

Nature Recovery Toolkit Roadshow

March 2024

Welcome, housekeeping, introductions

Agenda

Welcome, housekeeping and introductions

Background and overview of the day

How do you get other services interested and make it relevant to them?

Why is Natural England supporting the toolkit?

Roundtable 1 – Using tools and support

Overview of the toolkit workshops and practical pointers for delivery

Roundtable 2 – identifying hooks and quick wins

Feedback and interest in the toolkit

Final comments and next steps.

Time	Agenda	Le
09:30	Registration; coffee & networking	
10:00	Welcome, housekeeping, Introductions	PA
10:10	Background and overview of the day What is this all about and why are we here? Objectives for the day	PA
10:15	Overview of the nature recovery toolkit Why the toolkit has been produced? What it does and what it doesn't do? Who can use it and how? Who needs to be in the room? What are the conditions for success?	PA
10:40	How do you get other services interested and make it relevant for them? Local authority presentations followed by facilitated group discussion: Where is your council on its nature recovery journey? How have you engaged with other services on nature recovery? What is needed to get them interested and make it relevant to them?	All
11:30	➤ Coffee Break	
11:50	Why Is Natural England supporting the toolkit? Presentation from Natural England on: Why is the toolkit important for Natural England and its work to support local authorities on this agenda? How can the toolkit and Local Nature Recovery Strategies support each other? What are the different data layers and tools that could be used to support delivery of the toolkit workshops?	NE
12:15	Roundtable 1 – Using Natural England's tools and support Split into tables of 6, discuss and identify: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What kind of tools and support have you used to engage with other services? What's worked well and what hasn't worked well? How can Natural England data layers and tools briefing note help you and how would you use these? 	All
13:00	LUNCH	
13:45	Overview of the toolkit workshops and practical pointers for delivery <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Workshop recording overview and feedback Using the different resources to support delivery of the sessions Practical pointers including adapting resources to reflect local needs 	PA
14:00	Roundtable 2 – Identifying quick wins Split into tables of 6, discuss and identify: What are the quick wins which can be used by services to move away from business as usual? Are these generic, can they be grouped or can they be tailored to specific services? How do these differ between assets and activities?	All
14:45	➤ Coffee Break	
15:00	Feedback and Interest In the toolkit <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What's your general feeling about the toolkit? 	All

- Team of 15 and growing!
- Part of Local Government Association
- Funded by DLUHC, NE and Defra to support English planning authorities
- “PAS exists to support local planning authorities in providing effective and efficient planning services and to support the implementation of changes in the planning system”



Who we are and what we do

Getting planning right is important for councils. It allows them to manage development, ensuring that the best possible outcomes are delivered for places. It requires political and technical leadership and engaged communities. Helping councils plan better is what we do.



What We Do

The [Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities](#) provides a grant each year for PAS so we can provide support to councils. We are funded to help get local plans up-to-date and to improve decision-making, as well as running event series on topical issues. We can also work with councillors and do thorough “peer challenge” reviews of planning departments. We believe in a ‘sector led’ improvement approach, where local authorities help each other to continuously improve.

Bulletin

Sign up for our Bulletin, which brings you news of our latest support, case studies, events and more.

Our roles...



Krista (PAS) - Chair



Richard (PAS) – Timekeeping



(PAS, NE and Northumbria Uni) – Roundtable facilitators



Richard (PAS) – Flip chart and reporting back on key issues



Alister (Northumbria Uni) – Collating key discussion points

...and who are you?

Introduce yourself to the group:

- Your name, where are you from and what do you do?
- Have you attended a PAS event before?
- Why are you interested in the toolkit and how could it help support your work?



Background and overview of the day

- What is this all about
- Why are we here?
- Objectives for the day (go through, then revisit at the end)

What is this all about?



Healthier,
more resilient
Nature



Healthier,
more resilient
Places



Healthier,
more resilient
People



Healthier,
more resilient
Economy

Help councils understand a complex world by providing:

- A framework for:**
- Supporting corporate objectives through the new duties including BNG, Biodiversity Reporting and LNRS
 - Understanding the statutory (must do's) and opportunities (could/should do's)
 - Deciding what to do (who contributes, objectives, the evidence base, funding, making it happen etc)



- A process:**
- Engaging the right stakeholders
 - Working with stakeholders to decide what to do
 - Understanding the oversight and governance requirements for your chosen priorities

- Workshop template**
 - Priorities and opportunities
 - Barriers and solutions
 - Funding and delivery
- Slidedecks and briefing notes**
- Appendices**
 - Action template - council activities, assets and responsibilities
 - Useful data layers
 - Key headlines
 - Priority steps and checklist

Why are we all here & what are the objectives?



To find out more about the draft toolkit, the resources that have been produced so far and how to use them.



Gain sufficient understanding of how the range of tools and resources can be used for effective facilitation and managing group working within their own local authorities.



Hear about your council's own nature recovery ambitions and how you have engaged with other services to inform further development and improvement.

Still a lot of unknowns????



- Mandatory BNG in February 2024
- LNRS starting to be developed but not in place by late 2024/early 2025
- Biodiversity reporting duties first consideration January 2024
- How do all the duties, tools and mechanisms fit together?

It is what it is....but you can make a start!

Testing the objectives



Overview of toolkit and
process



Deep dive roundtable
sessions



Objectives review

All clear and ready to move on?

- Is everyone clear on why we are here today?
- Is everyone clear on whose doing what and their roles today?
- Is there anything fundamental that we may have missed?
- Does anyone have any burning questions they want to raise now?



Overview of the nature recovery toolkit

- Why the toolkit has been produced?
- What it does and what it doesn't do?
- Who can use it and how?
- Who needs to be in the room?
- What are the conditions for success?

Help councils understand a complex world by providing:

- A framework for:**
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 - Action template - council activities, assets and responsibilities
 - Useful data layers
 - Key headlines
 - Priority steps and checklist

Toolkit products



Workshop planning template (Design 3 x workshops and exercises)

Challenges and opportunities
Barriers and solutions
Funding and delivery



Supporting resources

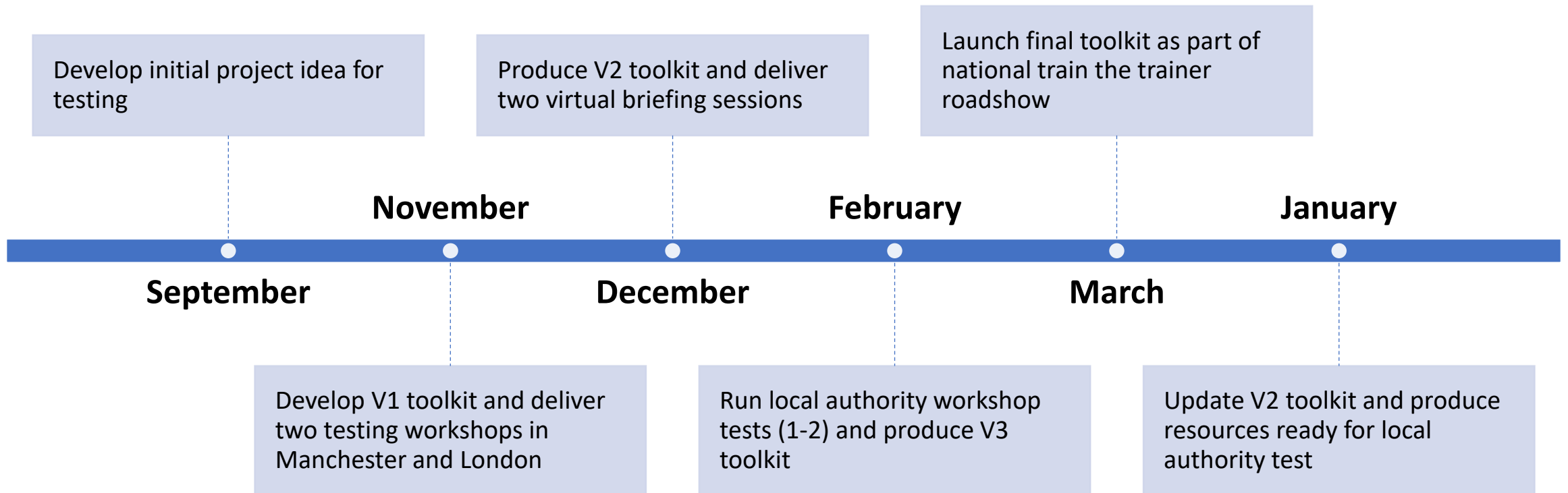
Slidedecks
Briefing notes
Recordings



Appendices

Action template - council activities, assets & responsibilities
Useful data layers and key headlines which can be used to inform conversations

How has the toolkit evolved?



100% customer acceptance?

- 2 local authority workshops 2 and briefing sessions held
- 18 out of 18 felt that this process and materials will help local authorities
- We have an outline of the products we need to build
- Needs to be localised
- **Fold in more examples and supporting information as it develops**



Why use the toolkit?

1. Across the council/political buy-in and joining up environmental work across services.
2. Read-across into other plans and strategies and streamlining benefits.
3. A clearer understanding of how to deliver change, saving costs and securing additional funding.
4. A significant tool to help define and deliver the Biodiversity Duty and better Local Nature Recovery Strategy production readiness, with a clearer picture of the issues, opportunities and how to tackle them.
5. A shortlist of priority activities and interventions that can start to be delivered.

What it does and what it doesn't do?

- It's a self serve process designed for use by local authorities.
- Its flexible and adaptable to meet local needs.
- It supports the delivery of corporate priorities, plans and projects.
- Its not a certified training module.
- It doesn't replace the need to meet statutory duties.
- The audience isn't restricted to internal stakeholders.

Who can use it and how?



Local authorities can choose how they want to deliver the toolkit which can be adapted and localised to meet local needs.



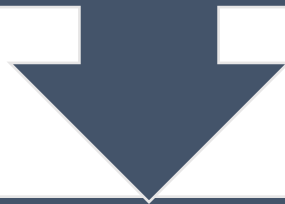
Some local authorities may feel they want to engage with service leads on a 1:1 basis whilst others may want to bring together a group of service leads through a more structured process i.e. pre work, inception, workshops.



Either way the right permissions and capacity will need to be in place to help coordinate, engage and drive the process forward.

Who needs to be in the room?

Workshops sessions may have different audiences and objectives such as informing and collaborating



So you may wish to including member, officers and external partners.

What are the conditions for success?

- Champions and teeth - needs to be politically framed
- Resources - revenue and lack of is the driver
- Decline of nature is divorced from climate change
- Not enough to tie this into priorities – environment, care, health, economy, housing
- How you pitch it is key!

Discussion

Does this all makes sense?

Is there a need for the toolkit?

Are you clear on what is being produced?

Why it is being produced?

How it can be used and by who?

How do you get other services interested and make it relevant?

- Where is your council on its nature recovery journey?
- How have you engaged with other services on nature recovery?
- What is needed to get them interested and make it relevant?

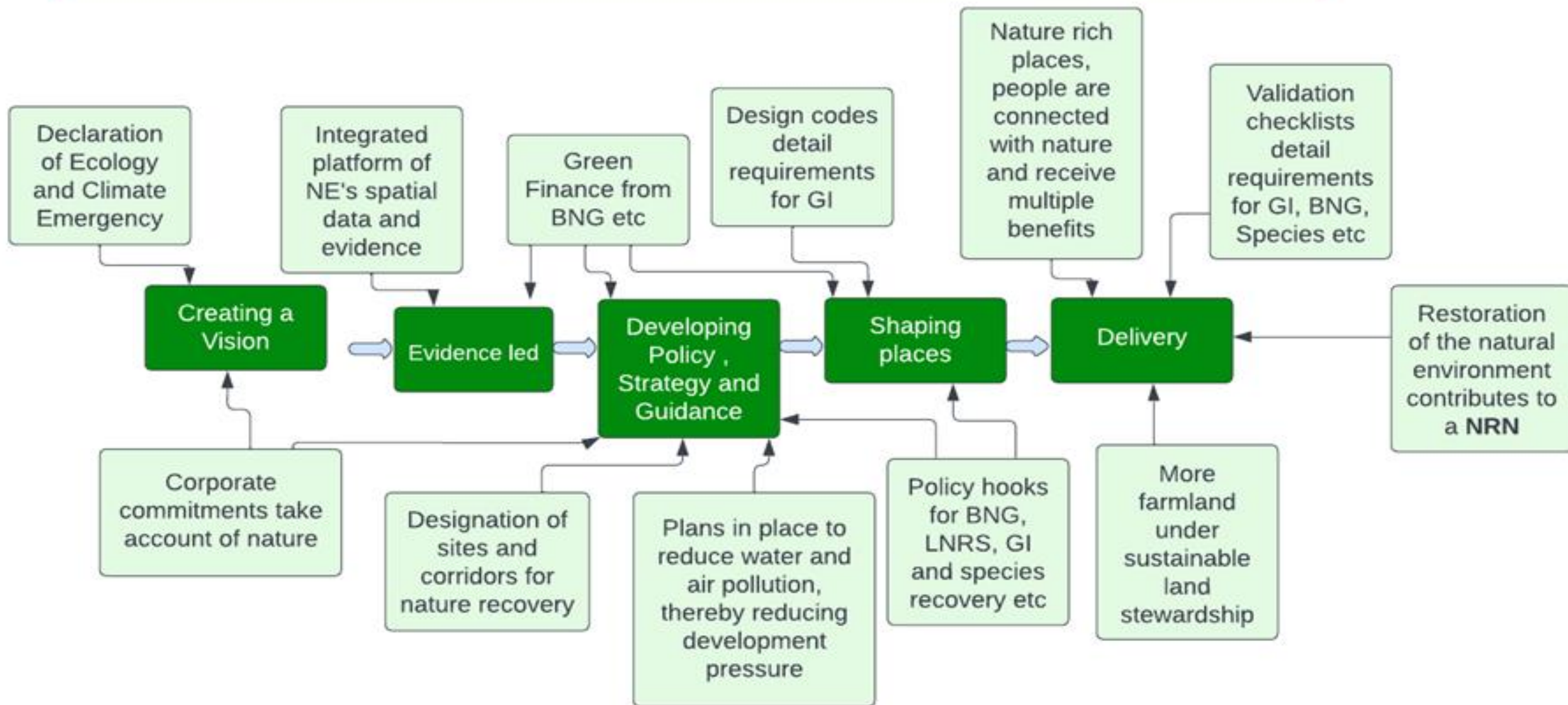
Your nature recovery journey?

- Are we ready for the basics?
 - Biodiversity net gain is coming
 - Ecology? Planning Committee?
 - Green infrastructure standards and local context
 - Local plan policy intentions?
- Have you reviewed whether this matters much
 - Does nature help deliver corporate objectives?
 - How does it get air time amongst all the other priorities?
 - Community perspectives and buy-in?
 - Do staff know?

Your nature recovery journey?

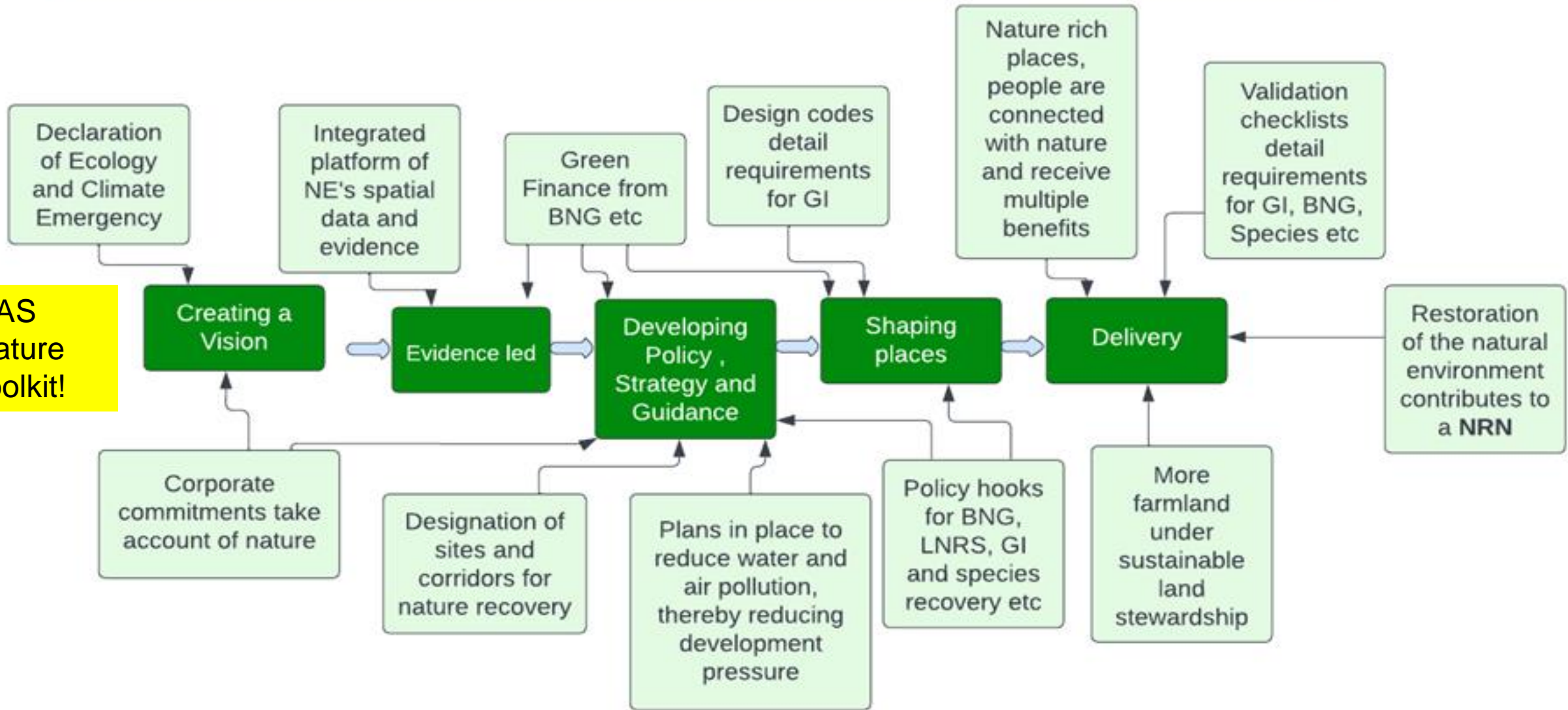
- Have you already started the journey?
 - Have you organised yourself to do things differently?
 - Directorates, portfolios. A “champion”?
 - Projects / outcomes?
 - Beyond talking, doing?
- Have you reviewed your opportunities
 - Land? Generating credits?
 - Corporate objectives and development? (eg green infrastructure / access to nature / tree cover)
 - Bids / funds
 - What does success look like in the short & medium term?

Generic Case Study Illustrating the process journey in utilising Government's policy tools and drivers from a Local Authority perspective



Generic Case Study Illustrating the process journey in utilising Government's policy tools and drivers from a Local Authority perspective

PAS nature toolkit!



Key questions

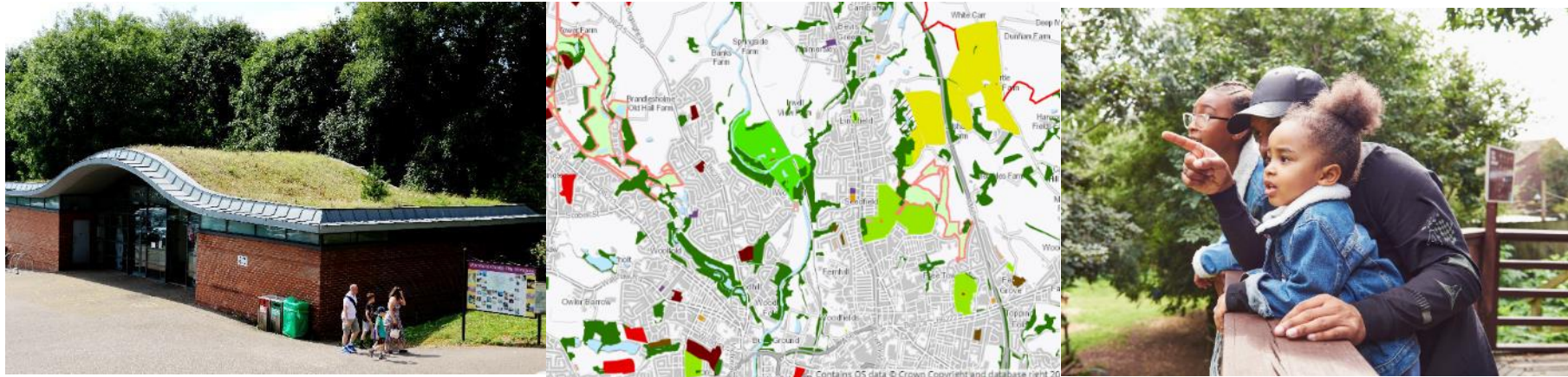
- Where is your council on its nature recovery journey?
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Why is Natural England supporting the toolkit?

- Why is the toolkit important for Natural England and its work to support local authorities on this agenda?
- How can the toolkit and Local Nature Recovery Strategies support each other?
- What are the different data layers and tools that could be used to support delivery of the toolkit workshops?

Planning Advisory Service Nature Recovery Toolkit



Bella Jack
Senior adviser, Strategic Plans for Places
Natural England



- Why is the toolkit important for Natural England and its work to support local authorities on this agenda?
- How can the toolkit and Local Nature Recovery Strategies support each other?
- How can Natural England support delivery?
 - Data, tools, metrics
 - Partnerships
 - Integration of policies and funding

Who we are and what is the Nature Recovery Network (NRN)?



Government's advisor on natural environment, Defra sponsored

- Statutory functions for nature conservation and restoration
- Building partnerships to deliver for people and planet

Nature Recovery Network (NRN):

- National network of wildlife-rich places that benefits people and wildlife
- Expand, improve and connect across towns, cities, countryside and coast
- Recover nature across England at scale – shared responsibility
- Tackle crises of biodiversity loss and climate change improve public health and wellbeing
- Bringing together partners, legislation and, funding and finance



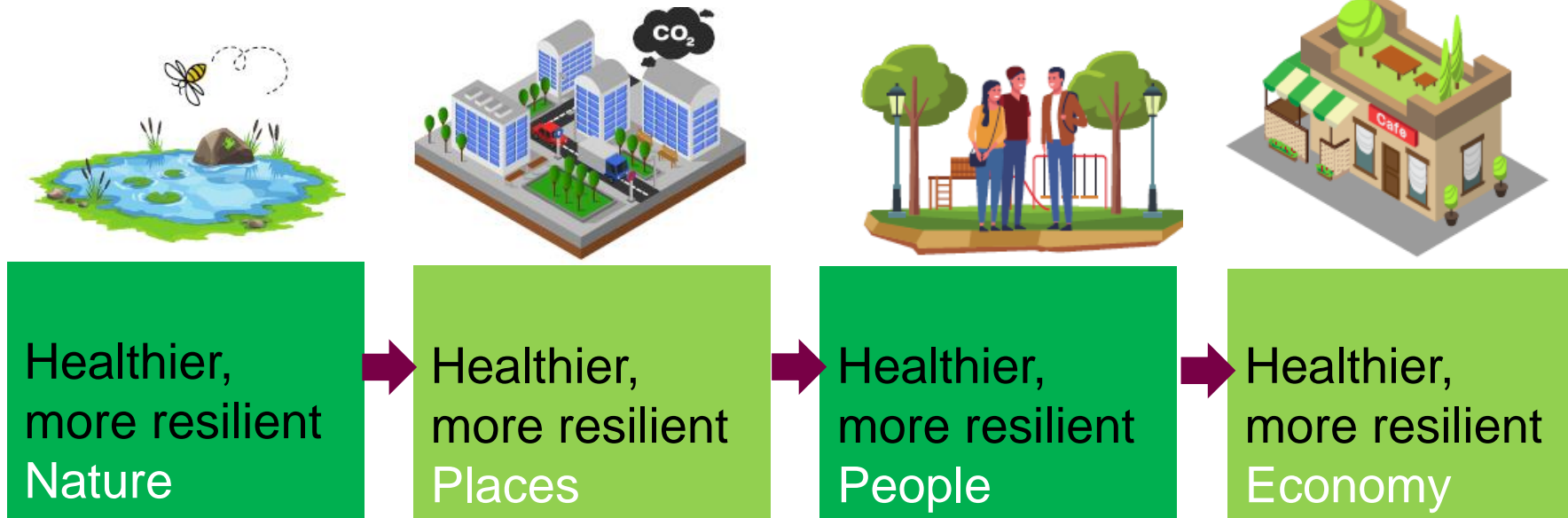
1. Why is NE supporting the Toolkit?



Why Nature?



Our economies, livelihoods and well-being all depend on our most precious asset: Nature” Dasgupta Review (2021)

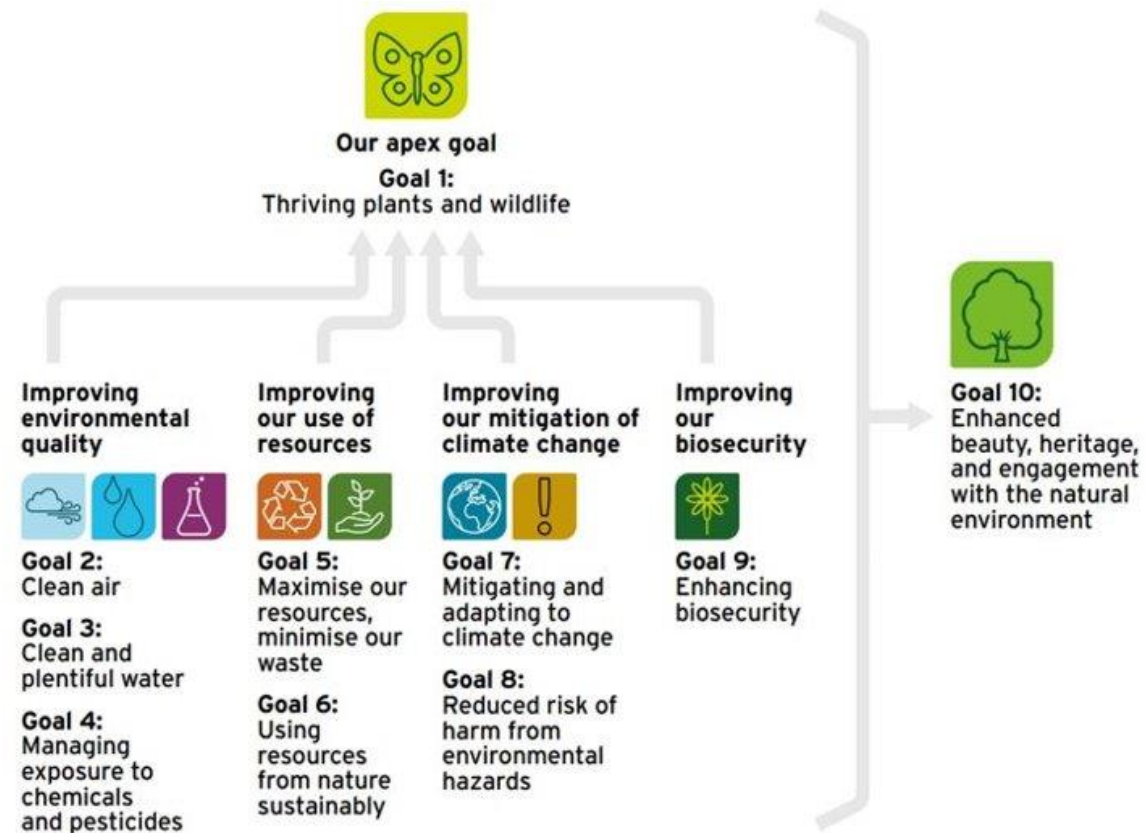


The Environment Act and the Environmental Improvement Plan

- The UK's [Environmental Improvement Plan \(EIP23\)](#) reviews and updates the [25 Year Environment Plan](#) (25YEP) and places it on a statutory footing.

- It replaces the 25 YEP and provides a delivery plan for the Environment Act setting out what the UK will do to improve the environment, within a generation.

EIP Goals



Environment Act Duties on Local Authorities



- Enhanced duty for LAs to conserve and enhance biodiversity (S102) and report on their actions (S103) (the **Biodiversity Duty**).
- Responsible authorities appointed by the Secretary of State (S105) to lead the **Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS)**, working with a broad range of stakeholders.
- LPAs will need to comply with the above duty and have regard to the Local Nature Recovery Strategy in local planning policy and decisions (S102).
- All planning permissions granted in England (with a few exemptions) will have to deliver at least 10% **biodiversity net gain** (S98-101). Effective from February 2024 for TCPA. Extends to small sites from April 2024 and to **Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs)** late 2025.

2. How can the Toolkit support Local Authorities in meeting duties and delivering LNRs?

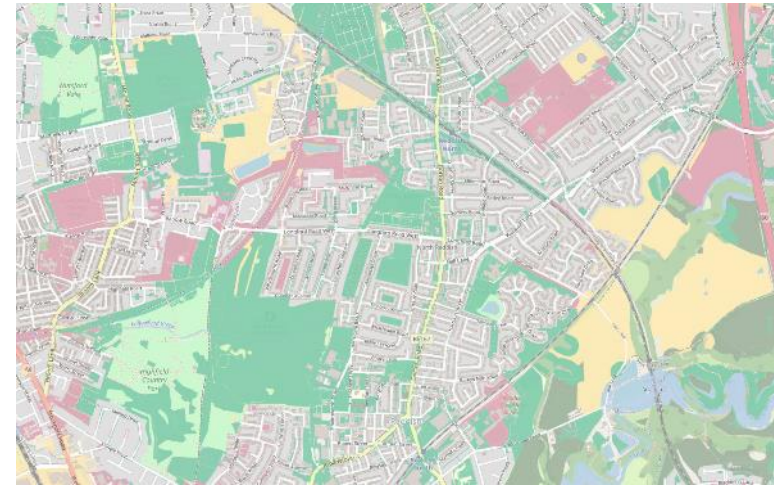
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Local Nature Recovery Strategies



- Local Nature Recovery Strategies will provide the maps to focus activity (local authority level, through the Environment Act)
- Identifies the following:
 1. Existing nature
 2. Potential nature
 3. Priorities for restoration and creation of nature
- Owned by Responsible Bodies (local authorities)



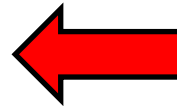
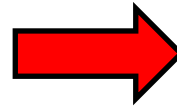
- Opportunity or Improvement Areas [1]
- GM LNRS Opportunities: 3
 - Grassland Opportunity
 - Heathland Opportunity
 - Lowland Wetland Opportunity
 - Tree-Planting Opportunity
 - Tree-Planting Opportunity (Wet)
 - Tree-Planting Opportunity (Clough)
 - Tree-Planting Opportunity (Riparian or Canalside)

Relationship between LNRS and the Toolkit



LNRS is a spatial plan for nature

The LNRS process brings local partners together to agree priorities for nature recovery and propose actions in areas where they will provide the best environmental outcomes. They are spatial plans for nature, covering the whole of England.



Toolkit is about what a council does

The toolkit focusses on council priorities, the land that they hold, the services they deliver and explores how nature can act as an enabler for these and the quick wins that can be made.

When done well, the toolkit will support the goal of the LNRS by widening the group of people thinking about and acting to improve nature as part of their "business as usual".

LNRS achieving multiple EIP goals



Habitats

- Create wildlife-rich habitat outside protected sites (500,000ha)
- Restore Sites of Special Scientific Interest to favourable condition
- Protect 30% of land and of sea in the UK for nature's recovery
- Restore peatland and create/restore hedgerows
- Reduce the rates of introduction/establishment of invasive nonnative species

Species

- Halt the decline of species abundance and reduce risk of species' extinction

Woodland

- Increase tree and woodland cover and help manage woodlands

Health and Wellbeing

- Contribute to everyone living within 15 minutes' walk of green/blue space

Water quality and availability

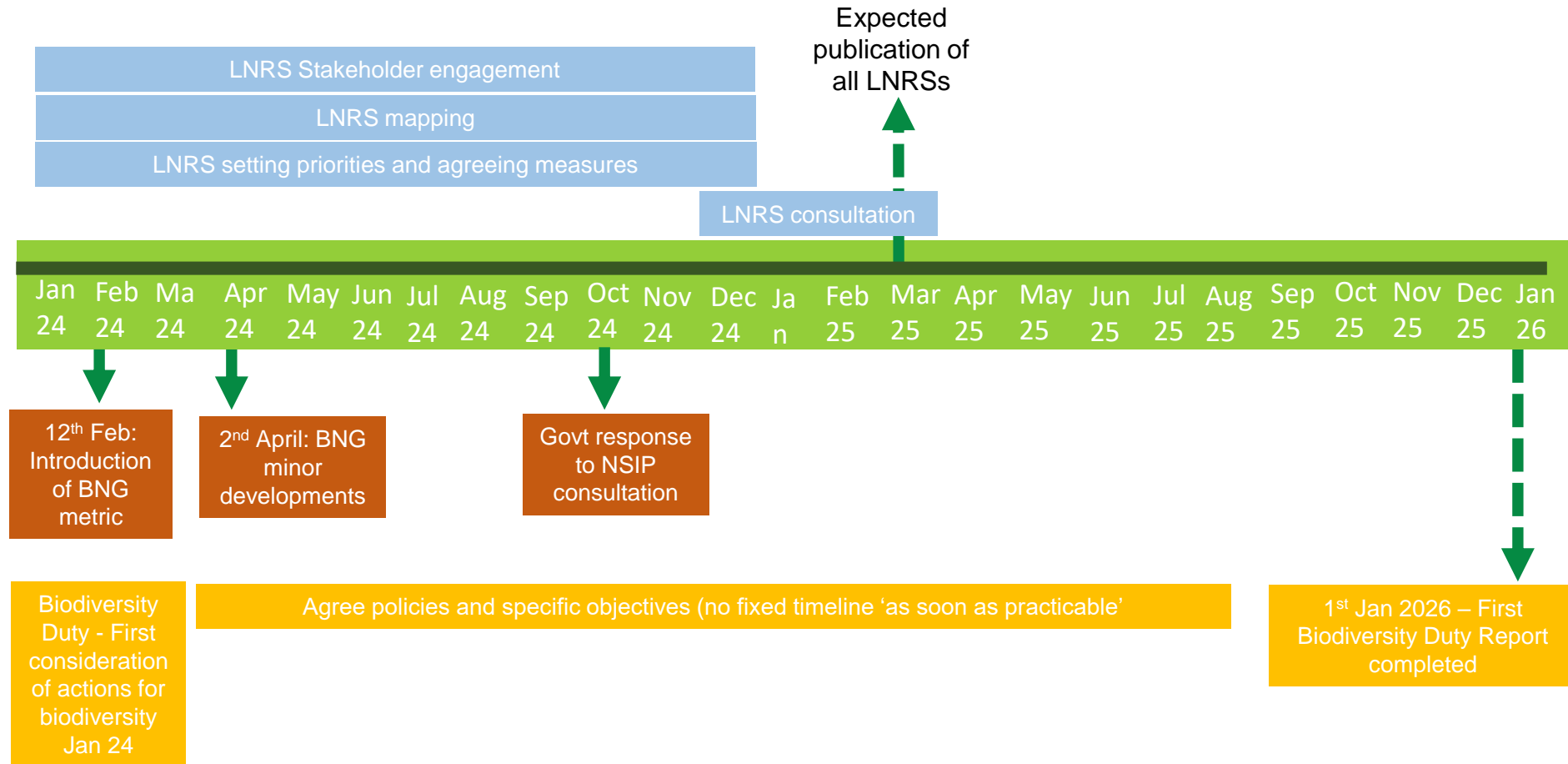
- Improve water quality/availability by mitigating nutrient/sediment pollution from agriculture
- Restore water bodies to good ecological status and help achieve good environmental status for our seas

Climate change

- Help adapt to a changing climate and use nature-based solutions to improve flood risk management



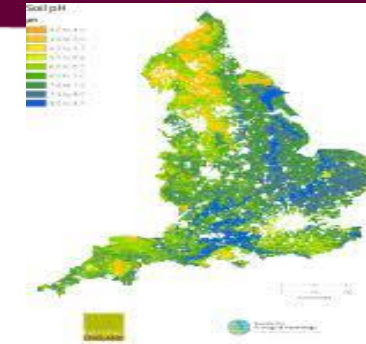
Key Timelines



3. How can NE support delivery?

A. New spatial tools

To target and plan the NRN – aligning needs at a national level and local priorities through Local Nature Recovery Strategies (**LNRS**)



B. Strong partnerships

To deliver action on the ground. Including: government, landowners and managers, business, local communities and conservation organisations

C. Integration of policies and funding streams

Aligning and maximising existing opportunities and securing new funding or finance (**public and private**)



A. Tools, Data, Metrics, Guidance

[LNRS Data Viewer](#)
(arcgis.com)

[EA Catchment Explorer](#)

[Green Infrastructure Data Portal](#)

[Magic](#)

[Biodiversity Metric](#)

[Environmental Benefits from Nature Tool](#)

[Access to evidence and Technical information notes](#)

[Climate Change Adaptation Manual](#)

[Green Infrastructure Design Guide](#)

[Nature Networks](#)

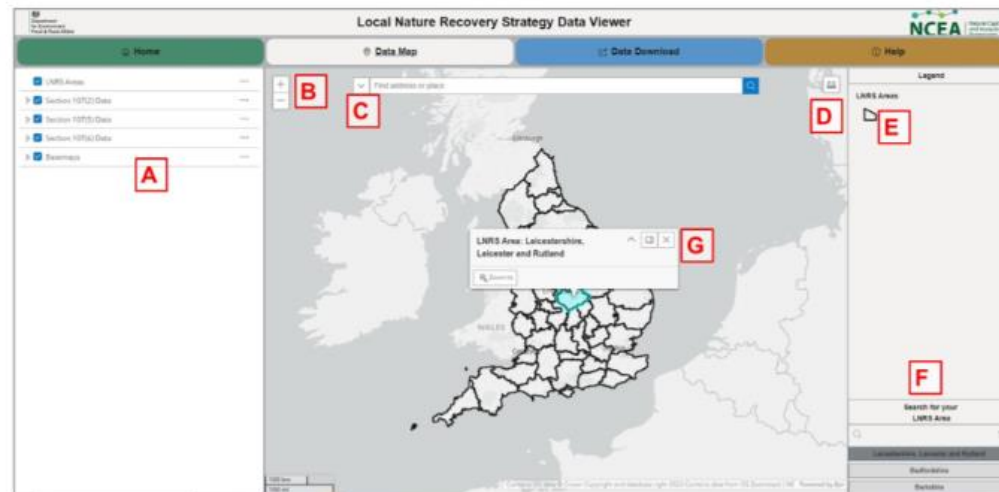
Example: Mitigating and adapting to climate change

- A catchment approach to flood prevention.
- Use the LNRS Data Finder to identify the existing areas of nature conservation importance.
- Use the [Green Infrastructure Map](https://naturalengland.org.uk) (naturalengland.org.uk) to work out where there is potential for new or enhanced nature-based solutions.

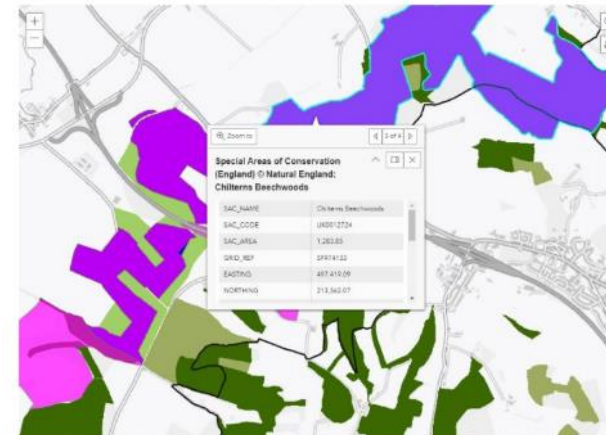


Adapted from the Green Infrastructure National Model Design Code
Natural England Green Infrastructure Planning and Design Guide 2023

LNRS Data Viewer



Map Information Tool - Feature 1 of 4



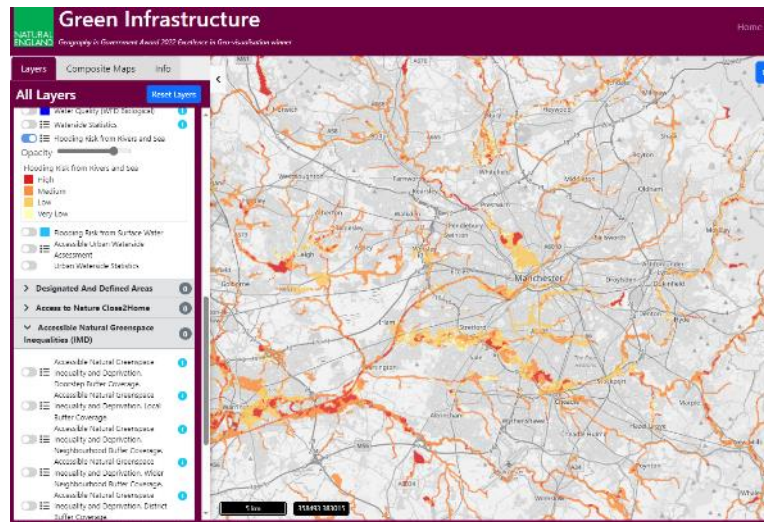
Map Information Tool - Feature 3 of 4

National Green Infrastructure Data

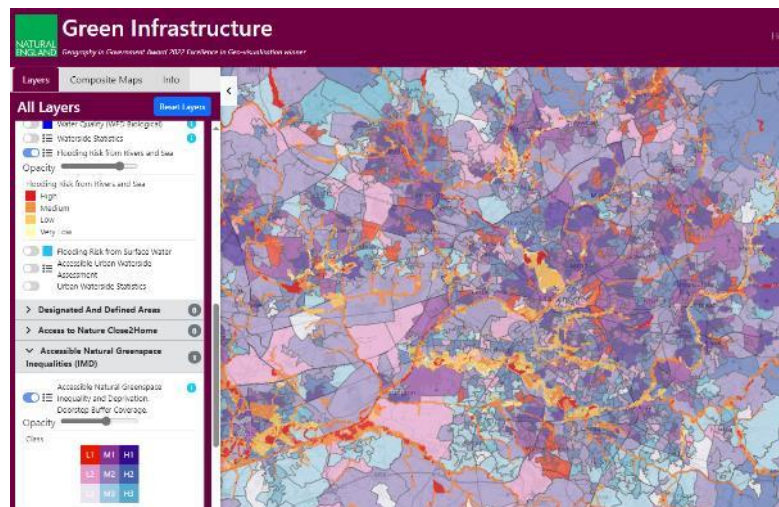
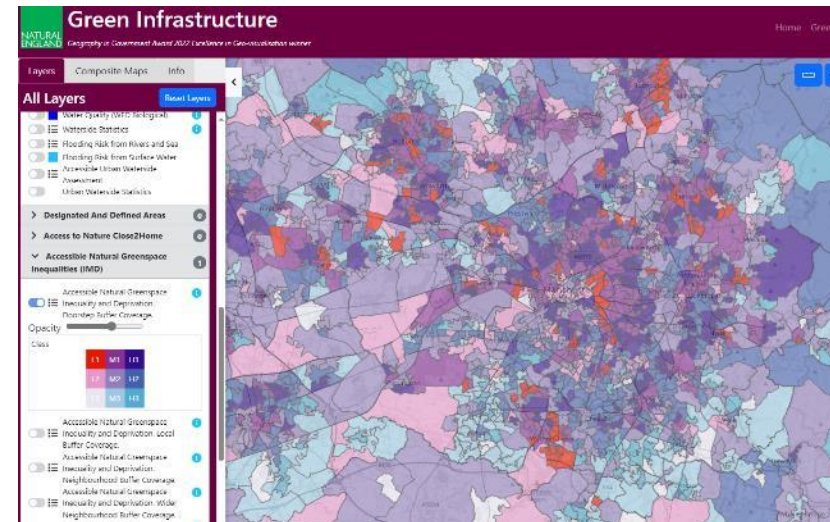
Green Infrastructure Map (naturalengland.org.uk)



1. Data layer: Greater Manchester flooding risk



2. Data layer: Greater Manchester Accessible Natural Greenspace Inequality and Population Density



3. Data sets overlaid, highlighting the areas with the biggest opportunity to reduce flood risk and access to nature to an area with high population density.

B. Partnerships



- The Responsible Authority Network is a forum for LNRS responsible authorities to collaborate across LNRS strategy areas to assist in preparing high-quality LNRSs.
- The [Nature Recovery Network Delivery Partnership](#) is a broad network of cross-sectoral organisations who work together to help deliver the Nature Recovery Network.
- To express an interest in becoming a Nature Recovery Network Delivery Partner, [email](#) Natural England's Nature Recovery Network Partnership Team.

The Nature Recovery Partnership and Management Group



Management Group



Landowners Conservation

Farming Species Health

Local Government Science

Transport Landscapes

People Birds Water

Urban Business Woodland

Development Commercial Forestry

Green Finance Access and recreation

Government Reps

Sectoral Reps

Supporting Local Delivery Partnerships

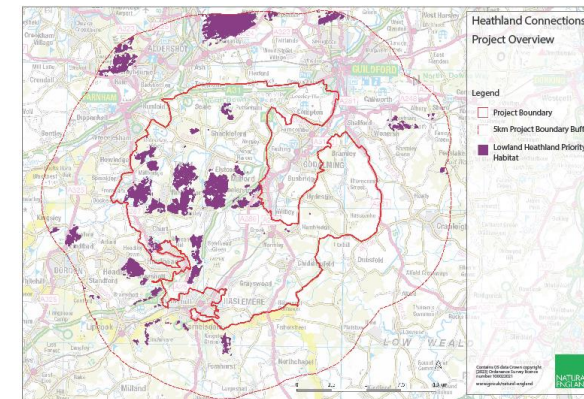
- Dedicated NRN and LNRS Senior Advisors across our Area Teams
- Supporting multi-partner nature projects at local and regional level e.g. 12 Nature Recovery Projects, 13 more committed under EIP. These landscape-scale projects will:
 - see newly created and restored wildlife-rich habitats, corridors and stepping-stones to help wildlife populations move and thrive across town and countryside
 - improve the landscape's resilience to climate change, providing natural solutions to reduce carbon and manage risk such as flooding
 - allow more people to enjoy and connect with nature on their doorstep



Heathland Connections

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- Heathland Connections is a partnership of landowners and farmers across 16,000ha of the western most section of the Surrey Hills NL.
- The project will enhance, restore, and create wildlife-rich heathland habitat across the landscape, with large areas already designated as Thursley, Hankley and Frensham Commons SPA (Special Protection Area).
- The project will seek innovative solutions to management challenges
- It will also seek to improve access and connection to nature for local communities and visitors whilst balancing the needs of our special wildlife. Together, we aim to create a sustainable recreation management plan to achieve this.
- Partners include National Trust, RSPB, Surrey Wildlife Trust, Hampton Estate, ARC, Waverley Borough Council, Surrey County Council, Surrey Hills National Landscape, Forestry England, MOD, Natural England.





Birmingham City – Doorstep to Landscape Strategic Project



Aims of project:
To promote green infrastructure and connection with nature in the City, to break down barriers and use it as a mechanism for improving health and life expectancy.

Why Birmingham City?

- *Very diverse communities and deprivation. Around 1 in 5 of population have disabilities and one third ethnic minorities*
- *Low access to GI - testing of standards in urban context.*
- *Access to nature can address life expectancy differentials - (10 years difference inside ring road to outside it)*
- *Time is right – many projects to build on/opportunities to influence*

Mechanisms:

- *Research and evidence gathering around barriers to nature and implementation of GI in a busy city environment*
- *Embedding policy through local plans*
- *Developing well being and health connection with partners*
- *Working with the education service to bring influence through primary schools*
- *Testing approaches and focussed project bid development e.g. to support community champions*

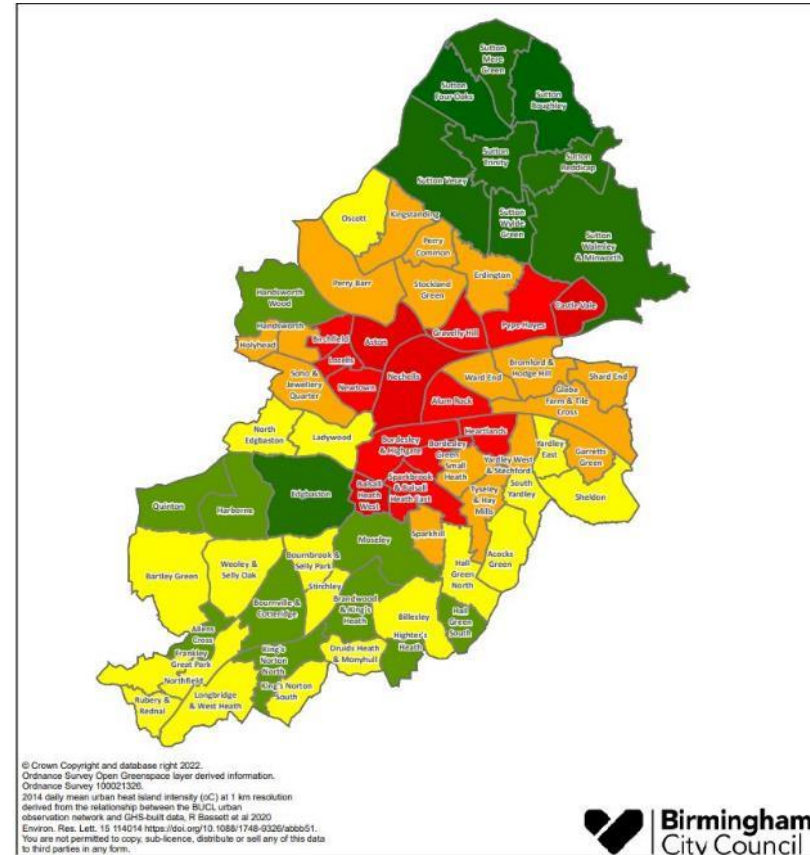
Partners: (e.g.)

West Midlands Combined Authority – managerial, community, research
Birmingham City
Future Parks Accelerator Programme
Active Well Being Society
Birmingham Voluntary Service Council
EcoBirmingham
Groundwork; *Many more*

Key 'Pillars' - our activities



Birmingham City – Doorstep to Landscape

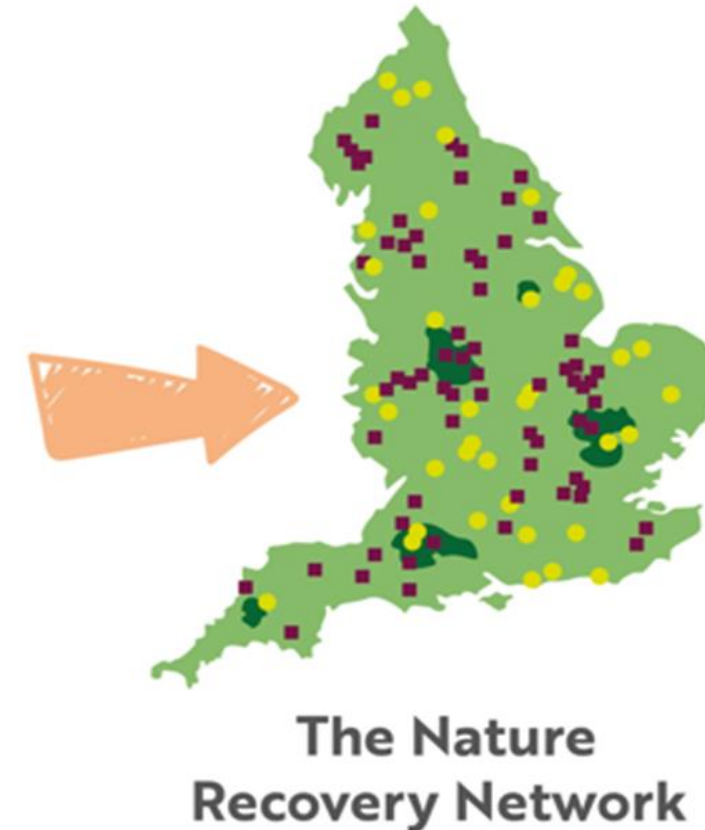
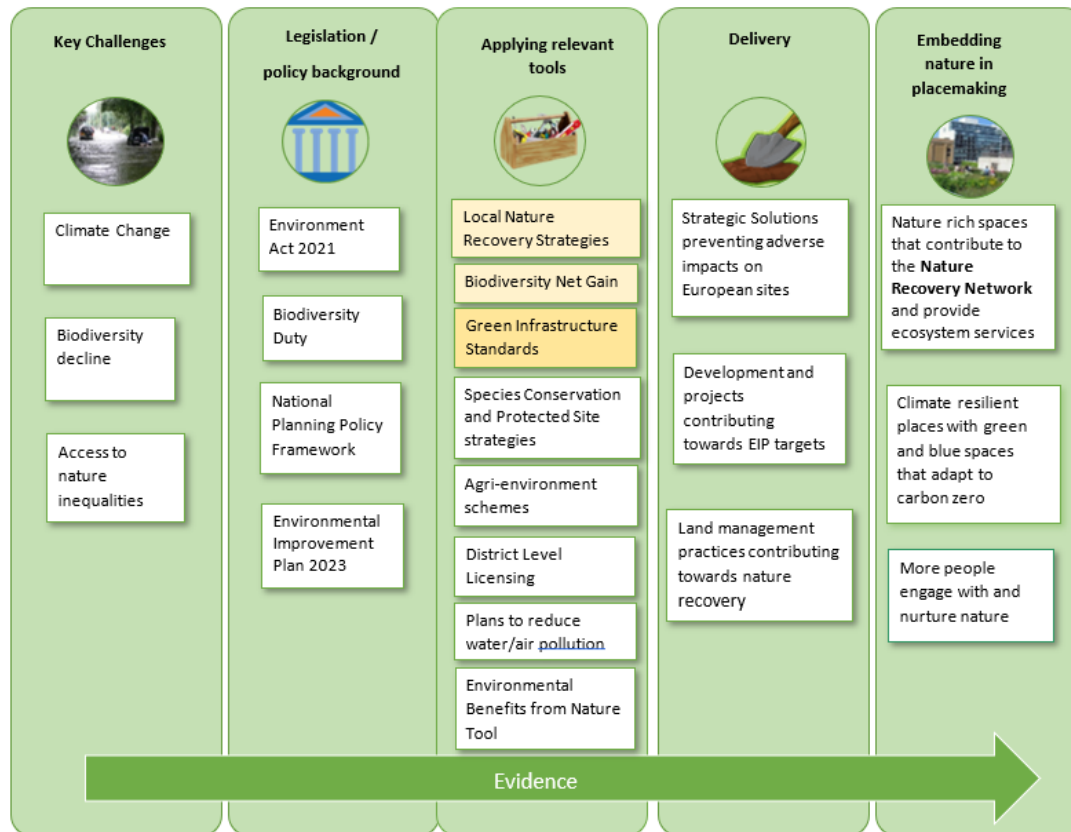


Urban Greening Initiative



- Partnership with Natural England, National Lottery Heritage Fund and National Trust.
- A national urban landscape accreditation.
- Will help deliver the 15-minute commitment and urban nature recovery.
- Aims to mobilise transformational outcomes in urban greening – through public, private and philanthropic sources.

C. Integration of policies and funding streams





Thank you

Bella.Jack@naturalengland.org.uk
Steph.Matthews@naturalengland.org.uk
Clare.Warburton@naturalengland.org.uk

Roundtable 1

Using tools and support to engage with other services

Key questions

1. What kind of tools and support have you used to engage with other services?
2. What's worked well and what hasn't worked well?
3. How can the toolkit data layers and tools briefing note help you and how would you use these?



Roundtable template

Toolkit and support used?	Whats worked well?	What hasn't worked well?	How can the toolkit data layers and tools help you?

Overview of the toolkit workshops and practical pointers for delivery

- Workshop recording overview and feedback
- Using the different resources to support delivery of the sessions
- Practical pointers including adapting resources to reflect local needs

What did you think?



The image is a screenshot of a video conference. The main content is a slide with the following text:

Council priorities and challenges

- What are the council's key challenges and priorities?
- We are also facing a climate and biodiversity emergency
- What are the environmental impacts affecting service delivery?
- How are you linking policy agendas together?

On the right side of the slide, there are two video thumbnails. The top one shows a woman with glasses and red hair. The bottom one shows a man with glasses and a dark shirt. The slide also features the Local Government Association logo in the top left and the PAS (planning advisory service) logo in the top right.

It's a flexible approach!

- How you want to deliver the workshops is flexible depending on time, diary pressures and subject.
- You may want to deliver all three workshops together as part of one workshop or spread these out individually over a longer period.
- Timeframes and duration may also be determined by key milestones which are driving the need for local authorities to take action.
- You may want to map those alongside other key dates such as key council meetings.
- Workshops sessions may have different audiences and objectives such as informing and collaborating and including members, officers and external partners.

Toolkit products



Workshop planning template
(Design 3 x workshops and exercises)

Challenges and opportunities
Barriers and solutions
Funding and delivery



Supporting resources

Slidedecks
Briefing notes
Recordings



Appendices

Action template - council activities, assets & responsibilities
Useful data layers and key headlines which can be used to inform conversations

Action template

Service	Priorities & Opportunities				Barriers & Solutions				Funding & delivery			
	Status quo	Strengths	Weaknesses	Opportunities	Outcomes	Barriers	Solutions	Partners	Why	What	How	How much
	What projects and activities are you currently delivering?	What has worked well?	What hasn't worked well?	What could be improved/what more could you do?	Outcomes - What are the types of outcomes your looking at delivering?	What's stopping you from delivering the opportunities?	How can these barriers be addressed?	Who else do you need to work with internally and externally?	Why are you taking your opportunity forwards?	What is the project and/or activity involved?	How will it be delivered and by whom?	How much will it cost and does it stand up financially?
Economic regeneration												
Education												
Environmental health												
Estates												
Finance												
Health and social care												
Highways												
Housing												
Leisure and recreation												
Planning												
Transport												
Waste												

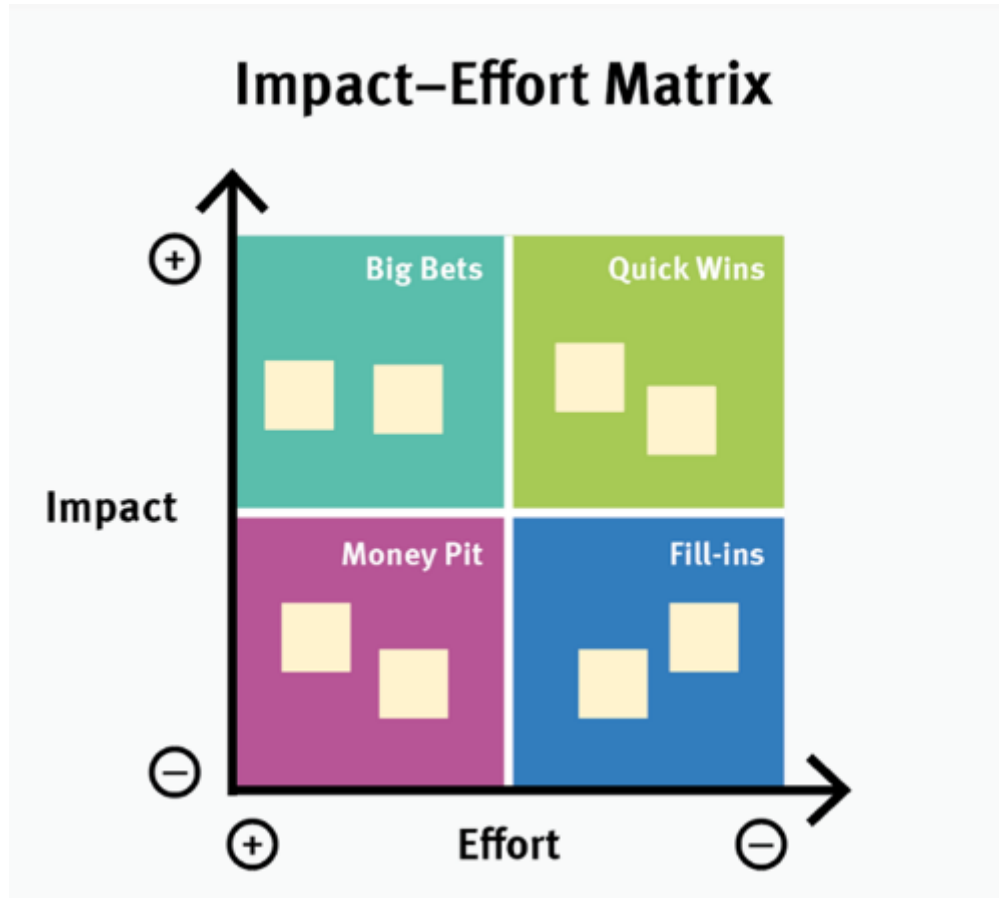


Long list of opportunities

Refined list of opportunities

Action plan and review

Impact-Effort Matrix



1. **Quick wins** include low-effort, high-impact items that are worth pursuing.
2. **Big bets** include high-effort, high-value items; they should be carefully planned and prototyped, and, if executed, are likely to help make significant improvements .
3. **Money pit** includes low-impact, high-effort items that are not worth the business investment; there are better places to spend time and resources.
4. **Fill-ins** comprise low-effort, low-impact items that may be easy to implement but may not be worth the effort as their value is minimal.

Workshop structure

- Purpose
- Scene setting
- Discussion
- Group exercise
- Opportunities



Workshop planning template

Workshop 1: Priorities & Opportunities

Time	Agenda	Lead
5 mins	Welcome, housekeeping, introductions	TBC
10 mins	Introduction to the toolkit and this session Purpose: To understand what nature and the governments nature recovery reforms mean for your council, what activities are already being delivered and what else could you do to take full advantage of these new opportunities?	TBC
20 mins	Scene setting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Run through Workshop #1 slidedeck and pre reading materials: What are the council's key priorities and challenges? How can nature and the government's nature recovery reforms help address these? What are the opportunities and types of interventions being delivered? 	TBC
45 mins	Discussion - what does all this mean for your service? Key questions to address: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> What are your service priorities and objectives? What are the challenges affecting delivery? How can nature and the governments nature recovery reforms help address these? What are the risks of doing nothing? Use the GIS data layers to inform the discussion around challenges.	All
15 mins	Break	
45 mins	Break out session <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Split into groups and use the first part of the "action" template to map out the status quo including: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Existing - What opportunities are you currently delivering? Strengths - What's worked well? Weaknesses - What hasn't worked well? Opportunities - What could be improved and/or what more could you do? Use the checklists, template and GIS data layers to help inform the process. Depending on whose in the room you will need to think creatively about how the groups are organized so that they are not made up of the same service representatives so there is a mix. 	All
30 mins	Feedback and review <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Each group presents back on what they have discussed and key issues raised. All to discuss and agree on a short list of immediate opportunities to be explored in more detail as part of Workshop #2. 	All
10 mins	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Final comments and next steps for Workshop #2 Close 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TE

Workshop 2: Barriers & Solutions

Time	Agenda	Lead
5 mins	Welcome, housekeeping, introductions	TBC
10 mins	Introduction Purpose: To understand what's stopping your council from taking full advantage of the new opportunities and the types of solutions that could help address these barriers.	TBC
20 mins	Scene setting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recap on Workshop #1 issues and immediate opportunities. Run through Workshop #2 slidedeck and pre reading materials: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Where does nature fit into a council and why? Why do personalities and politics matter? How to balance short term pain vs long term gain? What are the technical barriers to delivery? What types of policies can provide the basis for acting? 	TBC
45 mins	Discussion - what does all this mean for your service and priorities Key questions to address: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Why pitching for nature is hard and what are the barriers to getting commitment? How do you go about making things happen alongside all the other council priorities? Who do you need to engage with and how do you demonstrate the benefits? Use the mindmap templates to get people to think about their services and how these fit together.	All
15 mins	Break	
45 mins	Break out session <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Split into same groups as Workshop 1 and use the second part of the "action" template to review and shortlist the immediate opportunities. Key considerations include: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Outcomes - What are the outcomes you are looking to deliver as part of the immediate opportunities identified? Barriers - What's stopping you from delivering the immediate opportunities identified? Solutions - How can these barriers be addressed? Stakeholders - Who else do you need to work with? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use the barriers and solutions template and the impact-effort matrix to inform the process. 	All
30 mins	Feedback and review <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Each group presents back on what they have discussed and the emerging front runner opportunities identified. All to discuss and agree on a short list of front runner opportunities to be explored in more detail as part of Workshop #3. 	
10 mins	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Final comments and next steps for Workshop #3 Close 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TE

Workshop 3: Funding & Delivery

Time	Agenda	Lead
5 mins	Welcome, housekeeping, introductions	TBC
10 mins	Introduction Purpose: To understand how the opportunities are going to be delivered. How might you make the whole thing work financially and who else needs to be involved including potential partnerships both internally and externally.	TBC
20 mins	Scene setting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recap from Workshop #2 key issues and front runner opportunities. Run through Workshop #3 slidedeck and pre reading materials: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> What are the funding needs, pressures and cost of doing nothing? How can local authorities make savings, secure funding, investment and generate revenue? What are the delivery models being used by local authorities? What are the challenges, opportunities and risks for your authority? 	TBC
45 mins	Discussion - what does all this mean for you? Key questions to address include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What are the types of savings, funding and finance sources already being secured by your council and can these be replicated across other departments? What are the models of delivery that are already being delivered by your council and can these be replicated across other departments? What are the partnerships already in place that can support delivery and is there an opportunity to build on these or form new ones? 	All
15 mins	Break	
45 mins	Break out session <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Split into same groups as Workshops 1&2 to develop a dragons den style pitch for a preferred front runner opportunity. Use the third part of the "action" template to map out what the front runner opportunities look like in more detail including why you are taking them forward, what they are (activity, project or both), how and when will they be delivered and how do they stack up financially? Use the risk analysis 4 box template for the best-worst analysis. Agree on which front runner opportunity should be presented as a dragons den style pitch and use the A 2 minute idea presentation template to develop this. 	All
30 mins	Review <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Each group delivers a dragons den style pitch on their preferred front runner to the other groups. All to discuss and agree which dragons den style pitch should be taken forward as part of a future business case. 	
10 mins	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Final comments and next steps Close 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TE



Local
Government
Association

Priorities & opportunities template



Service	Status quo	Strengths	Weaknesses	Opportunities
Education				
Environmental health				
Estates				
Finance				
Health and social care				
Highways				
Housing				
Leisure and recreation				
Planning				
Transport				
Waste				

Key challenges and priorities

Spending cuts

Economic uncertainty

Climate change

Welfare reform

Youth unemployment

Housing need

Aging population

- Increasing prosperity
- Strengthening communities
- Improving the environment
- Protecting the vulnerable



Briefing Notes

Briefing Note: Nature recovery – why bother?

What do the governments nature recovery reforms mean for you as a local authority?

What's the problem?

Local authorities face unprecedented challenges, including spending cuts, economic uncertainty, climate change, welfare reform, youth unemployment, housing need and an aging population – which require a whole new way of thinking and delivering. Recovering or enhancing biodiversity doesn't just allow nature to thrive, it provides multiple benefits: sustaining and regenerating economies, creating jobs, increasing climate resilience and enhancing the health and wellbeing of residents and businesses.

The UK is bottom 10% globally and worst G7 nation for biodiversity loss. Nature is key to mitigating and adapting to climate change and supporting health and wellbeing.

What are the governments nature recovery reforms?

Tackling nature recovery needs to happen now at scale and the government has set out a range of new policies and funding mechanisms to enable delivery of a national Nature Recovery Network (NRN). These include a new system of Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRS), agri-environment schemes, Biodiversity Net Gain together with wider environmental net gains and Green Infrastructure Standards. The Government's Environmental Improvement Plan, published in January 2023, has an overarching goal to achieve 'thriving plants and wildlife' and reinforces the various targets and tools to accomplish this.

The Government's Environmental Improvement Plan includes key commitments to halt the decline of nature by 2030 and every household to be within a 15-minute walk of a green space or water.

What do these mean for local authorities?

England's local authorities at all levels (county, unitary, districts, boroughs and combined authorities) are vital to driving nature recovery outcomes and the wide suite of benefits that flow to local communities from its recovery. What is now needed is for local authorities and partners to effectively embed nature across all their functions and assets. The levers and approaches to achieve this are fortunately now many and varied. Whilst not all of them are statutory, there are now many other underlying targets and policy hooks such as the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) which refer to and promote their use.

Statutory duties for local authorities include Local Nature Recovery Strategies, to help plan nature recovery and Biodiversity Net Gain, Species Conservation and Protected Site strategies and a strengthened biodiversity duty in the NERC Act.

Voluntary tools include Green Infrastructure Standards, ecosystem service provision from BNG (Environmental Benefits from Nature tool), Strategic Solutions, Landscape Character Assessments LCAs, Shared Nitrogen Action Plans and District Level Licensing and conservation covenants to help deliver nature recovery.

What's the opportunity for local authorities?

There are a number of opportunities that implementing nature recovery activities offers local authorities to deliver a number of wider local authority goals. Getting more for less through delivering wider benefits for health, sustainable travel, food resilience etc. Financial stability, with increased access to a range of nature recovery funding pots as well as potential income generation through green finance and investment such as BNG, selling carbon credits and ELMS. Potential for increased employment and volunteering opportunities to support

delivery of projects. Increased reputation as a forward thinking local authority that is doing the best for its communities by delivering greener, healthier and more resilient communities.

Over half (57%) of the annual value of ecosystem services in England in 2020 was derived from cultural services, predominantly recreation and tourism (£12.4 billion) and health benefits (£5.5 billion) associated with this (ONS 2023)

What's the risk of doing nothing?

First and foremost you don't deliver on your statutory duties or legislative standards and increased environmental risk to health, travel, flooding etc. There is insufficient public funding available to enhance nature and lack of business models to attract alternative sources. Increased costs through delivering traditional grey interventions and exposure to increased risks. A reputational risk as a local authority which hasn't tackled the risks from climate change and environmental degradation. Increasingly people and businesses will not want to live and work in the area. Its also important to understand the risks of doing something and how these could affect future delivery i.e. changes to budgets and funding, political priorities, new policy and legislation etc.

There are costs of not acting. It is estimated that the health and social care costs of air pollution in England could reach £5.3 billion by 2035 unless action is taken.

So, what should you be aiming for?

In the short term, the focus should be on meeting what is legally required particularly delivering LNRS, BNG and NERC duties and understanding how these link to core business. Quick wins could include building nature into the procurement of products and services, changing maintenance regimes such as no mow and establishing a nature recovery commitment and nature recovery lead. In the longer term, the aim should be to adopt a clear and ambitious approach to nature recovery ensuring that corporate commitments take account of nature and how it can be used to support the delivery of wider benefits.

Whose already delivering on this?

There are lots of examples where local authorities are already embedding nature as part of their priorities and realising the benefits.

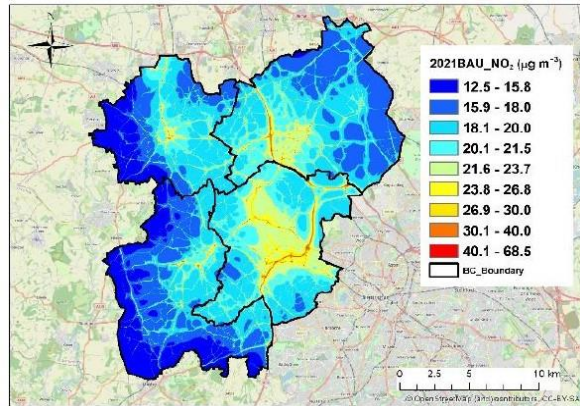
- > [Greater Manchester Combined Authority](#) is developing innovative funding models, blending private and public-sector funding opportunities through the Greater Manchester Environment Fund.
- > [Bath & North East Somerset Council](#) declared climate and biodiversity emergencies in 2020 and established the role of a 'Biodiversity Champion' for an elected member emphasising the environment within the Corporate Strategy.
- > [Buckinghamshire Council's](#) cross-departmental working with ecology teams, legal departments and planning teams has helped prepare for mandatory biodiversity net gain.
- > [Hampshire County Council](#) demonstrate the benefits of external-partnerships for county-wide nature recovery. Sequestering carbon
- > [Plymouth City Council](#) have set up an arm's length, council-owned 'Habitat Bank'

Key questions to consider ahead of the workshop:

- What are your services key priorities and challenges?
- How can nature and the government's nature recovery reforms help address these?
- What are the opportunities already being delivered?
- What's worked well, what hasn't worked well and how can the learning be replicated to other services?
- What could be improved and/or what more could you do?

Useful data layers

Urban Stress - Air Quality

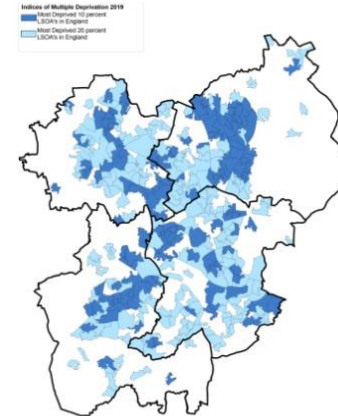


32% of the Black Country population live in wards exceeding the 2021 WHO Targets for NO₂

64% of the Black Country population live in wards exceeding the 2005 WHO guideline level for PM_{2.5}

NAEI emission data & WM-Air modeling (Zhong et al., 2021).

Urban Stress - Indices of Multiple Deprivation

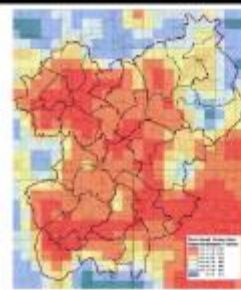


19.1% of LSOAs in the Black Country are in the most 10% deprived nationally

Urban Stress – Access to Greenspace

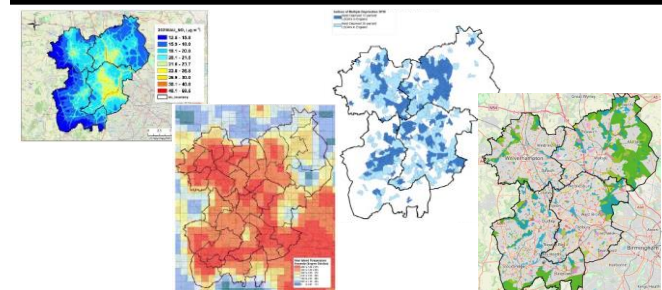


Urban Stress - Urban Heat Island



The urbanised nature of the Black Country means the area is more prone to higher temperatures via the urban heat island effect

Tree Planting Opportunity Map



An A-Z of quick wins

- A - Use suppliers that have an ethical mission/framework.
- B - Audit carbon/biodiversity offsetting claimed by third-party firms (avoid 'greenwashing').
- C - Train new staff on nature-based solutions.
- D - Audit projects that directly impact habitats/vegetation.
- E - Assess impact of borough-wide procurement of products and services (e.g., lighting).
- F - Check pension provider supports ethical investment.
- G - Source food locally, avoiding palm oil.
- H - Avoid peat-based products.
- I - Identify mono-culture/single-use decisions/outcomes and explore if a multi functional approach could deliver better outcomes.
- J - Design for bio-solar roofs rather than only solar.
- K - Understand the council's policy of 60% native planting schemes.
- L - Help people benefit from nature through increased direct experience.
- M - Require an understanding of the climate and ecological crisis and evidence of personal action through the recruitment process.
- N - Share best practice across teams.
- O - Understand the biodiversity value of your assets/under your control.

- P - Identify opportunities for habitat creation.
- Q - Recognize and promote the health and wellbeing benefits of nature-rich places.
- R - The value of holistic NHS delivery, through social prescribing, volunteering in green spaces, supporting community gardens.
- S - Provide Nature/Biodiversity/climate courses at Sutton College.
- T - Invest in local initiatives to reduce food miles and support local employment/expertise in food growing (e.g., Sutton Community Farm, ICR herb growing, High Down horticulture skills).
- U - Ensure Nature's services are recognized as critical infrastructure in new development.
- V - Be familiar with terms such as Nature-Based Solutions, Natural Capital, Biodiversity Net Gain, and what they mean to your service.
- W - Write/approve policy, provide maps and tools to guide developers to see nature as essential/added value.
- X - Implement a Kerbside Strategy - to get more nature-greening along roads and encourage active travel.
- Y - When attenuation tanks are proposed, ask for further justification - green roofs and rain gardens should be the first choice.
- Z - Think outside your role or service, help colleagues across the council.

Roundtable 2

Identifying hooks and quick wins

Hooks



What are the Hooks

Statutory legislation, guidance, concept or idea that is used in daily practice by a particular professional as part of their work priorities.



What are the Hooks

- They are translation devices that can help YOU get core environmental messages communicated and accepted amongst different audiences and publics
- We need to translate environmental concepts and work into other sectors priorities **on their terms not ours.**



WHY Hooks?

- Environment and nature has its own complex jargon and multiple concepts.
- These are not well understood or user friendly
- Different audiences work with different language and priorities
- Unfamiliar terms and concepts breed confusion/alienation



Examples

Audience	Hooks	Quick Win
Health	Natural Health Service	social prescribing options for walking (defined local trails)
Education	National curriculum	sign up to National education nature park
Planning	NPPF Par 180 /Env Act 2021	revised local plan policy on BNG or SPG

Key questions

1. What are the key hooks; priorities of the relevant service area or department and how can nature be used to address these?
2. What are the quick wins which can be used to move away from business as usual?
3. Are these generic, can they be grouped or can they be tailored to specific services?
4. How do these differ between assets and activities?



Roundtable template

What have you done?	What could you do?	What have you learnt today?	What can PAS do?

Feedback and interest in the toolkit

Review objectives



To find out more about the draft toolkit, the resources that have been produced so far and how to use them.



Gain sufficient understanding of how the range of tools and resources can be used for effective facilitation and managing group working within their own local authorities.




Hear about your council's own nature recovery ambitions and how you have engaged with other services to inform further development and improvement.

Help councils understand a complex world by providing:

A framework for:


- Supporting corporate objectives through the new duties including BNG, Biodiversity Reporting and LNRS
- Understanding the statutory (must do's) and opportunities (could/should do's)
- Deciding what to do (who contributes, objectives, the evidence base, funding, making it happen etc)

 Getting local authorities interested

 Pre work and inception meeting

 **Design and deliver 3 x workshops**

 Useful workshop outputs and relationships

 Ideas to take forward

A process:

- Engaging the right stakeholders
- Working with stakeholders to decide what to do
- Understanding the oversight and governance requirements for your chosen priorities

Workshop template

- Priorities and opportunities
- Barriers and solutions
- Funding and delivery

Slidedecks and briefing notes

Appendices

- Action template - council activities, assets and responsibilities
- Useful data layers
- Key headlines
- Priority steps and checklist

So – marks out of 10?

Does this process & materials help you:

1. Across the council/political buy-in and joining up environmental work across services.
2. Read-across into other plans and strategies and streamlining benefits.
3. A clearer understanding of how to deliver change, saving costs and securing additional funding.
4. A significant tool to help define and deliver the Biodiversity Duty and better Local Nature Recovery Strategy production readiness, with a clearer picture of the issues, opportunities and how to tackle them.
5. A shortlist of priority activities and interventions that can start to be delivered.

Feedback



Have you found this event helpful?



Do you feel better informed about the nature recovery toolkit following this event?



What are the key actions you will take away?

Participants can join at
slido.com with #2359563

<https://app.sli.do/event/bWPgff7nPhRUxF9r6xrgfB>



Thank you and next steps

We shall be reviewing the feedback received to discuss:

- What have we learnt?
- Do people find it useful?
- What do we need to do amend and improve it?
- What could V3 look like?
- How do we roll this out with local authorities?



Thank you

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