

Part D: Locations for Action



Ancient oak trees in Staverton Thicks

Where possible, the potential measures from the Statement of Biodiversity Priorities have been mapped onto the LNRS Local Habitat Map. Those which are mapped are indicated within the table in **Part C: Suffolk's Priority Habitats, Assemblages and Measures**. The purpose of mapping the measures is to create a shared vision of locations where habitat action could be focused by land owners, local people and organisations to create a connected network of nature and achieve the local biodiversity priorities. Whilst many measures could be carried out in a variety of locations, the map shows the locations where these measures could have the greatest impact on achieving the priorities and would achieve greater connectivity of biodiverse habitats across the landscape. These sites require verification before projects are implemented, as detailed in **Part C**. A summary map of those areas identified that could become of particular importance for biodiversity (ACB) is given in **Figure 13**.

Spatial analysis has been used to identify these landscape level priority areas based on the Lawton principle of more, bigger, better and more joined. Whole land parcels within the landscape have been selected as priority 'in scope' areas for the mapping of appropriate measures.

These mapped measures also indicate where wider environmental benefits will be recognised using nature-based solutions delivering for example, flood risk mitigation and improved water quality.

By mapping specific locations to take such actions, the LNRS aims to drive delivery and funding towards achieving

nature recovery in these areas. All mapping methodology is outlined in **Appendix 4**.

As indicated in the document and in the tables above, not all of the measures are mapped onto the Local Habitat Map. All of the potential measures detailed could be delivered across various places in the county and there is not always complete data about where all of the habitats are or could be. However, it was possible to map focused locations for delivering the majority of the measures.

As part of the engagement process, we requested input from stakeholders for suggestions of suitable locations for nature recovery actions, based on their expertise and knowledge of the area and on-going or upcoming projects. These inputs were reviewed during the production of the Local Habitat Map and have enabled some of the prioritisation of potential measures. **Table 61** below indicates the proportion of these stakeholder inputs which overlap with the APIB and ACB areas presented. This aims to show that we are identifying the correct areas for potential nature recovery.

In addition, the species density of the key species identified through the prioritisation process was assessed in relation to the APIB and ACB areas. This data is summarised in **Table 62** below and indicates that by creating and enhancing habitat in the areas identified, these species will be able to benefit as they will have more, bigger and more connected areas to utilise

Table 61. Proportion of stakeholder mapping inputs which overlap with APIB and ACB areas.

Overlap %	Stakeholder measures overlapping with APIB areas	Stakeholder measures overlapping with ACB areas	Stakeholder measures overlapping with APIB and ACB areas
Large (>50%)	14.4%	42.6%	57%
Moderate (>10%)	25.5%	31.7%	28.9%
Low (less than 10%)	60.1%	25.8%	14.2%

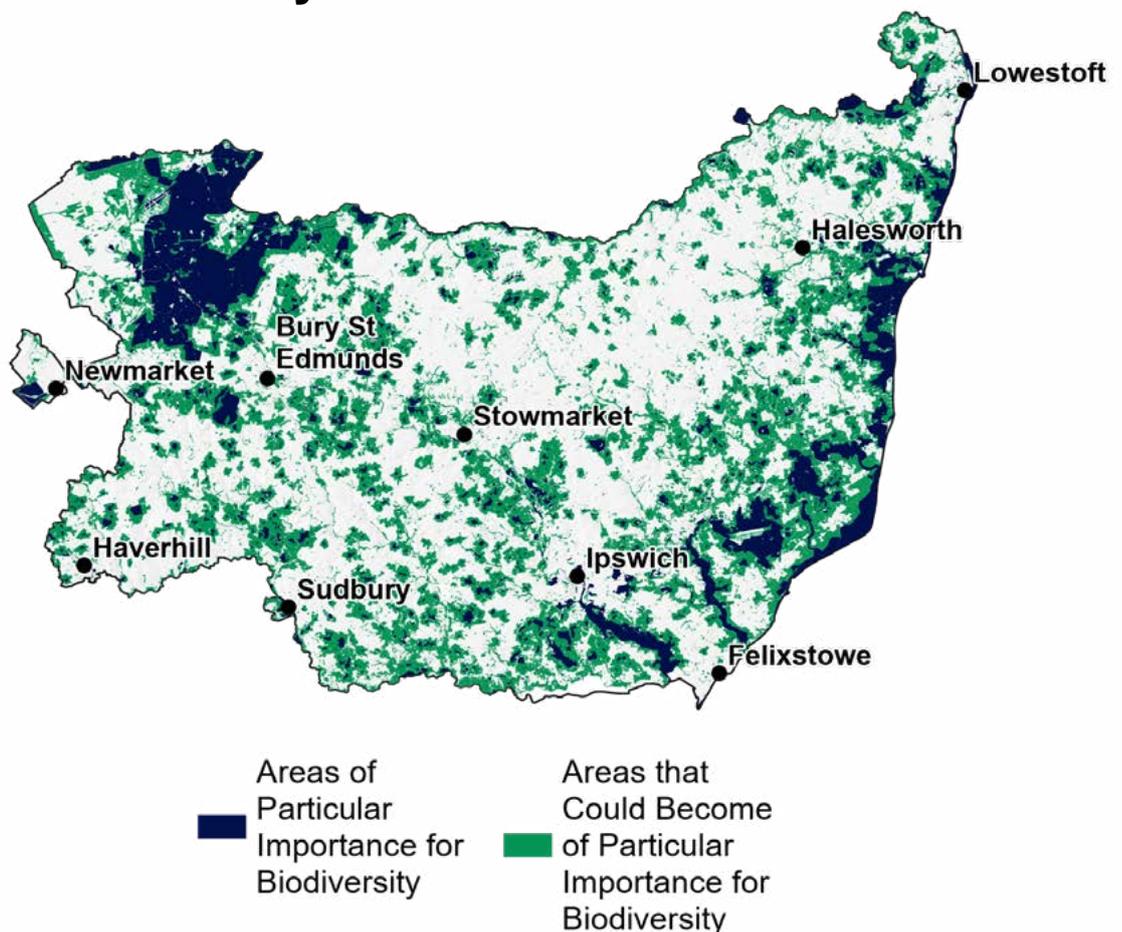
Table 62. Species distribution in relation to identified APIB and ACB areas.

Species	% of records within 50m of APIB area	% of records within 50m of ACB area	% of records within 50m of APIB or ACB
Basil-thyme case-bearer	90	6	98
Crested cow-wheat	49	83	89
Curlew	68	38	89
Dwarf eelgrass	92	69	98
Eel	33	94	99
Fen raft spider	100	7	100
Hazel dormouse	76	52	98
Lapwing	64	44	93
Narrow-mouthed whorl snail	94	57	100
Orange-fruited elm-lichen	35	86	92
Little Whirlpool ramshorn snail	70	68	99
Scarce vapourer	100	0	100
Serotine	36	64	83
Starlet sea anemone	96	13	100
Tassel stonewort	11	63	74
Water vole	60	66	94
White-clawed crayfish	48	79	79
Total	66	51	93

The unmapped measures and actions should be conducted in suitable places after a site is identified as being appropriate to achieve their relevant priorities (eg nature-friendly farming, especially hedgerow restoration or creation, pond restoration or creation, measures for gardens, towns and cities). The details within the LNRS are not designed to restrict nature recovery ambitions of any stakeholder and therefore the unmapped measures are key to facilitate initiation of projects and can also provide a basis for incorporating measures focused on the improvement of existing sites, in contrast to creation of new habitat.

It is recognised that there is the potential for overlap of land areas identified for alternative uses within other documentation, for example local and neighbourhood plans. At the current time, there is limited guidance available to determine how these are integrated into the strategic opportunities. Therefore, in the context of this LNRS it is considered that by identifying areas of opportunity for nature recovery actions, factors to improve biodiversity and give wider environmental benefits within those sites can be incorporated.

Figure 13. Suffolk's Areas that Could Become of Particular Importance for Biodiversity



As part of the analysis of the mapping data, it has been possible to identify the proportions across the districts in the county that are already designated (APIB) and those which are areas that could become of importance (ACB). It has also been possible to link this information to the coverage across the Protected Landscapes areas, ie the Broads National Park and the Dedham Vale and Suffolk & Essex Coasts & Heaths National Landscapes. This is shown in **Table 63** below. This analysis has also identified that the mapped measures indicated within this LNRS have the potential to allocate 29% of the county in total to nature recovery activities.

It has also been possible to determine the allocation across mapped habitat priority areas, supporting the ecological demand of the landscape. This also links to the output of engagement activities, reflecting which habitats are important to demonstrate the ambition and potential of the LNRS. This data is shown in **Table 64**.

Table 63. Proportions of Suffolk districts and Protected Landscapes allocated to APIB and ACB.

District	APIB as % of total district area	ACB as % of total district area
Babergh	6%	35%
East Suffolk	14%	32%
Ipswich	9%	7%
Mid Suffolk	3%	24%
West Suffolk	20%	28%
Suffolk total	12%	29%
Dedham Vale National Landscape	6%	56%
Suffolk & Essex Coasts & Heaths National Landscape	34%	36%
The Broads National Park	31%	56%

Table 64. Proportions of habitat areas allocated to Suffolk's ACB (not including habitat area within APIB).

Habitat	Habitat in ACB as % of total habitat area in county
Coastal Habitats	2%
Deciduous Woodland	36%
Habitats in Farmed Landscapes	31%
Fen Habitats	19%
Grassland (Neutral and Calcareous)	44%
Heathland and Acid Grassland	15%
Orchards	27%
Reedbeds and Other Wetlands	25%
Rivers and Streams	25%
Scrub	33%
Still Water Habitats	28%
Wet Grassland and Coastal Grazing Marsh	72%

As indicated in the document and in the **Tables 4-23**, not all of the measures are mapped onto the Local Habitat Map. All of the potential measures detailed could be delivered across various places in the county and there is not always complete data about where all of the habitats are or could be. However, it was possible to map focused locations for delivering the majority of the measures.

Nature as a respite: Healing woods

In 2021, recognising how access to nature and greenspace had helped people's mental health and wellbeing during the Covid-19 lockdowns, Suffolk County Council launched its 'Healing Woods' initiative.

Healing Woods aimed to:

- Improve the health and wellbeing of people through access to woodland and natural greenspace
- Create spaces that encourage nature and help people to experience it, as a positive legacy from the impact of the pandemic
- Increase access to woodland and natural greenspace where it is most needed.

An initial public survey showed there was appetite for the project - over 90% of the 500 responses were in support.

The Council invited expressions of interest from communities across Suffolk and chose four to work with to test the approach and generate learning to help with potential scaling up of the project.

Who's involved?

The four Healing Wood projects are at Hopton, Eye, Little Finborough, and Howard Community Academy, Bury St Edmunds.

Each project has been community led, and involved a range of local groups, businesses, the landowners and volunteers from the community.

The county council provided seed-corn funding to each project, which have also been able to access funds and support from a variety of other local sources. The Woodland Trust and Suffolk Tree Warden Network have also provided invaluable support.



Children, staff, community members, volunteers and councillors help to plant trees at Howard Community Academy, Bury St Edmunds.

What have they achieved?

Each Healing Wood project has employed a range of approaches to delivering its aims. They have all been community-led, which will be essential to their long-term management and success. SCC will be using the lessons learned to help similar projects across the county.

Hopton

Hopton Community Woodland Group has transformed a former rubbish tip into a small oasis for wildlife and people. 0.4ha of woodland and 130m of hedging has been planted by local volunteers and school children, with access improvements including 2 benches.

Eye

The Eye Town Moors Woodland Society and Eye Outdoors Group have enhanced an existing area of woodland and created a new Way of Healing to connect existing public footpaths in the village and provide a selection of circular walks. 5.6 ha of woodland has been enhanced for community access, including removal of diseased ash trees, replanting new trees, and adding picnic tables, benches and notice boards.

Oaks Meadow, Little Finborough

A 4-acre former arable field has been developed into a nature-based community hub with sensory gardens, and an orchard, allotment, wildlife pond, playground and toilet facilities.

The Oaks Meadow Trust has brought together local volunteers, community groups, Suffolk Rural College students, and groups that aim to boost confidence

and enhance the well-being of vulnerable young girls through social action. 0.4ha of woodland and 225m of hedgerow have been planted.

Howard Community Academy

Over a 3-year period, around 3,000 trees have been planted on a 1.84-hectare unused school playing field to create a community woodland in the heart of a Bury St Edmunds housing estate.

Howard Primary School staff and pupils, working with Abbeycroft Leisure, The Woodland Trust, Bury Town Council and other local sponsors and supporters have come together to realise an area for nature and quiet enjoyment that will provide an educational and community resource for many decades to come.



Tree planting at Howard Community Academy

What are the next steps and how can you be involved?

While the LNRS itself provides a targeted, data-driven framework to prioritise nature recovery actions across Suffolk, it also recognises that everyone has a role to play. Nature recovery can happen everywhere, from private gardens and urban green spaces to farmland and community projects. By encouraging all contributions, whether through volunteer groups, schools, businesses or individual actions, the LNRS aims to inspire collective effort and show that small-scale changes are as valuable as large-scale interventions. This inclusive approach ensures the vision of nature recovery extends across the county, with the LNRS guiding and focusing efforts where they can make the greatest impact. It is worth noting that a specific site specific review should be carried out to determine the suitability of any nature recovery actions. Where applicable, this would include expert advice and input eg hydrological surveys or reviews of the historic environment.

Throughout the engagement processes conducted in generating the LNRS, it has been clear that partners and stakeholders across the county have a high level of motivation to contribute to the process of nature recovery.

Examples of potential involvement and opportunities generated are listed here.

For individuals, communities and groups

- Collaborative projects to promote habitat restoration and creation, wildlife monitoring and species specific actions, tree planting etc.
- Participation in citizen science projects.
- Links to the Norfolk and Suffolk Nature Recovery Partnership to maximise opportunities and information available.
- Creation of inclusive volunteer programmes to support nature recovery.

For land managers

- Adoption of defined measures for priority species and habitats where possible.
- Participation in collaborative groups eg farm clusters.
- Implementation and adjustment of appropriate land management practices and techniques, such as **regenerative agriculture**.
- Involvement in agri-environmental schemes or large-scale restoration projects.
- Engagement with other relevant stakeholders and providing opportunities of support where appropriate.

For eNGOs and ecologists

- Participation in collaborative projects and facilitated partnerships to link to priority species and habitats.
- Maximise engagement with community groups.
- Provision of scientific knowledge, expertise and experience to inform and support all stakeholders.
- Promote monitoring of species and data gathering to support research and identify future nature recovery focus areas.
- Engagement with a range of stakeholders to identify contribution to nature recovery and funding schemes.
- Collaborate with appropriate bodies to maximise work both in urban and rural areas, alongside implementation and promotion of nature-based solutions.
- Link to prioritisation of key sites and habitat areas to minimise impact and maximise contribution towards biodiversity targets.
- Development of green infrastructure projects.
- Enhanced reflection of the needs of nature recovery within the spatial plans of the future as they take account of the contents of the LNRS, including plans at all scales eg Local and Neighbourhood.

For businesses and the recreation sector

- Participation and support of local nature recovery projects, using a collaborative approach with other stakeholders.
- Implementation of projects on owned land.
- Promotion of local products and sustainable practices, including reduction in pollution.

- Investment in appropriate infrastructure projects.
- Supporting evidence to maximise alignment of recreational targets with nature recovery priorities – linking to appropriate access levels, promotion and land use.

As detailed above, the LNRS identifies multiple opportunities for a wide range of stakeholders, but this should not be considered to limit the scope of impact. We want the LNRS to stimulate conversations and collaborations that will deliver the nature recovery measures and actions highlighted in this strategy. The Norfolk and Suffolk Nature Recovery Partnership will maintain momentum and maximise engagement across both counties, increasing involvement with new groups, organisations and individuals.

Together, we can recover nature in Suffolk.