Nature Recovery Herefordshire







Local Nature Recovery Strategy

Public Consultation Results Summary

August 2026

Herefordshire Council

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1. Introduction

As a part of the of the creation of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) Herefordshire Council had a statutory requirement to engage in a public consultation to gain feedback on the strategy. This took place over the course of 7 weeks from 5th February 2026-22nd March 2026. The aim for the consultation was to gain feedback from the people of Herefordshire to ensure that the opinions, insights and knowledge of the public was included. This allowed us to make sure that the strategy is one that best reflects Herefordshire as a whole.

The draft strategy was presented for public feedback alongside the LNRS Local Habitat Map.

The documents that were available for comment were:

- Local Nature Recovery Strategy Summary
- Description of the strategy area
- Statement of priorities and measures
- User guides (Developers and planners, Farmers, foresters and land managers, Local interest groups, communities and individuals)
- Previous engagement report
- Methodologies (species, priorities and measures, mapping)

Comments could be given through a quick, high level survey or a detailed survey, or both. Respondents also had the opportunity to give location-specific comments via an interactive map.



Over the course of the 7 weeks Herefordshire council received 609 comments relating to the LNRS. 398 of these came from the online surveys and 211 from Phone calls, emails and in-person events.

This report provides a summary of the feedback that we received and our responses or actions following the feedback.

1.1 Promotion of the consultations

The consultation was promoted widely through various avenues to try and achieve the broadest reach possible. Key routes used include:

- Herefordshire council's social media accounts
- Promotion through members of the LNRS steering group's mailing lists and socials
- Article in the Herefordshire Times
- Inclusion in targeted publications (e.g. Rural Hub newsletter)
- Distribution of leaflets at public events
- Use of external survey host consultant's mailing list

Examples of these can be found in the Appendix.

1.2 Events for gathering feedback

Throughout the consultation period, 22 events were held to promote the LNRS and gather feedback. Each event was attended or hosted by at least one member of the LNRS team, who engaged with attendees and responded to any questions raised. Team members were also able to support participants to complete the consultation survey, either via the online survey on an iPad or using paper copies where required. Attendees were encouraged to take away a summary of the strategy for reference and to review the full documentation in more detail online.

- 5 market town stalls: Kington, Leominster, Hereford, Ross on Wye and Ledbury
- 3 stands at Hereford livestock market
- Parish council summit
- 2 webinars – aimed specifically at Parish Councillors and farmers
- Stand at Herefordshire Wildlife Trust at Queenwood Arboretum
- 6 Herefordshire Wildlife Trust local branch meetings
- River Arrow Trust conference
- Wye Catchment Partnership
- Herefordshire Meadows forum
- Herefordshire Grasslands Society meeting
- Internal Herefordshire Council teams

Examples of these can be found in the Appendix

In addition to these events members of the public had the opportunity to email or call the LNRS team at times that were convenient to them. This could be if they had any further questions that came to them after the events.

2. Who took part

Demographic information for the LNRS was collected to determine what sectors the public consultation had the most amount of success in reaching and to see if there are any gaps that have been missed by the process. However, we did not collect personal data from respondents as we had no need to identify individuals.

The age profile of respondents to the public consultation (**Figure 1**) indicates a broadly balanced distribution across most age groups, which is broadly reflective of the wider population in Herefordshire. The principal deviation from this pattern is an over representation of respondents aged 65–74, by approximately 23%. In contrast, the 25–34 and 35–44 age groups are under represented by around 8% and 11% respectively. No one under the age of 25 participated in the consultation. These disparities highlight potential areas for targeted engagement in future consultations to improve representation among working age adults and younger people.

Figure 1: Age distribution of survey respondents and Herefordshire population

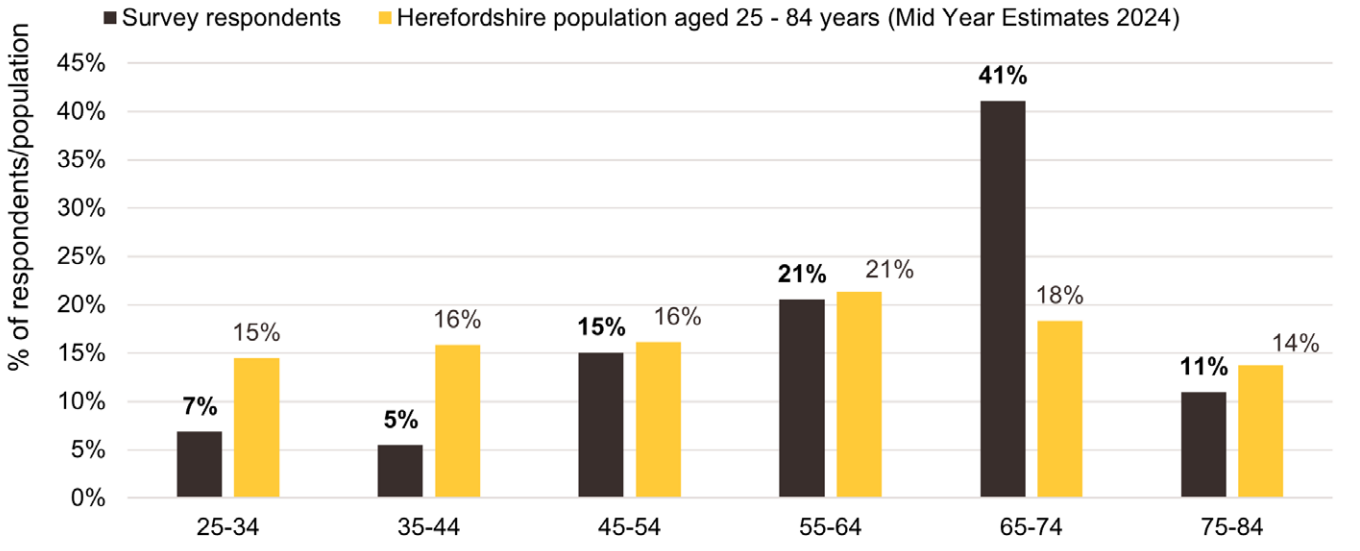
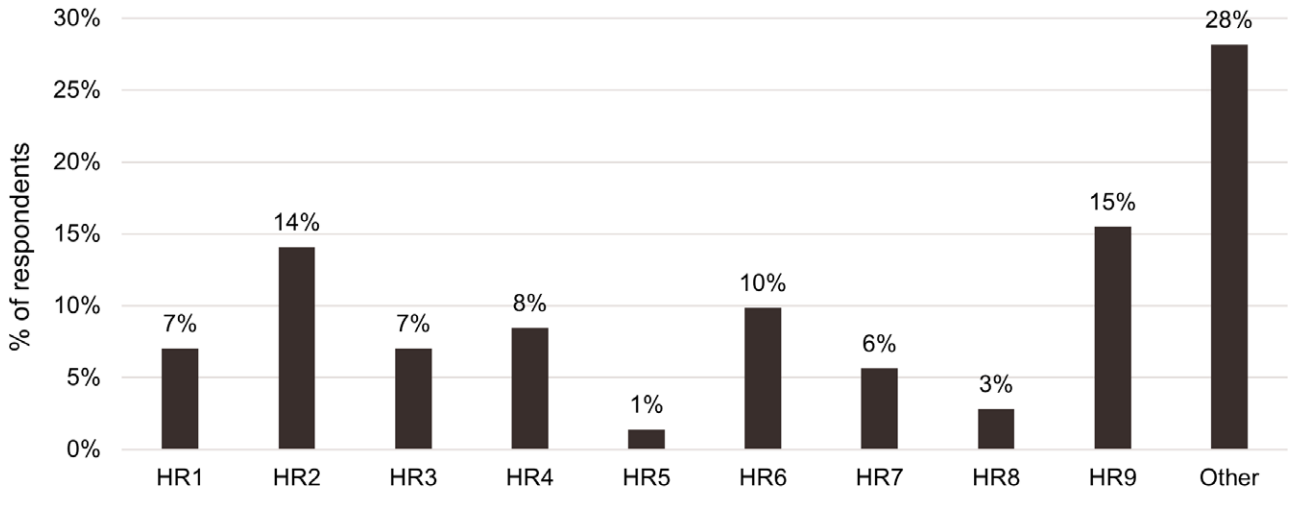


Figure 2 shows a broad distribution of respondents across Herefordshire postcode areas, although responses are unevenly spread. The highest proportion comes from “Other” postcode areas (28%), suggesting a significant number of respondents live outside the main HR1–HR9 areas or chose not to specify a standard postcode. The survey only allowed respondents to identify a HR postcode, however some parts of Herefordshire come under SY or WR postcodes, so these would all fall into the ‘other’ category.

Among the defined areas, HR9 around Ross-on-Wye (15%) and HR2 covering the south-west including south Hereford (14%) are the most strongly represented, followed by HR6 around Leominster (10%) and HR4 covering west central Herefordshire including west Hereford (8%). Mid-range representation is seen in HR1, east central Herefordshire including east Hereford and HR3 west Herefordshire (both 7%) and HR7 around Bromyard(6%), while HR8 around Ledbury (3%) and particularly HR5 around Kington (1%) are underrepresented.

Overall, the data indicates reasonable geographic coverage but with a skew towards a few areas, and notably weaker participation from HR5 and HR8.

Figure 2: Which postcode area do you live in?



3. Quick survey results

The Quick survey was designed to be an accessible point for anyone within the county to be able to provide feedback on the LNRS. The survey was comprised of 10 questions, primarily of multiple choice with areas for further comment if they chose. The questions were structured respondents were not required to read all the strategy documents or fully view the map. However, we wanted to discourage feedback from those who had not looked at the strategy at all and participants were unable to answer the questions if they said they had not read any of the documents. Responders were free to answer as many or as few questions as they chose.

Q1- Please confirm that you have read some or all of the draft LNRS documents

Figure 3: Please confirm that you have read some or all of the draft LNRS documents

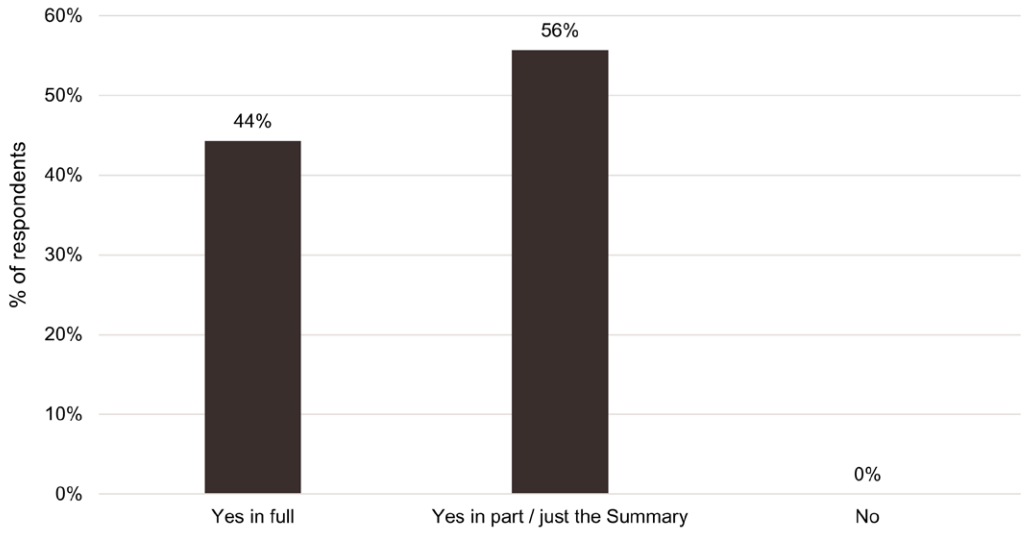


Figure 3 shows a very high level of engagement with the draft LNRS documents among respondents. Overall, all respondents reported reading at least some of the material, with no respondents selecting “No.” [EC2.1]A majority (56%) indicated that they had read part of the documents or just the summary, while a substantial proportion (44%) confirmed they had read the documents in full. This suggests strong overall awareness and engagement, although most participants appear to have focused on summary-level content rather than reviewing the full documentation in detail.

Q2a- How much do you agree with the overall vision and priorities of the Herefordshire LNRS?

Figure 4: How much do you agree with the overall vision and priorities of the Herefordshire LNRS?

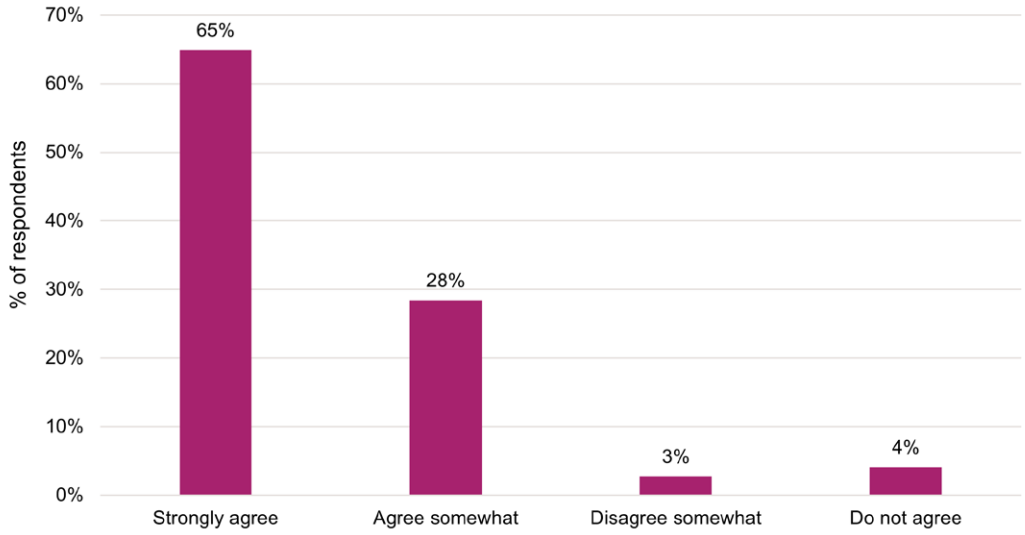


Figure 4 shows very strong support for the overall vision and priorities of the Herefordshire LNRS: 65% of respondents strongly agree and a further 28% agree somewhat, meaning 93% express agreement overall. Only a small minority express disagreement, with 3% disagreeing somewhat and 4% not agreeing at all. In summary, responses are overwhelmingly positive and indicate broad endorsement of the strategy's direction, with dissent limited to around one in fourteen respondents.

Q2b- Please write here if you have any comments

Consultation responses reflect a broadly supportive view of the LNRS vision and priorities, particularly its landscape-scale approach, habitat connectivity, and focus on river catchments, but highlight significant concerns about delivery and clarity. A recurring theme is that the strategy is overly aspirational, lacking clear, measurable targets, timeframes, funding, and accountability, leading many to question its effectiveness and describing it as a "wish list" rather than a deliverable plan. Respondents emphasised the need for stronger engagement with landowners, farmers, businesses and communities, alongside clearer mechanisms for citizen involvement and behaviour change.

There is also concern about gaps in policy and guidance, including insufficient attention to light pollution and dark skies, ecosystem interdependencies, climate risks (e.g. flooding and fire), and alignment with planning and development pressures. Several responses criticised existing planning decisions and wider government policy as undermining biodiversity, while others questioned value for money or the overall strategic coherence and mapping. Positive feedback noted the strategy's comprehensive scope and strong ecological rationale, but overall there is a clear message that greater specificity, stronger policy backing, improved mapping and communication, and a funded, enforceable implementation framework will be essential to achieving meaningful nature recovery.

"Overall good document, but as is the case on all these reviews they only focus on the environment as seen during daytime. Majority of animal and insect activity occurs at night - therefore concept of "pollution" needs to include artificial light"

"I have lived in Herefordshire since 1991 and over the years have seen the decline in the biodiversity and quality of the natural environment. It could be said that this strategy has only come about because for too long the issues have been ignored by local and national government."

"The LNRS is well thought out targeting a range of habitats as Priority Measures including scrub and farmland habitats alongside grassland and woodland etc. The information around species measures is informative and provides good guidance around their associated links with local habitats."

Q3a- How satisfied are you with the specific habitats and species identified as priorities for Herefordshire?

Figure 5: How satisfied are you with the specific habitats and species identified as priorities for Herefordshire?

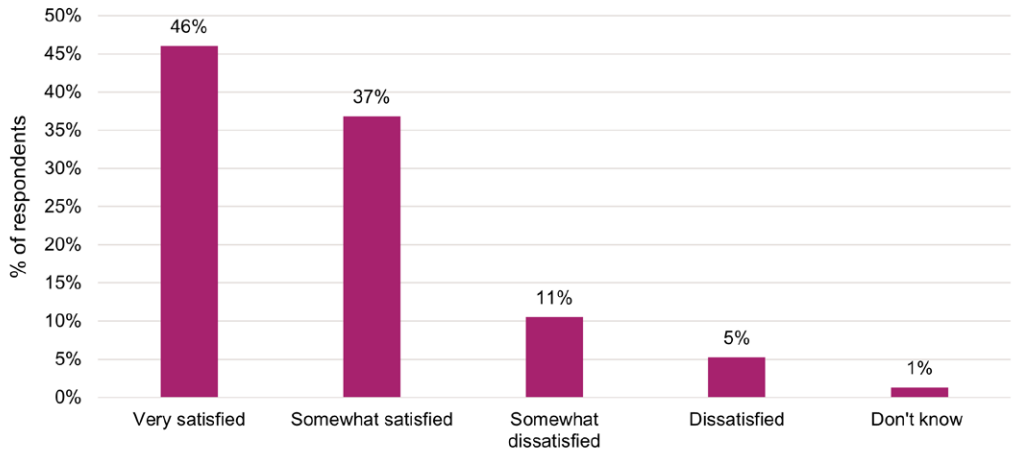


Figure 5 shows a strongly positive response to the identified priority habitats and species in Herefordshire. Nearly half of respondents (46%) reported being very satisfied, and a further 37% were somewhat satisfied, meaning a clear majority (83%) expressed some level of satisfaction. In contrast, dissatisfaction was relatively limited, with 11% somewhat dissatisfied and only 5% dissatisfied, while a very small proportion (1%) indicated they did not know. This distribution suggests broad support for the selected priorities, with only a small minority expressing concerns or uncertainty.

Q3b- Please use this space to share any comments, including if you think any habitats or species are missing or should not be included.

Respondents broadly supported the overall direction of the strategy and felt the range of priority habitats identified was strong. The inclusion of orchards was particularly welcomed, with several noting their cultural and ecological importance, and some respondents were pleased to see a wide variety of habitats considered. There was general agreement that the strategy focuses on many of the right issues and provides a solid starting point for nature recovery across the county.

Respondents suggested that the strategy could be strengthened by giving greater emphasis to hedgerows, wetlands, headwater streams, upland valleys and habitat connectivity, particularly between uplands and lowland rivers. Improving scientific consistency across the county, including shared measurement tools and closer links with specialist sites and experts, was seen as important. Several respondents called for clearer prioritisation of species and habitats, stronger justification for selection, and clearer definitions of success, particularly in relation to Biodiversity Net Gain. Increased inclusion of small landowners undertaking positive action, better engagement with experts, and more effective public involvement mechanisms—such as citizen assemblies—were also suggested. Finally, respondents emphasised that nature-recovery measures must be economically viable for land managers if they are to be widely adopted and deliver lasting outcomes.

"I am particularly happy to see orchards included in the strategy"

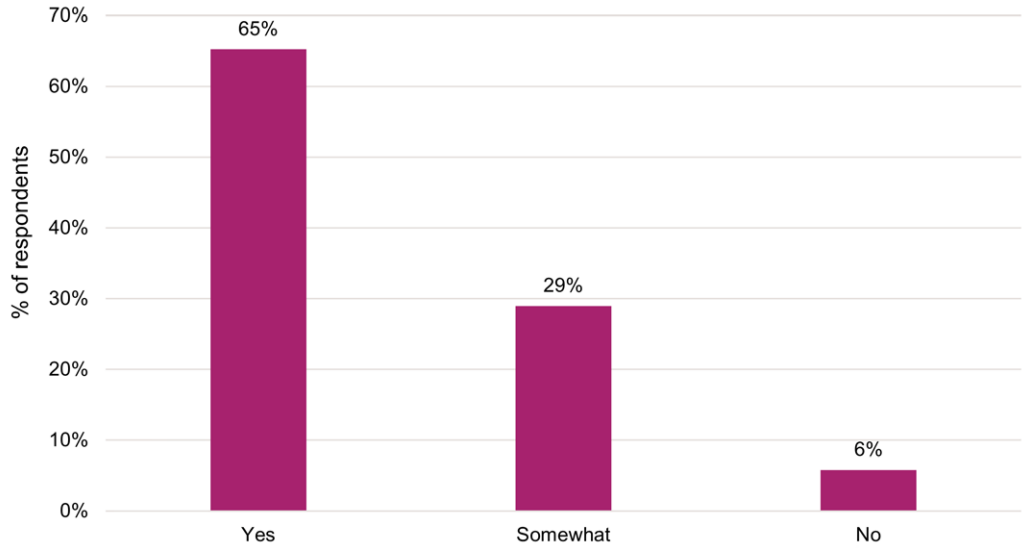
"Habitats for the rare Black Poplar should be added. There are plenty of places this tree could be planted if landowners were made aware of its significance."

"It is almost inevitable that some small insect has been wrongly excluded but we have to start somewhere and soon."

"I was satisfied with the selection of specific habitats although it was not acknowledged that there are very few good wetland habitats in the county (marshes, reed beds, natural lakes). I was dissatisfied with the species selection and feel the selection process was flawed and omitted many rare species for which the county is nationally important whilst including species that are common elsewhere. The consultation with experts needs improvement."

Q4a- Do you like the layout and graphic style of the LNRS documents?

Figure 6: Do you like the layout and graphic style of the LNRS documents?



The chart (**Figure 6**) shows a predominantly positive response to the layout and graphic style of the LNRS documents. A clear majority of respondents (65%) indicated that they liked the design, while a further 29% expressed a more moderate, “somewhat” positive view. Only a small minority (6%) reported that they did not like the layout and style. Overall, this suggests strong general satisfaction with the documents’ presentation, although around a third of respondents see room for improvement.

Q4b- Please note here anything you would change with the layout and graphic style of the LNRS to make these more engaging and easier to read and use

Overall feedback on the documents was positive, with respondents describing them as well presented, well written, visually appealing and enjoyable to read. The level of detail was valued, particularly by highly engaged readers, although some respondents felt the documents were long and would benefit from clearer summaries, including short “3 second” versions, infographics, zoomable maps, and a clearer explanation of how the various documents relate to one another.

There were suggestions to further improve accessibility for all ages and neurodiverse users, such as careful use of colour and clearer image labelling, alongside strong support for the range of engagement opportunities provided, including face to face events and map based feedback options. A small number of respondents also suggested including more case studies or references to examples of best practice.

"It's very comprehensive and detailed. A relatively short summary with "zoomable" maps would help."

"We need to produce 3 second versions and infographic visuals aimed at the wider public"

"I like all the photos and colour but it is a bit long. the detail is very helpful for people very interested. Have you considered the use of colours for people with ADHD? Like the fact there are several ways of giving feedback including meetings face to face and map options"

"Nothing - it's all spot on"

Q5- What do you think are the biggest barriers to achieving nature recovery in Herefordshire?

Figure 7: What do you think are the biggest barriers to achieving nature recovery in Herefordshire?

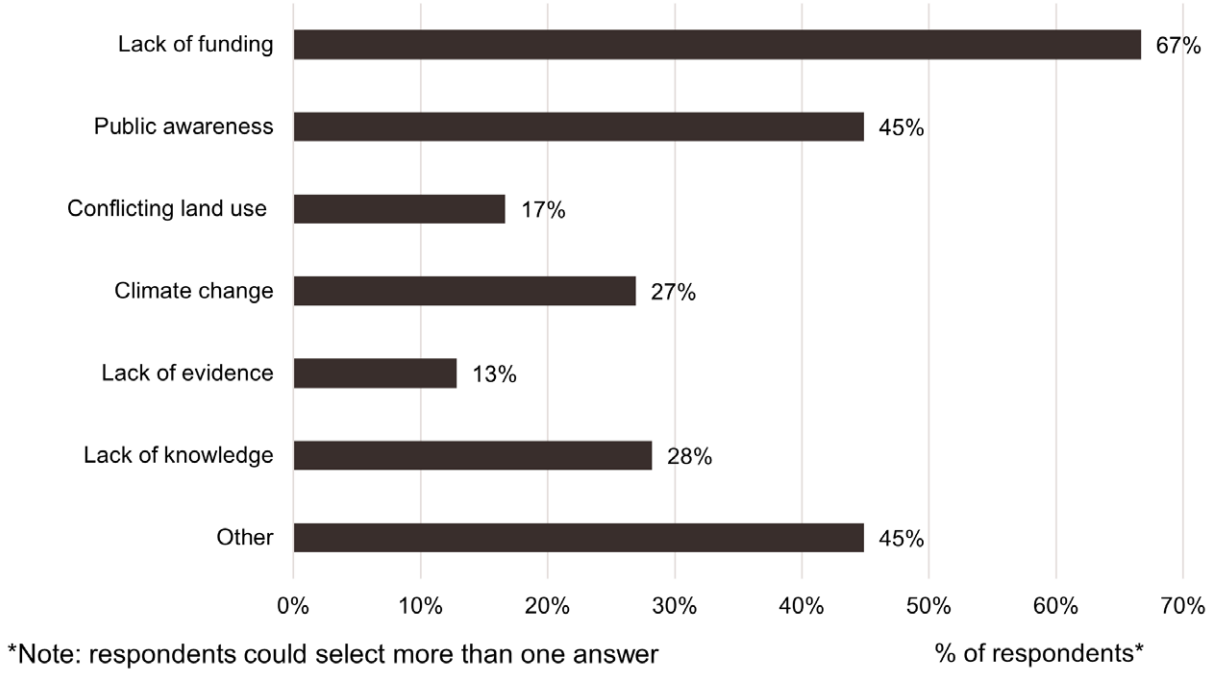


Figure 7 shows that respondents most frequently identified lack of funding as the biggest barrier to nature recovery in Herefordshire, cited by 67% of respondents, significantly higher than any other factor. This is followed by public awareness and other unspecified barriers, both at 45%, indicating widespread concern about both understanding and additional context-specific issues. Mid-ranking barriers include lack of knowledge (28%) and climate change (27%), suggesting capacity and external environmental pressures are also important concerns. In contrast, conflicting land use (17%) and lack of evidence (13%) were least frequently cited, implying these are perceived as less critical obstacles. Overall, the responses highlight that financial constraints and communication or awareness issues are the dominant challenges, while technical or evidential gaps are comparatively less prominent.

Q6- Have you looked at the Local Habitat Map?

Figure 8: Have you looked at the Local Habitat Map?

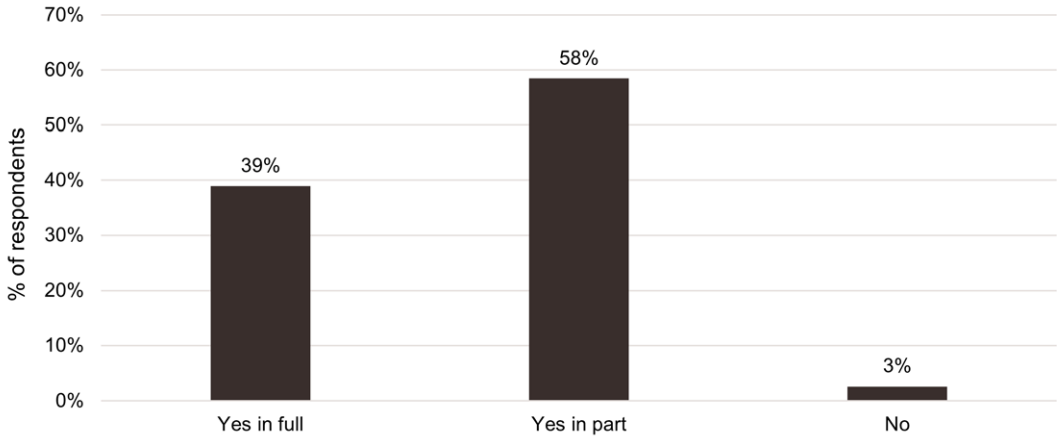


Figure 8 shows that awareness and engagement with the Local Habitat Map are relatively high, with the vast majority of respondents having looked at it to some extent. A majority (58%) reported that they had looked at the map "in part," indicating partial engagement is the most common experience, while a substantial proportion (39%) stated they had reviewed it "in full." Only a very small minority (3%) had not looked at the map at all.

Overall, this suggests strong reach and visibility of the map, though the predominance of partial rather than full engagement may indicate scope to improve usability, accessibility, or depth of user interaction.

Q7- Does the Local Habitat Map help you understand the LNRS?

Figure 9: Does the Local Habitat Map help you understand the LNRS?

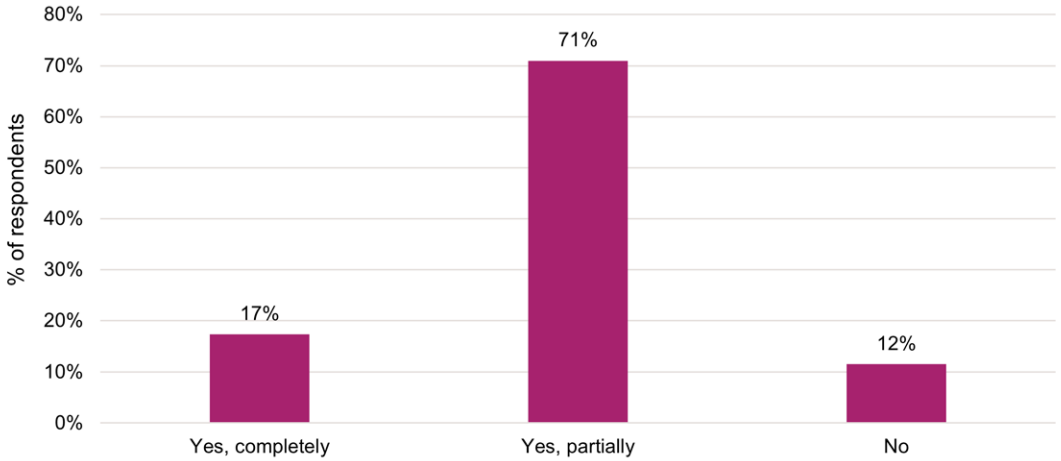


Figure 9 shows that the Local Habitat Map is generally considered helpful in supporting understanding of the LNRS, although its effectiveness varies. A majority of respondents (71%) indicated that the map helps partially, suggesting it provides useful context but may lack sufficient clarity or detail to fully explain the strategy on its own. A smaller proportion (17%) reported that it helps completely, indicating that for some users the map is an effective standalone tool. Meanwhile, 12% of respondents felt it does not help, highlighting a minority who may find the map confusing, inaccessible, or insufficiently linked to the LNRS narrative.

Overall, the results suggest that while the map is a valuable resource, there is scope to improve its clarity, usability, or integration to better support full understanding.

Q8- Is the Local Habitat Map easy to use?

Figure 10: Is the Local Habitat Map easy to use?

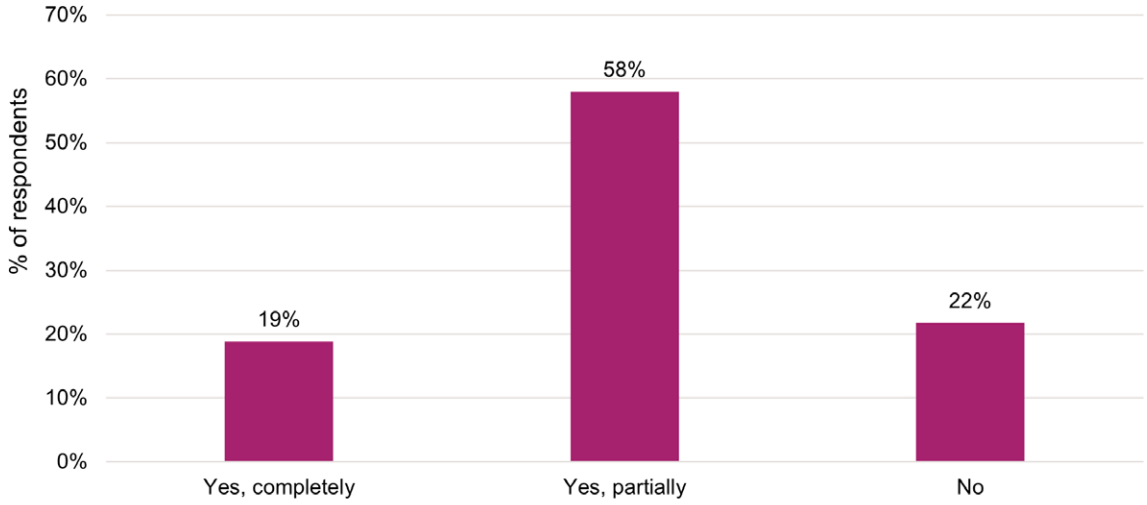


Figure 10 shows that most respondents found the map at least somewhat usable, but with notable limitations. A clear majority (58%) reported that it is partially easy to use, indicating that while the map is functional, users experience some difficulties or inconsistencies. A smaller proportion (19%) felt it is completely easy to use, suggesting that only a minority had a fully positive experience. Meanwhile, 22% stated that the map is not easy to use, highlighting a significant group encountering usability challenges.

Overall, the results suggest moderate satisfaction, with the primary issue being that the map is not fully intuitive or user-friendly for a substantial proportion of users.

Q9- How likely are you to use the LNRS once it is published?

Figure 11: How likely are you to use the LNRS once it is published?

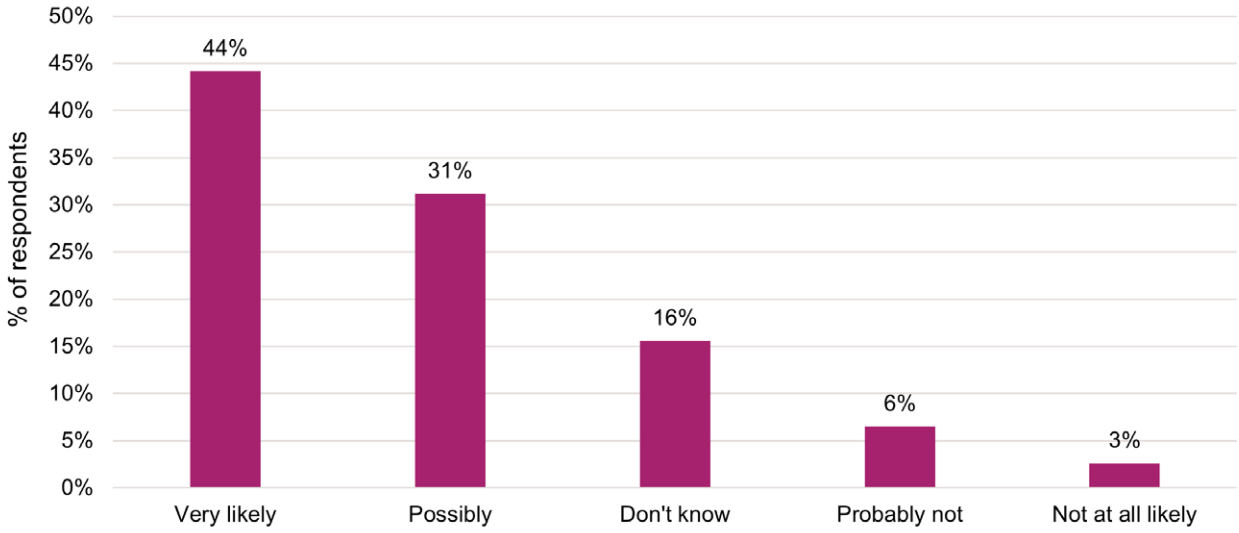


Figure 11 shows that most respondents indicated a positive intention to use the LNRS once published, with 44% stating they are very likely and a further 31% possibly likely to use it, representing a strong overall level of engagement (75% combined). While only 9% expressed a negative intention (6% probably not and 3% not at all likely), a notable proportion (16%) remain unsure, suggesting some uncertainty about how the LNRS will be applied in practice.

Overall, the findings point to strong support, with scope to increase confidence and clarity for those who are undecided.

Q10 - In what capacity are you responding to this consultation?

Figure 12: In what capacity are you responding to this consultation?

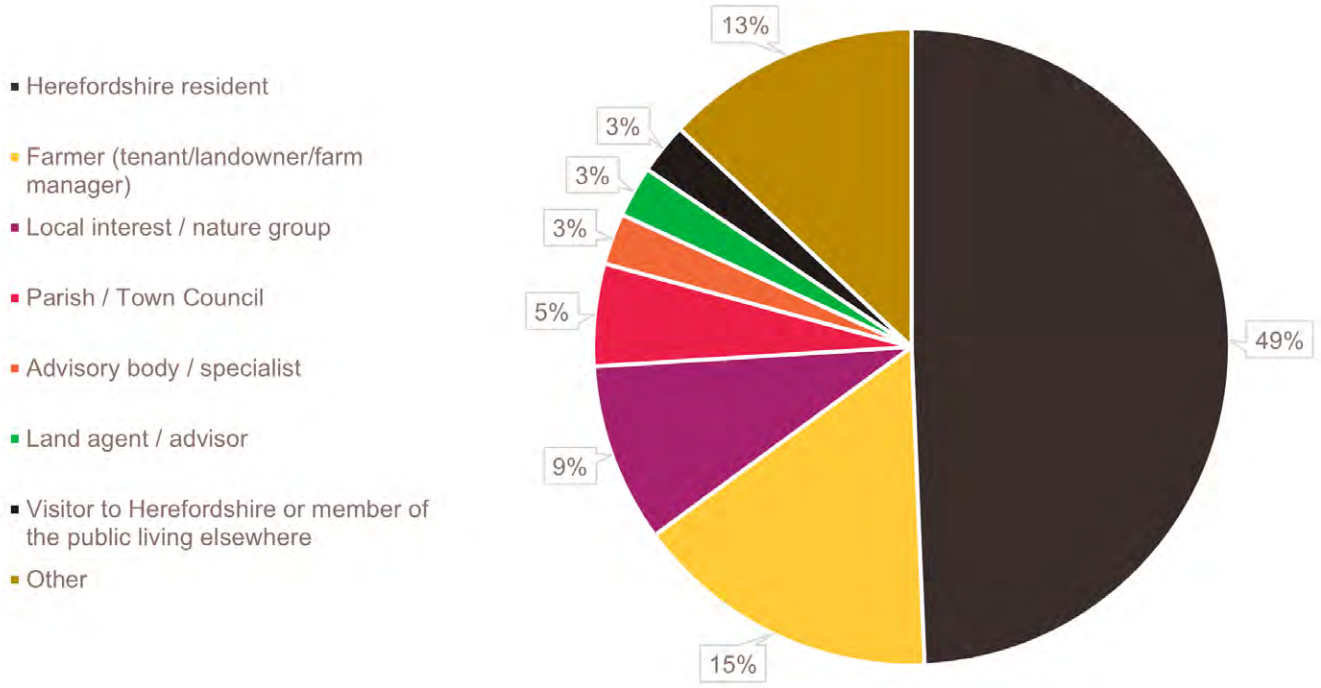


Figure 12 shows that responses to the consultation were dominated by Herefordshire residents, who made up just under half of all respondents (49%). Farmers (including tenants, landowners and farm managers) formed the next largest group at 15%, followed by respondents selecting “Other” at 13%. Local interest or nature groups accounted for 9%, while parish or town councils contributed 5%. Much smaller proportions were represented by advisory bodies or specialists (3%), land agents or advisors (3%), and visitors or those living elsewhere (3%).

Overall, this indicates that the consultation was strongly shaped by local resident perspectives, with more limited input from professional or external stakeholders.

4. Detailed survey results

For the detailed survey we received 24 responses from the public consultation. This survey was designed to provide a route for individuals to give in depth feedback over all areas of the strategy. It was aimed at landowners, professionals and other interested parties who would need to take more time to read all or most of the documents and review all or relevant parts of the mapping.

Due to the limited number of responses, there is not enough data to confidently identify meaningful trends or inform actions. However, individual responses have been taken into account and, where appropriate, recommendations have been actioned.

Positive comments

Feedback on the LNRS was broadly positive, with respondents welcoming the overall focus, detail and presentation, highlighting the inclusion of features and species such as hedgerows, Ice Age ponds and the Pearl-bordered Fritillary, and praising the clarity, usability and quality of the documents in helping individuals and community groups see the bigger picture and their potential role. However, several concerns were raised around implementation and effectiveness, including whether the short timeframe of the strategy is sufficient to demonstrate meaningful change, the unenforceable nature of the strategy, and the need for clearer links to governance arrangements and supporting materials.

Stronger alignment with planning decision making was repeatedly called for, alongside objections to greenfield development, rural housing estates, large solar farms and intensive poultry farming, with preferences expressed for brownfield development and rooftop solar. Respondents also queried aspects of policy framing and evidence, including references to rising property prices as a benefit of nature recovery, assumptions around conifer clearfell and heathland species, and a perceived over emphasis on native only woodland creation rather than mixed forestry.

There was particular support for better integration with agri environment schemes, especially prioritising restoration of historically lost ponds based on hydrology and mapping, and while accessibility and design were generally praised, some issues were noted around colour accessibility and the usability of mapping tools for land managers.

"Glad to see hedges included and also Ice Age Ponds."

"Closer liaison with planning decision makers to rigorously address the negative impact development of green spaces has the potential to have."

"Timeframe for measuring change. If the LNRS is only going to be in place for 3 years will this be enough to measure significant change? It needs clearer links to the new Board being set up. I would have liked slides from a Powerpoint presentation to add to these documents - makes it easier to share with others and become more familiar with content."

"We agree with the inclusion of the Pearl Bordered Fritillary and would like to see more conservation efforts for these species."

"Documents produced for public etc are clear and well designed (not sure if for anyone colour blind the colours would be as good?) I like the clarity of priorities and measures, along with the 'wider environmental benefits'."

Areas to be improved

Feedback received through the consultation highlighted a number of areas where respondents felt the LNRS could be strengthened. Common themes included requests for clearer and more comprehensive coverage of pollution (including water, agricultural runoff and artificial light at night), greater emphasis on habitats and ecosystem restoration rather than individual species, and stronger safeguards for irreplaceable habitats within planning decisions.

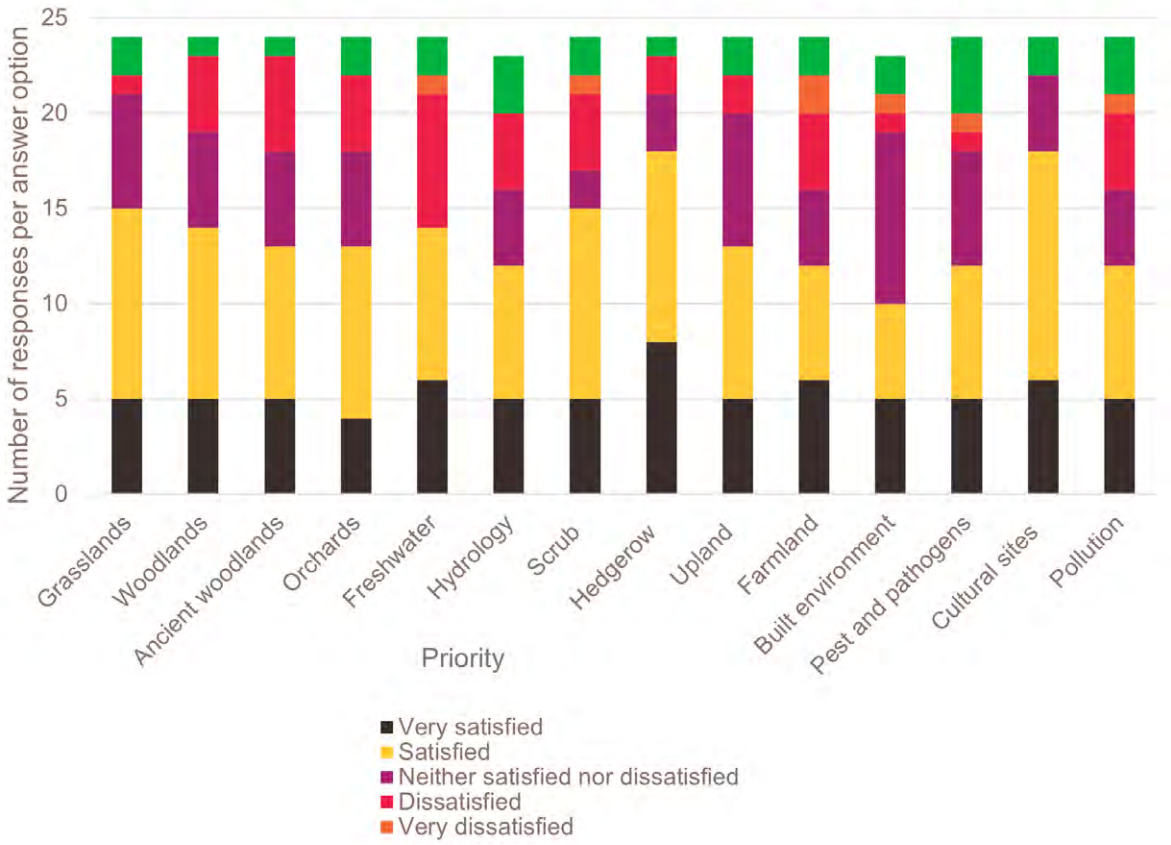
Respondents also identified gaps and inaccuracies in species lists, habitat mapping and landscape descriptions, alongside concerns about the usability, accessibility and long term status of the online mapping. There was strong feedback on the need to better reflect existing local data, improve ecological connectivity, and recognise the role of woodlands, urban areas and farmland in nature recovery. Many respondents called for clearer delivery mechanisms, sufficient resourcing, more targeted engagement with landowners, parish councils and communities, and more practical guidance on how individuals can contribute, noting that without improved clarity, funding and coordination, delivery of the LNRS objectives may be challenging.

"Pollution takes many forms. The LNRS seems to be quite vague on this and doesn't set out the effects of different forms of pollution on the county, or really how it will be tackled."

"Maybe include more about how county residents can help; practical volunteering to implement actions, highlight importance of building works at home connecting to the correct drainage system....not just to the easiest or closest!"

Detailed comments on Priorities

Figure 13: Level of satisfaction for priorities



Overall, while satisfaction with the LNRS priorities is generally positive, with most responses across all themes falling within “satisfied” or “very satisfied”, there is a consistent presence of neutral and dissatisfied views, indicating mixed confidence.

The feedback suggests that this reflects concerns about the strategy’s deliverability and alignment with existing decision-making, particularly perceptions that planning decisions continue to permit biodiversity loss. Respondents also highlighted perceived gaps in the representation of certain habitats, notably scrub, traditional orchards, hedgerows, rivers, and soil, alongside concerns over an overemphasis on woodland and a lack of recognition of productive woodland. Responders also indicated uncertainty around practical implementation, especially on private land, and the economic viability of measures for landowners was a recurring theme, contributing to the high proportion of neutral responses. Additional issues identified include limited coverage of topics such as light pollution, cross-boundary environmental impacts, and grazing pressures, as well as a perceived lack of protection for existing habitats.

"The main point I want to raise is that there is no mention of productive woodland, as far as I can see. As we know, productive woodland is managed to grow and harvest timber sustainably, and it plays an important role not only economically but also environmentally and socially. Its absence feels like a significant gap in the current document"

"I believe scrub is under-represented. Basically, anywhere that woodland is supported as a priority action, scrub should also be supported provided that it is created in a way that promotes natural succession. Otherwise, we fall into the common trap of 'skipping' scrub as a habitat and going straight for woodland via twigs-in-guards-in-a-field. Orchards are generally under-represented throughout. At the very least, traditional orchards should be encouraged for any un-developed land where historical maps (e.g. 19th Century readily available OS maps) indicate orchards were previously present."

"Needs more on hedgerows and rivers"

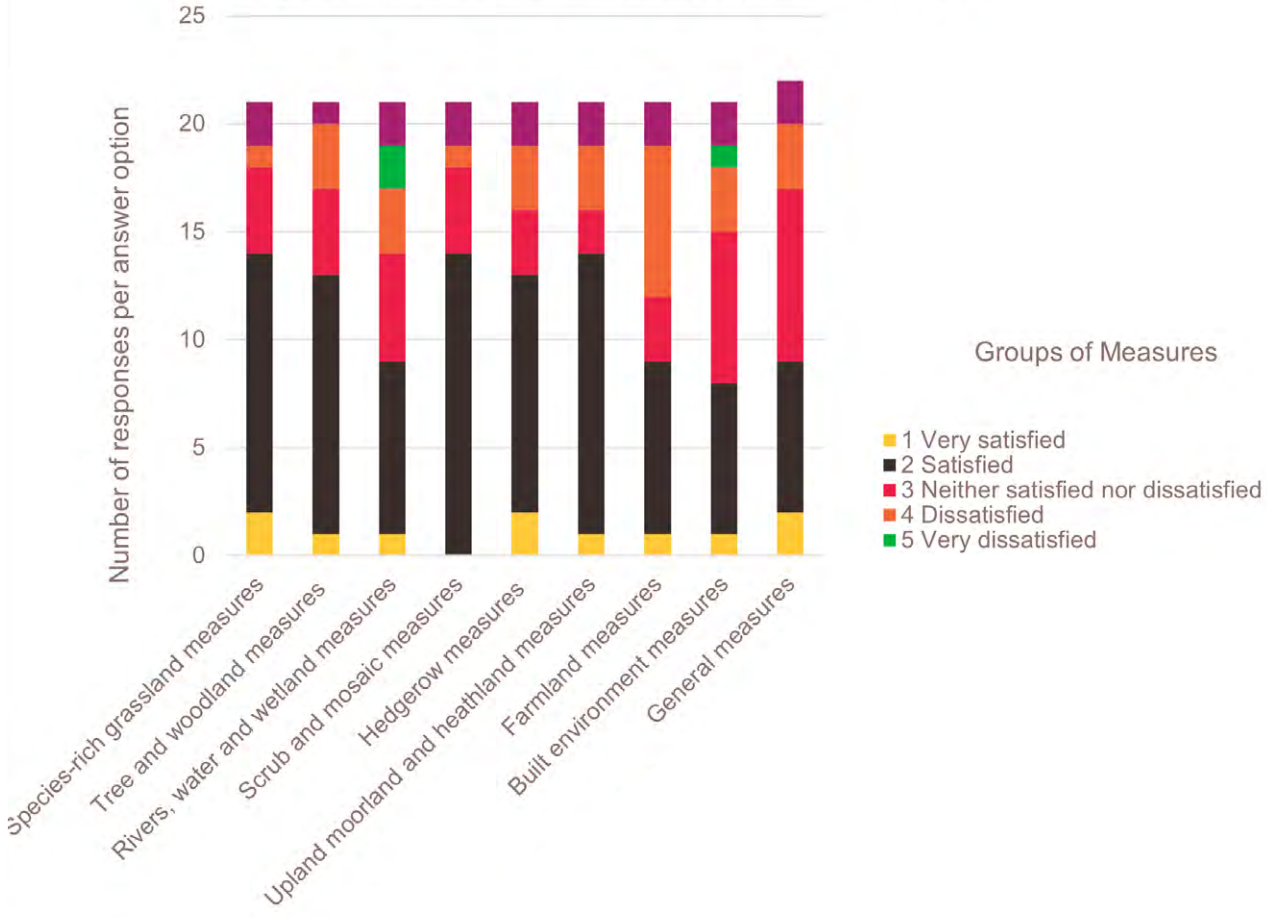
Detailed comments on Measures

Figure 14 shows generally positive satisfaction across most groups of measures, with "satisfied" responses forming the largest proportion in nearly all categories. Measures relating to hedgerows, species-rich grassland, and upland moorland/heathland display the strongest positive responses, with very few dissatisfied ratings. In contrast, rivers, water and wetland measures and built environment measures show comparatively higher levels of dissatisfaction, including some "very dissatisfied" responses, indicating more mixed perceptions in these areas. Neutral responses are present across all categories but are more pronounced for built environment and general measures, suggesting some uncertainty or ambivalence.

Overall, while the balance of responses leans clearly towards satisfaction, there is variation between measure types, with water-related and built environment measures attracting more critical or uncertain feedback.

In the written responses respondents broadly supported the intent of the habitat measures but identified significant gaps in detail, ambition, and deliverability. A recurring theme was that measures often lack specificity resulting in concerns about whether they will lead to meaningful change.

Figure 14: Level of satisfaction for measures



Several respondents suggested additional or strengthened measures. For woodland, there were calls for increased emphasis on active management, such as ensuring a higher proportion of woodland has up-to-date management plans. In the built environment, feedback highlighted insufficient detail on managing nature-rich spaces, suggesting stronger requirements for council contractors and clearer links to planning and building standards (e.g. permeable surfaces and appropriate drainage connections) to reduce indirect impacts on biodiversity.

Across agricultural and rural habitats, responses frequently noted that proposed measures feel unrealistic without stronger policy support at national level. There were calls for more ambitious approaches, including reducing livestock density, addressing overgrazing in uplands, and strengthening measures for hedgerow protection, buffer strips, and reductions in agricultural inputs. River and wetland measures were also seen as lacking ambition, with suggestions to align more closely with existing programmes (e.g. the Wyescapes and Ridge to River Landscape Recovery projects) and to prioritise hydrological restoration, natural flood management, and reinstatement of previously lost ponds in appropriate locations.

Detailed comments on Species

Responses broadly support the proposed species and associated measures, with particular emphasis on improving woodland quality for migratory birds and increasing focus on invertebrates as key components of the food chain. Several comments did question the balance of the current species list, recommending greater diversity and proposing more locally significant or threatened species. There is support for using species assemblages, alongside calls for flexibility to update these and communicate recovery successes over time. More fundamentally, some responses advocate a stronger emphasis on habitat restoration and ecosystem function, suggesting that healthy ecosystems will enable species recovery more effectively than a focus on individual species.

"The list of species seems a little odd with such a large number of moths. It would be good to include a more diverse range of taxa, although I realise you have provided a rationale."

"Migratory birds using woodland to breed in, specifically pied flycatcher and redstart. They are at the edge of their range in Herefordshire and an indicator of woodland quality."

"Describing Assemblages is a also good idea to promote understanding of the different habitats. Are you in-building a mechanism where you can add more species or amend these to specific stated assemblages, these changes bearing out of the implementation of nature recovery strategies? will you have a communication strategy of more 'Success recovery stories' as these occur over time?"

Detailed comments on the Local Habitat Map

Feedback primarily focused on significant usability and technical issues with the mapping platform, including crashes, slow performance, and difficulty navigating layers. Users found the map cluttered, with unclear colours, symbols, and overly complex legends.

There were also concerns about missing or inaccurate data (e.g. under-represented habitats and misclassified spaces), alongside suggestions to improve structure, grouping, and guidance.

A smaller number of comments questioned the clarity, practicality, and completeness of the LNRS itself, though some respondents recognised its overall potential.

"There are just so many colours and priorities it takes a while to get used to it-but OK after a while. I guess it depends on what you are looking to find out-so maybe some questions before people start to use it could be helpful?"

"The colours are so similar that I can't tell what you're identifying. The designations seem so random in shape, they are nonsensical."

"Quicker loading/refresh and not crashing"



5. Map survey results

The mapping survey received 78 responses. These were locational feedback where respondents were able to click the relevant point on the map and added specific comments about that place.

Responses to the mapping survey highlight a mix of support for nature recovery and significant concerns about mapping accuracy, habitat protection, and land use. Many respondents emphasise the ecological value of specific sites, including species-rich meadows, traditional orchards, ancient woodland, river corridors, ponds, and upland landscapes (notably the Olchon Valley), often citing the presence of priority or protected species such as bats, barn owls, skylarks, great crested newts, and rare flora. There is strong support for enhancing and restoring habitats—particularly woodland management, orchard restoration, wetland creation, and improved connectivity through hedgerows and ecological corridors. However, a dominant theme is that current LNRS mapping does not accurately reflect on-the-ground conditions, with omissions of Local Wildlife Sites, misclassification of land (e.g. arable land or residential areas shown as potential habitats), and incorrect boundaries, leading to calls for updates, corrections, and better alignment with existing datasets. Respondents also raise concerns about threats from development, pollution, poor land management, and overgrazing, alongside requests for stronger protection, clearer designations, and recognition of locally important landscapes. A smaller number of landowners request removal of their land from the mapping, reflecting tensions between conservation priorities and land use or ownership considerations.

"This is marked white on the LNRS map it is a traditional orchard marked on Magic maps"

"The common has recently been cleared of overgrown tree cover and debris, mainly willow, that was restricting light to the pond and gradually reducing it's depth. Increased light has led to an increase in flora. All materials were retained on site to make additional habitats for invertebrates and small mammals."

"This area has a wealth of wildlife, all of which need protecting. Numerous ponds are home for species such as Great Crested Newts, Skylarks are heard on a daily basis, and hares are often spotted in the surrounding fields. Bats can also be seen at dusk."

Land removal from the opportunities mapping

During the Public Consultation, landholders were given the option to request removal of their land from the LNRS opportunities mapping. This applied only to areas where potential opportunities had been identified (i.e. the ACIB layer and subsequent measures layers). Areas with existing designations within the APIB layer were not subject to amendment.

Eight requests were received to remove land from the mapping, all relating to farmland. These requests were approved following verification that the requester was the landowner. Areas and habitats designated as Areas of Particular Importance for Biodiversity (APIBs) were not altered; only the mapped potential measures were removed.

6. Recommendations

Responses received across **all engagement channels** provided a range of recommendations and potential actions to refine the LNRS. Each submission was carefully reviewed, and where feasible, actions were incorporated into the strategy. The following tables summarise all the recommendations received, indicate whether they were actioned, and provide a brief explanation of how they were addressed or why they could not be implemented.

6.1 Actioned

Theme	Overview of comments	Our response
How LNRS works	You need to make it clear that measures are only recommendations and not compulsory	We have added this into Summary and Statement of Priorities and Measures and User Guides as well as above map on website to increase visibility of this.
	Provide more case studies and examples of best practise	Further case studies have been added to the Strategy Area Description. As the strategy is enacted more case studies will be produced through the delivery phase that can be included in future iterations of the LNRS.
	Too few people monitoring wildlife, lack of access to biodiversity data, lack of knowledge about how to submit records	We agree with this point and we recommend that individuals engage with this as much as possible. We are looking encourage this through delivery phase with HBRC and have added a supporting action to reflect this.
Map functionality	Need to make it easier to see where you are on the map - add towns, villages, parishes	On the base line OS map towns and villages are included. To make this information easier to access the layers now have transparency sliders. Also, we have added a parish boundaries layer to help with navigation.
	The colours used for different layers are too similar	The colours have been made be more distinctive and intuitive.
	There are problems with slow loading speeds and/or website crashing	The data has been streamlined as much as possible to aid with the speed and stability of the map.
	Make the legend easier to use alongside map	The legend colours have been moved next to the layer menu to increase the clarity of what each layer is.
	Have a more general landing frame	Upon opening the map the whole county is now displayed showing the APIB and ACIB layers.
	Clearer labelling of layers	We have expanded acronyms wherever possible for better clarity.
	Allow layers to be toggled on and off more easily	For ease of use of the map instead of only being able to turn the layers off one by one we have amended this so that they can be turned off by habitat groups as well, greatly enhancing the useability of the map.

Theme	Overview of comments	Our response
Map functionality (continued)	Overview layers add level of confusion	We have removed the overview layers from the map as they do not add any useful information that is not already present and will help with the speed of the map layers loading
	Enable sharing and / or downloading of spatial data / compatibility with other GIS programs	We can share shapefiles on request
	You need to have link from 100m measures summary pop-up boxes to measures directory	A link has been added to the measures directory from 100m measures summary pop-up boxes.
	The red line boundary for measures is confusing	The red line boundary has been removed from the layers other than from the measures summary. This makes it a lot clearer to see that the window is just for the individual point that has been selected and not the whole polygon.
	Maps are too complicated for average person	We have refined the 'How to use map' video to make the use and navigation of the map easier and more clearly recommend this is viewed before looking at the map.
	Need to be able to adjust transparency of layers to be able to better view where they overlap	The map layers now have transparency sliders to make is easier to view more than one layer at a time and the base map below to more clearly see the options available.
Mapping	Priority Habitat Inventory sites (traditional orchards and lowland meadows) are missing from mapping	Priority Habitat Inventory sites are not included in the official list of designated sites we can use for the APIB layer. But we have look at including them where possible into the measures layer to account for the importance of these habitats.
	Need to include a layer for heritage opportunities / constraints	We have added a layer indicating where heritage features are.
	PM1 Create new and reconnect species-rich grassland layer sometimes mapped over areas of existing woodland	The data has been amended to remove existing woodland sites from this layer.
	PM2 Restore and enhance degraded species-rich grassland missing some sites already in process of being restored and sometimes these are mapped as woodland measures	The data has been amended to add existing or restored species rich grassland sites to this layer and ensure that woodland opportunities are removed.
	PM8 Enhance species and structural diversity of woodlands sometimes mapped over farmland	The data has been amended to remove farmland from this layer.
	PM13 and PM14 measures for traditional orchards sometimes miss some known traditional orchards	We have included data from the priority habitat inventory's Traditional Orchards data set to better reflect what is within Herefordshire

Theme	Overview of comments	Our response
Mapping (continued)	PM20 Enhance existing and restore lost ice age ponds should be a mapped measure	We have received data on the locations and shapes of existing ice age ponds and the areas of where most lost ice age ponds can be found. These two data sets have allowed us to add this measure to the map.
	Some Local Wildlife Sites are missing from APIB layer	We have added newly designated Local Wildlife sites to the APIB layer to better reflect the current state of nature.
	Need to mention importance of opportunities for connecting people with nature	Within the Strategy Area Description a new section has been added on countryside access opportunities in the county
Priorities and Measures	Need to include artificial light pollution at night (ALAN) when mentioning pollution	Within the Strategy Area Description ALAN has been added to the pollution section and additional wording and new Supporting Action added in the Pollution priority in the Statement of priorities and measures.
	More emphasis on deer and grey squirrel control to protect woodland habitats	A new Supporting Action for deer and grey squirrel management has been added under the Tree, woodland and orchard habitats priority.
	Need to say that sometimes native species may need controlling to help boost more vulnerable species	We have added further wording for this in Invasive species / biosecurity priority to add greater detail.
	SP1 Grassland and farmland bird assemblages doesn't mention need for predator control as well as exclusion	We have added reference to the need for predator control in SP1.
	Need to flag that removal of barriers to fish migration can negatively impact White-clawed crayfish	We have added wording to PM26 Remove barriers for fish migration to reflect this has to be done carefully and with consideration to if White clawed Crayfish are recorded nearby.
	Need more emphasis on reduced grazing stock densities for upland habitats	We have added wording and ideal stocking rates in PM32 Create and restore upland fringe and mosaic habitats (Ffridd).
	Consider urban hedgerows around housing, industrial sites and open spaces to help with connectivity and education	PM29 Plant native hedgerows is an unmapped measure so applies throughout the ACIB layer. To ensure that the urban centres are captured within this mention of hedgerows has been added to PM38 Carry out urban tree planting and prioritise tree planting in areas with low tree equity scores.
	Link for further guidance for PM38 Prioritise tree planting in areas with low tree equity scores does not give guidance on urban tree planting	We have amended the text in the measure to better reflect urban tree planting in general. The links at the end of the measures have also been updated to better reflect guidance from the Forestry Commission, Woodland Trust and Tree Council guidance on urban tree planting.
	Ensure woodland measures include reference to the UK Forestry Standards (UKFS)	We added link to UKFS in tree, woodland and orchard priority for better reference of the action that could be taken.
	Too much emphasis on using local provenance and native species - need to allow for climate change	The wording in the measure's text has been amended to better reflect that where selection of tree species is mentioned the approach of 'right tree in right place' is prioritised.

Theme	Overview of comments	Our response
Priorities and Measures (continued)	Needs more specific guidance on swift nest boxes	We have added a link to relevant planning guidance and British Standards Institute for PM37 Implement bird and bat box installation.
	Not enough weight given to actions and opportunities in urban settings	More emphasis has been given to opportunities for relevant measures in urban and built environment settings. We have also strengthened the wording for the built environment measures.
	Make it clearer that gapping up of traditional orchards is important	The wording in the description of PM13 Restore and enhance traditional orchards has been altered to make this point clearer.
	Orchard should be highlighted more	We have added orchards to the title of the Tree and woodland habitat priority to show that this is where orchard measures sit.
	Need to highlight link more between habitat work and phosphate mitigation	Additional wording has been added to the Wider Environmental Benefits in the Strategy Area Description to better demonstrate the link between the habitat work and phosphate mitigation.
	More emphasis on importance of headwater streams	We have added wording to provide emphasis for the importance of headwaters for the rest of the river in Strategy Area Description section on uplands and Rivers priority in Statement of Priorities and Measures.
	More emphasis on potential for road verges including where adjacent to grassland measures	We have added additional wording to PM39 Enhance species-rich road verges and restore species-poor verges to ensure the importance of road verges is clearly communicated.
	Scrub is under-represented. Emphasise scrub as important succession habitat and woodland connectivity	We have added reference to scrub habitat to PM3 Create new woodlands to reconnect and buffer existing woodlands to emphasise the importance of scrub for habitat connectivity.
	Emphasise importance of soil protection and care more	We have added wording to emphasise importance of soils more in PM34 Enhance farmland wildlife and habitats and restore soil ecosystems through nature, soil and water friendly farming practices.
	Identify locations of ponds in the city of Hereford and advise on management and restoration	Added new SA6 Create database of all ponds in Herefordshire
	Measures need to include encouragement to reduce stocking densities	Covered by SA7 Encourage more sustainable grazing within the riparian zone and by Upland measures and relevant species measures
	PM7 Enhance habitat diversity through retention of deadwood should apply within urban context too. Requires education of householders and rethink of council policies for open spaces	PM7 is now an unmapped measure so applies throughout the ACIB layer. LNRS is to be embedded in local decision making.

Theme	Overview of comments	Our response
Priorities and Measures	No mention of sustainable timber production	Added in wording for Wider Environmental Benefit 1 as well as relevant woodland measures.
	Need to include more ways in which individuals can help with nature recovery	We have added a Supporting Action to the built environment priority to show the ways in which people can make a difference through individual actions at home, in their gardens or through community action or volunteering.
	Need to encourage all woodlands to have management plans	We have amended the wording and added a new link to PM8 Enhance species and structural diversity of existing woodlands to better aid in the development of woodland management plans.
	Measures are too descriptive and don't emphasise the expected outcome enough	We have re-worded the measures to focus more directly on what the recommended action and expected outcome is to better.
	Use of word 'safeguarded' is too ambiguous	Added 'safeguarded' to glossary in Statement of Priorities and Measures. Safeguarded is defined as: Prevent damage, harm and degradation through appropriate measures.
	More clarity needed over wording PM8 Enhance species and structural diversity of woodlands	PM8's wording has been amended to clarify this is related to more and better management of enhance existing woodlands.
	Wording of PM38 Prioritise tree planting in areas with low tree equity scores appears to rule out tree planting in other urban areas	We have added wording to title to make it "Carry out urban tree planting and prioritise tree planting in areas with low tree equity scores".
	PM7 Enhance habitat diversity through retention of deadwood needs re-wording to justify mapping in non-woodland habitats	We have amended the wording of PM7 and also removed this layer from mapping as it covers multiple habitats and applies across all of the ACIB layer.
Rewilding	Should mention rewilding / wilding initiatives	We have added reference to this in the conclusion of Strategy Area Description with wording on nature-led recovery of habitats and species.
Species priorities	Beaver reintroduction - need to ensure there is a clear link to government guidance and licensing	We have added link to government guidance and mentioned need for licencing in measure wording.
	Black Poplar should be a priority species	Specific mention of Black Poplar has been added to PM6 Create, enhance and restore the habitat provided by bankside trees and shrubs.
	Measure SP1 Grassland and farmland bird assemblages will also benefit Curlew	Curlew has been added to SP1 assemblage list.
	Lesser-spotted Woodpecker should be a priority species	Actions needed to allow the Lesser-spotted Woodpecker to recover are covered by habitat measures, so it does not need further actions mentioned. Lesser-spotted Woodpecker have been added to the lists of species that will benefit from relevant potential measures.

Theme	Overview of comments	Our response
Species priorities (continued)	Pearl Bordered Fritillary listed as reintroduction species but it is still recorded in the county and is already subject to translocation project	We have added information about existing populations and translocations of Pearl-bordered Fritillary within the county.
	Pine Marten should be a priority species	We have not received enough data to add Pine Martin as a priority species in terms of specific targeted actions that they need but we have included reference to the Vincent Wildlife Trust 'Martens on the Move' project which covers Herefordshire.
	Wood White should be a priority species	Actions needed to allow the Wood White to recover are covered by habitat measures. They have also been added to the lists of species that will benefit relevant potential measures.
	Skylark should be included	This species' measures for recovery are covered by Farmland measure PM34. It has been added to the list of species benefitting from relevant habitat measures.
	Disappointed no mention of Turtle Dove	This species' measures for recovery are covered by Farmland measure PM34. It has been added to the list of species benefitting from relevant habitat measures.
Priorities and measures - species	I don't think I saw Great Crested Newt in there	This has been covered by measures related to ponds and wetlands. It has been added to the list of species benefitting from relevant habitat measures.
	European Eel should be included - requires improvements to ponds and headwaters as well as rivers	This species' measures for recovery are covered by existing freshwater measures. It has been added to the list of species benefitting from relevant habitat measures.
	Migratory birds breeding in woodlands such as Pied Flycatcher and Redstart	This species' measures for recovery are covered by existing woodland measures. They have been added to the list of species benefitting from relevant habitat measures.
	Wild Trout, Bullhead and Grayling fish are declining in small streams and tributaries	This species' measures for recovery are covered by PM23 Create riparian buffers and PM15 Implement nature-based solutions to reduce soil erosion and nutrient loss. They have been added to the list of species benefitting from relevant habitat measures.
Wider Environmental Benefits	Prioritisation using Wider Environmental Benefits requires more consideration	We carried out a full review to ensure WEBs are applied consistently across all measures to give fairer weighting.

6.2 Not actioned

Theme	Overview of comments	Reason for non-actionable decision
General comment	Connecting to nature needs more emphasis	This has already been accounted for in WEB 6 “Supporting health and cultural services”.
	Action plan needed to explain how LNRS will be delivered and ensure delivery is a success	This is an action that will be a key part of the delivery phase for the LNRS. Currently it is not needed.
	Budget and / or more funding needed for LNRS delivery and nature recovery projects	HC has budget to deliver the LNRS through 2 officers to work exclusively on the strategy and support funding applications of projects. But not for funding projects directly.
	Too complicated. Needs accessible version for all ages. There needs to be a communication and engagement plan	We have produced both a summary document and simplified methodologies produced. We will look at working with younger age groups during delivery phase to ensure that all major demographics have been engaged.
	There are fears that LNRS will be mandatory or prevent development, land use change or dictate farming practices	LNRS is not mandatory and there are no plans to ever change this. All actions proposed are voluntary. The LNRS does not have the powers to prevent development or impact the Planning system. The only change is that planners must have a regard for recommendations of the LNRS but they do not need to follow it.
	Consultation has been insufficient, not enough engagement with communities	See Engagement Report and Consultation Report. More engagement will take place through delivery phase.
	Conflict between LNRS and planning decisions / development / infrastructure projects / council policies	The LNRS will be embedded in local decision making and other key documents such as the Local plan. The Local Planning Authority also have a statutory requirement to “take account” of the LNRS.
	Conflict between ELMS and economics of farming vs nature recovery	LNRS will work with ELMS to encourage nature recovery actions however the details of how this will work are yet to be provided by Defra Group.
	More education and awareness raising needed	This is an action that we are going to look at doing more of through the delivery phase. Engagement with local groups and organisations will be part of delivery phase.
	LNRS needs to be enforceable	The LNRS is a voluntary strategy and enforcement of this goes against the need for the LNRS to work with landowners. The LNRS is aiming to provide incentives to encourage nature recovery.
	Not all farmers are bad and not all of nature's decline is down to farming	We agree with this. We have given examples of good work farming is doing in Strategy Area Description under the successes to highlight this.

Theme	Overview of comments	Reason for non-actionable decision
General comment	Requires stronger leadership - nationally and locally	LNRS will look to form a delivery partnership with local and national representatives to enact the strategy moving forward. It will also be embedded in local decision making.
	Legislation around wildlife and environment is insufficient	This falls outside of the scope of LNRS.
	What will success look like? How will LNRS be monitored?	To be detailed in delivery phase development.
	LNRS not needed	The evidence shows that nature is in decline nationally and locally and LNRS is targeting this issue. LNRS is also a statutory requirement for the local responsible authority.
	Request for protection of specific location	This action falls outside scope of LNRS.
	Need to update LNRS mapping regularly to keep up to date with planning	Updates of LNRS are determined by national policy through the Secretary of State for DEFRA and is intended to be updated every 3-10 years. While planning does play a role with nature recovery LNRS is driven by habitat and species data not planning.
	Need to work across county boundaries	Cross boundary liaison did take place with all neighbouring English counties. We are also looking to continue this into the delivery phase with regular meeting to explore wider project options.
	Incorrect mapped area for Herefordshire	We have reviewed our mapping data with Natural England and other best available data sources that are available and are confident it is correct based upon this. We are looking at increasing our supply of data for the next version to ensure that it is as accurate as possible.
	Incorrect data for SSSI condition assessments	We have reviewed our data with Natural England and are confident it is correct.
	Have we allowed for climate change in our targets?	Climate change has been accounted for in the creation of the LNRS, both in the development of the measures and with recognition of the importance through the Wider environmental benefits. Targets are not a factor in the strategy itself but is something that we are looking to include in the delivery of the strategy.
	Due to the inter-connections between different habitats the 'whole' has to be delivered.	Agreed and LNRS is designed to try to co-ordinate this and there will be 2 officers in post to continue this work and the setting up of a delivery board to help coordinate activity.
	Incorrect data for SSSI condition assessments	We have reviewed our data with Natural England and are confident it is correct.

Theme	Overview of comments	Reason for non-actionable decision
General comment	Have we allowed for climate change in our targets?	Climate change has been accounted for in the creation of the LNRS, both in the development of the measures and with recognition of the importance through the Wider environmental benefits. Targets are not a factor in the strategy itself but is something that we are looking to include in the delivery of the strategy.
	Due to the inter-connections between different habitats the 'whole' has to be delivered.	Agreed and LNRS is designed to try to co-ordinate this and there will be 2 officers in post to continue this work and the setting up of a delivery board to help coordinate activity.
	Include settlement specific opportunities that can feed into masterplans	LNRS is driven by habitat and species data not planning.
	Questioning LNRS emphasis on choice of species rather than habitat restoration and measures to restore ecosystem intactness.	LNRS does include both habitats and species measures. The measures are structured that habitat will come first and species measures are in addition to this work.
	No encouragement or guidance for the general public or parish councils to give their views on consultations from Local or Central Government on the environment	This action falls outside the scope of LNRS.
	Unachievable, too vague, aspirational, ineffective, irrelevant, desk based, lacking urgency	Comments received have been recorded for consideration in future iterations; however, they do not include specific actions to improve the current version of the strategy, which was developed in line with national guidelines.
	Observations of wildlife in specific locations	While the observations are appreciated we can't action any amendments based upon what we received. We would encourage this data to be sent to the Biological Records Centre
	Doesn't work for BNG	LNRS is driven by habitat and species data not planning or developers. The LNRS will work with BNG as a way to help target where the work can be targeted. As the LNRS provides a 15% uplift to BNG work within the identified opportunity areas.
	Need to make it easier to see where you are on the map - add satellite base layer option	We have looked into adding satellite layer option however we have been informed that this would lead to the map crashing at an unsustainable rate.
Map functionality	Would be good to be able to zoom to whole county level for all layers	The local web hosted map cannot cope with this amount of data. The current zoom levels allow for stability in the map whilst still providing data.
	Adding of OS references would be useful	OS grid references are given in measure pop-up boxes.

Theme	Overview of comments	Reason for non-actionable decision
Map functionality	Map needs to be larger	Map can be set to full screen view to allow for a larger area to be viewed.
	Enable isolation of discrete areas in map such as parishes to allow quicker loading	This action is not technically possible. We are looking to include a parish council boundary to make it clearer where the boundaries lie.
	Data must be from sound scientific sources and validated by individuals with necessary expertise	Data is all from recognised and respected national and local datasets with some details added or removed where suitable evidence from reputable source has been supplied.
Mapping	Permission for inclusion must be sought from the landowner	Due to the number of landholders cannot identify and contact every landowner. The strategy does not enforce any landholder to do anything that they do not want to. We have been working to raise awareness of the LNRS and to engage with as many landowners as possible to ensure they understand the strategy and the part their land can play in nature recovery.
	Mapping should include farm-level data where relevant and be at more granular scale	Where sufficient evidence has been supplied this has been considered but generally this level of detail is not possible.
	Vague desk based mapping with little strategic economic sense	Due to the scale of the LNRS ground-truthing would not be possible with the resources or time available. The mapping produced has been based on national LNRS guidance using best available data from both national and local sources.
	Sites and habitats known to be good for wildlife or potentially good for wildlife are missing	LNRS is a prioritisation exercise so will not map everywhere that is good for wildlife. The APIB layer is limited to specific designations based upon national guidance.
Mapping - Layers	Unmapped layers mean opportunities may be missed - eg farmland, ponds and hedgerow measures	Data for certain layers is not sufficient or the habitat is too widespread to be able to map meaningfully. Unmapped measures apply where appropriate throughout ACIB layer.
	Ancient Tree Inventory data not included	This dataset is the basis for mapped layer PM11 Enhance veteran and ancient tree features.
	Mapping does not reflect added value of protecting wildlife sites within walking distance of urban centres	This action is accounted for in PM36 Increase areas of high-quality accessible green spaces in the built environment.
	Mapping doesn't take into account other existing spatial strategies and data eg. Blue-Green Corridor	These two strategies complement each other and the LNRS delivery will help deliver Herefordshire Council's Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategy.
	Shape of mapped areas is random and nonsensical	Mapping driven by data not existing field boundaries.

Theme	Overview of comments	Reason for non-actionable decision
Mapping - layers	Veteran trees missing from map	If the tree is not registered on Ancient Tree Inventory we do not have the evidence to map them.
	Measures mapped over productive farmland	LNRS mapping driven by potential for nature recovery not existing land use, although grade 1 and 2 agricultural land was used as a constraint in prioritising measures.
	Add layer for Local Geological Sites	APIB guidance does not allow for inclusion of LGSs. A link has been provided to the list of Herefordshire LGSs.
	Add data for Roadside Verge Nature Reserves to layer for PM 39: Enhance species-rich road verges and restore species-poor verges	Data not in format that can be easily added to map so would need converting. It is something that we will look at including in future iterations of the LNRS.
	Extend buffer to rivers to match European SAC protection zones (400m)	Mapping already incorporates a buffer based upon guidance from the Environment Agency and ACIB layer mostly extends this further.
	Field buffer strips measure removed	This measure has been merged with other farming measures into one unmapped measure PM34.
	Mapping should incorporate data on agri-environment schemes	This is outside of scope of LNRS development but will be included in delivery monitoring phase.
	Identify Best and Most Versatile (BMV) agricultural land to prioritise nature recovery	LNRS is led by ecological data although grade 1 and 2 agricultural land was used as constraint in measures prioritisation stage.
	PM4 Create and restore wood pasture and parkland only mapped to existing or historic parkland locations	This follows NE guidance on this measure.
	Why are only traditional orchards included and not small and old bush orchards	Not within NE LNRS guidelines for orchard habitats.
	No ambition to stop release of non-native birds, e.g. pheasants	Not enough evidence that this is a priority.
Priorities and measures - habitats	Himalayan Balsam not mentioned	This is mentioned in PM40 Restore and enhance habitats through landscape control of invasive species, pests and pathogens.
	Add specific priority and measure for geological sites	These are included in PM 41: Integrate biodiversity improvements within geological and historical sites.
	Importance of creating buffers around watercourses	Covered by PM 42: Create pollution tolerant buffers to reduce pollution impacts on sensitive habitats.
	Stronger encouragement for regenerative farming	This action is covered by Farmland priorities and measures.
	LNRS should work in collaboration with agri-environment Countryside Stewardship Higher Tier to support restoration of lost ponds	There will be a link between CSHT and LNRS through the delivery phase although details on this are yet to be published by Defra Group.

Theme	Overview of comments	Reason for non-actionable decision
Priorities and measures - habitats	Priorities and measures involving farming feel unachievable and need policy level engagement	National policy is outside scope of LNRS. LNRS to be embedded in local decision making. LNRS delivery will work closely with farmers and organisations advising farmers to support LNRS actions.
	Need wetland developments to lessen watercourse pollution from slurry, hydrological restoration and nature-based solutions to mitigate damage from extreme weather events	Covered by PM15 Implement nature-based solutions to reduce soil erosion and nutrient loss.
	Prevent hedgerow and mature tree loss	Covered by legislation and planning regulations.
	More opportunities for riverside biodiversity improvements, recreation and interpretation in Ross-on-Wye area	Covered by various measures.
	Would like more about hedgerows	Hedgerows have a designated Priority and SP5 Hedgerow invertebrate assemblage.
	More emphasis on restoring wetland habitats/acknowledgement of lack of good wetlands in the county	See PM 18: Create and restore a mosaic of wetland habitats as well as other measures.
	Planning recommendation for permeable driveway surfaces for drop kerb applications	Covered by requirement for Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) and PM35 Implement SuDS. LNRS to be embedded in local decision making.
	A review of current greenspaces in Hereford and their management would help support PM36 Increase areas of high-quality accessible green spaces in the built environment	This does not fall within the scope of the LNRS development phase. However it can be looked at in LNRS delivery phase.
	Hereford is natural location for educating people about nature recovery including individual actions eg a wildlife in the city guide, wildlife walks	This does not fall within the scope of the LNRS development phase. However it can be looked at in LNRS delivery phase.
	A project to control Himalayan Balsam	See PM40 Restore and enhance habitats through landscape control of invasive species, pests and pathogens. A specific project for Himalayan Balsam could be looked at during the LNRS delivery phase.
	Installing bird and bat boxes could become part of planning process	This does not fall within the scope of the LNRS development phase. However it can be looked at in LNRS delivery phase.
	Aquatic pollution is a particular problem for Hereford city due to housing and road concentration requiring specific actions coupled with education and householder advice	This does not fall within the scope of the LNRS development phase. However it can be looked at in LNRS delivery phase

Theme	Overview of comments	Reason for non-actionable decision
Priorities and measures - habitats	A particular approach is required to geological and historical sites in Hereford city where these sites are typically associated with formal parks and are likely to have very high footfall. This could be more of an emphasis on bat boxes, bird boxes etc rather than on species rich planting.	This does not fall within the scope of the LNRS development phase. However it can be looked at in LNRS delivery phase
	Emphasis should be more on woodland management rather than tree planting to increase open habitats within woodlands	This action is included in PM8, PM9 and PM10
	Hedgerows need protection, not just from removal but a buffer to limit disturbance to benefit cuckoo	LNRS does not provide sites with further protections than they already have. Hedgerows are also an LNRS priority.
Priorities and measures - species	Inclusion of Dymock Forest and Gold-base Tubic Moth is an error as it is not in Herefordshire	Dymock Forest straddles border and there are records for the moth in Herefordshire.
	Cuckoo requires more than just suitable habitat, it also need a greater food source (hairy caterpillars)	Improved habitats should also increase population of moths and butterflies.
	Species list should align with national species targets and ambitions	The species list was developed using local data and knowledge as well as national data such as red list species which aligns with government targets.
	Actions for species must be carefully considered to avoid causing unintended consequences on farming and food production e.g. green bridges	The priority of LNRS is nature recovery. Significant actions such as green bridges will be required to follow planning regulations.
	Beaver reintroductions must follow feasibility and impact assessments, short, medium and long term, especially on farming and food production, and future species management	Covered in wording of beaver reintroductions.
	Query inclusion of Grey Long-eared bats	We have confirmed they are present in county and therefore it is appropriate to include in SP7 Bat assemblage priority.
	Goshawk should be included	Main issue is persecution which is outside scope of LNRS.
	Hobby should be included	Main issue is global factors which is outside the scope of LNRS.
	Black-headed Gull should be included	Not enough information about the measures required and not judged specific enough to Herefordshire.

Theme	Overview of comments	Reason for non-actionable decision
Priorities and measures - species	Quail should be included	Main issues are global factors which is outside the scope of LNRS.
	Wood Lark unlikely to breed in the county so should not be included	There are 3 records of woodlark in county including in 2015.
	Hazel dormouse should be included	Actions necessary for recovery of Hazel dormice are covered by habitat measures. It has been added to the list of species benefitting from relevant habitat measures.
	Glow-worm should be included	Not enough information about the necessary measures required is available to be able to provide guidance on this.
	Purple Emperor should be included	The species is not currently recorded in the county. The actions that it would need are covered by existing habitat measures.
	Limited contribution from experienced local ornithologists	Bird species information was provided by local bird expert working for Herefordshire Wildlife Trust and checked with experts from National England.
	Long-eared Owl	Has 'green' UK conservation status so is unable to make the long list.
	Clarity on species assemblages e.g. saproxylic insects and River Wye specialities	Actions needed for both to recover their numbers are sufficiently covered by habitat measures.
	Reintroduce the Corn Crake	This action is not suitable for Herefordshire.
	Slow worms should be included	Although a protected species it is not a red list species or specific enough to Herefordshire.
	Dyer's Greenweed should be included	Not a red list species so is ineligible for inclusion of the LNRS.
	Gaps in species not included such as Cosnard's Net-winged beetle - UK's largest population is on Little Doward	Not enough data or evidence for inclusion and no records held locally.
	White-tailed eagle reintroduction	Not enough information for inclusion
	It's the " specialist " that is the first to disappear when habitats degrade. How do you therefore prioritise what needs saving? That which is easiest, that which is apex or that which needs very particular attention? What constitutes success ?	The method for selection of a species for the short list and prioritisation process have been outlined in Species Methodology.
	The list of species seems a little odd with such a large number of moths. It would be good to include a more diverse range of taxa	Species shortlist list was heavily dependent on availability of data and evidence for appropriate measures. We are aiming to further develop our evidence base during the delivery phase to better refine this.

Theme	Overview of comments	Reason for non-actionable decision
Priorities and measures - species	Better support for invertebrates and other roots of the food chain	Many invertebrates have been covered in both species and habitat measures.
	Public perception of the Beaver is still too low	Any reintroduction programme would have to involve substantial community and public engagement.
	Schedule 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, identifies many avian species, that are afforded special protection. Many species listed are either resident or migratory visitors to the county, these are not even referenced. There are many threatened avian species that have not been referenced the LNRS in any way whatsoever	LNRS necessarily required a prioritisation process for species which is outlined in the Species Methodology. Protected species were not required by DEFRA guidance to be on the species priority list.
	Suitable habitat for Water Vole in Hereford city should be identified	This action can be looked at in the LNRS delivery phase through a suitable project or through Parish Biodiversity Action Plan.
	Responsible access for river-based recreation in Hereford city should be encouraged through guidance and educational projects and through creation of blue/green corridors and opening up of culverted streams	This action can be looked at in the LNRS delivery phase through a suitable project or through Parish Biodiversity Action Plan.
	Concentrating on chosen species rather than ecosystems restoration could lead to limited nature recovery	LNRS includes measures for both habitats and species. LNRS is primarily for habitat restoration with the species measures being in addition to these.
	All red list bird species should be included in the LNRS species short list e.g. Woodcock, Spotted flycatcher etc	LNRS necessarily required a prioritisation process for species which is outlined in the Species Methodology. All red list species were included in initial long list. Many actions for the species recovery are covered by habitat measures if they are not included in species priorities.
	The species selection process was flawed and omitted many rare species for which the county is nationally important whilst including species that are common elsewhere. The consultation with experts needs improvement.	Species shortlisting followed national LNRS guidance and local and national taxon experts were consulted.

7. Summary and conclusion



The Herefordshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) public consultation, undertaken over seven weeks from February to March 2026, generated substantial engagement, with 609 comments collected through surveys, events, and direct contact. The consultation combined multiple engagement methods, including 22 in-person events, online surveys, webinars, and targeted promotional activity, resulting in broad geographic reach and strong participation from local residents, although some demographic groups (notably working-age adults, the under 25s and certain postcode areas) were underrepresented.

Overall, feedback demonstrates strong support for the LNRS vision, priorities, and identified habitats, with over 90% of respondents expressing agreement with the strategy's direction and more than 80% satisfied with habitat and species priorities. The documents and presentation were also well received, with a majority finding them clear, detailed, and visually effective, though some respondents highlighted the need for more accessible summaries and simplified formats.

However, the consultation has also highlighted a consistent and important gap between support for the strategy's ambitions and confidence in its delivery. A recurring theme across all engagement channels is that the LNRS is perceived as aspirational, with insufficient clarity around how outcomes will be achieved in practice. Respondents emphasised the need for a more clearly defined implementation framework, including clear targets, measurable indicators of success, delivery timescales, and identifiable responsibilities. Without this, there is a risk that the strategy may lack credibility and fail to achieve meaningful on-the-ground change.

Financial constraints were identified as the most significant barrier to delivery, alongside concerns around public awareness and engagement. In this context, the success of the LNRS will depend heavily on its ability to secure and coordinate funding, as well as to strengthen communication and awareness-raising activities. Improved engagement with landowners, farmers, businesses, and local communities was consistently highlighted as essential, particularly given the voluntary nature of the strategy and the need to ensure that proposed measures are both practical and economically viable.

The findings also highlight the importance of stronger integration with planning and policy frameworks. Concerns have been raised about perceived inconsistencies between LNRS objectives and existing planning decisions, with some having a desire for the strategy to play a more influential role in shaping development outcomes. Ensuring that the LNRS is embedded effectively within local decision-making processes will therefore be critical to its long-term impact.

Technical improvements are also required in key areas. In particular, feedback on the Local Habitat Map indicates that while it is a valuable tool, issues relating to usability, clarity, performance, and data accuracy limit its effectiveness for many users. Addressing these issues—alongside improving accessibility of supporting documents through clearer summaries, visual content, and user-friendly formats—will be important to maximise engagement and usability across a wider audience.

The consultation has further identified several thematic gaps and areas for strengthening the strategy. These include greater emphasis on habitat connectivity, wetlands, hedgerows, soils, and the role of ecosystem processes; improved coverage of pollution (including artificial light), climate risks, and cross-boundary impacts; and a stronger focus on practical guidance and delivery mechanisms. Addressing these issues will help to ensure that the LNRS is both comprehensive and responsive to local priorities.

Consultation feedback has been used to introduce a range of targeted improvements to both the content and usability of the LNRS. The strategy now more clearly communicates that measures are advisory, supported by additional case studies and strengthened guidance to aid delivery. New supporting actions have been added to address gaps in ecological data and encourage greater biological recording and public engagement, including working with new groups and organisations, such as children and young people, during the delivery phase. The mapping tool has been significantly refined, with clearer labelling, improved colour contrast, simplified and more intuitive layer structure, enhanced navigation (including parish boundaries), and new functionality such as transparency sliders and better links between map features and the measures directory. Technical performance has also been improved through data streamlining, and a revised ‘how to use’ resource has been developed to support users.

Substantial updates have also been made to mapping data, priorities, and measures to improve accuracy, clarity, and coverage. Missing or incorrect spatial data has been corrected, with additional habitats, heritage features, and species-relevant datasets incorporated. Across the strategy, wording has been revised to be more outcome-focused, while new and expanded content strengthens coverage of key issues such as urban environments, light pollution, soil health, water management, species control, and climate adaptation. Additional supporting actions, updated guidance links, and stronger references to standards (e.g. UK Forestry Standards) have been included, alongside greater emphasis on habitat connectivity, wider environmental benefits, and links to phosphate mitigation. Species lists have been expanded or clarified, and cross-cutting themes such as rewilding, public participation, and embedding LNRS in decision-making have been more clearly integrated throughout.

Moving forward, the strategy will serve as a key framework for the development of projects and the coordination of nature recovery activity across Herefordshire. Delivery will focus on four core elements in line with national guidance:

1. Convening and leading cross-sector partnerships to prioritise and coordinate action;
2. Embedding the LNRS within local plans, policies, and organisational decision-making to ensure biodiversity is considered alongside development and other priorities;
3. Identifying and supporting the development of strategic, investable projects aligned with LNRS priorities; and
4. Monitoring and reporting on delivery to track progress, contribute to national targets, and inform future strategy updates.

As the strategy is adopted and implemented, it will be integrated into other council strategies and plans. In particular, it will form a key consideration within the Herefordshire Core Strategy development plan moving forward.

Overall, the LNRS will act as a central framework for coordinating investment, decision-making, and action to deliver long-term environmental improvement at a local scale.

In conclusion, the consultation confirms that there is strong support for the LNRS as a strategic framework for nature recovery in Herefordshire, but also provides a clear mandate for refinement. The key challenge moving forward is to transition from a well-supported vision to a credible and deliverable programme of action. This will require strengthening implementation detail, securing resources, improving integration with policy and planning, and maintaining ongoing engagement with stakeholders. If these issues are effectively addressed, the LNRS has significant potential to deliver measurable, long-term improvements in biodiversity and ecological resilience across the county.



Appendix 1

Marketing resources and events

Article in the Hereford Times



Consultation on plan to restore nature across Herefordshire

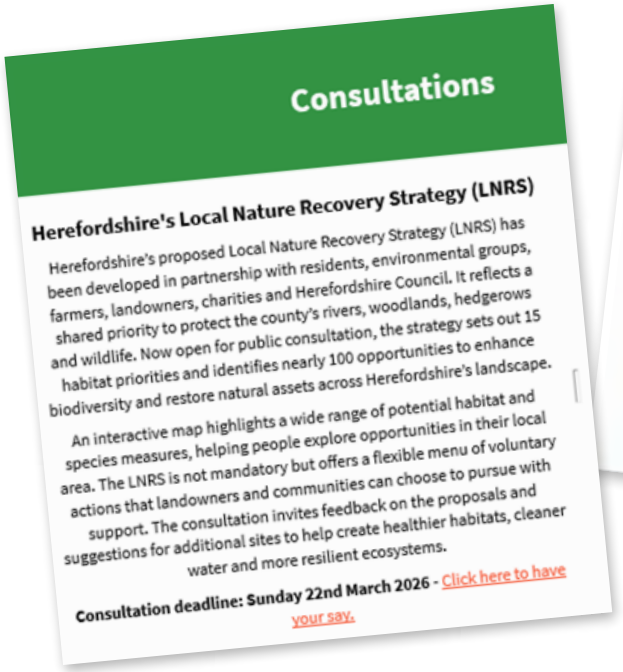
11TH FEBRUARY ENVIRONMENT

River Wye at Symond's Yat Rock *(Image: Geograph)*

Herefordshire Wildlife Trust web page



Rural Hub newsletter



Consultations

Herefordshire's Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS)

Herefordshire's proposed Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) has been developed in partnership with residents, environmental groups, farmers, landowners, charities and Herefordshire Council. It reflects a shared priority to protect the county's rivers, woodlands, hedgerows and wildlife. Now open for public consultation, the strategy sets out 15 habitat priorities and identifies nearly 100 opportunities to enhance biodiversity and restore natural assets across Herefordshire's landscape.

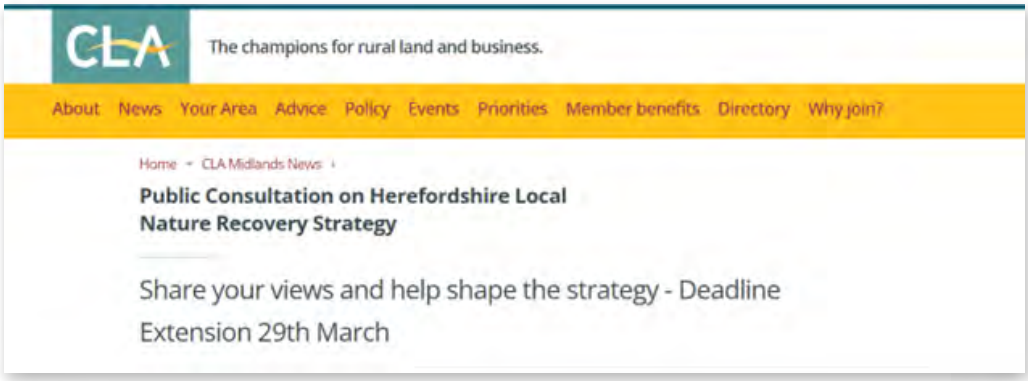
An interactive map highlights a wide range of potential habitat and species measures, helping people explore opportunities in their local area. The LNRS is not mandatory but offers a flexible menu of voluntary actions that landowners and communities can choose to pursue with support. The consultation invites feedback on the proposals and suggestions for additional sites to help create healthier habitats, cleaner water and more resilient ecosystems.

Consultation deadline: Sunday 22nd March 2026 - Click here to have your say.

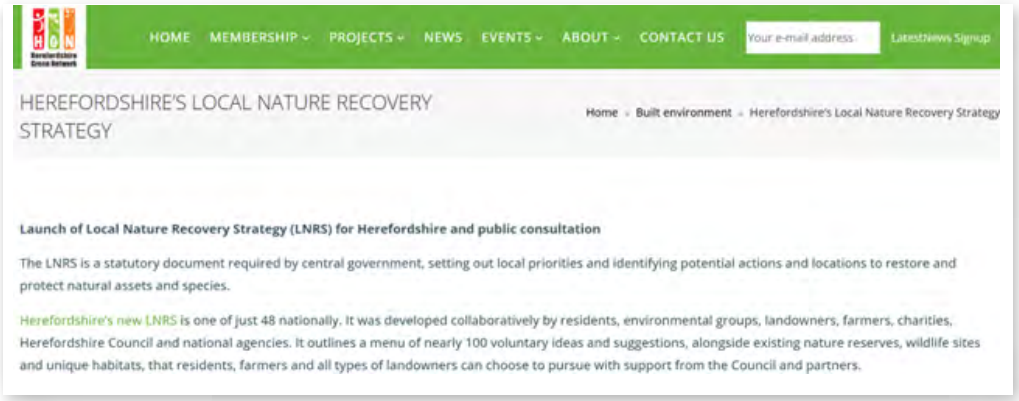
HBRC Instagram



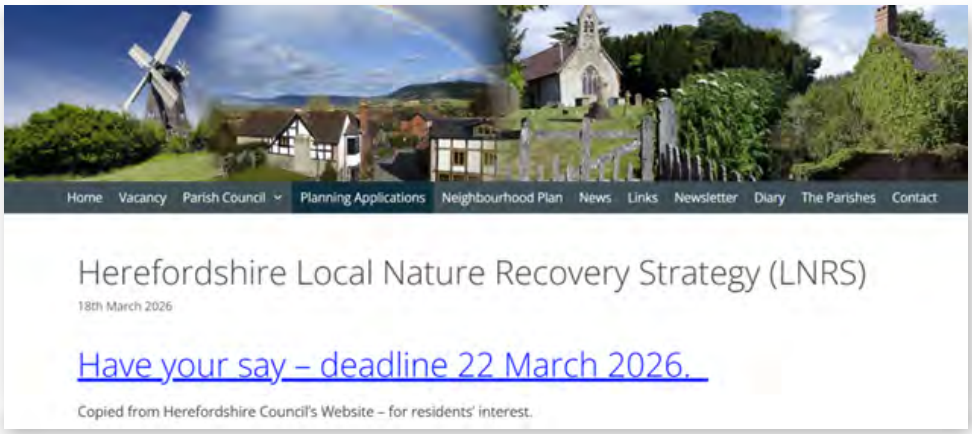
CLA webpage



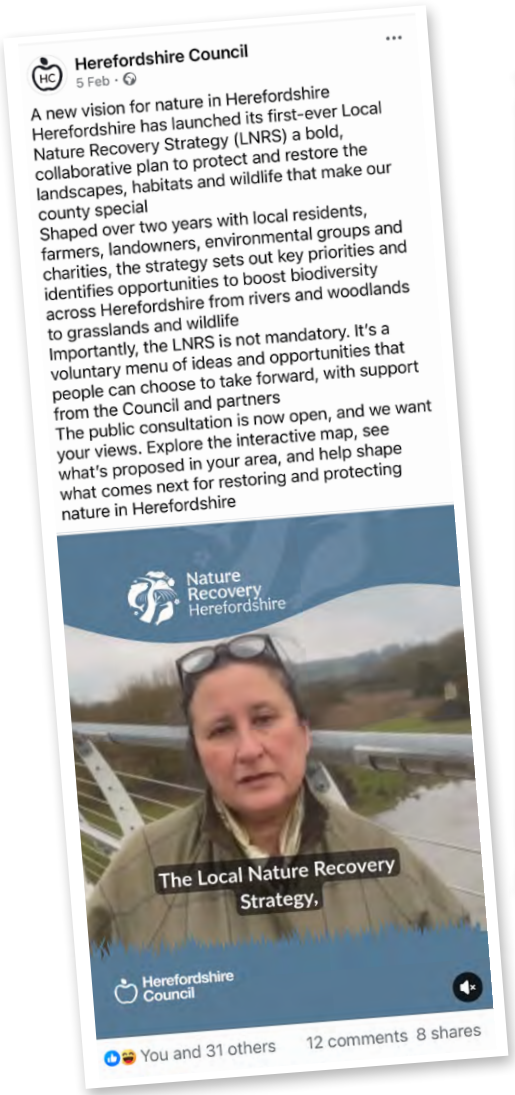
Herefordshire Green Network webpage



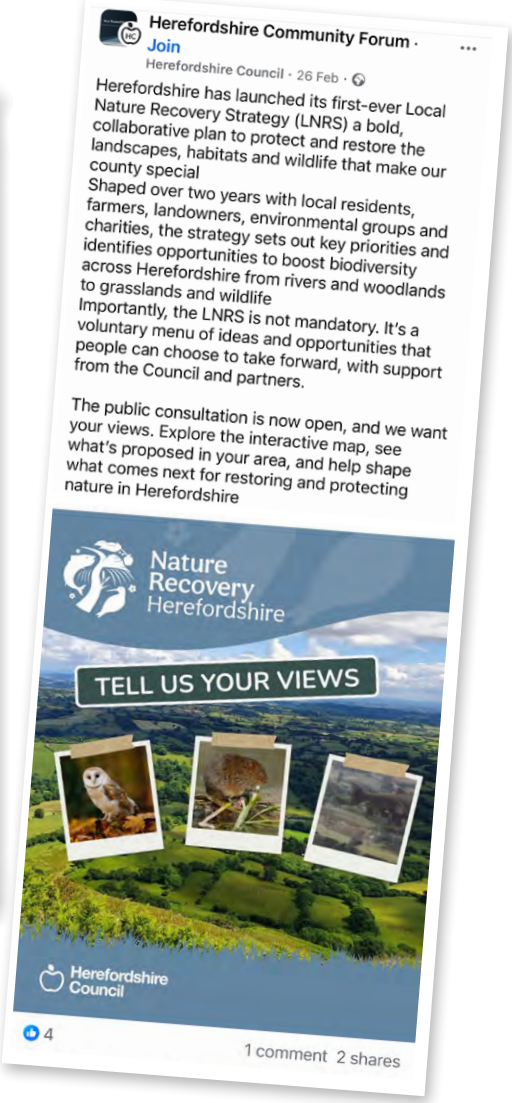
Parish Councils



Herefordshire Council social media posts









Herefordshire Wildlife Trust
Nature Action Network



Ledbury Market



Ross on Wye Market

Appendix 2

Quick survey questions

1. **Please confirm that you have read some or all of the draft LNRS documents**
   i. Yes in full ii.Yes in part iii.No

2. **How much do you agree with the overall vision and priorities of the Herefordshire LNRS?**
   i. Strongly agree ii. Agree
   iii. Neither agree nor disagree iv.Disagree
   v. Strongly disagree
   Please write here if you have any comments

3. **How satisfied are you with the specific habitats and species identified as priorities for Herefordshire?**
   i. Very satisfied ii. Satisfied
   iii. Neither satisfied or dissatisfied
   iv. Dissatisfied v. Very Dissatisfied
   vi. Don't know
   Please use this space to share any comments, including if you think any habitats or species are missing or should not be included.

4. **Is there anything missing from the draft strategy regarding the proposed priorities, measures and supporting actions for key issues?**

5. **Do you like the layout and graphic style of the LNRS documents?**
   i. Yes ii. Somewhat iii. No
   Please note here anything you would change with the layout and graphic style of the LNRS to make these more engaging and easier to read and use

6. **What do you think are the biggest barriers to achieving nature recovery in Herefordshire?**
   i. Lack of funding ii. Public awareness
   iii. Conflicting land use iv. Climate change
   v. Lack of evidence vi. Lack of knowledge
   vii. Other – please state
   If you said 'Other', please state them here.
   Free text (word limit 1000)

7. **Have you looked at the Local Habitat Map?**
   i. Yes in full ii. Yes in part iii. No

8. **Does the Local Habitat Map help you understand the LNRS?**
   i. Yes, completely ii. Yes, partially iii. No

9. **Is the Local Habitat Map easy to use?**
   i. Yes, completely ii. Yes, partially iii. No

10. **How can we make the map more user-friendly?**
    Free text (word limit 1000)

11. **How likely are you to use the LNRS once it is published?**
    i. Very likely ii. Possibly
    iii. Don't know iv. Probably not
    v. Not at all likely

12. **In what capacity are you responding to this consultation?**
    i. Herefordshire resident
    ii. Visitor to Herefordshire or member of the public living elsewhere
    iii. Farmer (tenant/landowner/farm manager)
    iv. Parish / Town Councillor
    v. Herefordshire Councillor
    vi. Parish / Town Council
    vii. Business owner
    viii. Land agent / advisor
    ix. Advisory body
    x. Species / habitat specialist
    xi. Local interest / nature group
    xii. Prefer not to say
    xiii Other (please specify)
    Free text box for other category

Appendix 3

Detailed survey questions

1. **Please confirm that you have read the draft LNRS documents.**
   i. Yes in full ii. Yes in part iii.No

2. **The LNRS structure and layout works well**
   i.Strongly agree ii.Agree
   iii. Neither agree nor disagree
   iv. Disagree v.Strongly disagree

3. **The Strategy Summary is clear and helpful**
   i. Strongly agree ii. Agree
   iii. Neither agree nor disagree
   iv. Disagree v. Strongly disagree

4. **The landscape of Herefordshire is well described in the Strategy Area Description**
   i. Strongly agree ii. Agree
   iii. Neither agree nor disagree
   iv. Disagree v. Strongly disagree

5. **The maps are clearly explained in the Mapping Methodology**
   i. Strongly agree ii. Agree
   iii. Neither agree nor disagree
   iv. Disagree v. Strongly disagree

6. **The previous rounds of consultation and engagement were sufficient**
   i. Strongly agree ii. Agree
   iii. Neither agree nor disagree
   iv. Disagree v. Strongly disagree

7. **How the LNRS will be delivered is clearly explained**
   i. Strongly agree ii.Agree
   iii. Neither agree nor disagree
   iv. Disagree v. Strongly disagree

8. **How I will be able to use the LNRS is clearly explained in the User Guides**
   i. Strongly agree ii.Agree
   iii. Neither agree nor disagree
   iv. Disagree v. Strongly disagree

9. **I consider the LNRS measures to be deliverable**
   i. Strongly agree ii.Agree
   iii. Neither agree nor disagree
   iv. Disagree v. Strongly disagree

10. **The steps that will be taken to monitor the delivery of the LNRS are clear and achievable**
    i. Strongly agree ii.Agree
    iii. Neither agree nor disagree
    iv. Disagree v. Strongly disagree

11. **I am confident that the LNRS will facilitate nature recovery in Herefordshire**
    i. Strongly agree ii.Agree
    iii. Neither agree nor disagree
    iv. Disagree v. Strongly disagree

12. **Please let us know if you have anything you particularly like or agree with in the LNRS?**
    Free text (word limit 1000)

13. **Please let us know if you have anything you particularly don't like or disagree with or areas you think need further work?**
    Free text (word limit 1000)

How satisfied are you with each of the habitat priorities?

14. **Herefordshire's species-rich grasslands are enhanced, expanded and reconnected**
    i. Very satisfied ii. Satisfied
    iii. Neither satisfied or dissatisfied
    iv. Dissatisfied v. Very Dissatisfied
    vi. Don't know

15. **Herefordshire's woodlands are well-managed and restored with woodland corridors created across the landscape**
    i. Very satisfied ii. Satisfied
    iii. Neither satisfied or dissatisfied
    iv. Dissatisfied v. Very Dissatisfied
    vi. Don't know

16. **Ancient woodlands are more extensive, and existing ones are well-managed and restored**
    i. Very satisfied ii. Satisfied
    iii. Neither satisfied or dissatisfied
    iv. Dissatisfied v. Very Dissatisfied
    vi. Don't know

17. Traditional orchards are more extensive, and existing ones are well-managed and restored
i. Very satisfied ii. Satisfied
iii. Neither satisfied or dissatisfied
iv. Dissatisfied v. Very Dissatisfied
vi. Don't know

18. Freshwater habitats are safeguarded
i. Very satisfied ii. Satisfied
iii. Neither satisfied or dissatisfied
iv. Dissatisfied v. Very Dissatisfied
vi. Don't know

19. Natural hydrological functions are restored at a catchment scale
i. Very satisfied ii. Satisfied
iii. Neither satisfied or dissatisfied
iv. Dissatisfied v. Very Dissatisfied
vi. Don't know

20. Scrub and mosaic habitats are safeguarded, restored and created
i. Very satisfied ii. Satisfied
iii. Neither satisfied or dissatisfied
iv. Dissatisfied v. Very Dissatisfied
vi. Don't know

21. Hedgerow networks provide core habitats for biodiversity and landscape character
i. Very satisfied ii. Satisfied
iii. Neither satisfied or dissatisfied
iv. Dissatisfied v. Very Dissatisfied
vi. Don't know

22. Upland habitats are restored, and their condition is improved
i. Very satisfied ii. Satisfied
iii. Neither satisfied or dissatisfied
iv. Dissatisfied v. Very Dissatisfied
vi. Don't know

23. Nature-friendly farming practices are widely adopted across Herefordshire
i. Very satisfied ii. Satisfied
iii. Neither satisfied or dissatisfied
iv. Dissatisfied v. Very Dissatisfied
vi. Don't know

24. Nature-rich areas within the built environment are accessible, climate resilient and biodiverse
i. Very satisfied ii. Satisfied
iii. Neither satisfied or dissatisfied
iv. Dissatisfied v. Very Dissatisfied
vi. Don't know

25. Ecosystem resilience to invasive species, pests, and pathogens is strengthened
i. Very satisfied ii. Satisfied
iii. Neither satisfied or dissatisfied
iv. Dissatisfied v. Very Dissatisfied
vi. Don't know

26. Cultural sites are rich in nature while being well maintained for their heritage value
i. Very satisfied ii. Satisfied
iii. Neither satisfied or dissatisfied
iv. Dissatisfied v. Very Dissatisfied
vi. Don't know

27. The impact of pollution on habitats and species is reduced
i. Very satisfied ii. Satisfied
iii. Neither satisfied or dissatisfied
iv. Dissatisfied v. Very Dissatisfied
vi. Don't know

28. Please add any comments on the habitat priorities. Are there any priorities you consider are missing from
Free text (word limit 1000)

How satisfied are you with the potential measures outlined for each habitat?

29. Species-rich grassland habitat measures
i. Very satisfied ii. Satisfied
iii. Neither satisfied or dissatisfied
iv. Dissatisfied v. Very Dissatisfied
vi. Don't know

30. Tree and woodland habitat measures
i. Very satisfied ii. Satisfied
iii. Neither satisfied or dissatisfied
iv. Dissatisfied v. Very Dissatisfied
vi. Don't know

31. Rivers, water and wetland habitat measures
i. Very satisfied ii. Satisfied
iii. Neither satisfied or dissatisfied
iv. Dissatisfied v. Very Dissatisfied
vi. Don't know

32. Scrub and mosaic habitat measures
i. Very satisfied ii. Satisfied
iii. Neither satisfied or dissatisfied
iv. Dissatisfied v. Very Dissatisfied
vi. Don't know

33. Hedgerow measures
i. Very satisfied ii. Satisfied
iii. Neither satisfied or dissatisfied
iv. Dissatisfied v. Very Dissatisfied
vi. Don't know

34. Upland moorland and heathland habitat measures
i. Very satisfied ii. Satisfied
iii. Neither satisfied or dissatisfied
iv. Dissatisfied v. Very Dissatisfied
vi. Don't know

35. Farmland habitat measures
i. Very satisfied ii. Satisfied
iii. Neither satisfied or dissatisfied
iv. Dissatisfied v. Very Dissatisfied
vi. Don't know

36. Upland moorland and heathland habitat measures
i. Very satisfied ii. Satisfied
iii. Neither satisfied or dissatisfied
iv. Dissatisfied v. Very Dissatisfied
vi. Don't know

37. Built environment measures
i. Very satisfied ii. Satisfied
iii. Neither satisfied or dissatisfied
iv. Dissatisfied v. Very Dissatisfied
vi. Don't know

38. General measures (invasive species, cultural sites and pollution)
i. Very satisfied ii. Satisfied
iii. Neither satisfied or dissatisfied
iv. Dissatisfied v. Very Dissatisfied
vi. Don't know

39. Please add any comments on the habitat measures. Are there any measures missing from the LNRS? If so, please explain what they are and why you feel they should be included.
Free text (word limit 1000)

40. Are these the appropriate species and species assemblages selected for inclusion in the Herefordshire LNRS?
i. Yes, completely ii. Yes, partially
iii. No iv. Don't know

41. Which species that are not included do you think should be, or which species that are included do you think should not be? Please provide a scientific name and a justification for inclusion or removal for each species you think is missing or included incorrectly
Free text (word limit 2000)

How satisfied are you with the measures intended to support each species/species assemblage?

42. Grassland and farmland assemblage measures
i. Very satisfied ii. Satisfied
iii. Neither satisfied or dissatisfied
iv. Dissatisfied v. Very Dissatisfied
vi. Don't know

43. Woodland assemblage measures
i. Very satisfied ii. Satisfied
iii. Neither satisfied or dissatisfied
iv. Dissatisfied v. Very Dissatisfied
vi. Don't know

44. Conifer clearfell/heathland assemblage measures
i. Very satisfied ii. Satisfied
iii. Neither satisfied or dissatisfied
iv. Dissatisfied v. Very Dissatisfied
vi. Don't know

45. Freshwater/riparian assemblage measures
i. Very satisfied ii. Satisfied
iii. Neither satisfied or dissatisfied
iv. Dissatisfied v. Very Dissatisfied
vi. Don't know

46. Hedgerow invertebrate assemblage measures
i. Very satisfied ii. Satisfied
iii. Neither satisfied or dissatisfied
iv. Dissatisfied v. Very Dissatisfied
vi. Don't know

47. Upland assemblage measures
i. Very satisfied ii. Satisfied
iii. Neither satisfied or dissatisfied
iv. Dissatisfied v. Very Dissatisfied
vi. Don't know

48. Urban assemblage measures
i. Very satisfied ii. Satisfied
iii. Neither satisfied or dissatisfied
iv. Dissatisfied v. Very Dissatisfied
vi. Don't know

49. Bat species measures
i. Very satisfied ii. Satisfied
iii. Neither satisfied or dissatisfied
iv. Dissatisfied v. Very Dissatisfied
vi. Don't know

50. Common Tern measures
i. Very satisfied ii. Satisfied
iii. Neither satisfied or dissatisfied
iv. Dissatisfied v. Very Dissatisfied
vi. Don't know

51. Cuckoo measures
i. Very satisfied ii. Satisfied
iii. Neither satisfied or dissatisfied
iv. Dissatisfied v. Very Dissatisfied
vi. Don't know

52. Cranefly - Ellipteroides alboscutellatus measures
i. Very satisfied ii. Satisfied
iii. Neither satisfied or dissatisfied
iv. Dissatisfied v. Very Dissatisfied
vi. Don't know

53. Liquorice Piercer moth measures
i. Very satisfied ii. Satisfied
iii. Neither satisfied or dissatisfied
iv. Dissatisfied v. Very Dissatisfied
vi. Don't know

54. Chimney Sweeper moth measures
i. Very satisfied ii. Satisfied
iii. Neither satisfied or dissatisfied
iv. Dissatisfied v. Very Dissatisfied
vi. Don't know

55. Grizzled Skipper butterfly measures
i. Very satisfied ii. Satisfied
iii. Neither satisfied or dissatisfied
iv. Dissatisfied v. Very Dissatisfied
vi. Don't know

56. Water Vole measures
i. Very satisfied ii. Satisfied
iii. Neither satisfied or dissatisfied
iv. Dissatisfied v. Very Dissatisfied
vi. Don't know

57. Pillwort fern measures
i. Very satisfied ii. Satisfied
iii. Neither satisfied or dissatisfied
iv. Dissatisfied v. Very Dissatisfied
vi. Don't know

58. Grizzled Skipper butterfly measures
i. Very satisfied ii. Satisfied
iii. Neither satisfied or dissatisfied
iv. Dissatisfied v. Very Dissatisfied
vi. Don't know

59. Moccas Beetle measures
i. Very satisfied ii. Satisfied
iii. Neither satisfied or dissatisfied
iv. Dissatisfied v. Very Dissatisfied
vi. Don't know

60. Sandy Stiltball fungus measures
i. Very satisfied ii. Satisfied
iii. Neither satisfied or dissatisfied
iv. Dissatisfied v. Very Dissatisfied
vi. Don't know

61. Oak Polypore Buglossoporus quercinus fungus measures
i. Very satisfied ii. Satisfied
iii. Neither satisfied or dissatisfied
iv. Dissatisfied v. Very Dissatisfied
vi. Don't know

62. Orchard Toothcrust *Sarcodontia crocea* fungus measures
i. Very satisfied ii. Satisfied
iii. Neither satisfied or dissatisfied
iv. Dissatisfied v. Very Dissatisfied
vi. Don't know

How satisfied are you with the species prioritised for reintroductions?

63. Water Vole
i. Very satisfied ii. Satisfied
iii. Neither satisfied or dissatisfied
iv. Dissatisfied v. Very Dissatisfied
vi. Don't know

64. Forester (moth)
i. Very satisfied ii. Satisfied
iii. Neither satisfied or dissatisfied
iv. Dissatisfied v. Very Dissatisfied
vi. Don't know

65. Pearl-bordered Fritillary (butterfly)
i. Very satisfied ii. Satisfied
iii. Neither satisfied or dissatisfied
iv. Dissatisfied v. Very Dissatisfied
vi. Don't know

66. Petty Whin (plant)
i. Very satisfied ii. Satisfied
iii. Neither satisfied or dissatisfied
iv. Dissatisfied v. Very Dissatisfied
vi. Don't know

67. Sheep's-bit (plant)
i. Very satisfied ii. Satisfied
iii. Neither satisfied or dissatisfied
iv. Dissatisfied v. Very Dissatisfied
vi. Don't know

68. Narrow-leaved Water-dropwort (plant)
i. Very satisfied ii. Satisfied
iii. Neither satisfied or dissatisfied
iv. Dissatisfied v. Very Dissatisfied
vi. Don't know

69. Saw-wort (plant)
i. Very satisfied ii. Satisfied
iii. Neither satisfied or dissatisfied
iv. Dissatisfied v. Very Dissatisfied
vi. Don't know

70. Globeflower (plant)
i. Very satisfied ii. Satisfied
iii. Neither satisfied or dissatisfied
iv. Dissatisfied v. Very Dissatisfied
vi. Don't know

71. Beaver
i. Very satisfied ii. Satisfied
iii. Neither satisfied or dissatisfied
iv. Dissatisfied v. Very Dissatisfied
vi. Don't know

72. Please add any comments or explain your answers on the species measures.
Free text (word limit 2000 words)

73. Have you looked at the Local Habitat Map?
i. Yes in full ii. Yes in part iii. No

74. Does the Local Habitat Map help you understand the LNRS?
i. Yes, completely
ii. Yes, partially iii. No

75. Is the Local Habitat Map easy to use?
i. Yes, completely
ii. Yes, partially iii. No

76. How can we make the map more user-friendly?
Free text (word limit 1000)

77. Areas of particular importance for biodiversity (APIB) Layer
i. Very satisfied ii. Satisfied
iii. Neither satisfied or dissatisfied
iv. Dissatisfied v. Very Dissatisfied
vi. Don't know

78. Areas that could be important for Biodiversity (ACIB) Layer
i. Very satisfied ii. Satisfied
iii. Neither satisfied or dissatisfied
iv. Dissatisfied v. Very Dissatisfied
vi. Don't know

79. PM 1: Create new and reconnect species-rich grassland
i. Very satisfied ii. Satisfied
iii. Neither satisfied or dissatisfied
iv. Dissatisfied v. Very Dissatisfied
vi. Don't know

80. **PM 2: Restore and enhance degraded species-rich grassland**
    i. Very satisfied ii. Satisfied
    iii. Neither satisfied or dissatisfied
    iv. Dissatisfied v. Very Dissatisfied
    vi. Don't know

81. **PM 3: Create new woodlands to reconnect and buffer existing woodlands**
    i. Very satisfied ii. Satisfied
    iii. Neither satisfied or dissatisfied
    iv. Dissatisfied v. Very Dissatisfied
    vi. Don't know

82. **PM 4: Create and restore wood pasture and parkland**
    i. Very satisfied ii. Satisfied
    iii. Neither satisfied or dissatisfied
    iv. Dissatisfied v. Very Dissatisfied
    vi. Don't know

83. **PM 5: Create and restore wet woodlands**
    i. Very satisfied ii. Satisfied
    iii. Neither satisfied or dissatisfied
    iv. Dissatisfied v. Very Dissatisfied
    vi. Don't know

84. **PM 6: Create, enhance and restore the habitat provided by bankside trees and shrubs**
    i. Very satisfied ii. Satisfied
    iii. Neither satisfied or dissatisfied
    iv. Dissatisfied v. Very Dissatisfied
    vi. Don't know

85. **PM 7: Enhance habitat diversity through retention of deadwood**
    i. Very satisfied ii. Satisfied
    iii. Neither satisfied or dissatisfied
    iv. Dissatisfied v. Very Dissatisfied
    vi. Don't know

86. **PM 8: Enhance species and structural diversity of woodlands**
    i. Very satisfied ii. Satisfied
    iii. Neither satisfied or dissatisfied
    iv. Dissatisfied v. Very Dissatisfied
    vi. Don't know

87. **PM 9: Create, enhance and restore plantations on ancient woodlands (PAWS)**
    i. Very satisfied ii. Satisfied
    iii. Neither satisfied or dissatisfied
    iv. Dissatisfied v. Very Dissatisfied
    vi. Don't know

88. **PM 10: Restore and enhance ancient woodlands and ancient woodland species**
    i. Very satisfied ii. Satisfied
    iii. Neither satisfied or dissatisfied
    iv. Dissatisfied v. Very Dissatisfied
    vi. Don't know

89. **PM 11: Enhance veteran and ancient tree features**
    i. Very satisfied ii. Satisfied
    iii. Neither satisfied or dissatisfied
    iv. Dissatisfied v. Very Dissatisfied
    vi. Don't know

90. **PM 13: Restore and enhance traditional orchards**
    i. Very satisfied ii. Satisfied
    iii. Neither satisfied or dissatisfied
    iv. Dissatisfied v. Very Dissatisfied
    vi. Don't know

91. **PM 14: Sustainably control mistletoe in traditional orchards**
    i. Very satisfied ii. Satisfied
    iii. Neither satisfied or dissatisfied
    iv. Dissatisfied v. Very Dissatisfied
    vi. Don't know

92. **PM 15: Implement nature-based solutions to reduce soil erosion and nutrient loss**
    i. Very satisfied ii. Satisfied
    iii. Neither satisfied or dissatisfied
    iv. Dissatisfied v. Very Dissatisfied
    vi. Don't know

93. **PM 17: Restore and enhance existing ponds**
    i. Very satisfied ii. Satisfied
    iii. Neither satisfied or dissatisfied
    iv. Dissatisfied v. Very Dissatisfied
    vi. Don't know

94. **PM 18: Create and restore a mosaic of wetland habitats**
    i. Very satisfied ii. Satisfied
    iii. Neither satisfied or dissatisfied
    iv. Dissatisfied v. Very Dissatisfied
    vi. Don't know

95. PM 19: Create and restore floodplain meadow habitat
i. Very satisfied ii. Satisfied
iii. Neither satisfied or dissatisfied
iv. Dissatisfied v. Very Dissatisfied
vi. Don't know

96. PM 23: Create riparian buffers
i. Very satisfied ii. Satisfied
iii. Neither satisfied or dissatisfied
iv. Dissatisfied v. Very Dissatisfied
vi. Don't know

97. PM 24: Restore natural banks, bed and flows within watercourse channels
i. Very satisfied ii. Satisfied
iii. Neither satisfied or dissatisfied
iv. Dissatisfied v. Very Dissatisfied
vi. Don't know

98. PM 25: Reconnect rivers to their floodplains
i. Very satisfied ii. Satisfied
iii. Neither satisfied or dissatisfied
iv. Dissatisfied v. Very Dissatisfied
vi. Don't know

99. PM 26: Remove barriers for fish migration
i. Very satisfied ii. Satisfied
iii. Neither satisfied or dissatisfied
iv. Dissatisfied v. Very Dissatisfied
vi. Don't know

100. PM 28: Restore and enhance existing scrub
i. Very satisfied ii. Satisfied
iii. Neither satisfied or dissatisfied
iv. Dissatisfied v. Very Dissatisfied
vi. Don't know

101. PM 31: Create and restore buffers to peatland habitats
i. Very satisfied ii. Satisfied
iii. Neither satisfied or dissatisfied
iv. Dissatisfied v. Very Dissatisfied
vi. Don't know

102. PM 32: Create and restore upland fringe and mosaic habitats (Ffridd)
i. Very satisfied ii. Satisfied
iii. Neither satisfied or dissatisfied
iv. Dissatisfied v. Very Dissatisfied
vi. Don't know

103. PM 33: Raise water tables and prevent soil loss of peatland habitats
i. Very satisfied ii. Satisfied
iii. Neither satisfied or dissatisfied
iv. Dissatisfied v. Very Dissatisfied
vi. Don't know

104 PM 36: Increase areas of high-quality accessible green spaces in the built environment
i. Very satisfied ii. Satisfied
iii. Neither satisfied or dissatisfied
iv. Dissatisfied v. Very Dissatisfied
vi. Don't know

105. PM 37: Implement bird and bat box installation
i. Very satisfied ii. Satisfied
iii. Neither satisfied or dissatisfied
iv. Dissatisfied v. Very Dissatisfied
vi. Don't know

106. PM 38: Prioritise tree planting in areas with low tree equity scores
i. Very satisfied ii. Satisfied
iii. Neither satisfied or dissatisfied
iv. Dissatisfied v. Very Dissatisfied
vi. Don't know

107. PM 39: Enhance species-rich road verges and restore species-poor verges
i. Very satisfied ii. Satisfied
iii. Neither satisfied or dissatisfied
iv. Dissatisfied v. Very Dissatisfied
vi. Don't know

108. Please add comments to support your answers above
Free text (word limit 1000)

109. How likely are you to use the LNRS once it is published?
i. Very likely ii. Possibly
iii. Don't know iv. Probably not
v. Not at all likely

110. How / why will you use it (select all that apply)

i. Land management decision-making – e.g. seeking advice on how to take action for nature alongside farming.

ii. Planning a landscape-scale nature-focused project for strategic, large-area interventions.

iii. Planning a nature-focused project in your local community – such as habitat restoration or green space enhancement.

iv. Making your home or garden more nature-friendly – for individual actions that support biodiversity.

v. Supporting Biodiversity Net Gain delivery – e.g. when buying/selling Biodiversity Credits or designing masterplans for development sites.

vi. Teaching purposes – e.g. using materials within school curricula or higher education modules.

vii. Evidence base – e.g. for grant applications or research projects.

viii I don't know yet

ix. I won't use it

Other (please specify) *[Free text 300 characters]*

111. Please let us know if you have any suggestions on how the LNRS can be used by different groups, such as farmers, businesses, parish councils, local communities - to integrate nature recovery into their work? *Free text (limit 500 words)*

112. In what capacity are you responding to this consultation?

i. Herefordshire resident

ii. Visitor to Herefordshire or member of the public living elsewhere

iii. Farmer (tenant/landowner/farm manager)

iv. Parish / Town Councillor

v. Herefordshire Councillor

vi. Parish / Town Council

vii. Business owner

viii. Land agent / advisor

ix. Advisory body

x. Species / habitat specialist

xi. Local interest / nature group

xii. Prefer not to say

xiii. Other (please specify)
Free text box for other category

113. If you are responding as the representative of a business or organisation please provide the name of the organisation:
Free text box for name of organisation

114. Are you happy for you / your organisation to be identified as a consultee in the LNRS document?
i. Yes ii. No iii.N/A

If you manage land in Herefordshire please tell us how much land you manage and the purpose for which it is used.

115. Area of land you manage

i. <20 acres ii. 20-99 acres
iii. 100-499 acres iv. 500-999 acres
v. >1000 acres vi. Not applicable

116. Land use of the land you manage (select all that apply)

i. Arable farming

ii. Livestock farming

iii. Orchard

iv. Horticulture

v. Other farm/food productions

vi. Forestry

vii. Smallholding

viii. Nature reserve/nature conservation

ix. Power generation

x. Leisure

xi. Public access (not including public rights of way)

xii. Other (please specify)
[Free text 50 characters]

117. Are you interested in a particular habitat? (Select all that apply)

i. Open/Grasslands
ii. Trees and woodlands
iii. Traditional Orchards
iv. Hedgerows
v. Rivers, standing water and wetlands
vi. Farmland
vii. Scrub and mosaic
viii. Upland
ix. The built environment
x. None
xi. Other (please specify)
[Free text 50 characters]

118. Are you interested in a particular species or taxonomic group? (select all that apply)

i. Birds
ii. Bats
iii. Other mammals
iv. Moths and Butterflies
v. Other insects
vi. Other invertebrates
vii. Fungi
viii. Fish
ix. Trees
x. Other plants
xi. Reptiles and amphibians
xii. None
xiii. Other (please specify):
[Free text 50 characters]

119. Have been involved in a previous round of LNRS consultation?

i. Yes ii. No iii. Don't know

120. If so, how (select all that apply):

i. I responded to a previous consultation survey,
ii. Attended a workshop,
iii. Attended a webinar,
iv. I was a member of a working group
v. Other – please specify:
[Free text 50 characters]

Appendix 4

Detailed survey - priorities

Figure 15. Reponse data:

PRIORITY: Herefordshire's species-rich grasslands are enhanced, expanded and reconnected

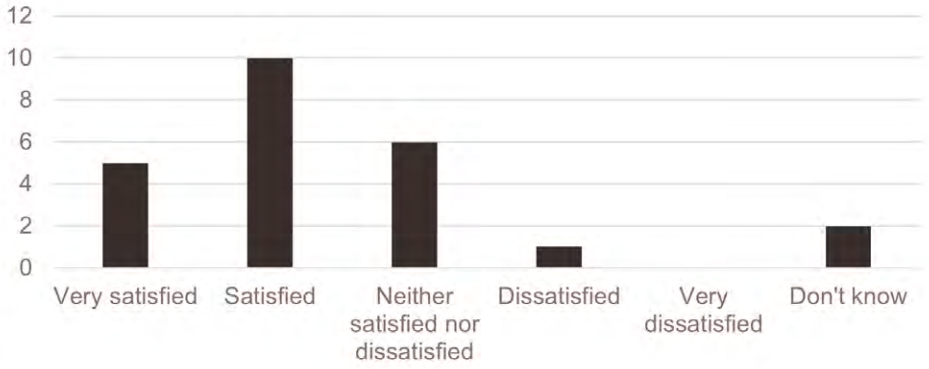


Figure 16. Reponse data:

PRIORITY: Herefordshire's woodlands are well-managed and restored with woodland corridors created across the landscape

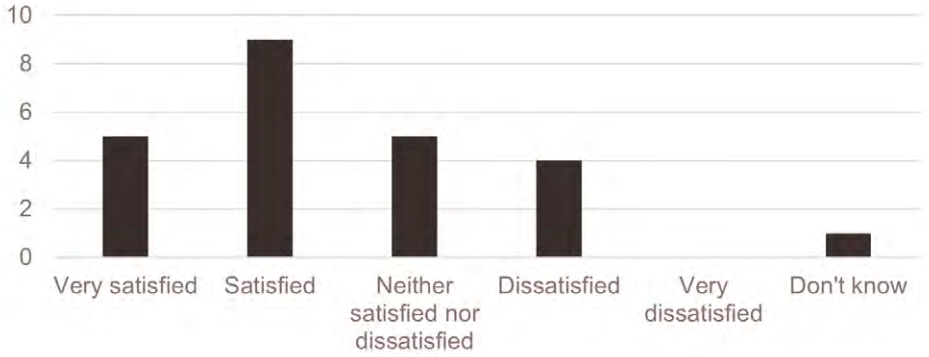


Figure 17. Reponse data:

PRIORITY: Ancient woodlands are more extensive, and existing ones are well-managed and restored

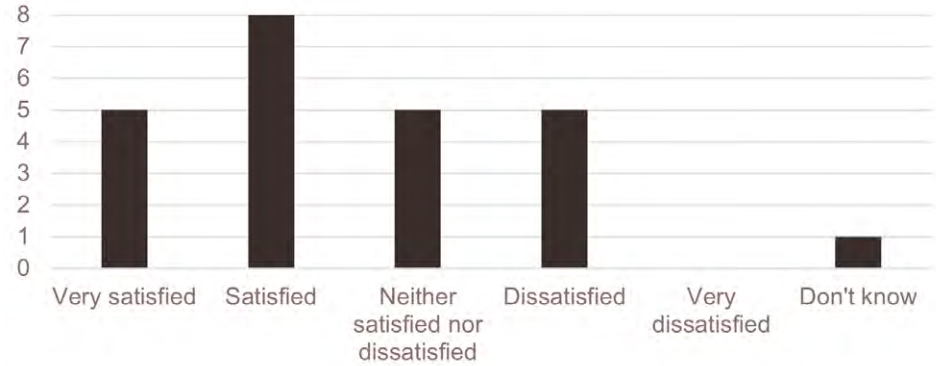


Figure 18. Reponse data:

PRIORITY: Traditional orchards are more extensive, and existing ones are well-managed and restored

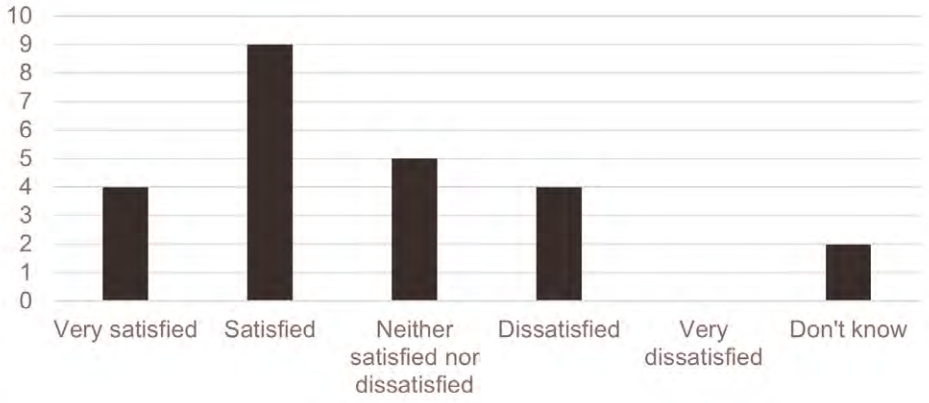


Figure 19. Reponse data:

PRIORITY: Freshwater habitats are safeguarded

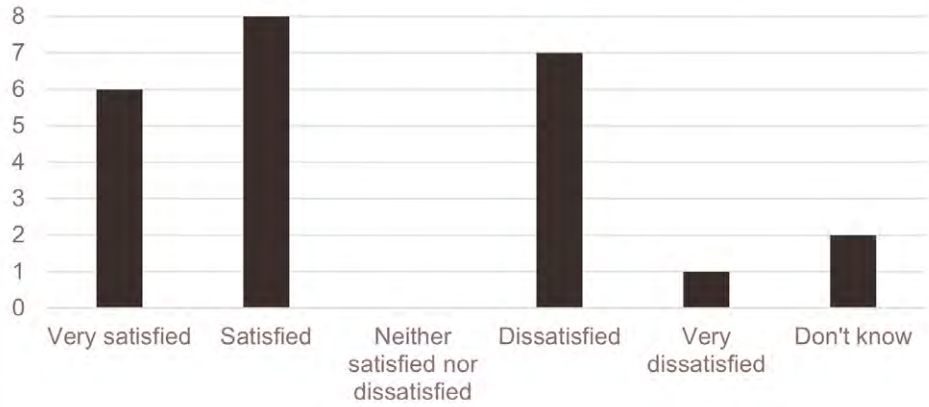


Figure 20. Reponse data:

PRIORITY: Natural hydrological functions are restored at a catchment scale

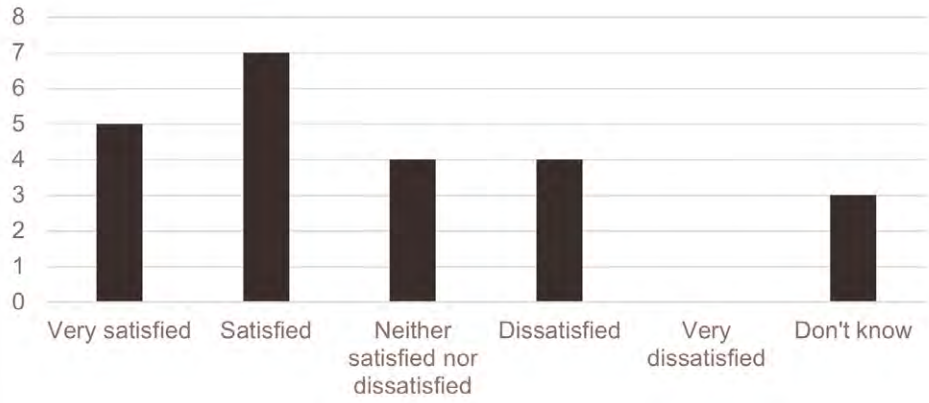


Figure 21. Reponse data:

PRIORITY: Scrub and mosaic habitats are safeguarded, restored and created

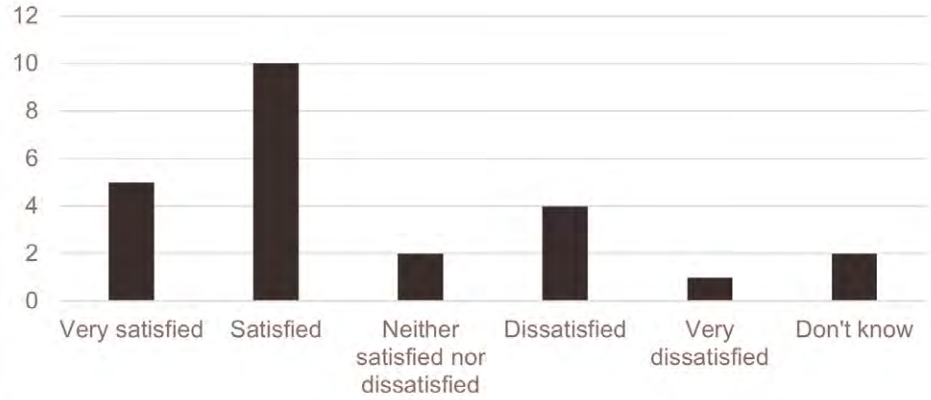


Figure 22. Reponse data:

PRIORITY: Hedgerow networks provide core habitats for biodiversity and landscape character

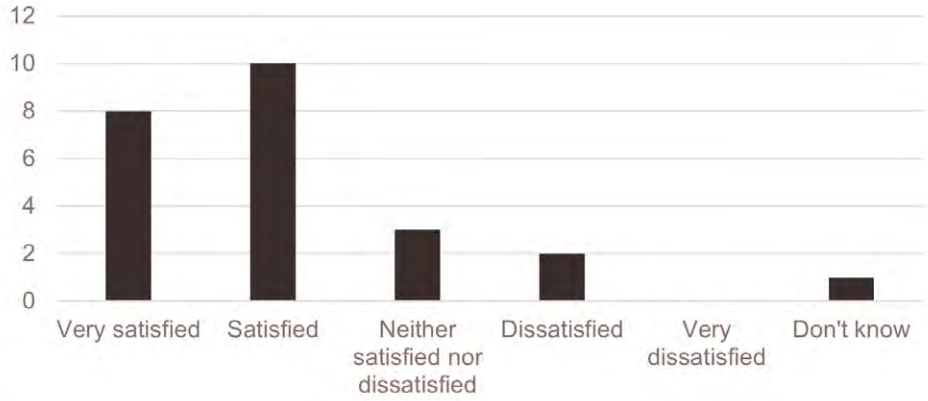


Figure 23. Reponse data:

PRIORITY: Upland habitats are restored, and their condition is improved

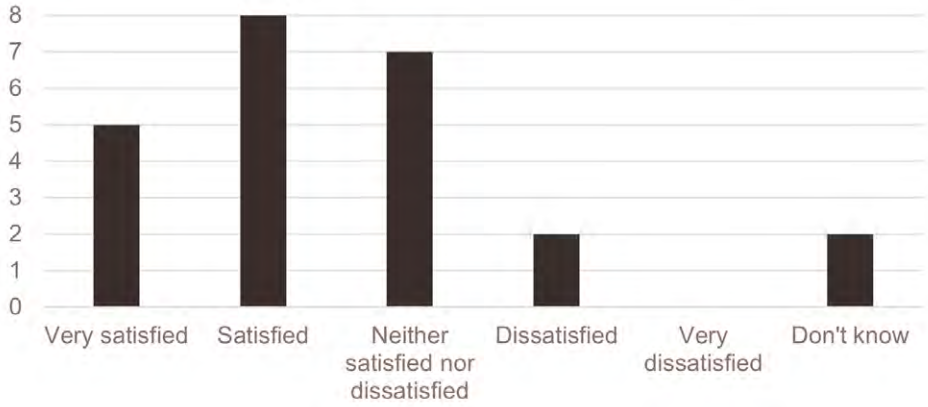


Figure 24. Reponse data:

PRIORITY: Nature-friendly farming practices are widely adopted across Herefordshire

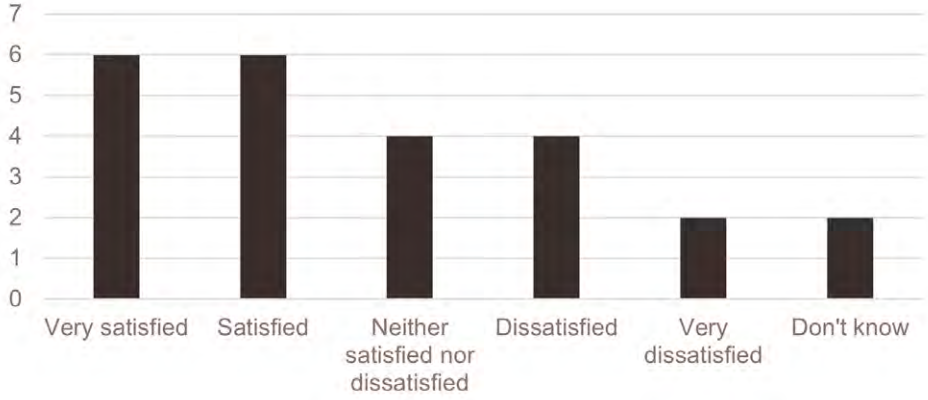


Figure 25. Reponse data:

PRIORITY: Nature-rich areas within the built environment are accessible, climate resilient and biodiverse

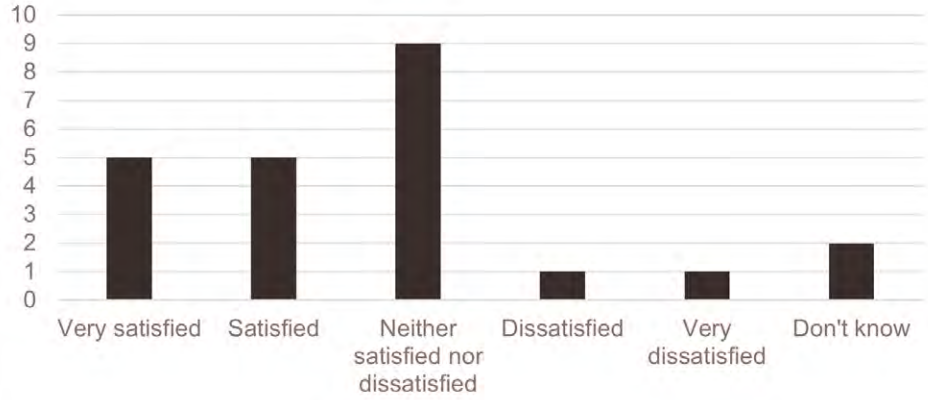


Figure 26. Reponse data:

PRIORITY: Ecosystem resilience to invasive species, pests, and pathogens is strengthened

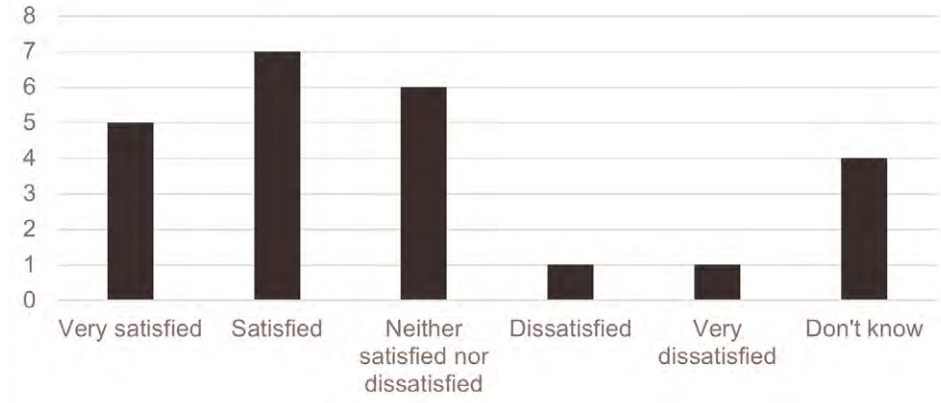


Figure 27. Reponse data:

PRIORITY: Cultural sites are rich in nature while being well maintained for their heritage value

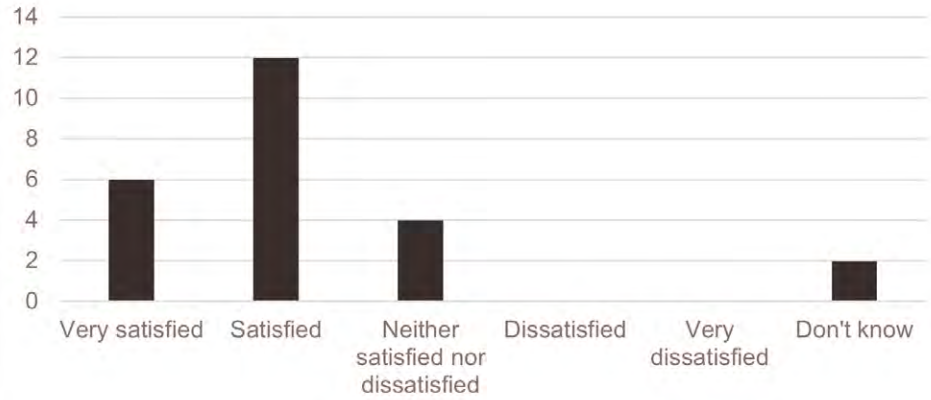
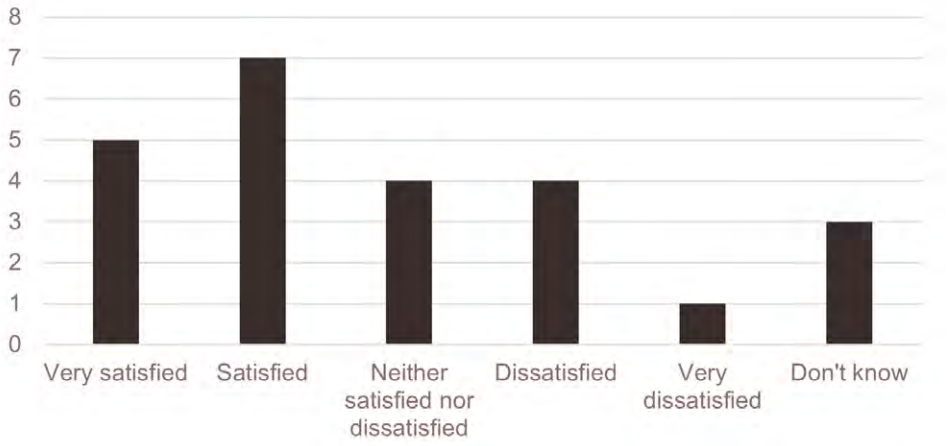


Figure 28. Reponse data:

PRIORITY: The impact of pollution on habitats and species is reduced



Detailed survey - measures

Figure 29. Reponse data:

Species-rich grassland habitat measures

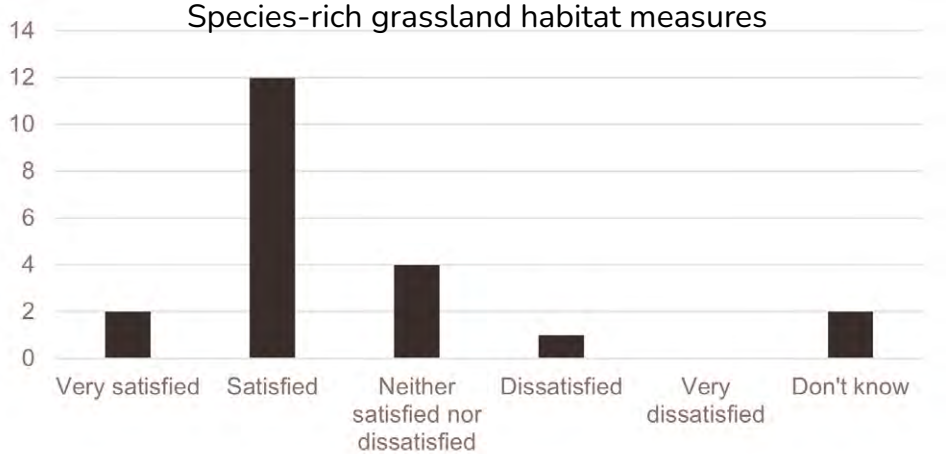


Figure 30. Reponse data:

Species-rich grassland habitat measures

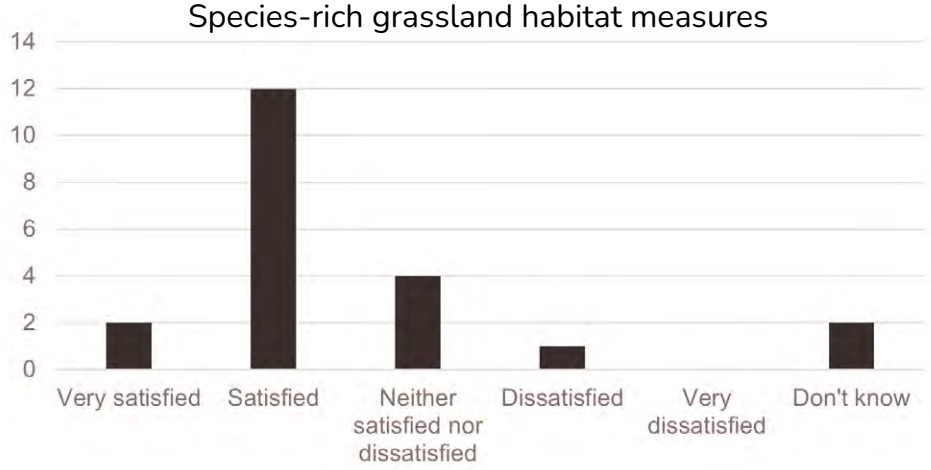


Figure 31. Reponse data:

Tree and woodland habitat measures

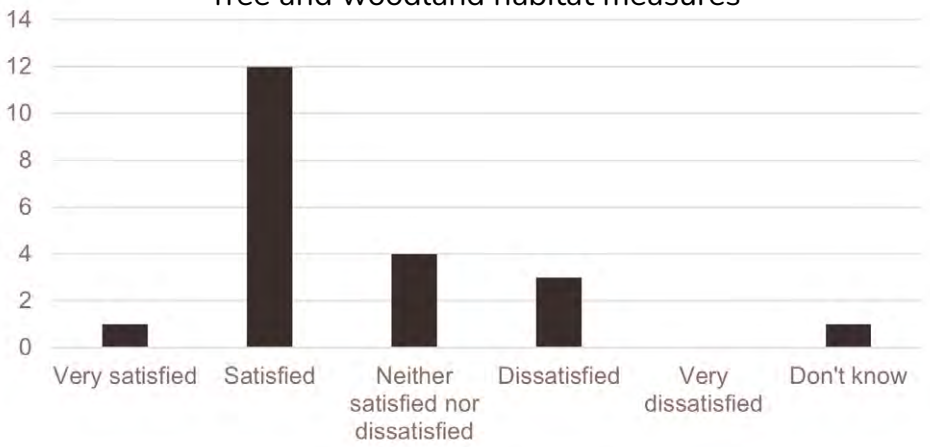


Figure 32. Reponse data:

Rivers, water and wetland habitat measures

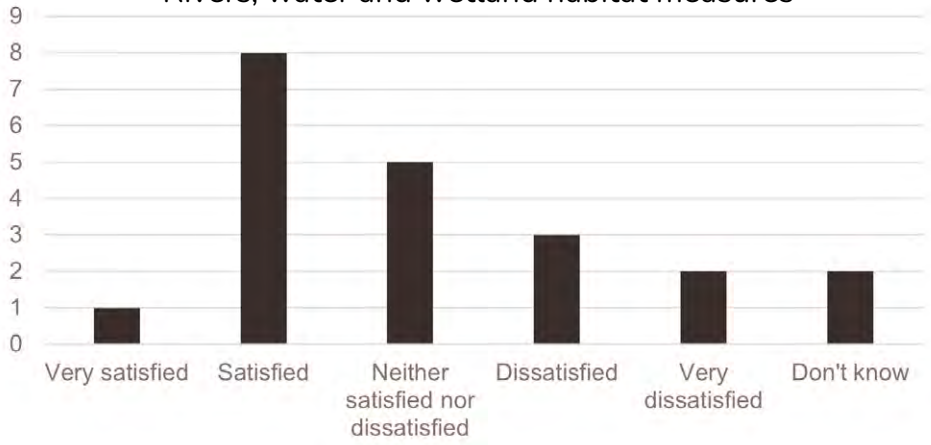


Figure 33. Reponse data:

Scrub and mosaic habitat measures

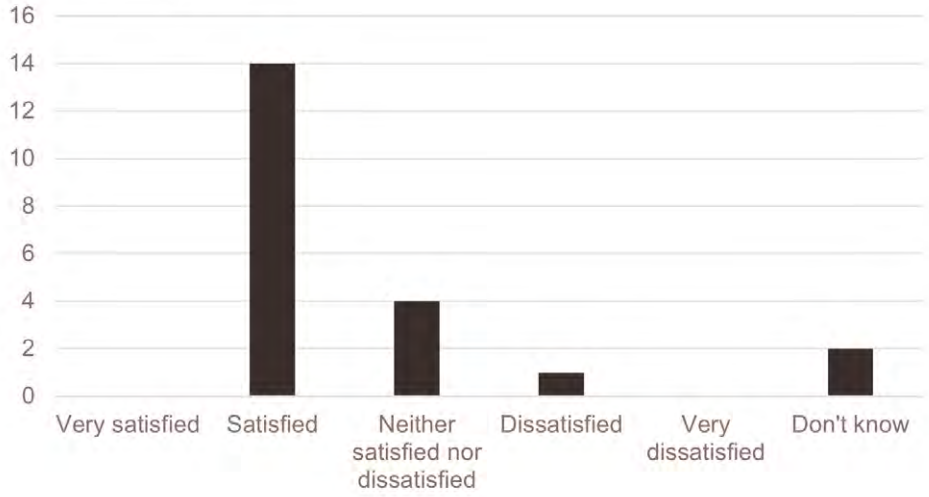


Figure 34. Reponse data:

Hedgerow measures

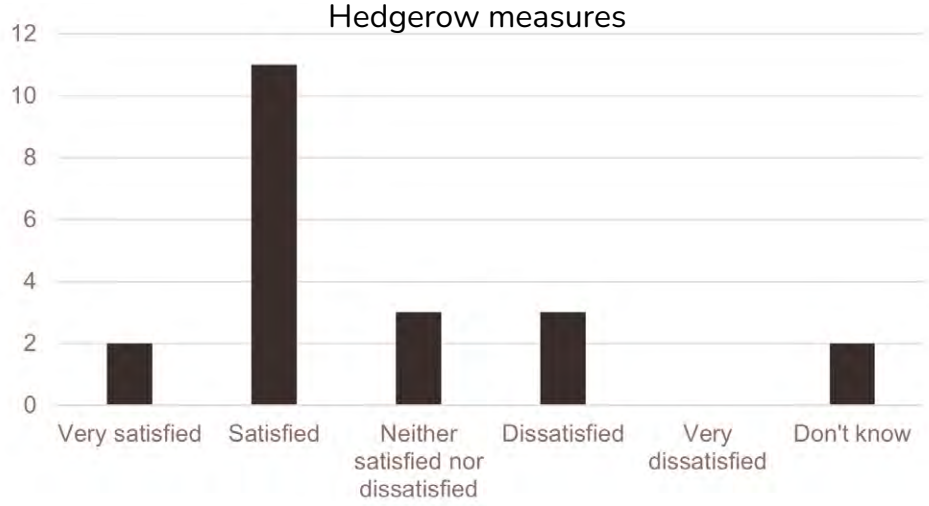


Figure 35. Reponse data:

Upland moorland and heathland habitat measures

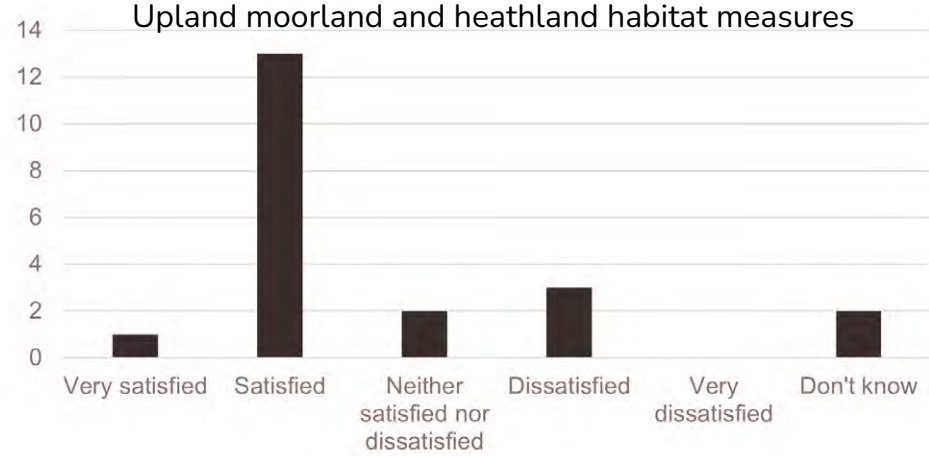


Figure 36. Reponse data:

Farmland habitat measures

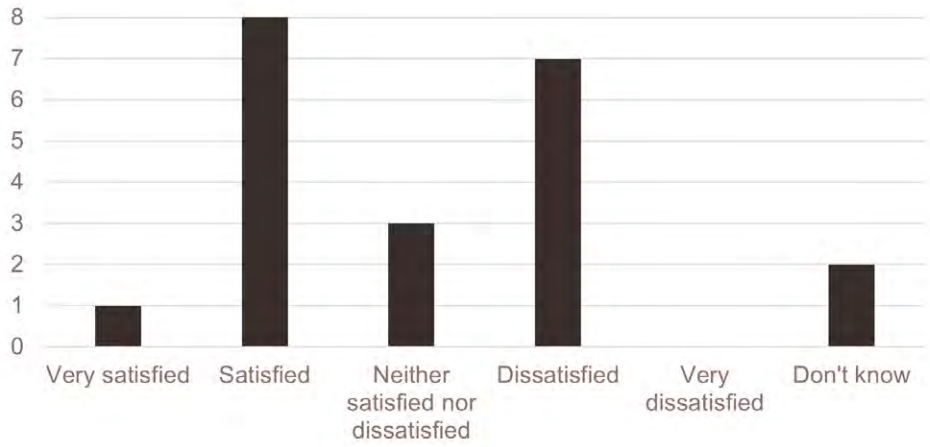


Figure 37. Reponse data:

Built environment measures

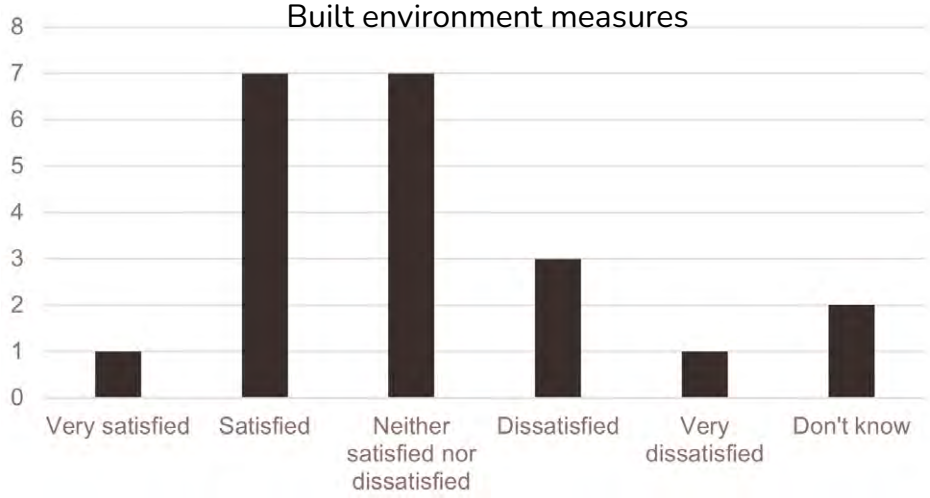


Figure 38. Reponse data:

General measures (invasive species, cultural sites and pollution)

