



# Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin Local Nature Recovery Strategy

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# Acknowledgements

With thanks to our steering group members:



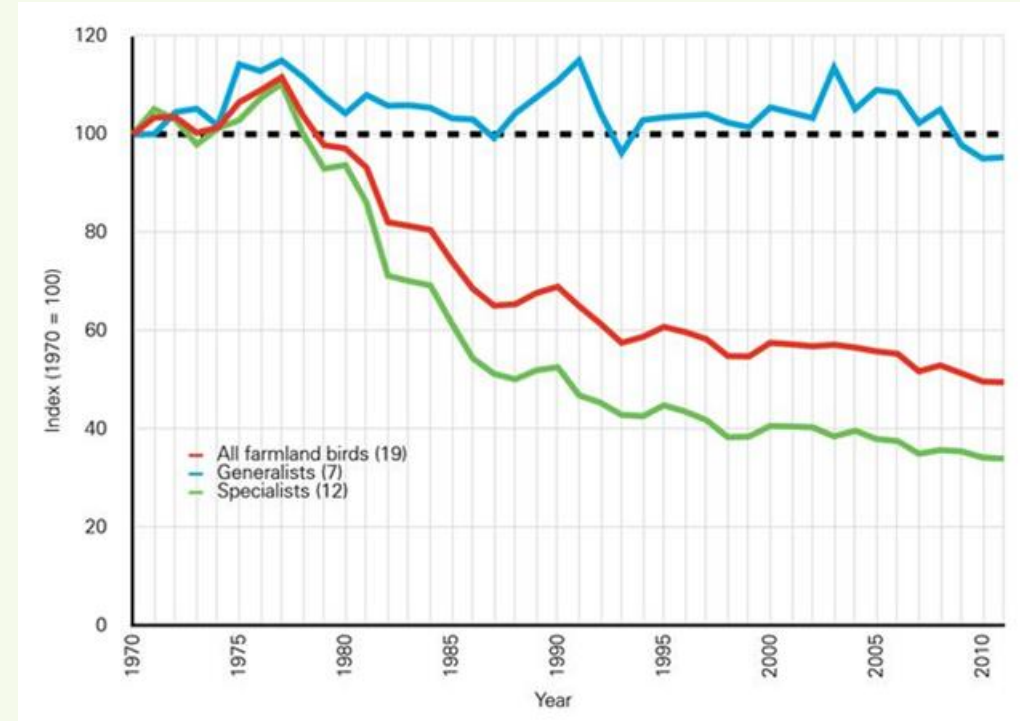
And thanks to:

- The LNRS species experts who are mostly volunteers
- SALC for supporting our nature recovery ambitions for the county
- All our other partners helping with the development of the LNRS



# Why the need for LNRS?

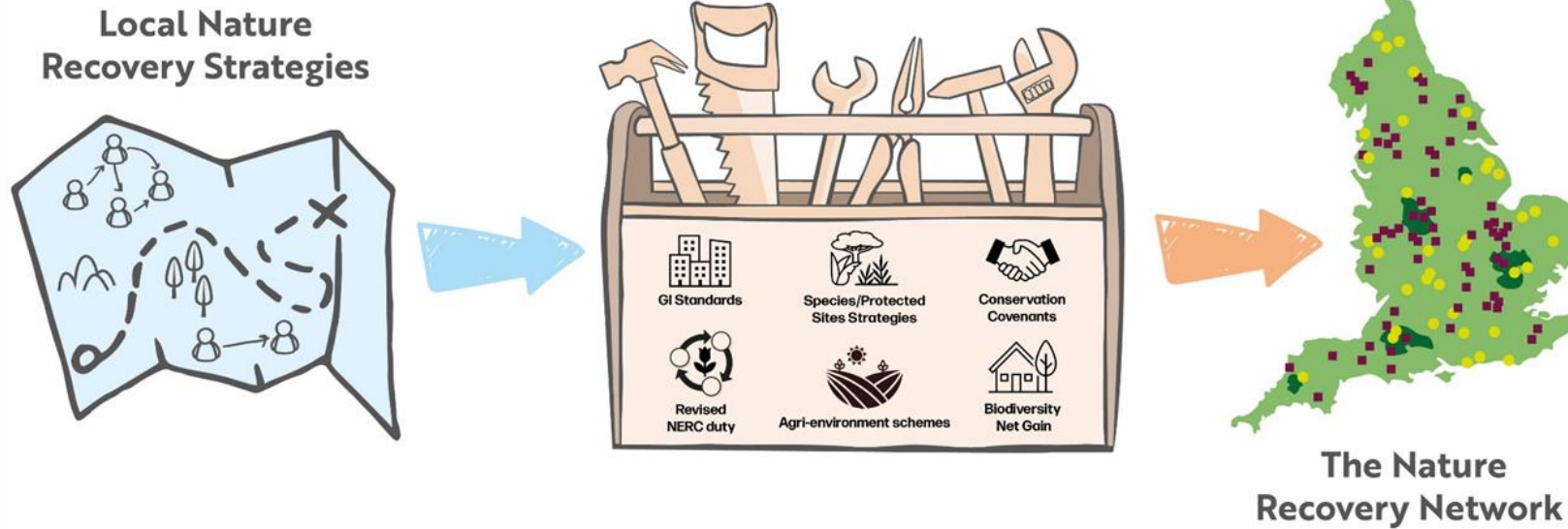
- It's a statutory strategy - a legal requirement of the Environment Act 2021
- Public bodies, inc. T&PCs, now have an enhanced NERC duty to maintain and enhance biodiversity
- Contribute towards international and national targets such as in Environmental Improvement Plan e.g. Halt the decline in species abundance by 2030 and increase abundance by  $\geq 10\%$  to exceed 2022 levels by 2042
- Reverse current trends
- Fragmented habitats and faltering ecosystem functions



Source: UK State of Nature Report 2023

# What are Local Nature Recovery Strategies?

## Nature Recovery Network



Plan > Deliver > Connect

A new system of spatial strategies for nature.

48 being prepared across England.

A single, growing national network of improved, wildlife-rich places which will benefit people and wildlife.



# How are they intended to be used?

- Bring together a cohesive plan for the county
- Focus funds and effort (BNG, landscape recovery, other?)
- Provide guidance and direction, it won't require people to take action

Shropshire's ambition is to have a bespoke nature recovery plan in every town and parish council





## Wider environmental aims

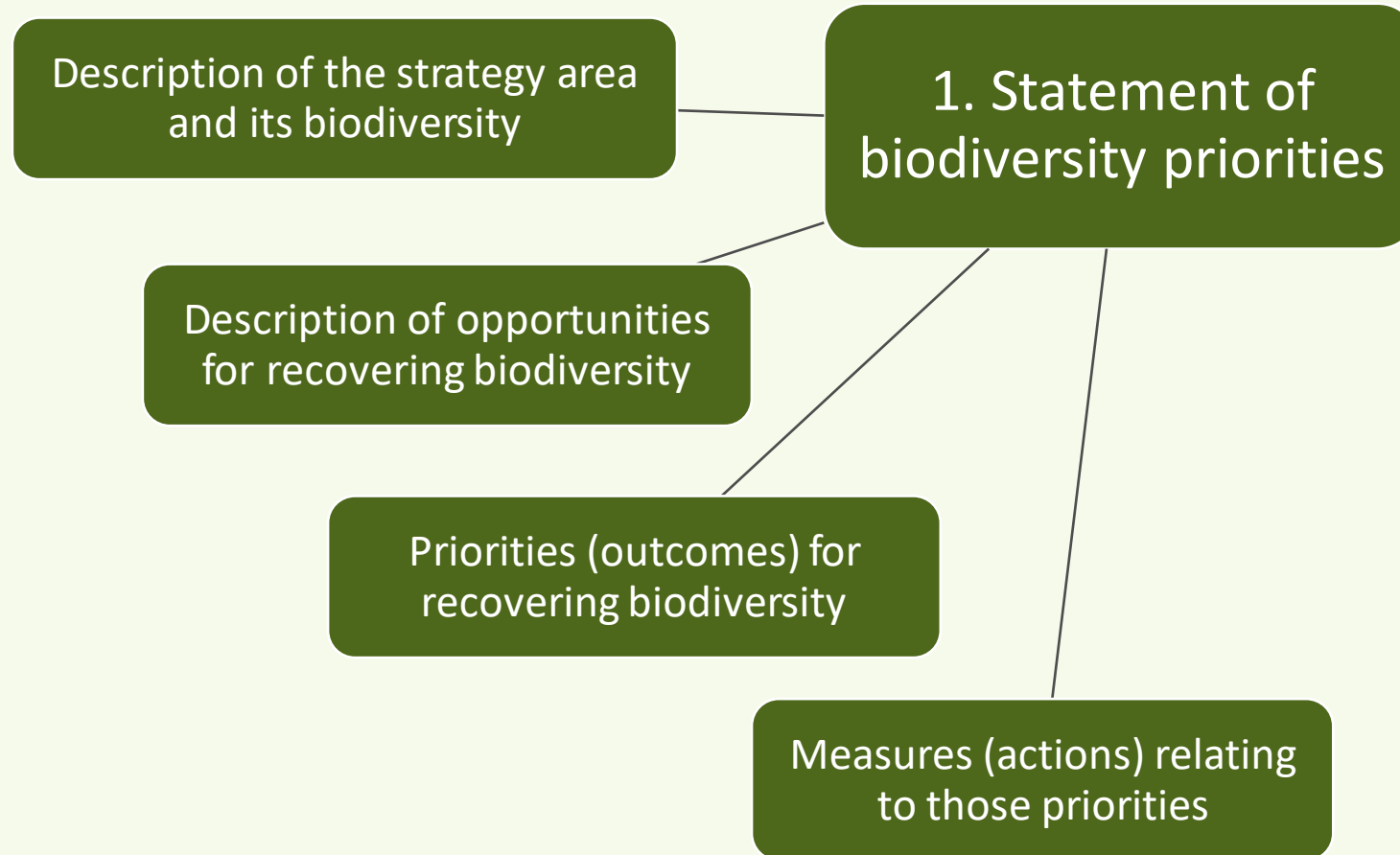
- Nature is important and valuable but also under threat
- Broader environmental aims also to be considered:
  - Flood alleviation
  - Water quality
  - Air quality
  - Soil health
  - Carbon sequestration
- Along with broader objectives such as health & wellbeing and heat stress benefits

# What will the LNRS contain

1. Statement of Biodiversity Priorities

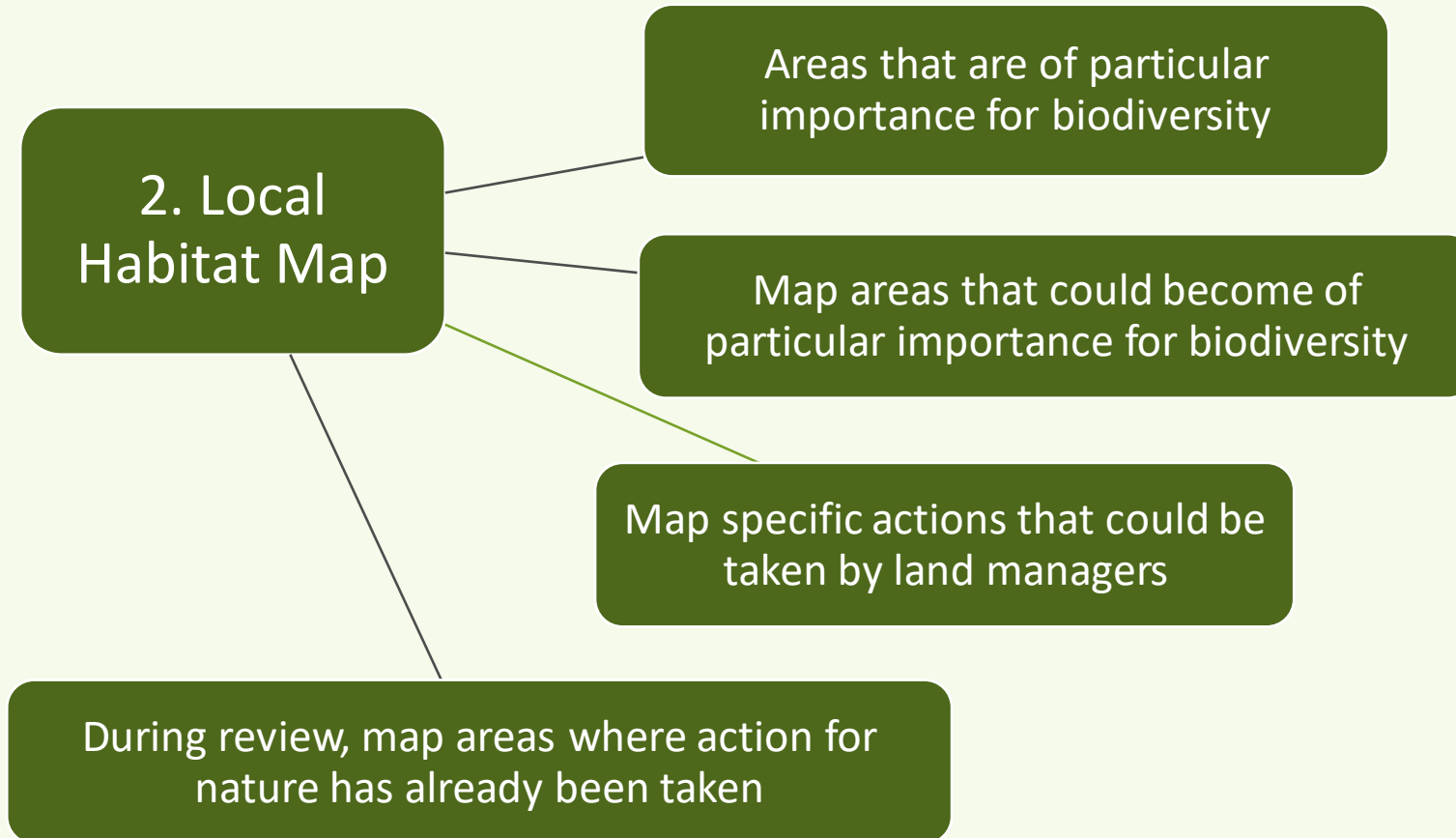
2. Local Habitat Map

# Statement of biodiversity priorities





# Local Habitat Map



# Key points

- Overarching strategy for nature: Key document connecting conservation efforts, research, management guidance, planning policy, ELMs and more
- Provide guidance on taking action for nature: intention to create a network for nature
- Links to funds: direct link to BNG, working on linking funding sources to proposed actions
- Engagement: Input required from many different groups of stakeholders to help make content appropriate
- Land is finite, lots of demands on the land: houses, infrastructure, food, clean water, clean air, biodiversity, energy provision. Need the land to deliver multiple uses
- Timescales short and adopted strategy will remain for up to 10 years
- Urgency and scale of the issue, can we meet the challenge?
- Delivery: Funds and resources



# Update on progress

- Surveys have now ended, expecting the report of the findings to be ready next week
- Shropshire Wildlife Trust has written the Description of the Strategy Area
- Oxford University has produced habitat maps and opportunity maps. Working on the next stages to select area of the county to prioritise
- The species working group is working up the priority species list
- Collating case studies to make nature restoration relatable
- Significant engagement activity planned for January to seek input on mapping and priorities
- We want to support Town and Parish Councils to deliver for nature, let us know what support would help – join me for a session at the end of the day
- Working up habitat priorities for the county

# Possible examples of LNRS priorities

HABITATS / FUNCTION	Actions
<b>Enhance the urban environment for wildlife and people</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Create ponds and wetlands to support biodiversity and reduce flood risk</li><li>• Encourage wildlife friendly gardening</li><li>• Re-naturalise water courses</li><li>• Produce guidance for local authority contractors on greenspace/ grassland management for nature</li><li>• Engage local community volunteers to take part in wildlife friendly activities</li></ul>
<b>Road verge management</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Create new roadside nature reserves</li><li>• Implement a cut and collect management regime for wide verges</li><li>• Minimise use of pesticides and herbicides</li><li>• Establish mowing/collection equipment sharing schemes for local authorities/ parish councils/ community groups where required</li></ul>



# Events to input into LNRS development

Venue	Dates	Times
Community Centre, Craven Arms	15 <sup>th</sup> Jan	10-3
Meeting Point House, Telford	17 <sup>th</sup> Jan	10-3
Wildlife Trust HQ, Shrewsbury	18 <sup>th</sup> Jan	10-3

**Session at 4pm today – what support would help you take action for nature?**

# Timescales

- Input sought on draft map and priorities via events in Jan
  - Draft strategy by March
  - NE, TW and SC approvals
  - Consultation in May
  - Adopted strategy in Autumn
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- Want to know more or come along to events, email me [L.Parker@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:L.Parker@shropshire.gov.uk) (there's another Lynn Parker at the Council)

