



Hampshire  
County Council



Nature  
Recovery  
Hampshire

# Draft Local Nature Recovery Strategy for Hampshire

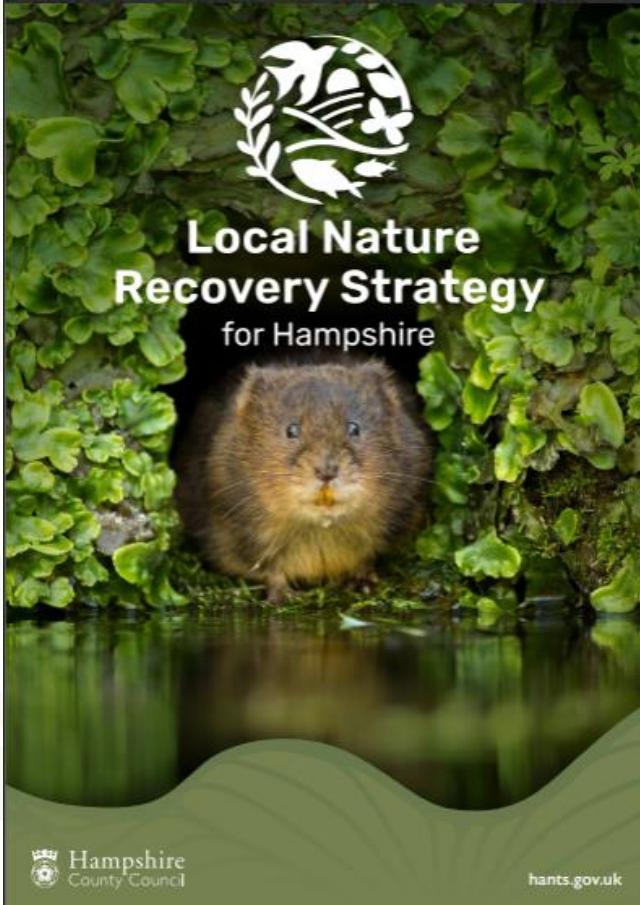
New Forest Consultative Panel

5 June 2025

# Introduction



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Who we are

Background to the Local  
Nature Recovery Strategy  
for Hampshire

Engagement work to get us  
to this point



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# Areas of Particular Importance for Biodiversity (APIB):

Includes:  
National conservation sites  
Local Nature Reserves  
Local Wildlife Sites (SINCs)  
Irreplaceable habitat



# Priority Outcomes

A long-list of priorities was created from:

- A series of stakeholder workshops held between January and March 2024.
- An online public survey on priorities for nature recovery.
- A review of local plans and strategies, including local biodiversity action plans and catchment management plans.

These were shortlisted in priorities for recovering or enhancing that were critical to address in the Strategy, taking into consideration the contribution to other environmental benefits.

The aim of the shortlist is to have a set of priorities that:

- Contribute to the National Environmental Objectives.
- Address the opportunities and pressures identified in the description of the Strategy area.
- Sufficiently cover the variation of landscapes and ecosystems in the Strategy area.
- Balance the contributions from a range of stakeholders, from local experts through to local residents.
- Is a manageable number where delivery is possible over a reasonable number of years (LNRS timeframe is 3-10 yrs)

# Examples of Priority Outcomes & Potential Measures



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## Chalk Streams, rivers, other watercourses, headwaters and groundwater protection zones

Priority Outcome	Potential Measures
Riparian buffer strips created and managed to protect the area's watercourses and headwaters, along with other potential measures aimed at reducing the amount of nutrients and pollutants entering the water courses and groundwaters.	R1* - Creation and management of buffer strips on land next to watercourses R3* - Reversion of arable land to grassland and management of intensive grassland, both with low fertiliser input. R4* - Flood mitigation on permanent grassland – making space for water by managing and enhancing river/floodplain habitat connectivity. R5* - Application of very low nitrogen input to slow or reverse nutrient levels in groundwaters.
Road surface water runoff is intercepted by natural flood management structures, with no direct pathways to watercourses.	R7 - Reduce the impact of road and urban runoff.
Barriers to fish movement along rivers and streams are removed or circumvented.	R8 – Removal of fish barriers.
Priority Species that will benefit	White-clawed crayfish, southern damselfly, two-tone reed beetle, fine-lined pea mussel, Desmoulin's whorl snail, grey long-eared bat, and species listed in the following priority species assemblages for: chalk streams and other rivers and birds - reedbed and river birds.

# Examples of Priority Outcomes & Potential Measures



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## ***Species-rich grasslands – further subdivided into Priority grassland types***

Priority Outcome	Potential Measures
All existing species-rich grassland in positive management.	G1 - Management of species-rich grassland. G4 – Control scrub.
Degraded species-rich grassland restored back to species-rich grassland.	G2 - Restoration of grassland towards species-rich grassland. G4 - Control scrub – applies across all types of grassland.
New areas of species-rich grassland created (including habitat expansion), linking existing areas of grasslands.	G3 - Creation of species-rich grassland, particularly from arable reversion. R3* - Reversion of arable land to grassland and management of intensive grassland, both with low fertiliser input.
Priority Species that will benefit	Green-winged orchid, juniper, moonwort, field cow-wheat, marsh fritillary, Duke of Burgundy, striped lychnis, forester, smart-banded hunchback and hornet robberfly, and species listed in the following priority species assemblages: grazed chalk grassland with structural diversity and bare ground, grazed or mown trefoil/clover communities, and waxcaps and other grassland fungi.

# Examples of Priority Outcomes & Potential Measures



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## Heathland and acid grassland mosaics

Priority Outcome	Potential Measures
All existing heathland and acid grassland mosaic in positive management.	H1 - Management of lowland heathland including scrub control. H4 - Bracken control using chemical or by mechanical means. H5 - Dog control measures.
Restoration of degraded heathland and acid grassland mosaic.	H2 - Restoration of heathland from forestry and woodland, including scrub. H4 - Bracken control using chemical or by mechanical means.
New areas of heathland and acid grassland mosaic created, and existing areas expanded, improving connectivity with existing areas of habitat. Includes agricultural land and restoration of mineral workings.	H3 - Creation of heathland from arable or improved grassland and mineral workings.
Priority Species that will benefit	Hornet robberfly, smart-banded hunchback, heath cudweed, heath lobelia, grass-poly, common butterwort, wood bolete, nail fungus, field cricket and other species listed in the following priority species assemblages: birds - breeding waders – wet grassland and heathland, birds - heathland birds, dry heaths with sand and gravel exposures, and heathlands occurring outside the New Forest.

# Examples of Priority Outcomes & Potential Measures



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## Wood pasture and parkland

Priority Outcome	Potential Measures
Existing lowland wood pasture, and historic parkland is restored and managed. Veteran trees are safeguarded and managed. New standard parkland trees are planted in appropriate locations New wood pasture created.	PP1 - Restoration and management of lowland wood pasture and parkland including the planting of new trees to ensure succession. PP2 - Creation of wood pasture or parkland.
Priority Species that will benefit	Red-horned cardinal click beetle, zoned rosette, and species listed in the following priority species assemblages: lichens associated with mature and veteran trees in open parkland, and fungi associated with deciduous woodland and wood pasture in and outside the New Forest.

# Examples of Priority Outcomes & Potential Measures



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## Coastal

Priority Outcome	Potential Measures
Coastal sand dunes and vegetated shingle protected and managed.	C1 - Creation and management of coastal sand dunes and vegetated shingle.
Coastal saltmarsh restored and managed.	C2 - Management and restoration of coastal saltmarsh.
Inter-tidal and saline habitat, including saltmarsh, created on coastal flood plain, intensive grassland, and arable land (subject to managed retreat/realignment)	C3 - Creation of inter-tidal and saline habitat on arable land, or on intensive grassland or by non-intervention. C4 - Management and restoration of coastal floodplain grazing marsh for target species and other features.
Priority Species that will benefit	Gilkicker weevil, sea heath, <i>Rinodina aspersa</i> , Wilson's pottia, and species listed in the following priority species assemblages: birds - shore birds – breeding, migrating and wintering, coastal grazing marsh and upper saltmarsh, saline lagoons, shingle and coastal grassland communities, and soft cliffs.



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# Areas that Could Become of Importance for Biodiversity (ACB)

(12.6% of Hampshire's land  
area)

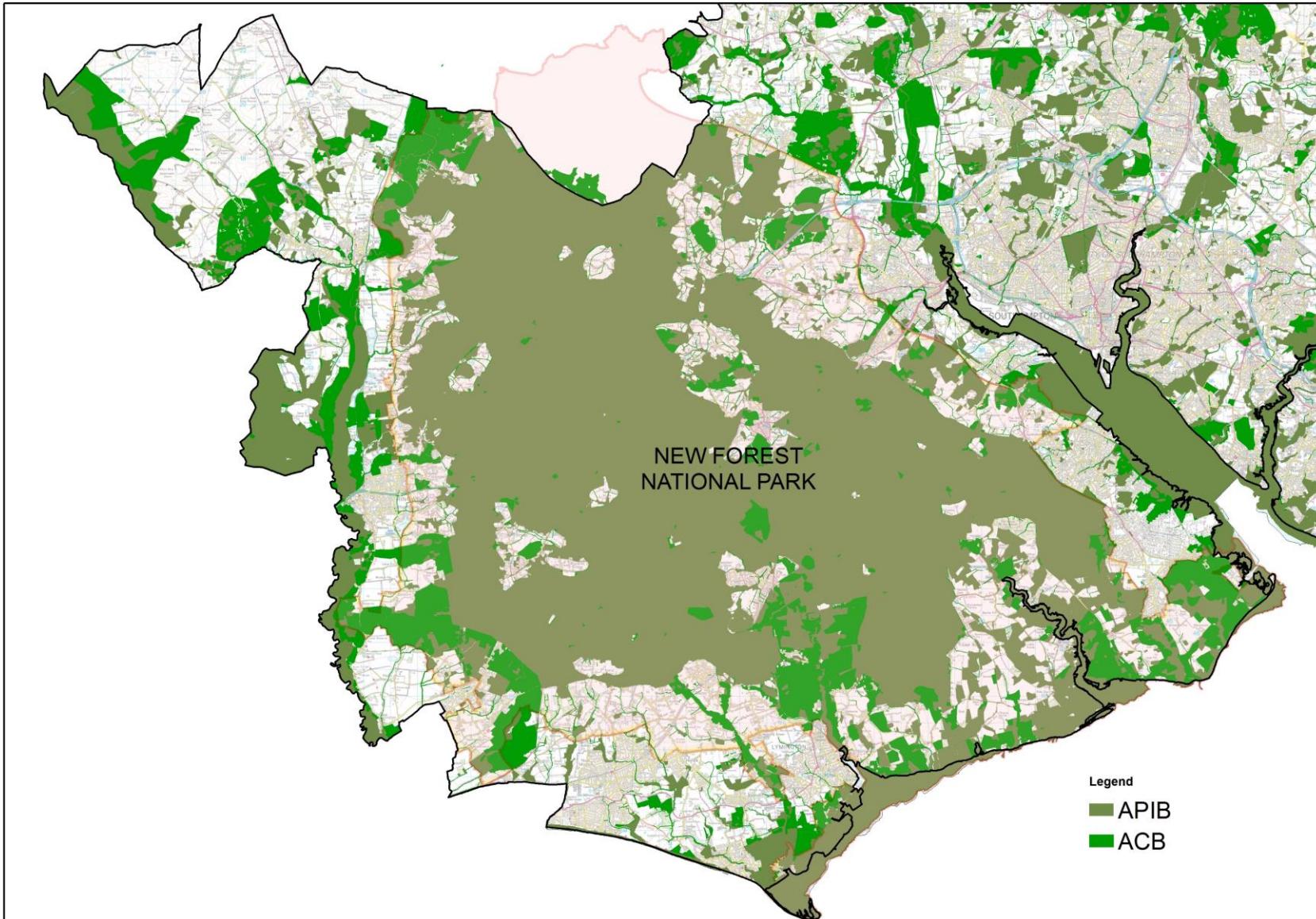
Areas That Could  
Become of Particular  
Importance for  
Biodiversity (ACB)

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APIB and ACB  
maps combined for  
the New Forest





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## Measures

(21.6% of Hampshire's land area)

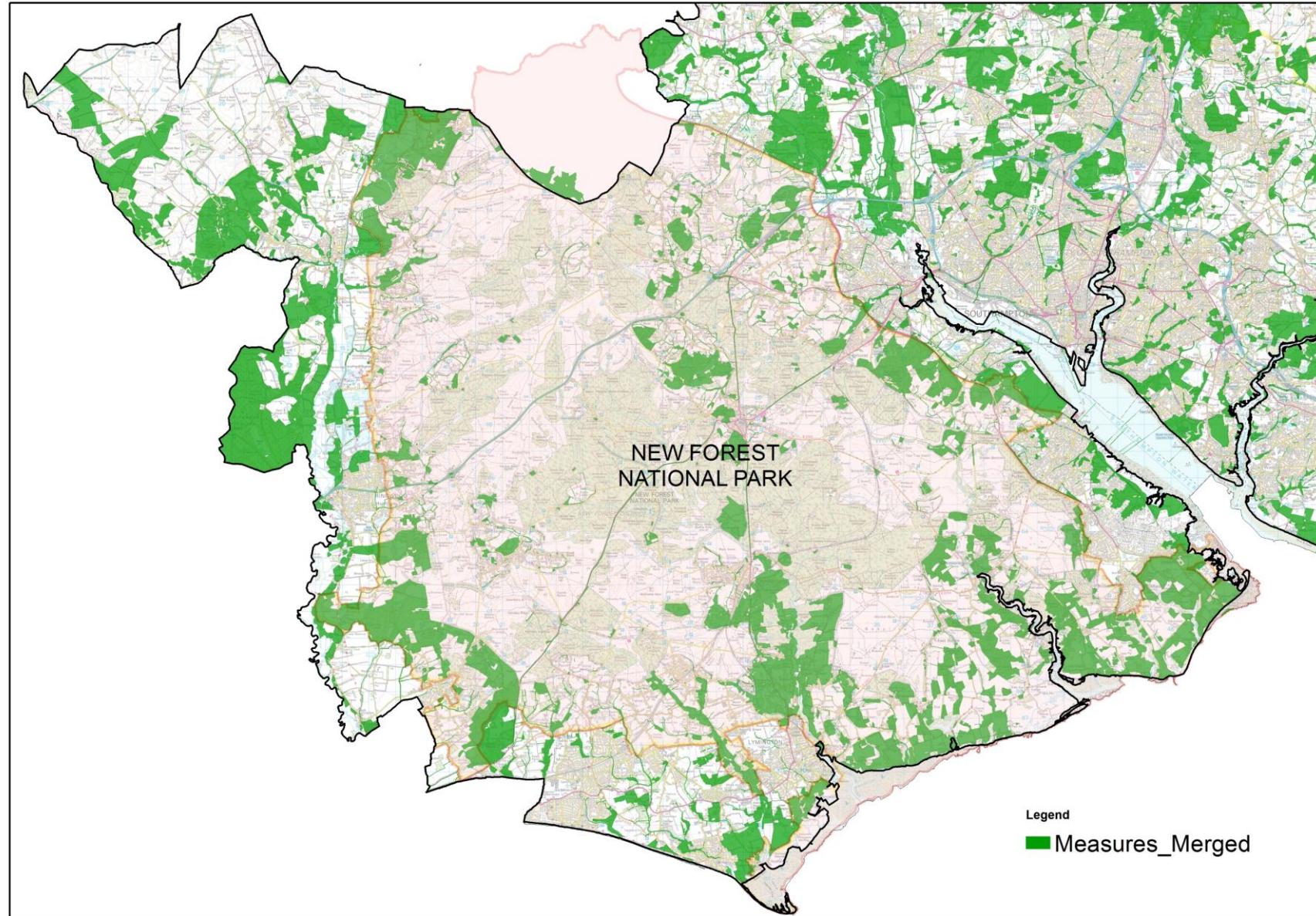
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Measures



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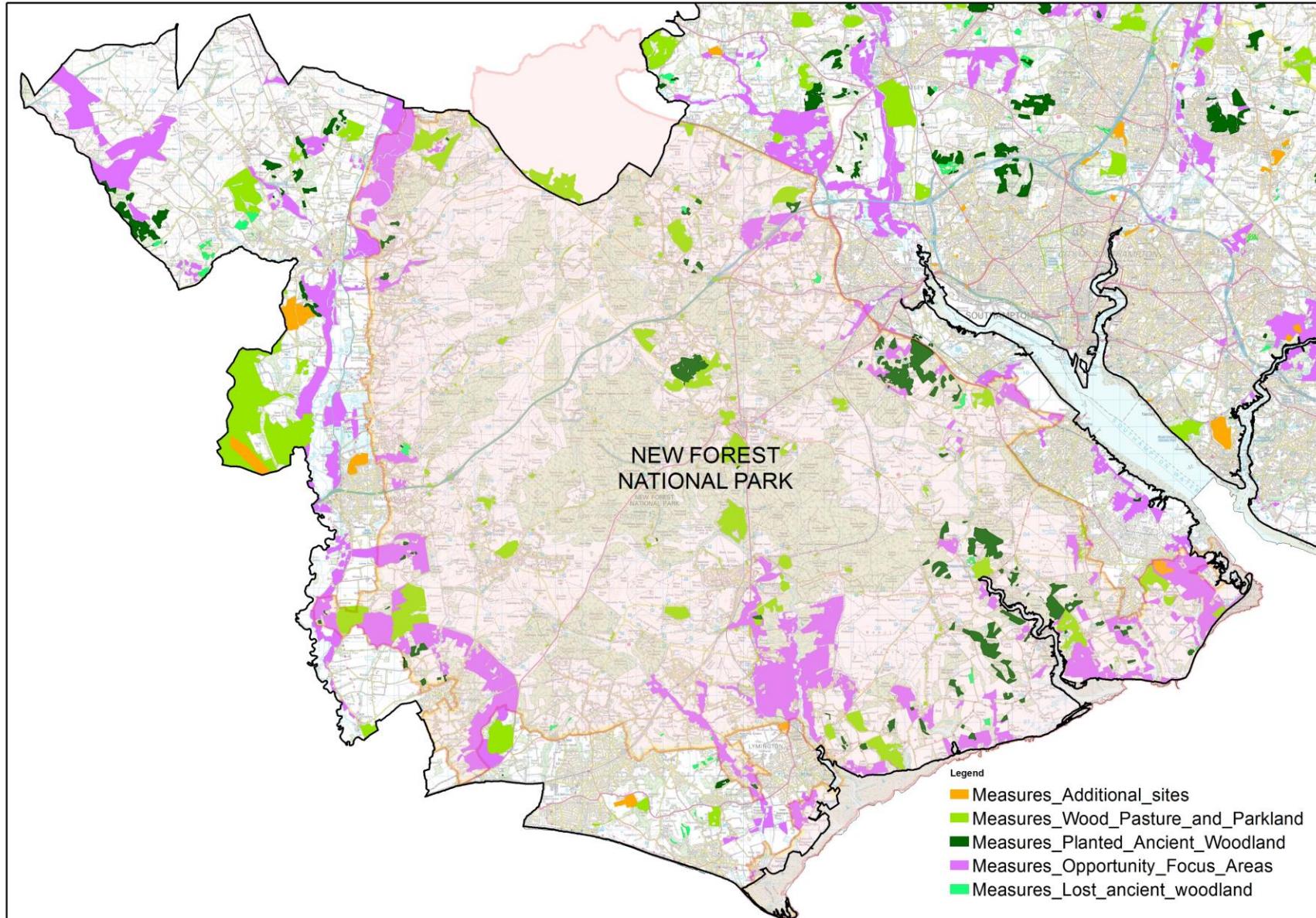
All measures  
for the New  
Forest





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## Selected Measures for the New Forest



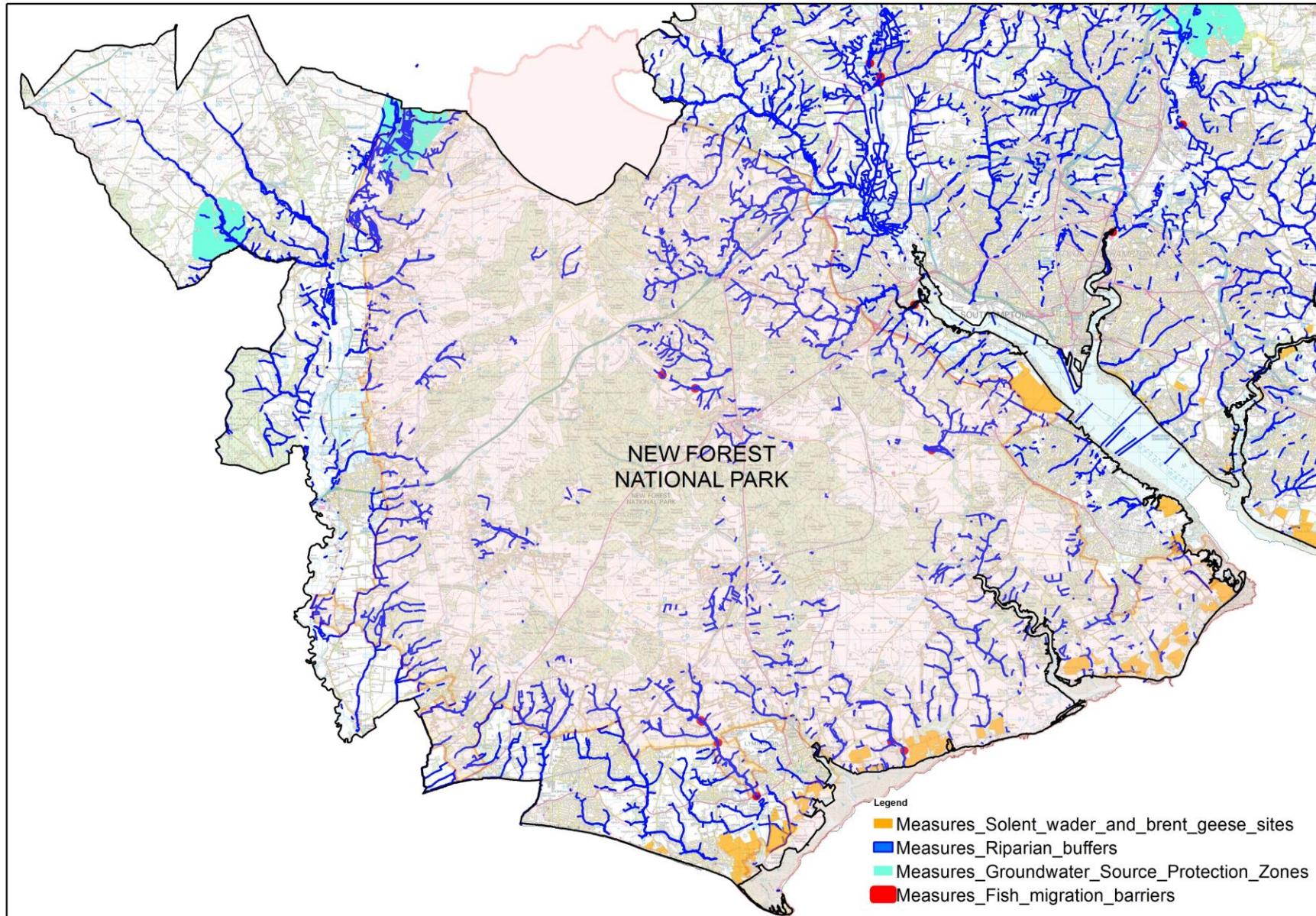
Includes designated sites and other areas that connect to designated sites and priority habitats, following the Lawton principles of:

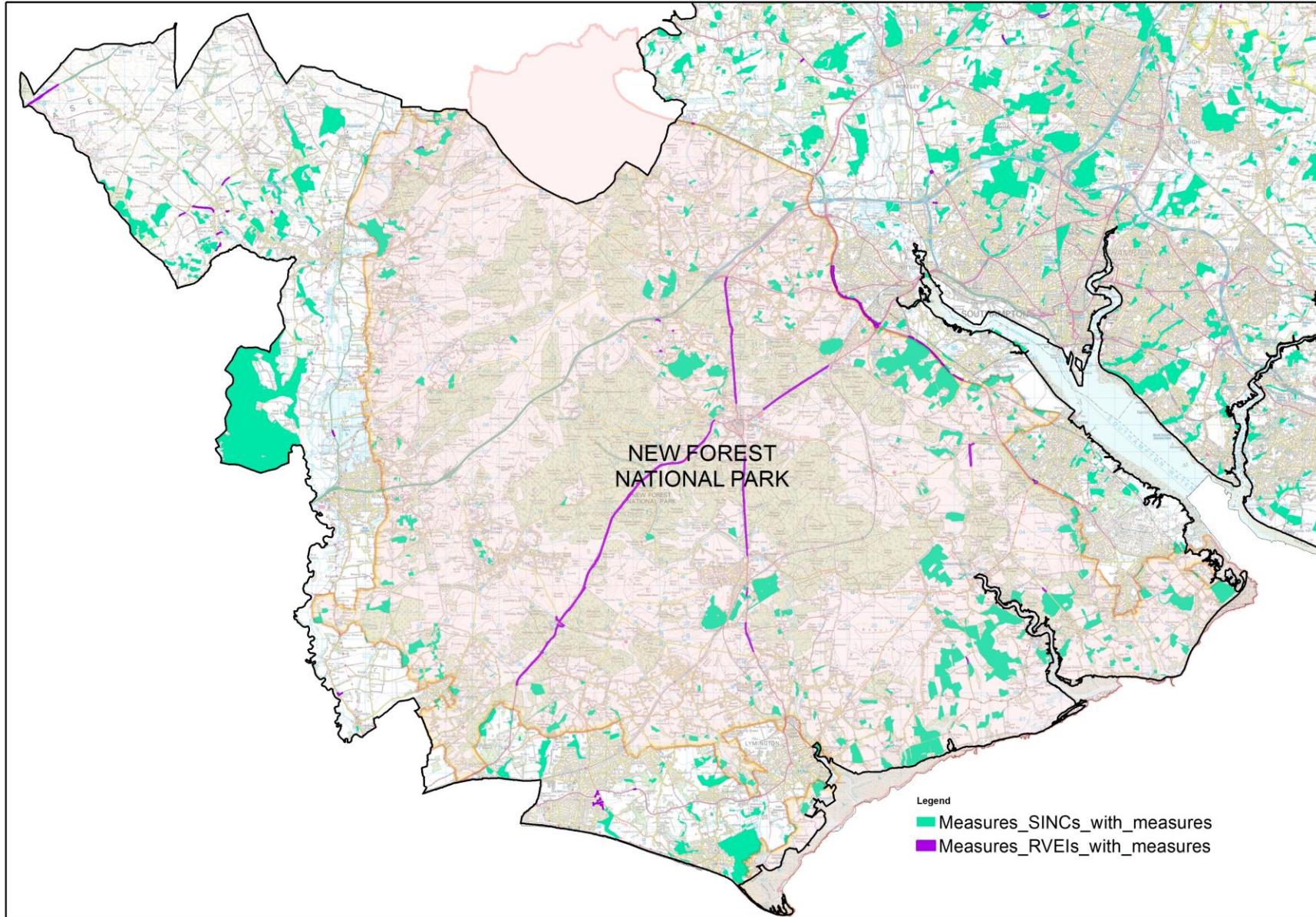
- Bigger
- Better
- More joined up



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# Selected Measures for Rivers and Riparian Buffers and Solent Wader & Brent Geese sites





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**Selected  
Measures:  
SINCs and RVEIs**



## Hectarage of habitat actively managed, restored or created (includes SINCs for some measures)

Habitat	Measure	Hectarage
Woodland creation	W1	3,700 ha
PAWs restoration	W7	7,340 ha
Woodland actively managed for priority species	W3	10,850 ha
Lowland calcareous grassland restored/created	LCG/LMW and G2/G3	7,326 ha
Other grasslands restored/created includes floodplain grazing marsh	LMW/PMP/CFGM and G2/G3	21,184 ha
Lowland heath with lowland acid grassland restored/created	LHL/LAG/PMP and H2/H3	9,413 ha
Restoring historic parkland and wood pasture	PP1	16,181 ha
Saltmarsh restored/created	C2/C3	1,304 ha
Riparian buffers	R1	1,638 ha
<b>Total (includes some overlap)</b>		<b>c75,000 ha</b>

G2: Restoration of species-rich grassland

G3: Creation of species-rich grassland

H2: Restore lowland heathland from forestry and secondary woodland

H3: Create lowland heathland from arable land, improved grassland, and following mineral extraction

PP1: Restore and manage lowland wood pasture and parkland and the planting of new trees to ensure succession

C2 - Management and restoration of coastal saltmarsh

C3 - Creation of inter-tidal and saline habitat on arable land, or on intensive grassland or by non-intervention

R1 - Creation and management of buffer strips on land next to watercourses



# Priority Species

- Long list of **1,618** species generated by HBIC using the Defra criteria
- Species Recovery workshop attended by 75 species experts covering many of the taxon groups
- **414** Priority Species were selected for the shortlist (with full audit trail), of which:
  - **68** are Priority Species (not included in assemblages) including:
    - 2 species are recovery class A – expansion/connectivity, that do not, therefore, require specific management measures.
    - 21 species are class B, where targeted management measures are required.
    - 2 species are class C, where only other environment improvements are required (water quality and air quality improvements).
    - 26 species are class D, where bespoke management measures are required.
    - The remaining 16 species are in a mix of recovery classes where measures are assumed but more evidence would be useful. This should not preclude action to restore populations based on current thinking.
  - The remaining 16 species are in a mix of recovery classes where measures are assumed but more evidence would be useful.
- **346** species are in 37 assemblages, **of which 5 assemblages (covering 119 species) are confined wholly to the New Forest SSSI.** These do not, therefore, require management measures in addition to those already covered in the SSSI/SAC management plans. They are present in the priority assemblage list for the purposes of awareness raising.
- The remaining species occur within assemblages where more generic but targeted measures can be applied to their habitat. Those that need more bespoke measures within an assemblage usually applies to one aspect of their life cycle e.g. for breeding or feeding and this is covered in the table as far as possible. A few species occur across several recovery classes.

# Priority Species – example of an assemblage



## Priority species assemblages for birds - farmland birds

### Measures

Aim for a range of different crops and habitats, including fallow areas throughout the year, and retain areas of stubble. Create and manage set aside areas that could support a mosaic of scrub, species-rich grassland, rough grassland, beetle banks, some bare ground, and ponds or small wader scrapes to provide water and muddy edges. Reduce pesticide use to increase insect and small mammal numbers, and to reduce secondary poisoning of barn owls. Manage hay meadows to produce a range of seeds for seed eating species. Create areas of scrub and avoid cutting all hedgerows annually to allow them to develop.

Taxon name	Common name	Habitat recovery class	Additional comments, measures, and links to fact sheets and web resources
<i>Burhinus oedicnemus</i>	Stone-curlew	B/D	Specific measures for stone curlew and lapwing - create 1-5ha uncropped fallow plots with 30% bare ground. Retain the plot until the crop is harvested from late July. Monitor breeding while protecting nests and chicks. <a href="#">Saving the stone-curlew - BirdGuides</a>
<i>Cuculus canorus</i>	Cuckoo	A/B/F	Declining. Significant cuckoo decline in the New Forest. The principal host is dunnock, so to improve nesting opportunities, opening up the canopy in woodland to allow the shrub layer to develop may increase nesting opportunities for dunnocks and, therefore, cuckoos. <a href="#">Cuckoo decline   BTO - British Trust for Ornithology</a>
<i>Emberiza calandra</i>	Corn bunting	B/D	Red listed, some recovery. <a href="#">Corn bunting conservation - Advice for Farmers (rspb.org.uk)</a>
<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>	Yellowhammer	B	Red listed, limited numbers on heaths. <a href="#">Yellowhammer - Conservation advice for farmers (rspb.org.uk)</a>
<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	Kestrel	B	Wider farmland, declining. <a href="#">Kestrel   BTO - British Trust for Ornithology</a>
<i>Linaria cannabina</i>	Linnet	B	<a href="#">Linnet - advice for Farmers (rspb.org.uk)</a>
<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	Lapwing	B/D	<a href="#">Lapwing - advice for Farmers (rspb.org.uk)</a>
<i>Perdix perdix</i>	Grey partridge	B	<a href="#">Grey partridge - advice for Farmers (rspb.org.uk)</a>
<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>	Turtle dove	A/B/F	Also a heathland bird. Has declined rapidly, and now only found at 2-3 sites in Hampshire. <a href="#">Provide feeding resources for turtle doves (operationturtledove.org)</a>
<i>Tyto alba</i>	Barn owl	B/D/E	Include erection of nest boxes in pairs (within 500m of each other) at a density of about one pair per 500m square in barns or trees. <a href="#">Barn owl - Advice for Farmers (rspb.org.uk)</a>
<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	Skylark	B	Declining nationally. <a href="#">Skylark conservation - advice for farmers (rspb.org.uk)</a>

# Local Nature Recovery Strategies and landowners - farming



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LNRS for Hampshire suggests the **best actions** in the **best locations**, from small nature-friendly schemes to large-scale habitat restoration



It **won't** require you to change how you use your land. It will help you make **informed choices** and see where there are opportunities for working with adjacent land managers on landscape-scale nature recovery. If you want to do nature recovery work in an area that isn't prioritised in the LNRS, you still can.



Sets out **local priorities and the measures** needed to achieve those priorities, and the wider environmental benefits that would flow from them – such as improved water quality, soil health, carbon capture and flood protection



All sites and areas identified in the Strategy are **subject to existing land use and ownership constraints**, and any prevailing constraints or conditions on site. Inclusion on the map does not automatically guarantee that it is possible to create that habitat in these areas. Maps are based on best available evidence. Any habitat creation schemes will need thorough investigation and appropriate consent.

# Local Nature Recovery Strategies and landowners - development



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The mapped areas **do not prevent development** from taking place. However, it is advised that developers and planners consider how developments can make a positive contribution towards the recommended measures in that area. The maps will also guide and incentivise landowners to create or enhance habitats for biodiversity net gain (BNG) by providing an increase in uplift through the Strategic Significance Multiplier



NPPF Para 192. *To protect and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity, (local) plans should: (a) Identify, map and safeguard components of local wildlife-rich habitats and wider ecological networks, including the hierarchy of international, national and locally designated sites of importance for biodiversity; wildlife corridors and stepping stones that connect them; and areas identified by national and local partnerships for habitat management, enhancement, restoration or creation.*

# Timeline



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