

Response ID ANON-9AVK-T5DZ-2

Submitted to Local Nature Recovery Strategies: how to prepare and what to include
Submitted on 2021-10-06 14:36:05

Introduction

1 What is your name?

Name:
Rosie Simpson

2 What is your email address?

Email:
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3 What is your organisation?

Organisation:
John Muir Trust

4 Would you like your response to be confidential?

No

If you answered Yes to this question, please give your reason.:

The procedure to be followed in the preparation and publication, and review and republication, of Local Nature Recovery Strategies

Achieving collaboration

5 Which of the groups listed below do you consider essential for the preparation of a Local Nature Recovery Strategies?

Local authorities adjacent to the Strategy areas., Local Nature Partnership(s), where active and geographically aligned, Natural England, The Environment Agency, The Forestry Commission, Other public bodies e.g. Highways England, Environmental non-governmental organisations active in the Strategy area, National Park Authority(s), where present in the Strategy area and if not the "responsible authority", Area of Outstanding National Beauty organisation(s), where present in the Strategy area, Local Records Centre(s), where separate from any of the other groups listed, Local farming, forestry and landowning groups, Utilities providers, such as water companies, Individual landowners and land managers (including farmers, both landowners and tenants), Members of the public

6 Are there any organisations not listed above whose involvement you consider essential?

Yes

If yes, which ones and why?:

Land owning community groups active in the strategy area. Wellbeing and health community groups or services that can identify opportunities from an emerging LNRS for connecting people to nature.

Achieving collaboration

7 Do you think that additional support should be provided to farmers, landowners and managers the land management sector to facilitate their involvement with the preparation of Local Nature Recovery Strategies?

Yes

Achieving collaboration

8 If information on other types of local wildlife sites within a Local Nature Recovery Strategy area is not held by the responsible authority, do you think that if another Local Authority owns the information they should be obliged to provide it to them?

Yes

Achieving collaboration

9 Are you aware of specific locally-held information that would make an important contribution to the preparation of Local Nature Recovery Strategies that you do not believe would be made available without a requirement to do so?

No

If yes, what information should be included? :

Achieving collaboration

10 How do you think neighbouring Local Nature Recovery Strategy responsible authorities should be required to work together?

Required to collaborate when setting objectives for areas close to boundaries

If other, please specify.:

Achieving collaboration

11 Should draft Local Nature Recovery Strategies be subject to a local public consultation prior to publication?

Yes

Achieving collaboration

12 Should individual landowners or managers be able to decide that land they own or manage should not be identified by a Local Nature Recovery Strategy as an area that could become of particular importance for biodiversity?

No

Achieving collaboration

13 Should anyone interested in the Strategy be able to propose additional areas that could become of particular importance if these can be shown to be making a sufficient contribution to the overall objective of the Strategy?

Yes

Achieving consistency and resolving disagreements

14 How prescriptive do you think regulations made under clause 101 should be in setting out how the responsible authority should work with local partners?

Setting broad principles only

Achieving consistency and resolving disagreements

15 Do you think that regulations made under clause 101 should establish a mechanism for resolving disputes in the preparation of Local Nature Recovery Strategies?

Yes

Achieving consistency and resolving disagreements

16 If you believe that regulations made under clause 101 should establish a mechanism for resolving disputes in the preparation of Local Nature Recovery Strategies, which of the following bodies do you think should be able to raise a dispute (including on behalf of others)?

Natural England

If other, please specify.:

qualification to response above - If the Responsible Authority is Natural England, then Natural England might not be the appropriate body to raise the dispute

17 Which of the following do you think might be reasonable grounds for raising a dispute about the Local Nature Recovery Strategy preparation process?

Legal requirements not being followed

If other, please specify.:

Achieving consistency and resolving disagreements

18 At which points in the preparation of a Local Nature Recovery Strategy do you think it should be possible to escalate procedural disputes for external consideration?

If the responsible authority does not respond within a reasonable timeframe to being informed of concerns

If other, please specify.:

Achieving consistency and resolving disagreements

19 Do you think that Local Nature Recovery Strategies should also be "signed off" by a body other than the responsible authority before they can be published?

Yes – as well as a mechanism for resolving disputes in the preparation process

20 If yes, which bodies should be given sign-off responsibility?

Natural England

If other, please specify.:

qualification to response above - If the Responsible Authority is Natural England, then Natural England might not be the appropriate body to have sign-off responsibility

21 On what grounds could a body refuse to sign-off a Local Nature Recovery Strategy?

Disagreement about overall priorities

If other, please specify.:

Achieving consistency and resolving disagreements

22 Should the Defra Secretary of State be able to appoint a separate body to consider disputes in the preparation of Local Nature Recovery Strategies, and if so, which body or bodies?

Natural England

If other, please specify.:

Achieving consistency and resolving disagreements

23 In resolving disputes in the preparation of Local Nature Recovery Strategies should the Secretary of State be able to:

Require the responsible authority to repeat particular parts of the preparation process

If other, please specify.:

Publication of Local Nature Recovery Strategies

24 Do you think that each local habitat map should adopt the same data standards and be published in the same format to facilitate national collation?

Yes

25 If yes, how should this level of consistency be established?

Creation of standard templates

If other, please specify.:

Publication of Local Nature Recovery Strategies

26 Do you think that each statement of biodiversity priorities should also be published in a similar format?

There should be some specific requirements but the responsible authority should keep some discretion over presentation

Publication of Local Nature Recovery Strategies

27 Do you think that all Local Nature Recovery Strategies should be published together on a single national website as well as being published locally by the responsible authority?

Yes

Publication of Local Nature Recovery Strategies

28 Do you think that a published Local Nature Recovery Strategy should:

Not be changed unless it's part of a scheduled review process (see next page)

Review and republication of Local Nature Recovery Strategies

29 Do you think that all Local Nature Recovery Strategies across England should be reviewed and republished at similar times or should there be local discretion to decide when is the best time?

Set nationally

30 If you do think all Local Nature Recovery Strategies should be reviewed and republished at the same time, do you think that this should happen to a fixed cycle?

There should be a regular fixed period between reviews

Statement of Biodiversity Priorities

31 Do you think that all responsible authorities should take a consistent approach to describing the biodiversity in their Strategy area?

No

32 If yes, do you have a preference as to how sub-areas based on similarities in biodiversity should be identified?

Other [please specify]

If other, please specify.:

n/a (answered no to Question 31)

33 To ensure that the statement of biodiversity priorities provides an accurate and useful description of the Strategy area that can inform the setting of realistic and appropriate priorities, what else should the description consider in addition to describing existing biodiversity?

Climate change scenarios, How land use/ habitat distribution has changed over time, Anticipated future pressures on land use (e.g. broad indications of housing and infrastructure need), Environmental issues in the Strategy area that might be addressed through nature-based solutions, Existing significant nature or environment projects (e.g. landscape scale work), Other [please specify]

If other, please specify.:

Anticipated areas/places where nature is expected to be in recovery and remain in recovery - these could be, for example, have been identified as part of a future wild belt designation.

Statement of Biodiversity Priorities

34 How should the statement of biodiversity priorities describe opportunities for recovering or enhancing biodiversity without mapping them?

Identify particular rarer habitats/species that the strategy area is suitable for supporting, Describe the relative opportunity for creating more areas of key habitats as well as making them bigger, better and joined up

If other, please specify.:

Statement of Biodiversity Priorities

35 Do you think that all Local Nature Recovery Strategies should follow the same priority setting process or that each responsible authority should decide for themselves how priorities should be set?

Strategies should follow the same high-level principles but with local discretion

36 How should national environmental priorities be reflected when setting Local Nature Recovery Strategy priorities?

Responsible authorities should show how they have considered national priorities

If other, please specify.:

37 Should Local Nature Recovery Strategies identify only those outcomes for nature recovery and environmental improvement that are of priority or also include those that are positive but of lower priority?

List priorities and other relevant lower priority outcomes

Statement of Biodiversity Priorities

38 How should priorities identified in other environmental spatial plans in the Strategy area be incorporated into the Local Nature Recovery Strategy?

Considered and prioritised alongside other outcomes

Statement of Biodiversity Priorities

39 Do you think that the Local Nature Recovery Strategy should include potential measures for conserving and enhancing biodiversity and making wider environmental improvements that cannot be mapped as well as those that can?

Yes both

Statement of Biodiversity Priorities

40 Should there be a standard list of potential measures for responsible authorities to choose from?

No – responsible authorities should have free choice

Local Habitat Map

41 What sort of areas, outside of national conservation and local wildlife sites, might a responsible authority reasonably consider to be of particular importance for biodiversity?

Ancient woodlands, Flower rich meadows, Priority habitats in good condition, Areas used for feeding or resting by animals or birds from a nearby national conservation site, Other [please specify]

If other, please specify.:

Lowland and upland peatlands and priority habitats in recovering condition. Future areas where nature is expected to recover and that recovery will be sustained (The Wildlife Trusts have a wildbelts proposal for a new designation in the Planning Bill that would protect areas so that will become the future wild places of England, if this idea is adopted, wildbelts could be a type of area, outside conservation sites, that should be considered important for biodiversity)

Local Habitat Map

42 Should all responsible authorities follow a standardised process for mapping potential measures to identify areas that could become of particular importance for biodiversity or other environmental benefits?

Yes

Local Habitat Map

43 Do you think that all responsible authorities should seek to identify a similar proportion of their Strategy area as areas that could become of particular importance for biodiversity or wider environmental outcomes?

No, this should not be set and decided locally

Local Habitat Map

44 Do you think that when Strategies are reviewed and republished, they should map where appropriate action has been taken to make areas of increasing importance for biodiversity?

Yes

Consultee Feedback on the Online Survey

45 Overall, how satisfied are you with our online consultation tool? Please give us any comments you have on the tool, including suggestions on how we could improve it.

Very satisfied

Please give us any comments you have on the tool, including suggestions on how we could improve it. :