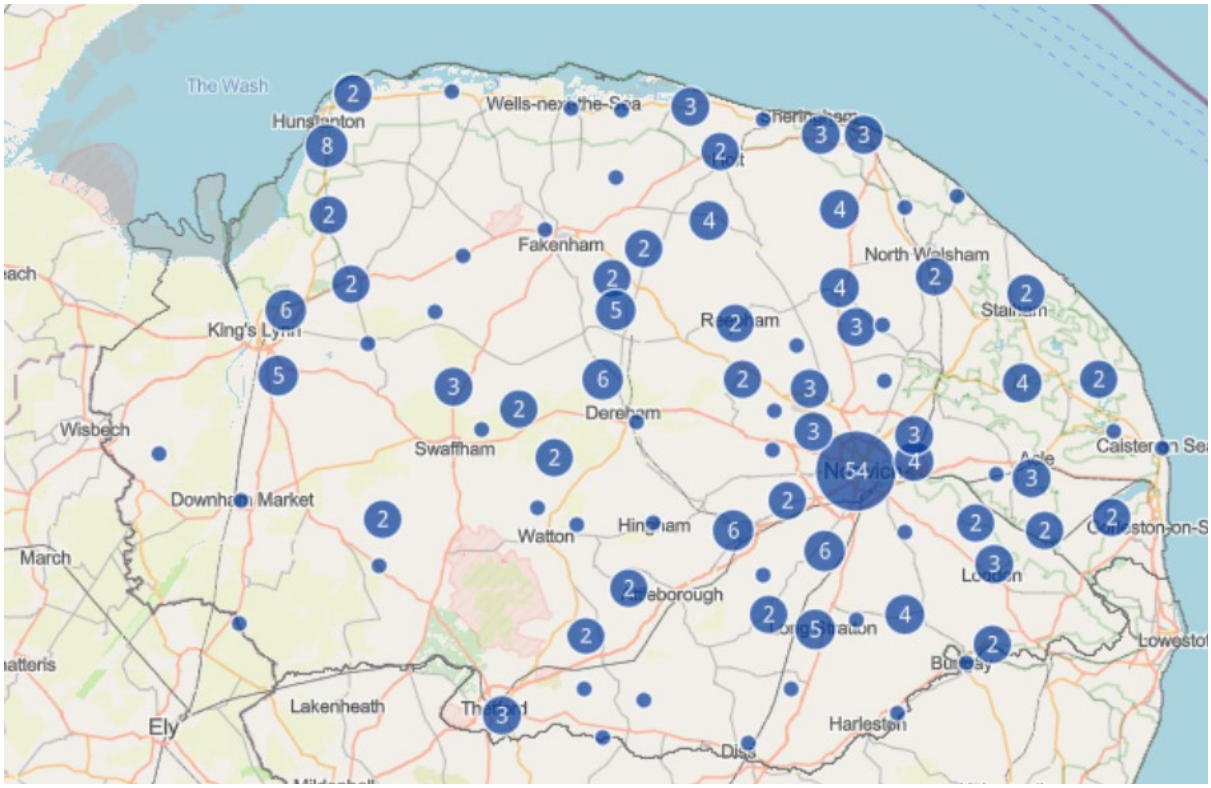


Figure 1. Map of respondent locations from public consultation online survey. An additional 17 responses were from locations outside of Norfolk. Some responses had no plottable location.

2.1.2. Local Habitat Map (online map) statistics

During the public consultation period, Norfolk's Local Habitat Map had 4,319 views. There were 352 comments on the map. People were able to place 'feedback pins' on the map with their comments attached. People could select from four categories for each pin:

- General observation or comment (42 comments)
- I disagree with or dislike something in this area (140 comments)
- I support or like something in this area (42 comments)
- I would like to suggest an action to support biodiversity that isn't currently included on the map (128 comments)

Mapping comments were submitted from a wide range of stakeholders, including:

- 197 from farmers, landowners or land managers
- 86 from 'other'
- 43 from residents
- 11 from community groups
- 6 from local authorities.
- 5 from charities
- 3 from government bodies
- 1 from town or parish councils.

Comments were added to the mapping tool from people across all Norfolk districts, and from a district in Suffolk:

1. 116 comments in Breckland
2. 18 comments in Broadland
3. 10 comments in Great Yarmouth
4. 89 comments in King's Lynn and West Norfolk
5. 1 comment in Mid Suffolk
6. 48 comments in North Norfolk
7. 21 comments in Norwich
8. 49 comments in South Norfolk

2.1.3. Email responses

In addition, there were 15 detailed stakeholder submissions by email containing map comments, document comments and other information.

2.1.4. Local Habitat Map instructional guides

To help with the usability of Norfolk's Local Habitat Map (LHM), two interactive, instructional guides were provided. The first, 'Creating Norfolk's LHM' outlined the methods used to create the Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) mapping. The second, 'Navigating Norfolk's LHM', provided instruction on how to use the LNRS mapping. During the public consultation period there were:

- 154 views on 'Creating Norfolk's LHM'
- 885 views on 'Navigating Norfolk's LHM'.

2.2. Engagement - Measures taken to promote the Norfolk LNRS Public Consultation

Engagement was key to ensuring that the consultation reached as wide an audience as possible. This involved both digital and in-person engagement and reached over 8,205 people during the consultation period.

Social media was a key tool in reaching public audiences. In addition to posting on Norfolk County Council's own platform, a communications pack was shared with partners and supporting organisations encouraging them to share the consultation with their audiences. These included eNGOs, businesses and local authorities. Posts were also made in relevant local groups and forums.

Efforts were also made to promote the consultation in targeted e-newsletters and member bulletins reaching professional, agricultural and public audiences.

In person engagement focused on audiences that were likely to have an interest in nature recovery. Meetings were held with action-focused local community groups

and the consultation was additionally advertised at high footfall, environmentally focused events including Open Farm Sunday and Earth Day celebrations. To ensure the consultation was reaching younger people, a presentation was given to representatives of the Norfolk Youth parliament.

Posters were displayed across Norfolk, in libraries and in spaces frequented by visitors including nature reserves and camping sites.

Recognising the importance of land managers' and farmers' input, Norfolk County Council worked with the Norfolk and East branches of the National Farmers Union to present and promote the consultation to their members. In addition, engagement with Farm Cluster groups via in person meetings or online briefings was integral to promoting awareness of the LNRS and the consultation.

2.3. Gunning Principles

The LNRS public consultation sought to follow the Gunning Principles, guidelines to ensure public consultations in the UK are conducted fairly and transparently. First established in the 1985 case *R v London Borough of Brent ex parte Gunning*, these principles require that:

1. Consultation must occur while proposals are still at a formative stage.
2. Sufficient information must be provided to allow for intelligent consideration and response.
3. Adequate time must be given for consultees to respond.
4. The decision-makers must conscientiously take consultation responses into account before making a final decision.

The Norfolk LNRS Public Consultation met these principles as:

1. The consultation took place when the draft LNRS was at a formative stage and feedback could help shape the final strategy.
2. The full draft strategy and Local Habitat Map were provided, along with a guide and explanation of the mapping methodology.
3. The public consultation ran for 8 weeks, which was above the minimum recommended 6-week period.
4. This report identifies how the consultation responses have been considered when writing the final Norfolk LNRS.

3. Analysis and Responsible Authority response to Public Consultation:

3.1. Approach to analysing Consultation Responses

The LNRS public consultation closed on 11th June 2025.

- Questions and comments received through the consultation and by email were assessed and triaged following the process outlined in Appendix 1.
- Where possible, the responses were grouped into themes, and an answer has been provided in thematic summary below.
- All comments and proposed amendments to the map were assessed individually.
- Inclusion of suggested changes to the mapping followed an assessment via the triage process outlined in Appendix 1.

3.2. General support

Data from the survey and online map indicate that the draft LNRS is broadly meeting the expectations of a wide range of stakeholders (including eNGOs, local experts, farmers, landowners and land managers, the public and government bodies). The public consultation has given us evidence that there is consensus with the draft LNRS:

- 78% agreed or strongly agreed that the purpose and aims of the Norfolk LNRS are clear
- 78% agreed or strongly agreed that the strategy explains what nature recovery could take place in each area
- 74% agreed or strongly agreed that the draft strategy was easy to understand
- 69% agreed or strongly agreed that the mapping was easy to understand, with 63% agreeing or strongly agreeing that the mapping was easy to use
- 92% agreed or somewhat agreed with the proposed priority habitats and recovery measures, with only 8% expressing disagreement
- 89% agreed or somewhat agreed with the identified priority species and associated recovery measures, and just 11% disagreed

Local Habitat Map (LHM) responses from the online public consultation period:

- 128 (36%) responses suggested an action to support biodiversity
- 140 (40%) responses disagreed/disliked an area of the map
- 42 (12%) responses were a general observation/comment
- 42 (12%) responses supported/liked an area of the map

Some people found it difficult to engage with the LNRS map due to its complexity, and because the size of the data increased loading times on many devices. Creating

the two guides outlined in the previous section aimed to address this. In addition, further improvements were made to the process for adding feedback to the map, and a second simplified version of the mapping was provided, which offered better performance on a wider range of devices and connections.

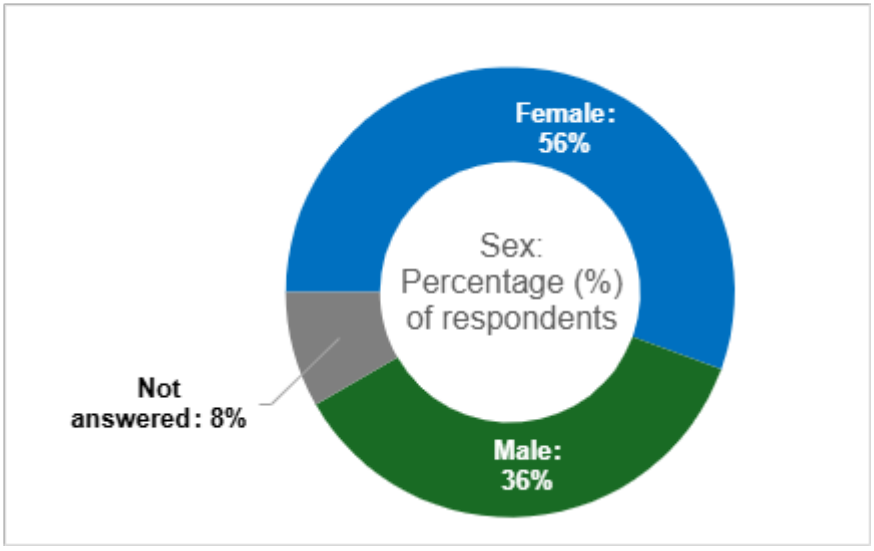
Further improvements to the mapping to make it more accessible will continue to be explored, including the development of a mapping 'toolkit' that will help users to interact with and understand the maps.

3.3. Online Public Consultation survey data:

The following sections provide an overview of the data submitted by respondents during the public consultation survey:

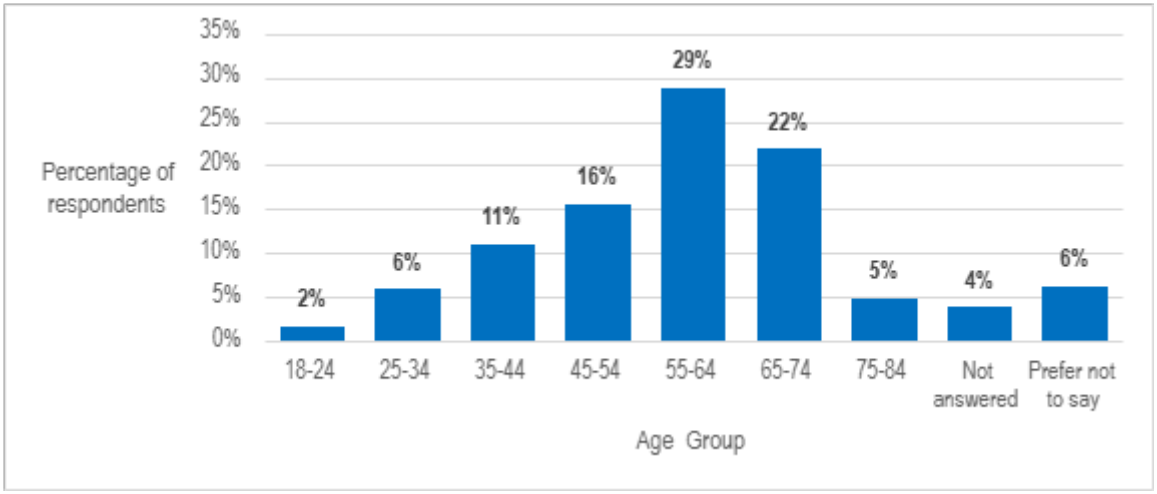
Who responded

Figure 2. Proportion of respondents by sex



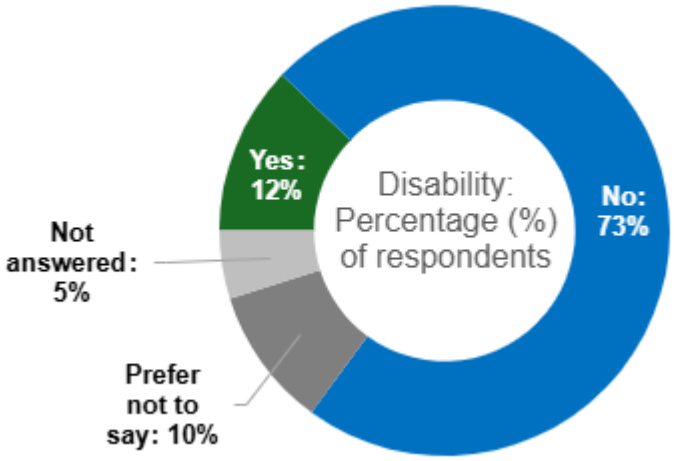
Over half of respondents were female which made up the majority, but it should be noted that this question was not mandatory and 8% of people did not respond.

Figure 3. Proportion of respondents by age group



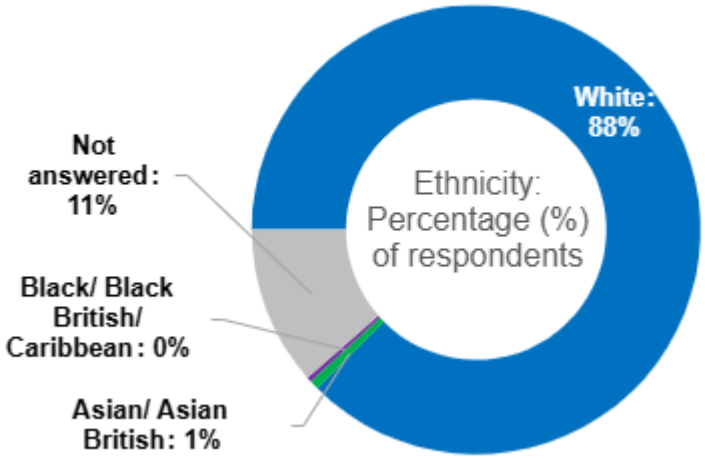
Adults of all ages took part in the consultation. Whilst around half of the respondents are aged between 55-74 years old, almost 10% of respondents were under 35. Around 10% of people chose not to disclose their age.

Figure 4. Proportion of respondents by disability status



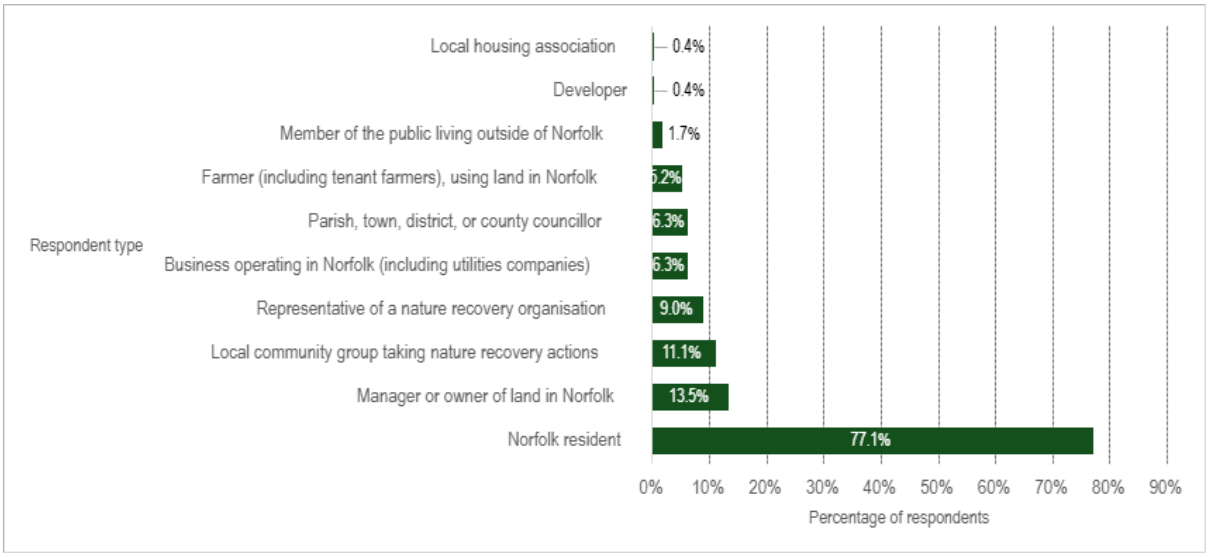
12% of respondents considered they have a disability, with a further 15% choosing not to answer

Figure 5. Proportion of respondents by ethnicity



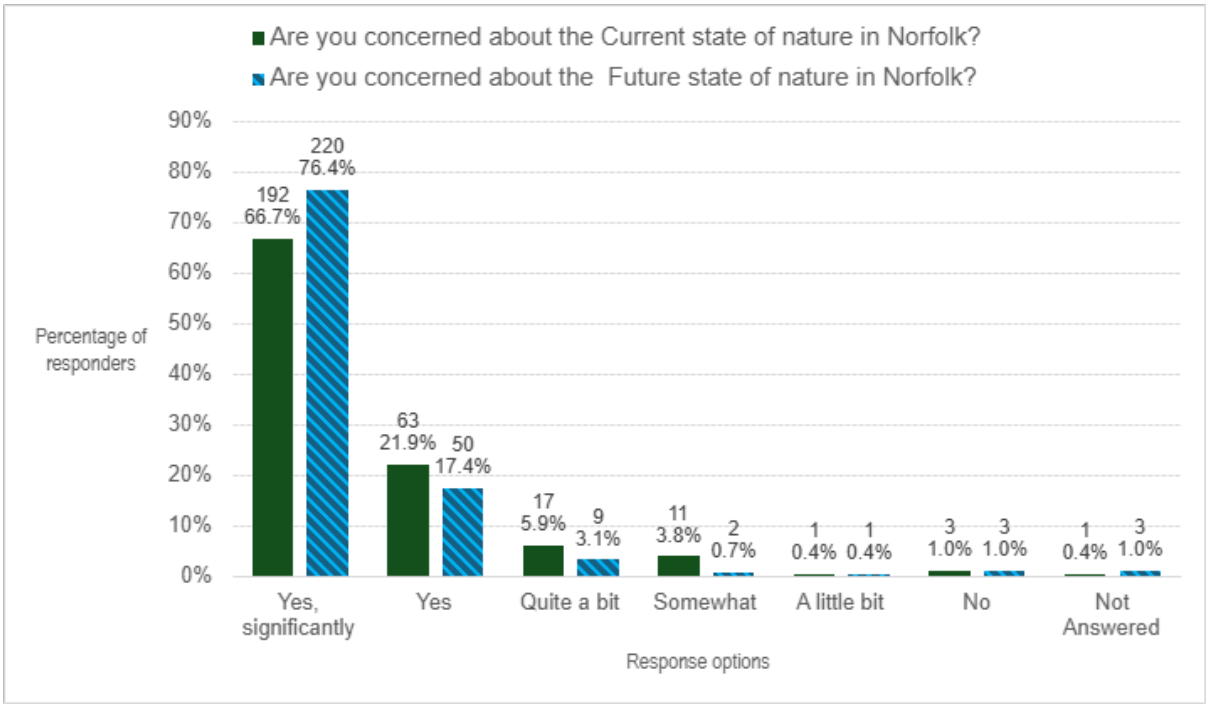
88% of respondents identified as White, with less than 1% of people identifying as Asian or Black. Over 10% of people chose not to answer.

Figure 6. Proportion of responses by respondent type



The survey asked people what they were responding as and they could choose more than one option. Almost 80% of respondents are Norfolk residents and almost 20% farm, own or manage land in Norfolk. Community groups taking nature recovery actions and people responding on behalf of a nature recovery organisation made up another 9% and 11% each. Councillors and local businesses were a further 6% each and less than 1% were developers and from local housing associations.

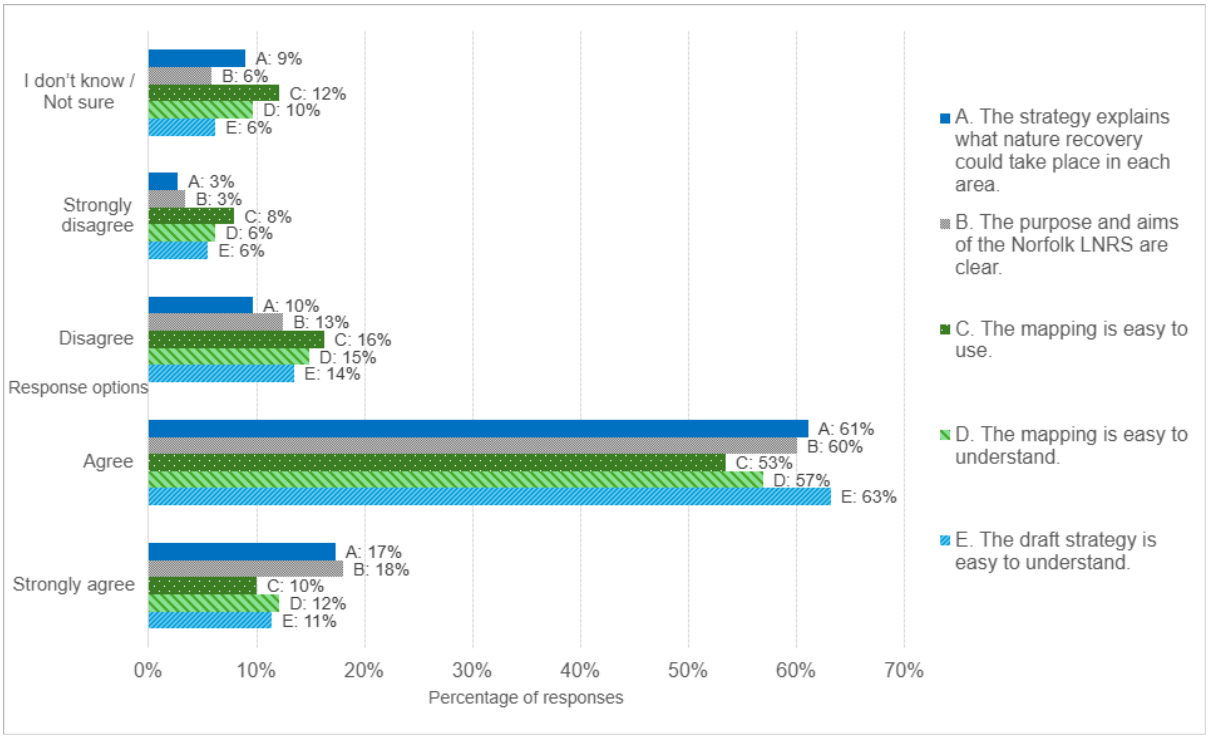
Figure 7. Concern of respondents about the current and future state of nature in Norfolk



90% of respondents were concerned with both the current and future state of nature in Norfolk. The rest were at least somewhat concerned with only 3 people responding that they are not concerned at all.

Accessibility Questions

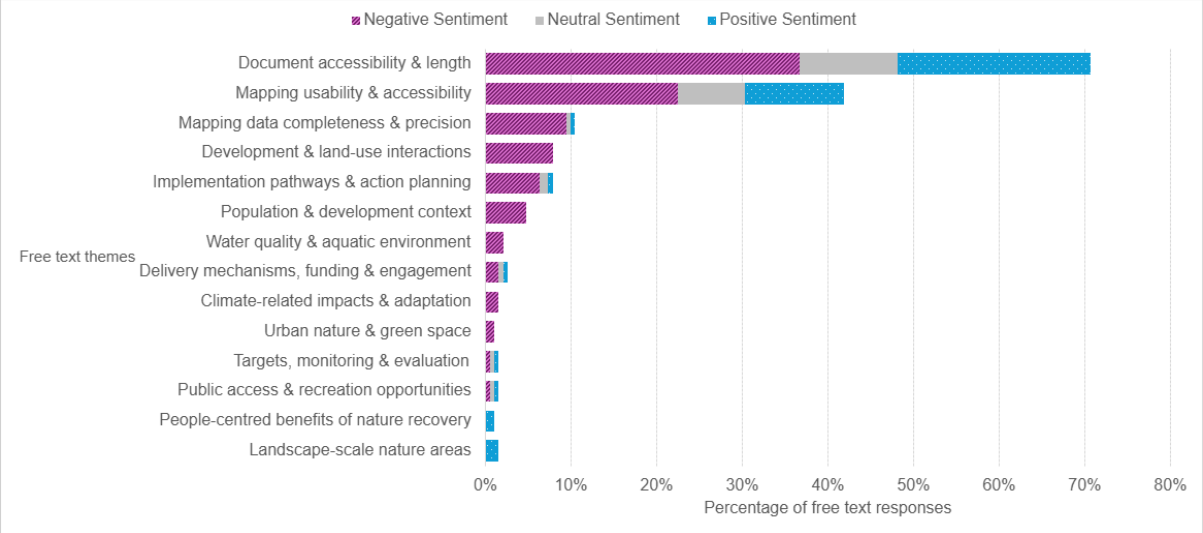
Figure 8. Respondent opinions on accessibility, understanding and purpose of the draft LNRS and the Local Habitat Map



When asked about the ease of use for both the draft strategy and LHM, between 63-74% of respondents agreed they were easy to use and understand. 78% also agreed that the strategy clearly explained what nature recovery could take place in each area and that the LNRS's purpose and aims are clear; around 13-16% disagreed.

Respondents had a free text box option to expand on their response to this question. Analysis of these responses are shown in the graph below.

Figure 9. Themes and sentiment from free text responses for the question ‘Please explain why you answered this question the way you did’

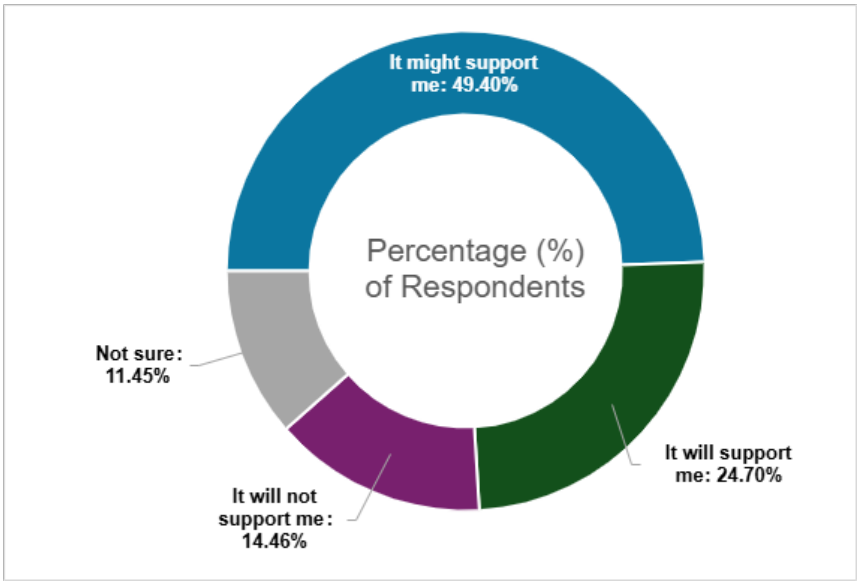


Almost 40% of the explanations with a negative sentiment centred around the length and accessibility of the LNRS document, a further 25% of people had issues with the usability of the map.

Smaller numbers of negative comments focused on the interactions between land-use and development, associated environment pressures, water quality and funding and engagement.

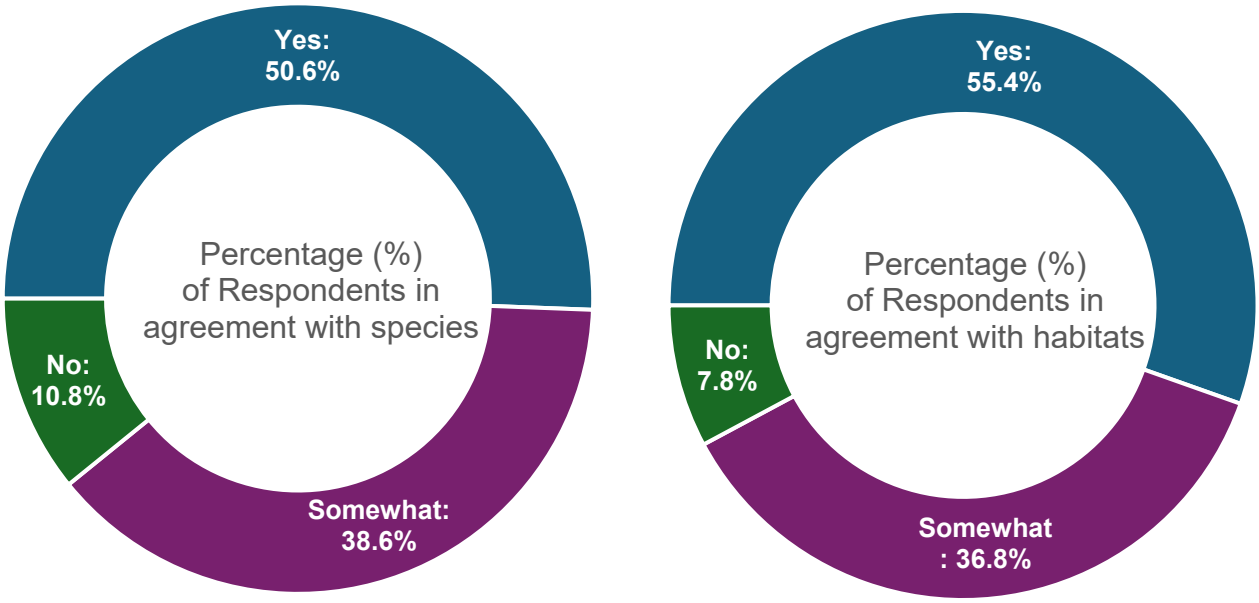
Strategy Impact Questions

Figure 10. Responses for the question ‘To what extent do you think the draft LNRS will support you (or group/s you represent) to take more effective action to recover nature?’



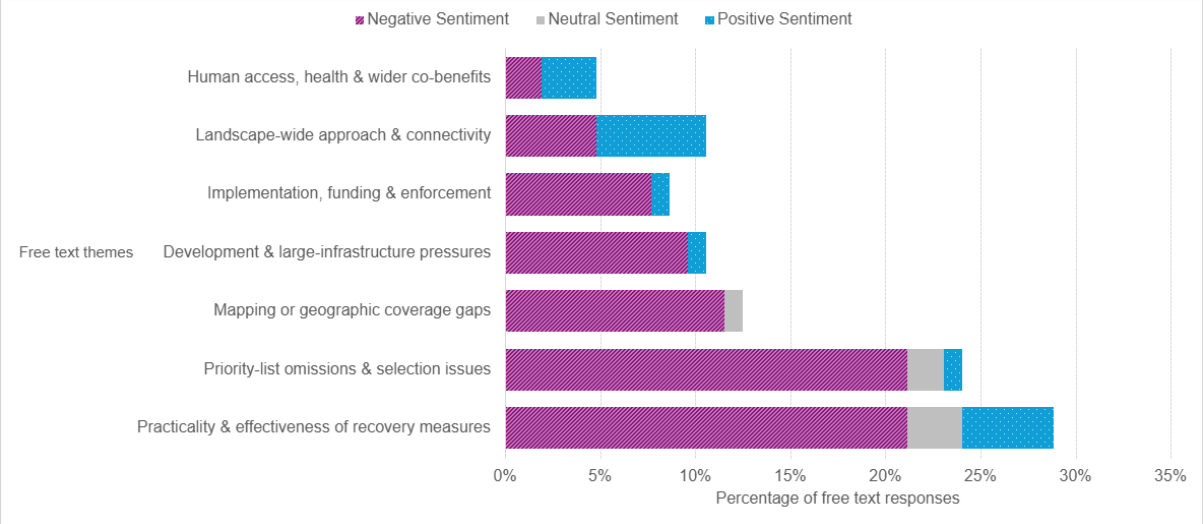
A quarter of respondents are sure the LNRS will support them to take more effective action for nature's recovery with nearly half of respondents thinking it might support them. 15% don't think the LNRS will support them and a further 11% were unsure.

Figure 11. Responses for the questions 'are you in agreement with the priority habitats and measures for recovery?' and 'are you in agreement with the priority species and measures for recovery?'



Over 50% of people were in total agreement with the priority habitats and species and measures for recovery. An additional 37% of people were somewhat happy. Around 10% of people disagreed with the choices of priority species and habitats. Where people answered 'somewhat' or 'no', they were asked to explain their reasoning. This is summarised below.

Figure 12. Themes and sentiment from free text responses for the question ‘If you have answered “somewhat” or “no”, then please explain why in the box below’

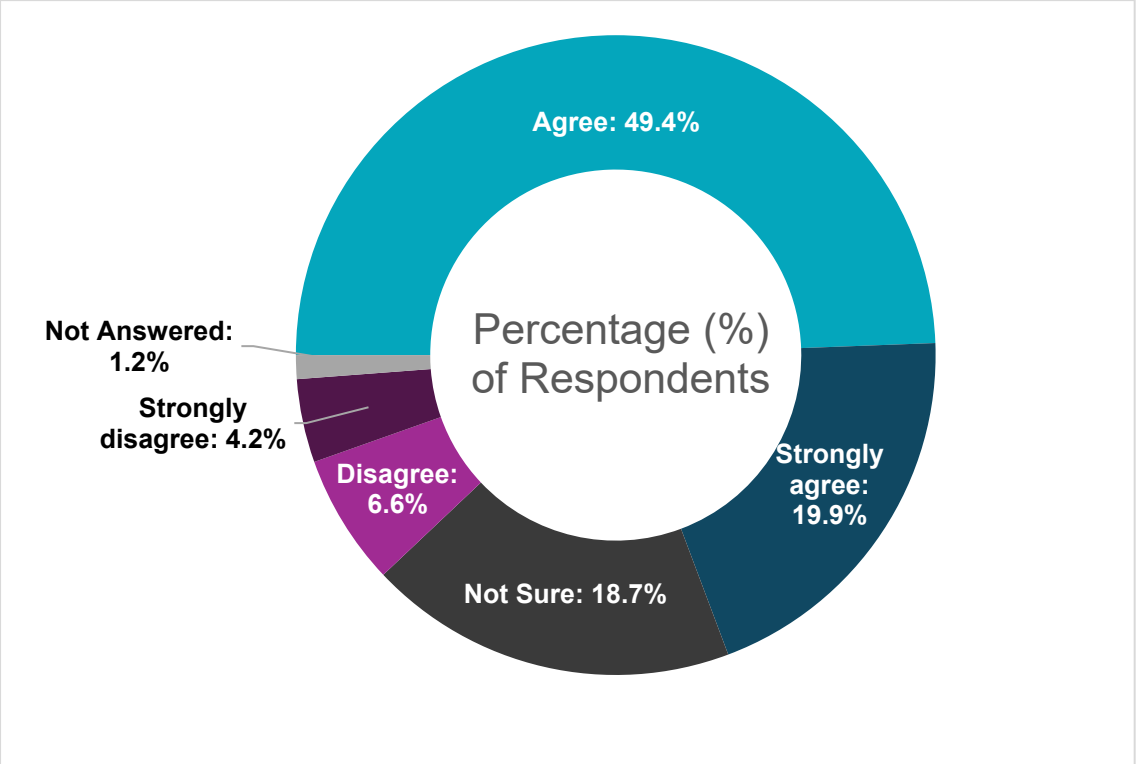


Where people only partially agreed or disagreed with the priority habitats and measures, many of the reasons given were around the practicality and effectiveness of the recovery measures identified or that there were key omissions (20% each).

Other reasons for partially agreeing or disagreeing included geographic gaps, development pressures and implementation and funding restrictions (all around 10% of responses).

Content Questions

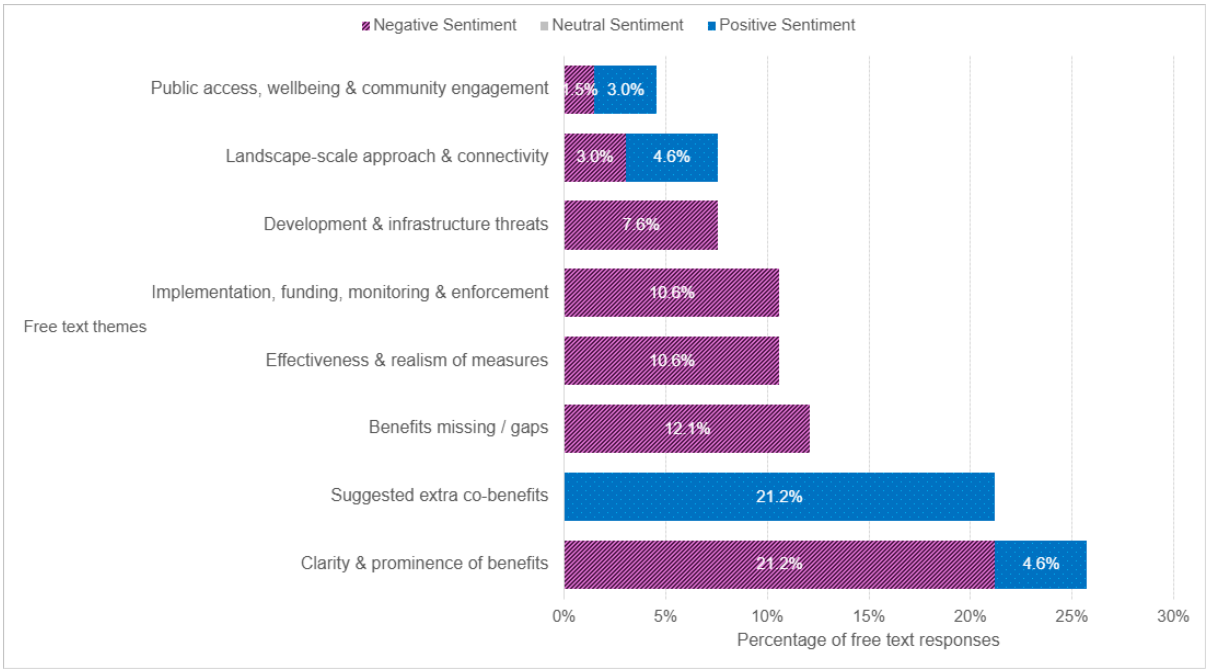
Figure 13. Responses to the question ‘To what extent do you agree that the strategy includes other appropriate environmental benefits?’



Most people (70%) agreed that the strategy includes other appropriate environmental benefits, with a further 20% being unsure. 10% disagreed that the strategy includes other appropriate environmental benefits.

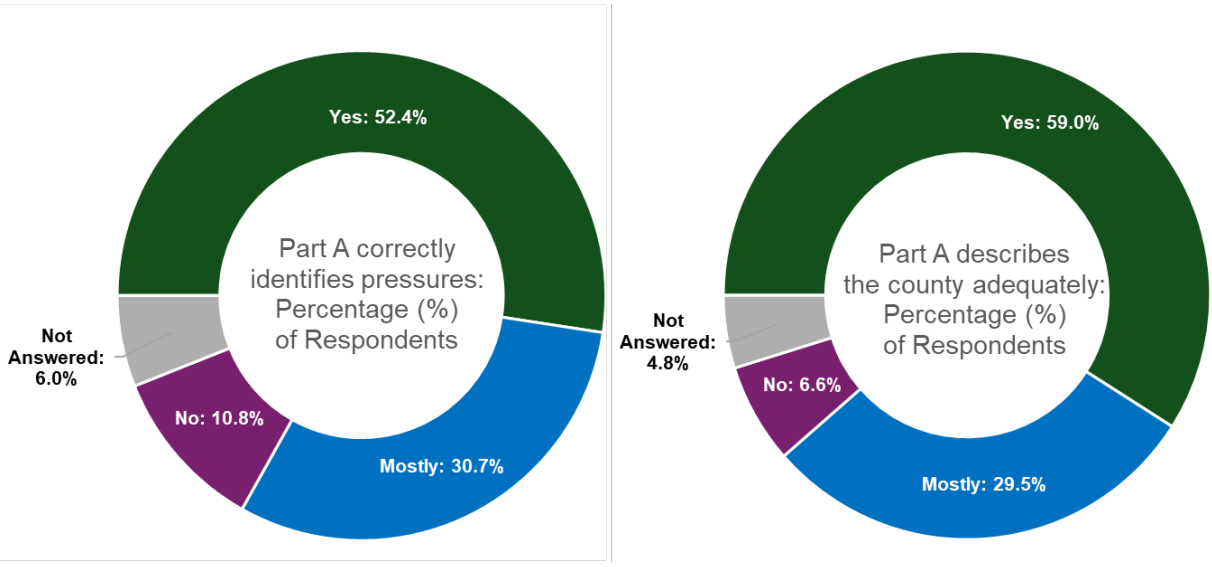
People were asked whether they had any further comments related to the environmental benefits and the answers are summarised below.

Figure 14. Theme and sentiment of free text responses for the question ‘any further comments about this question?’



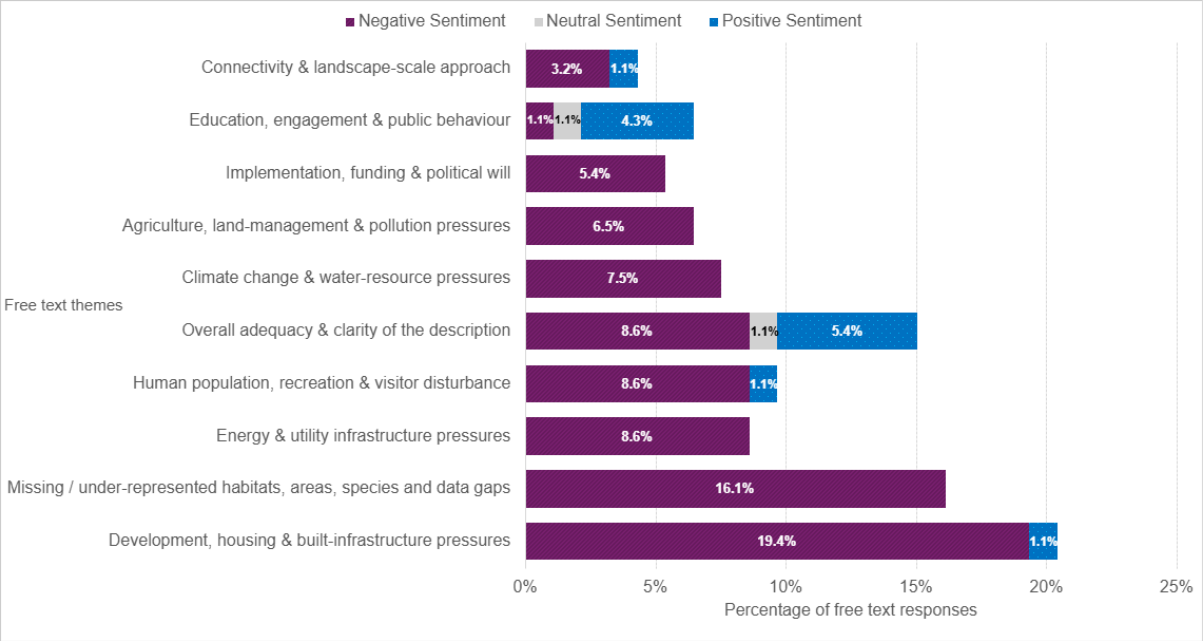
20% of respondents suggested extra co-benefits while a further 20% queried the clarity and prominence of the benefits. There were concerns around the effectiveness and realism of measures, the ability to implement, monitor and fund measures and the threat of development and infrastructure.

Figure 15. Responses for questions regarding part A of the document: strategy area description. ‘Do you think that Part A correctly identifies the pressures on nature in Norfolk’, and ‘Do you think that part A describes the county adequately?’.



80% of people agreed completely (50%) or mostly (30%) that Part A of the LNRS correctly identified the pressures on nature in Norfolk. 10% did not agree and a further 6% chose not to answer the question. The figures were similar but more in support when questioned whether the county was described accurately, 90% of people agreed completely (60%) or mostly (30%) and only 7% disagreed. People who answered ‘mostly’ or ‘no’ were asked to explain their reasoning. The themes and sentiments from these answers are summarised below.

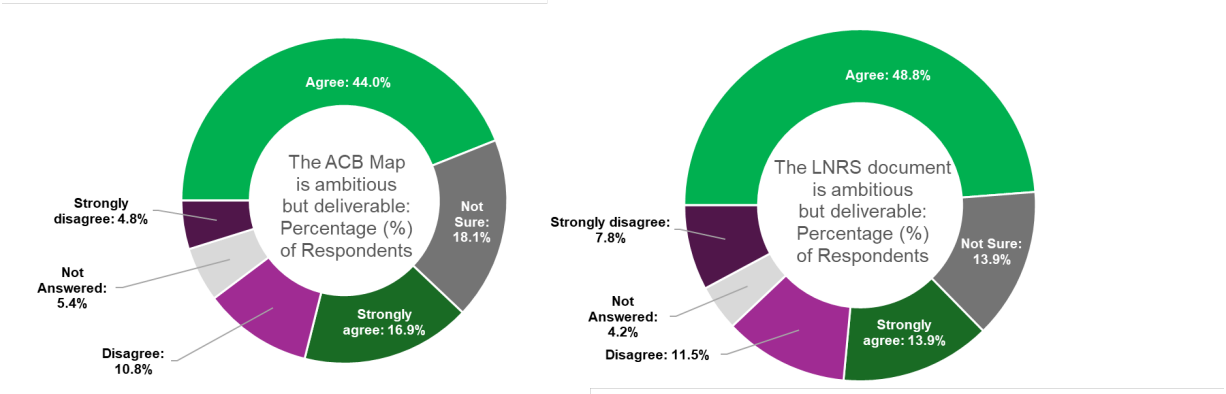
Figure 16. Themes and sentiment from free text comments for those who answered 'mostly' or 'no' to the previous questions



The main points raised in respect of Part A were that the pressures of development, housing and infrastructure were not reflected enough (20%) and that there were data gaps and some habitats and species not recognised (15%). While 9% of comments were critical of the clarity and overall adequacy of the description, just over 5% of comments were positive about this.

Other comments focused on infrastructure pressures from energy and utility infrastructure (9%), recreation and visitor disturbance (9%) and climate change and water pressures 7.5%).

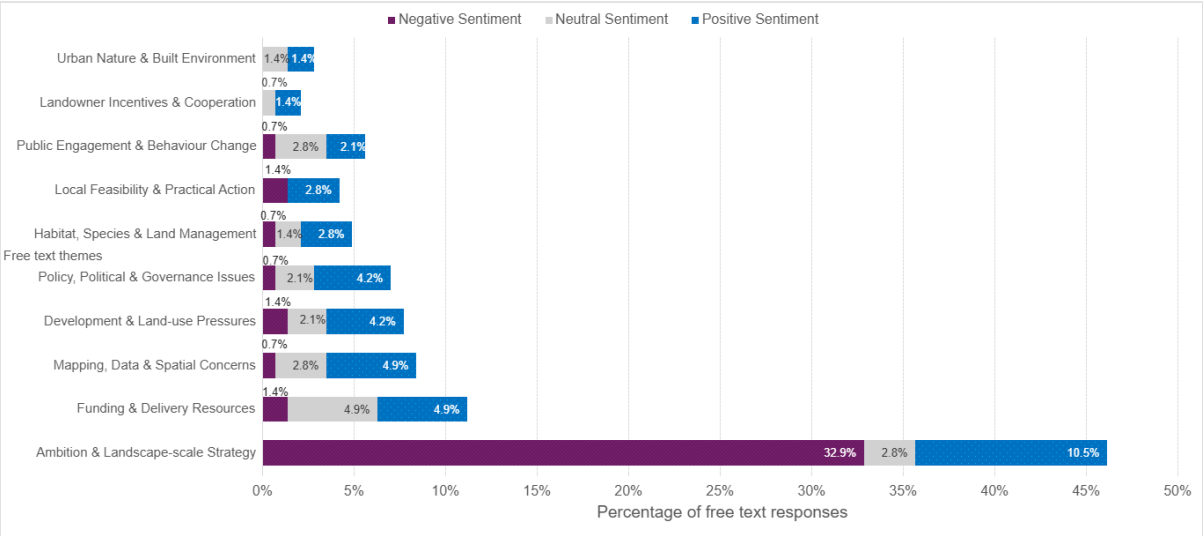
Figure 17. Responses to questions about ambition and deliverability of the ACB map and LNRS document



When asked about the ambition and deliverability of the ACB Map 60% agreed it was both ambitious and deliverable, nearly 20% of people were unsure and 15% of people disagreed. For the LNRS document 62% of people agreed, only 14% were unsure and nearly 20% of people disagreed.

Respondents had a free text box option to expand on their response to this question. Analysis of the responses are shown in the graph below.

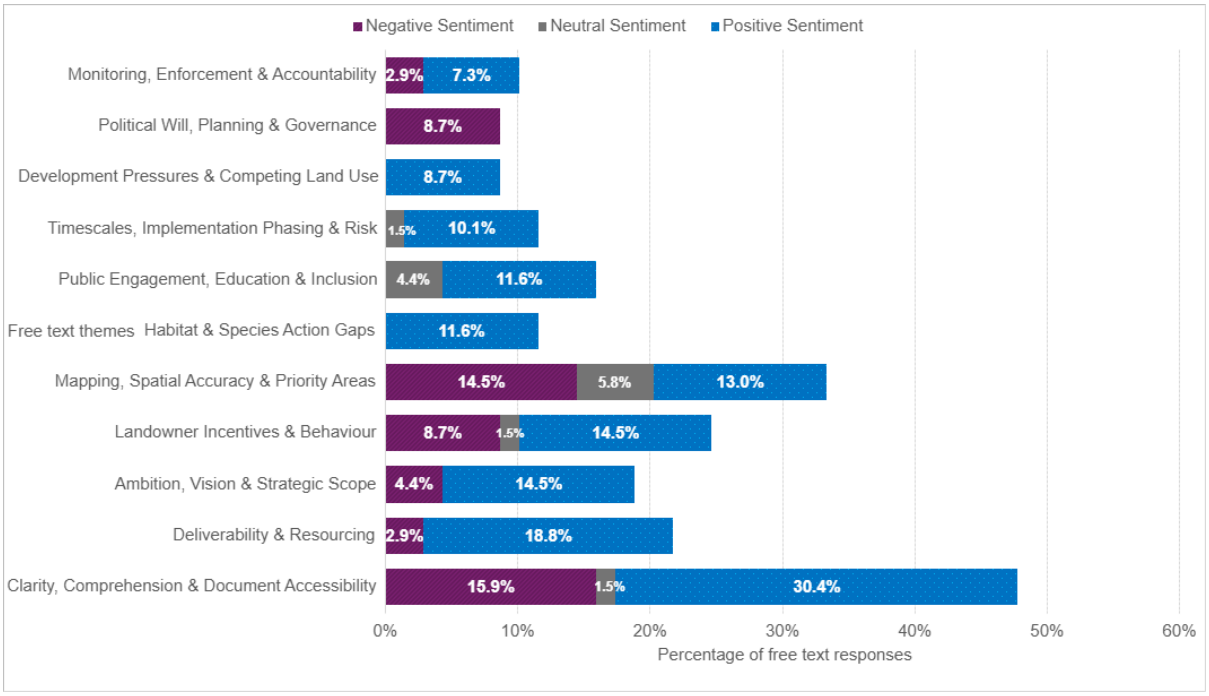
Figure 18. Themes and sentiment from free text responses regarding ACB map deliverability and ambition



When asked to explain why they disagreed that the map was deliverable and ambitious the majority of negative comments focused on problems with ambition and landscape-style strategy (33%).

However, this question additionally received positive responses that praised the implementation, planning, public engagement and ambition.

Figure 19. Themes and sentiment from free text responses regarding strategy document deliverability and ambition

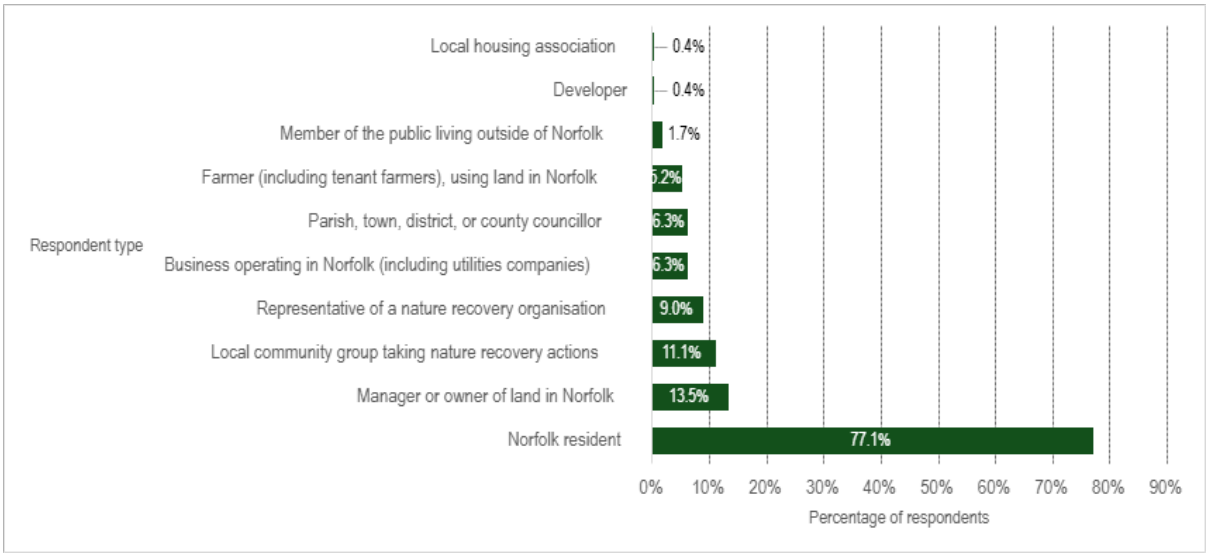


When asked to expand on their disagreement that the strategy document was deliverable and ambitious the majority of comments centred around three key themes. The clarity, comprehension and accessibility of the document (16%); concerns with the mapping, spatial accuracy and priority areas (15%); and a belief that a lack of political will, planning requirements and governance (9%) would hinder the effectiveness of the LNRS.

However, this question additionally received a lot of positive responses that praised the clarity of the document, it's ambition and resourcing.

Additional Feedback Questions

Figure 20. Proportion of respondents who heard about the survey through different methods



The majority of respondents were made aware of the survey through social media (75%) and/or direct emails (almost 70%), with 30% hearing about it through a local group they belong to. The rest of the answers covered around 5-10% each and included, local parish council, through a friend, NCC or district council's webpages. Less than 10% did not answer.

3.4. Common themes and responses

All comments from the public consultation were compiled and categorised. All comments are recorded as submitted and have not been edited. However, any personal information has been redacted.

Analysis of the public consultation comments identified ten main themes for consideration and response. These are listed below, with an indication of how these will be reflected in any changes to the LNRS document and mapping from those that were consulted on.

Document Accessibility and Length

The consultation highlighted the need for greater clarity and improved navigation and signposting throughout. Many respondents found the draft LNRS clear and easy to navigate therefore any changes will be focused on enhancing what is already there.

Norfolk County Council recognises the concerns raised with the length of the document. However, as Responsible Authority, NCC is required to follow statutory and non-statutory guidance and include a level of detail to ensure compliance with

this. The aim was to create a document that appealed to a wide range of stakeholders, both professional and the public, and met accessibility criteria.

In the final documents, signposting and navigation will be updated and enhanced where appropriate. In addition, the document will be split into separate parts when made available for download. The intention was always to create an executive summary of the document once it was finalised for publication. The executive summary will highlight the key priorities and focus areas.

In addition, Norfolk County Council will work with the NSNRP to make the LNRS as user-friendly as possible for anyone to utilise and refer to the documentation and mapping.

Spelling, punctuation or grammar changes suggested by stakeholders or via the consultation will be reviewed and incorporated as appropriate.

Mapping, Data & Evidence

Consultation feedback on the mapping highlighted two areas of improvement or concern - the usability and accessibility of the mapping and limitations with the accuracy and strength of the data sets that had been used to create the map. The mapping methodology and outputs have been refined and improved in line with the priorities in the LNRS. Throughout the development of the methodology, the approach adopted has been to use the best data available under open-source licence for the required process. The main changes implemented include:

Changes to strategic areas:

- Removal of barbastelle bat habitat buffers to treat the inclusion of all species included in the mapping in a consistent manner and emphasise the focus of the strategic zones on opportunities for connectivity corridor strengthening.
- Retaining the current buffer of Priority Habitat Inventory (PHI) areas outside of Natural England habitat networks and the defined APIB, as included within the draft version for the consultation.
- If all defined PHI areas were buffered, as suggested by some respondents, the increase in ACB created would be significant and not represent a process of defining strategic opportunity for this iteration of the LNRS.
- Addition of 50m buffers to chalk streams and priority rivers to emphasise the ‘natural’ corridor features of the riparian environment and to reflect the importance of the habitat, as suggested by some respondents.
- Updating available data sets to those newer versions where they have been published. This includes deep peat mapping and baseline information, including County Wildlife Sites and Ancient Woodland inventories where available.

Addition of measures:

- Where suggestions have been made to add measures to land parcels, these were assessed on a case-by-case basis to determine suitability.
- The following triage and decision process (approved by the Steering Group) was employed:
    - Initial assessment of each suggestion to check for alignment with existing measure descriptions.
        - If no, it will not be considered suitable for inclusion.
        - If yes, it will be checked to discover if accurate spatial data is available
        - If accurate spatial data is available, the location will be checked to assess if it is included in the planned updates to the map and, if not already included, identified land parcels will be added.
        - If accurate spatial data is not available, information from the consultation will be extrapolated to identify the location if possible and, if successful, will follow the step immediately above.
        - If it is not possible to identify any location, it will not be considered suitable for inclusion.
        - If the location is possible to identify, but it does not fall within current or updated strategic areas, a separate ecological justification will be required to support inclusion in the mapped areas. If necessary, this will involve advice and support from the Steering Group.

Changes to constraints:

- For urban greenspaces such as allotments, sports grounds etc., inappropriate measures such as woodland/scrub creation will be excluded and appropriate caveats added for the other measures applied. The map will reflect inclusion of any appropriate landowner or manager measures that have been submitted and, where necessary the text will be updated to clarify how measures can apply in an urban context. A full list of caveats and constraints on measures will be provided in the mapping methodology appendix to the LNRS document.
- Where suitable data exists and there is sound ecological reasoning for constraining suitable areas for habitat creation, additional constraints will be added to refine the suitability criteria. For example, the addition of Environment Agency Flood zones to inform locations for wetland habitats.

Other amendments and updates:

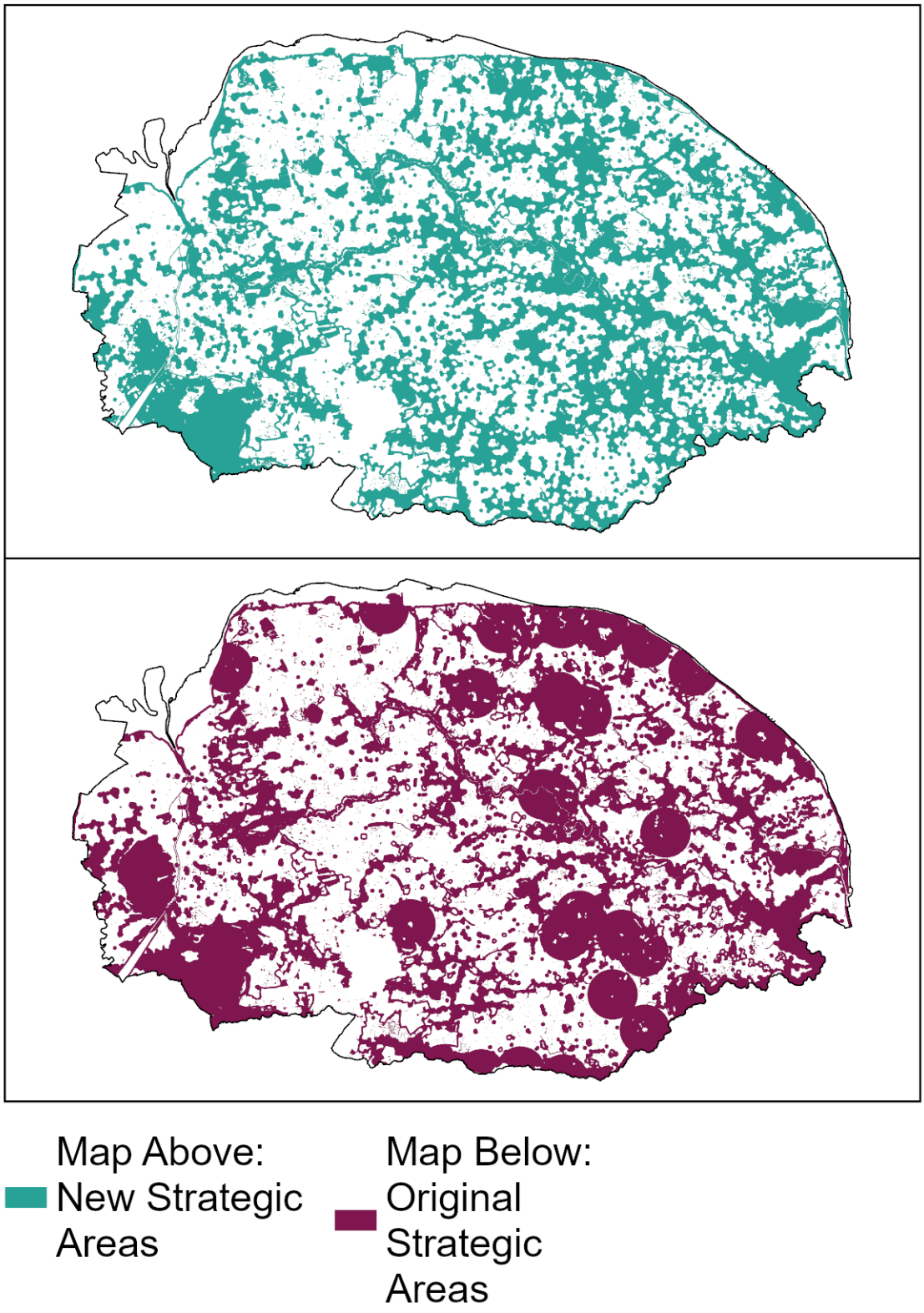
- Outside of the strategic area defined within the map, measures will remain unmapped but details will be strengthened within the text to emphasise the opportunities presented e.g. hedgerow mapping and pond restoration.
- Multiple measures will remain on land parcels where mapping options have equal priority and are justifiable based on the rules applied. Where necessary a single option will be applied. It is considered that multiple options can be

further prioritised when implementation of nature recovery measures are required, and appropriate checks and suitability assessments can provide a stronger data set for decision making.

- Nature Based Solutions data from work by Water Resources East will be incorporated into the datasets. Where this is not available for coverage across the region, equivalent data from the Environment Agency will be employed to designate those areas.
- Some landowners or managers requested that land parcels were removed e.g. where woodland creation opportunities were allocated to cropland currently in production. The decision was made to not remove land parcels from the Local Habitat Map except for occasions where land use decisions have been made or are in place which would negate the land from nature recovery potential. This included some industrial areas and infrastructure areas. Inclusion within the ACB does not compel any landowner to take any action, as it is only an opportunity map. In addition, the position of the Responsible Authorities is that land ownership and financial incentives can change and therefore it is not yet known what benefits may arise from LNRS in the future. The LNRS is an advisory document and there are no adverse consequences if a land parcel is part of the LHM, so land parcels will remain on the map.

Changes to the strategic areas lead to a strengthened focus on connectivity corridors across the landscape, with some new areas now classed as in-scope for mapping measures. Some areas are no longer in-scope, largely due to the updated Priority Habitat Inventory and peat map being used. The overall proportion of the strategy area that is suitable for mapping measures to has decreased slightly, at 43% compared to 47% in the public consultation draft. This is shown below in Figure 21. The final area defined as ACB will not be calculated until all amendments and refinements have been processed. It is anticipated this will remain at approximately 30%.

Figure 21. Comparison of strategic areas in original Local Habitat Map and after updates.



An additional incorporation includes specific measures that relate to enhancement of habitats for existing populations of key species. As the map has developed, it was considered most appropriate to link to these factors nearer the end of the process when strategic opportunity areas have been defined.

It was not possible or feasible to ground truth the data used to generate the mapping as this would require a significantly larger resource than was available. Additionally, the statutory guidance and data standards provided had no requirement for this. It was always considered that the public consultation highlighted the chance to gather additional information for the process and provided a chance for those who know the land best to give insight and updates. These comments have been incorporated to the mapping and document following the appropriate triage process, checking for ecological significance and sufficient data. This further supports the statements included within the document indicating that appropriate site-specific reviews, supported by expert advice and input, should be carried out to determine the suitability of the land for nature recovery actions.

Nature Recovery Scope

The LNRS has been designed to reflect priorities across the county and to work on a local and countywide scale. This includes specific measures for species, assemblages and habitats which are designed to benefit biodiversity, the wider environment and people.

The wording within the document will be strengthened to take into account suggestions for updated and refined measures in all areas. These suggestions have come from Supporting Authorities, eNGOs, community groups, landowners, farm clusters and residents. Where multiple suggestions have been made, the measure will aim to reflect all views where possible.

The LNRS contains mapped measures, unmapped measures and wider priorities. The mapped measures are allocated to specific locations which have been reviewed as stated above. This includes urban areas. Unmapped measures and wider priorities are more independent of location and can be applied in a wide range of situations representing an opportunity for all sectors to be involved in nature recovery. These measures will be further emphasised in the final document.

There are a wide range of Landscape Recovery Schemes currently in development stages. Landscape recovery schemes are part of the Environmental Land Management initiatives aimed at providing long-term benefits for nature and the environment. They focus on four main areas:

1) Large-scale projects
2) Long-term public funding
3) Bespoke agreements

4) Blending funding

They represent an important delivery mechanism for the LNRS and the priorities should align where possible.

The final document and mapping will ensure alignment with these projects. Where available, detailed land parcel data will be incorporated. Those LRS projects that are in development will be able to utilise the information in the LNRS to determine spatial and biodiversity priorities where applicable.

The importance of connectivity across the landscape in determining of the strategic opportunity areas and mapping measures has been refined during the mapping methodology review. This will be emphasised in the final document and has the potential to provide a basis for prioritisation of project implementation, in terms of creating new habitat ‘corridors’ or ‘stepping stones’.

In addition, further detail on Protected Landscapes, including National Landscapes and National Parks, will be reviewed and additional sections included in the document to reflect the duty that all public bodies have to support statutory purposes of Protected Landscapes.

All factors included above feed into the ambition of the LNRS, to reflect the views and suggestions from the public consultation and engagement. Within the document, where there are links to alignment with stakeholders and how the LNRS will be implemented in the future. Additional statements of clarification or support will be added. This will also feed into plans for the NSNRP to maintain and develop engagement across a wide range of key stakeholder groups to support use of the document and mapping. This will include developers, local planning authorities, businesses, farm clusters and landowners, health and wellbeing groups and community groups.

Implementation, Monitoring and Governance

The consultation raised comments about how the strategy will be converted from a document to on the ground action, how it be will implemented and who holds the responsibility for this.

The purpose of the LNRS is the prioritisation, mapping and determination of appropriate measures for nature recovery. The statutory guidance did not require delivery plans or implementation structures to be incorporated into the document.

Plans for delivery and implementation of the LNRS will be developed through the NSNRP whilst working closely with partners. As a Responsible Authority, NCC will continue to work closely with stakeholders to maximise the effectiveness of the

LNRS to enhance use and interpretation of the information contained in the document and mapping.

This is the first iteration of the LNRS. The Environment Act states that once published, a LNRS will be reviewed no sooner than 3 years after that date, and no longer than 10 years. Any review will be triggered by the Secretary of State.

The responses to the public consultation included queries regarding targets and monitoring of the implementation. No changes are to be made to the document within these areas, as the available and relevant information is included.

Where possible, the strategy has been designed to align with national environmental targets (NEOs), targets from the Environment Act 2021 and the non-statutory protected landscape targets alongside wider environmental benefit aims.

The Responsible Authority will continue to follow all guidance available within the next steps of delivery and implementation and maintain close communication with Defra and the advisory bodies.

Development and Land Use Pressures

The consultation responses included multiple comments on how the LNRS should incorporate and reflect changing land use across the region, for example increased housing allocations and Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs) such as solar farms.

It is recognised that there will always be conflicting priorities over land use within the region. During the course of the LNRS development, priorities and planned projects will have evolved and changed.

The LNRS is not designed to be a barrier to development but is considered a tool to use to identify the best opportunity for integrating nature recovery practices within planning systems. It does not have the ability to create new designations or protect pieces of land as the ultimate decision lies with the landowner.

Clarification on how the LNRS interacts with planning policy, for communities, landowners and planning officers will be highlighted, where possible, in the LNRS documentation. In addition, future plans involve specific engagement with developers and planning officers to maximise the efficiency and use of the LNRS. Within the public consultation, requests to recognise planned infrastructure projects are acknowledged, but these are considered beyond the scope of the LNRS, so they have not been included.

Guidance and alignment with planning law has been developing throughout the process of producing the LNRS and all relevant documentation has been included and referred to. The most recent update from Defra was included prior to the public consultation. The strategies will be part of the 'material considerations' for planners, and it will be a requirement that they are 'taken account of' in any planning decisions following publication of the LNRS. The LNRS could, for example, be used to help guide future Local Plan allocations and inform green infrastructure within planned developments.

At the time of writing, the relevant legal documents state ‘have regard to’ in reference to the LNRS. However, the advice and information provided to the RAs indicates that this wording will be clarified as 'take account of' before the publication of the final strategy. Therefore, it is included to align with that documentation. As the LNRS will be in place for a period of time, it is considered appropriate to reflect the upcoming wording.

Environmental Pressures and Climate Change

The consultation highlighted the need for more detail surrounding Norfolk’s water quality and the impacts of pollution and the changing climate on our aquatic environment.

The LNRS has been designed to recognise the importance of water quality and resources and to emphasise the pressures faced by the freshwater environment, alongside the opportunities presented by maximising and enhancing the biodiversity in terms of habitat areas and relevant species.

Where appropriate, specific suggestions to enhance potential measures and increase clarification on aquatic environments will be included in the document. Additional inclusion and refinement of Nature Based Solutions in the mapping methodology will support the mapped potential for identifying wider environmental benefits within the LHM.

Collaboration and communication across water companies, landowners and other businesses will be highlighted where appropriate in the document and the plans for implementation to recognise the importance of delivering solutions.

The strategy also includes relevant pressures and challenges from a wide range of factors including development, some agricultural practices and recreational use. Where comments and suggestions have been provided to clarify, support or amend these, the LNRS document will be updated accordingly.

Benefits and Co-Benefits of Nature Recovery

Recognition and emphasis of the wider environmental benefits and co-benefits of nature recovery are considered an integral part of the purpose of the LNRS. These factors also promote traction and discussions on projects, ensuring multiple delivery aspects are considered and maintaining a balance across sector groups.

The feedback from supporting authorities, public health organisations, eNGOs and others, will be used to strengthen and clarify statements and assigned benefits from habitat specific actions in the final document. This includes emphasising those factors which align with wider reaching targets and may assist with prioritisation of implementation and delivery of projects in the next phase. In addition, key stakeholder engagement will review the ecological strength of these benefits.

In the current documentation, benefits are indicated using icons in the potential measures tables and additional details are included in an appendix. Both sections of the document will reflect any changes.

Social Engagement and Inclusion

The LNRS aims to be relevant to all sectors across the county and seeks to include actions and measures which can be utilised by all stakeholders. This message will be strengthened in the executive summary of the final document, as well as associated information and events to support that. Case studies will be carried forward into the final document to demonstrate best practice and will be clarified or updated as necessary.

The public consultation comments highlight work already in progress by community groups and volunteers, which include monitoring activities, nature recovery actions and citizen science projects. These don’t require changes to the final document, but reflect the strength of community interest and support for nature recovery. The NSNRP will continue to work with the community and education sector to promote and support this work. Where appropriate, more specific links and examples will be added to the documentation.

Co-design of projects will be critical to success. Support in terms of access to knowledge and potential funding streams will help to achieve the LNRS priorities.

Funding, Incentives and Feasibility

The document is considered to reflect the appropriate information regarding funding and delivery given the scope that it is required to meet. Therefore, there are no significant changes to the wording in the final document as a result of suggestions in the consultation responses. These comments will instead help shape the next stage of work to develop delivery of nature recovery in Norfolk. This includes information

on current groups, suggestions for expanding the NSNRP, and ideas regarding training and green skills.

As part of this, the NSNRP and individual partners will be working to align with opportunities from public and private funding streams to drive nature recovery on the ground. This will link into the publication of the final document, future guidance from government and the intention and vision of the partnership members.

Due to the extensive partnership and stakeholder engagement, it is anticipated the strategy will be adopted and provide a framework for action across a wide range of stakeholders.

In addition to completing the publication of the LNRS, the current role for NCC as the Responsible Authority includes:

- Leading and convening a partnership focused on LNRS delivery, building on existing governance and partnerships, including Local Nature Partnerships
- Making links with other parts of the authority and supporting authorities to promote use of the LNRS in other decision making (for example Spatial Development Strategies, Local Growth Plans, public health, climate resilience and adaptation)
- Identifying, developing and publicising projects that will contribute to LNRS delivery
- Tracking activities or projects delivering LNRS priorities that are being funded outside of public funding schemes and sharing this information with Natural England

Habitats and species

The Statement of Biodiversity Priorities and the Species Long and Short lists were created in collaboration across the NSNRP and involved expert opinion and input. Through the consultation process, contributions and updated data from all stakeholders resulted in some amendments to potential measures for species, assemblages and habitats, which are incorporated where appropriate.

Where information has been supplied regarding the presence of habitat types or appropriate species in key areas, these have been incorporated into the LHM following the approach detailed above (within Mapping, Data and Evidence).

Additional details will also be used to strengthen or clarify information on the appropriate measures or justification for incorporating these species in the published version of the LNRS.

Decisions to change key species or flagship species for assemblages have been taken following a review of information supplied and with regard to updated or

existing data and advice. Within assemblages, some species details will be adjusted to ensure ecological suitability across the habitat areas. These changes are summarised below:

- Remove Suffolk Lungwort as a key species. Historical data restricts this species to Suffolk and ongoing work to restore populations is still in its early stages. Norfolk habitat areas would require long-term monitoring to assess suitability, and this is considered out of scope of the current LNRS.
- Remove Starry Breck Lichen as a key species. Additional advice and research indicates this species requires a significant reduction in aerial nitrogen within a localised habitat area to have suitable recovery potential. This is considered beyond the scope of the LNRS at this stage and therefore will be removed.

The number of Key Species identified for Norfolk will therefore decrease to 23.

- For assemblage species:
    - Fish species in the River and Riverside Habitats assemblage will be reviewed to remove Salmon and replace with Burbot, Bullhead, Spined Loach and Brown Trout species to also reflect the importance of the chalk stream habitats. Although there are some records of Salmon species within the region, the rivers are not considered to be spawning areas and therefore the alternative species are more appropriate for inclusion.
    - The flagship species for Chalk Grassland will be amended to the Rock-Rose from the Chalkhill Blue butterfly, to ensure this is a better representative of the habitat as it has not been subject to a re-introduction

There will be no changes to the number of assemblages or habitats prioritised within the LNRS.

3.5. Comments out of scope:

Consultation responses included a number of comments on matters that were out of scope for the LNRS. These included:

- Preventing development
- External pressures on farming
- Mitigations to reduce overheating in homes
- How the LNRS is implemented in law

Since they are out of the LNRS scope, these suggestions will not be incorporated into the final version of the strategy document or LHM.

4. Revisions to the strategy

4.1. Overview of changes made to the strategy document

- Strengthening content and clarifying/emphasising key statements
- Updating and refining measures and actions for habitats, assemblages and species
- Enhancing links within document and to mapping
- Wider environmental benefits and co-benefits
- Increasing information on National Landscapes and Landscape Recovery Schemes
- Species amendments – some removal, some suggestions
- General Spelling and Grammar issues amended.

4.2. Overview of changes made to measures and actions

- Remove Suffolk Lungwort and Starry Breck Lichen as key species - therefore, Norfolk's Key Species number will decrease to 23.
- Fish species within River and Riverside Habitats assemblage will be reviewed to remove Salmon and replace with Burbot, Bullhead, Spined Loach and Brown Trout species
- The flagship species for Chalk Grassland will be amended to the Rock-Rose (*Helianthemum nummularium*) from the Chalkhill Blue butterfly to ensure this is a better representative of the habitat as it has not been subject to a re-introduction program.

4.3. Overview of changes made to the mapping

- Changes to strategic areas:
    - Barbastelle buffers removed
    - No buffering of PHI outside of NE habitat networks/APIB
    - Chalk and priority river 50m buffers added
    - New deep peat map added
- Adding measures
    - Decided on case-by-case basis.
    - Initial suggestion for triage process is as follows:
- Changes to constraints
    - For urban greenspaces such as allotments, sports grounds exclude inappropriate measures such as woodland/scrub creation and add caveats to other measures.
    - Amendments to suitability criteria where appropriate (e.g. inclusion of EA Floodplain constraints)

- Other changes
    - No mapping of measures (e.g. hedgerows) outside strategic areas (these will be assigned as unmapped measures)
    - Keep multiple options on land parcels, rather than prioritise one
    - Use updated baseline input datasets to improve accuracy
    - Appropriate Nature-based Solutions data incorporated

4.4. Impact on overall strategy

The impact of these changes mean that the final document will be slightly longer than the draft document. An executive summary will be prepared to help with accessibility and the review process will look for opportunities to reduce the size of the document.

The draft strategy document and Local Habitat Map prepared for the public consultation remain available on Norfolk County Council's website

5. Expected stages to publication

What's next?

Steps to complete to ensure delivery

- Amendments and responses – preparing report
- Prepare for and deliver at two internal committees
- Prepare for cabinet
- Supporting Authority Pre-Publication Consultation period
- Norfolk County Council cabinet
- Portfolio Holder approval
- Release and publication of final LNRS to Defra
- Launch across the NSNRP

The changes will be reviewed and signed off by the NSNRP Steering Group which includes a range of local, regional, and national partners (see membership of this group in Appendix 2). The data used in this report has been used to plan changes to the draft map and documents to create a final version of the LNRS. Once the LNRS is finalised, Norfolk County Council will publish this report online to offer transparency to this process.

6. Conclusion

The Norfolk Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) public consultation has provided a robust and insightful evidence base, demonstrating public support for the draft strategy and its aims. The consultation process, which followed the Gunning Principles, enabled meaningful engagement and generated a wide range of feedback from individuals, communities, and organisations across the county.

The responses show a strong level of agreement with the purpose, clarity, and proposed actions of the strategy, while also identifying areas for improvement. Key themes emerged around accessibility, mapping usability, ambition, implementation, and the desire for stronger links to funding, governance, and monitoring. These insights have directly informed revisions to both the strategy document and the mapping outputs.

As the Responsible Authority, Norfolk County Council has responded to this feedback by strengthening the clarity and accessibility of the document, refining habitat and species actions and improving the mapping methodology. While some comments fell outside the scope of the LNRS, all feedback was reviewed and considered through a structured process.

This consultation has reaffirmed the importance of collaborative, locally informed action for nature recovery, which the NSNRP will take forward. The revised strategy will now progress through internal and external governance and publication stages.

Appendices

Appendix 1 - Triage approaches

Document

A triage approach was taken to ensure all comments received during the consultation were reviewed appropriately. That process was as follows:

- Norfolk County Council reviewed all comments, answering the majority using a standardised comment bank covering the main, reoccurring themes.
- Comments that were out of scope of the main themes or required a more comprehensive response were escalated to senior staff members to draft a response.
- Where a comment required a particular environmental expert's input, this was escalated again to ensure a thorough response was provided.

Mapping

The triage process for mapping related comments was as follows:

- All comments pinned directly to the map were reviewed by the mapping team, as well as all emailed responses. Comments in the public consultation were flagged up by the wider team for review where there was a mapping related element.
- Mapping comments were themed for consistency, based on whether the comment was requesting an area be added to the map, removed from the map, or the methods otherwise changed. Comments were also tagged as either 'site specific' or 'applicable across the strategy area'.
- Most comments required a tailored response, so it was deemed unsuitable to use a comment bank in most cases.
- For comments applicable across the strategy area, potential actions were compiled and the suggested changes to the methodology reviewed by senior staff members, steering group members and other stakeholders as appropriate to determine suitability.
- For comments requiring a site-specific change, the following process was then used to determine whether the suggestion was suitable for inclusion (see Figure 22).

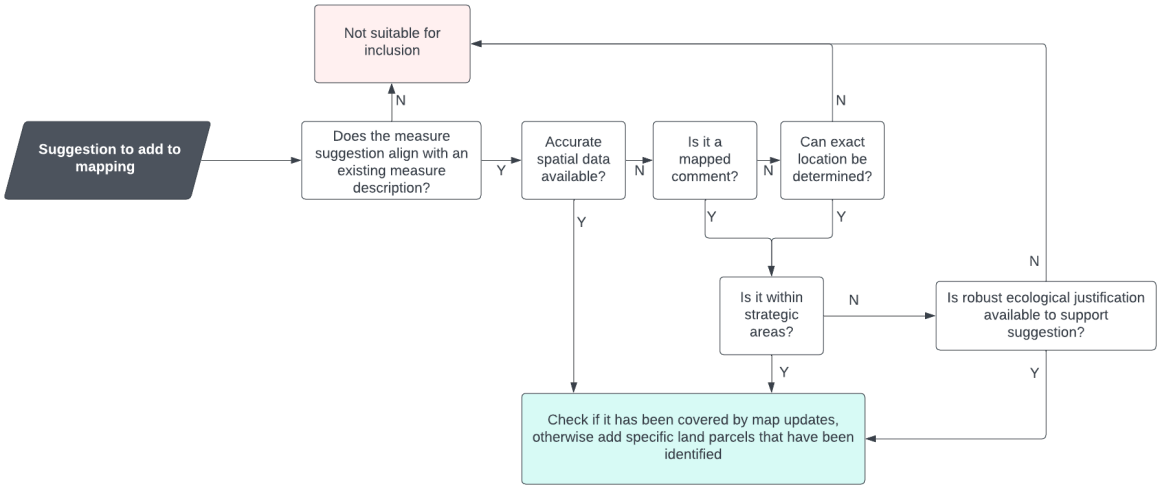


Figure 22: Site specific additions to the LHM triage process

The suggestions will initially be assessed to check for alignment with existing measure descriptions.

- If no, it will not be considered suitable for inclusion.
- If yes, it will be checked to discover if accurate spatial data is available.
    - If accurate spatial data is available, the location will be checked to assess if it is included in the planned updates to the map, and if not already included, identified land parcels will be added.
    - If accurate spatial data is not available, information from the consultation will be extrapolated to identify the location if possible, and if successful, will follow the step detailed above.
    - If it is not possible to identify any location, it will not be considered suitable for inclusion.
    - If the location is possible to identify, but it does not fall within current or updated strategic areas, a separate ecological justification will be required to support inclusion in the mapped areas.

If necessary, this will involve advice and support from the Steering Group.

Appendix 2 – Norfolk & Suffolk Nature Recovery Partnership Steering Group

Co-Chairpersons

- Wendy Brooks: Norfolk County Council – Head of Environment
- Tim De-Keyzer: Suffolk County Council – Head of Natural and Historic Environment

Membership

- Broads Authority
- East Suffolk Council - representing Suffolk District and Borough Councils
- Environment Agency
- Forestry Commission
- Natural England
- Norfolk Association for Local Councils
- Norfolk County Council - Norfolk Coast National Landscape
- Norfolk County Council - Public Health
- Norfolk Wildlife Trust (NWT)
- North Norfolk Coastal Group (Farm Clusters)
- Norwich City Council – representing Norfolk District and Borough Councils
- Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)
- Suffolk Chamber of Commerce
- Suffolk County Council - Suffolk Coasts & Heaths and Dedham Vale National Landscapes
- Water Resources East

Appendix 3 - Norfolk Local Nature Recovery Strategy Public Consultation questions

Question	Section	Question type
1. Please tick to confirm that you have read the personal information, confidentiality and data protection statement above.	Personal information, confidentiality and data protection	Select only one item (tick box)
2. To provide feedback on the draft LNRS, please tell us which sections of the draft document you have viewed: • Introduction • PART A – Strategy Area Description • PART B – Opportunities Identified • PART C – Norfolk's Priority Habitats, Assemblages and Species • PART D – Locations for Actions • Appendices • Local Habitat Map	Introduction	Choose all that apply
3. I am responding to this consultation as a: • Local community group taking nature recovery actions • Parish, town, district, or county councillor • Representative of a nature recovery organisation • Norfolk resident • Business operating in Norfolk (including utilities companies). • Manager or owner of land in Norfolk • Farmer (including tenant farmers), using land in Norfolk • Member of the public living outside of Norfolk • Developer • Other group (please specify):	About You	Choose all that apply
4. What is your postcode?	About you	Text box

Question	Section	Question type
5. What is your organisation, if applicable?	About you	Text box
6. Are you concerned about the: • Current state of nature in Norfolk? • Future state of nature in Norfolk?	About you	Scale: • Yes, significantly • Yes • Quite a bit • Somewhat • A little bit • No
7. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements: • The draft strategy is easy to understand. • The purpose and aims of the Norfolk LNRS are clear. • The strategy explains what nature recovery could take place in each area. • The mapping is easy to understand • The mapping is easy to use	Accessibility	Scale: • Strongly agree • Agree • Disagree • Strongly disagree • I don't know / Not sure Open text to explain answer
8. To what extent do you think the draft LNRS will support you (or group/s you represent) to take more effective action to recover nature? • It will support me • It might support me • It will not support me • Not sure	Strategy Impact	Select only one item (tick box)
9. Are you in agreement with the: • Priority habitats and measures for recovery • Priority species and measures for recovery	Strategy Impact	Scale: • Yes • Somewhat • No Open text to explain answer, if answering 'somewhat' or 'no'.

Question	Section	Question type
10. To what extent do you agree that the Strategy includes other appropriate environmental benefits?	Content questions	Scale: • Strongly agree • Agree • Disagree • Strongly disagree • I don't know / Not sure Open text to comment
11. Do you think that the Strategy Area Description (Part A) • Describes the county adequately? • Correctly identifies the pressures on nature in Norfolk?	Content questions	Scale: • Yes • Mostly (comment to explain answer) • No (comment to explain answer)
12. Are there any additional measures that should be included in the LNRS?	Content questions	Tick box: • Yes (comment to explain answer) • No
13. To what extent do you agree with the following statement? "The Areas that Could become of Particular Importance for Biodiversity (ACB) map is ambitious but deliverable"	Content questions	Scale: • Strongly agree • Agree • Disagree • Strongly disagree • I don't know / Not sure Open text to comment
14. To what extent do you agree with the following statement? "The LNRS document is ambitious but deliverable."	Content questions	Scale: • Strongly agree • Agree • Disagree • Strongly disagree • I don't know / Not sure Open text to comment

Question	Section	Question type
15. Is there anything else that you would like to see changed to improve the Local Nature Recovery Strategy? Please tell us whether you are commenting on: • Introduction • PART A – Strategy Area Description • PART B – Opportunities Identified • PART C – Norfolk's Priority Habitats, Assemblages and Species PART D – Locations for Actions • Appendices • Local Habitat Map	Additional feedback	Tick box and text box to comment
16. If you would like to be included in future updates on the Local Nature Recovery Strategy and the Norfolk and Suffolk Nature Recovery Partnership, please provide an email address.	Additional feedback	Text box
17. How did you hear about this consultation? • Local media (e.g. newspaper, radio) • From a social media post (e.g. Facebook) • From a friend • From a group I belong to • From my place of work or education • The Norfolk Residents' Panel • Norfolk County Council web page • My Parish Council • From an email I received • Other, please write here	Equality and demographic questions	Choose all that apply
18. (a) What is your sex? • Male • Female (b) Is the gender you identify with the same as your sex registered at birth? • Yes • No, write in gender identity • Please write here	Equality and demographic questions	Tick box

Question	Section	Question type
19. How old are you? • Under 18 • 18-24 • 25-34 • 35-44 • 45-54 • 55-64 • 65-74 • 75-84 • 85 or older • Prefer not to say	Equality and demographic questions	Select only one item (tick box)
20. Do you have any long-term illness, disability or health problem that limits your daily activities or the work you can do? • Yes • No • Prefer not to say	Equality and demographic questions	Select only one item (tick box)

Question	Section	Question type

21. How would you describe your ethnic background? Please choose one answer only, from the list below:
• Asian or Asian British
  ○ Asian British
  ○ Indian
  ○ Pakistani
  ○ Bangladeshi
  ○ Chinese
  ○ Any other Asian background, please describe here
• Black, Black British, Caribbean, or African
  ○ Black British
  ○ Caribbean
  ○ African
  ○ Any other Black, Black British, or Caribbean background, please describe here
• Mixed or multiple ethnic groups
  ○ White and Black Caribbean
  ○ White and Black African
  ○ White and Asian
  ○ Any other mixed or multiple ground, please describe here
• White
  ○ English, Welsh, Scottish, Northern Irish or British
  ○ Irish
  ○ Gypsy or Irish Traveller
  ○ Roma
  ○ Other White background, please describe here:
• Another ethnic group
  ○ Arab
  ○ Any other ethnic group please describe here
	Equality and demographic questions	