



**Sussex
Nature Recovery**
A collective blueprint for targeted action

LNRS: Draft principles for Nature Recovery in Sussex

Draft
10/17/2024



Principles for nature's recovery in Sussex

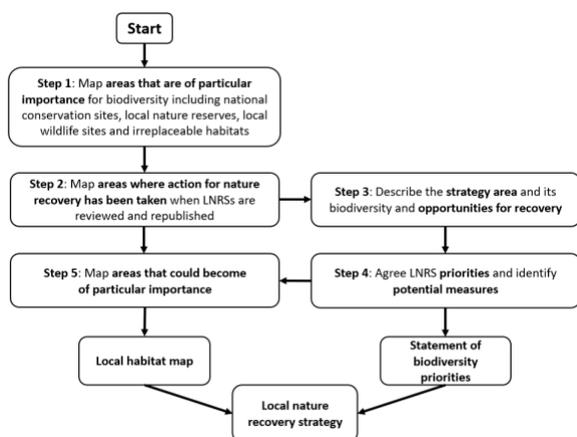
Document purpose

- This document identifies a set of **seven important principles** to guide our approach to nature's recovery across Sussex, and explains the role of Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRS) in implementing them.
- The principles provide context and a 'sense of direction' to inform a key component of the strategies; the identification of priorities for nature's recovery and the measures (actions) needed to realise them.
- For each principle, this document outlines why this is necessary in Sussex (the challenge), what is within the scope of LNRS to achieve, and what actions will need to be driven by other organisations or processes.

How these principles have been developed and fit within the official LNRS process.

These principles have been informed by work undertaken to develop LNRS for Sussex, including a review of all Sussex-based published plans and strategies, as well as conversations and workshops with key LNRS stakeholders. They have also been informed by the work and experience of the Sussex Nature Partnership as the author of this paper, particularly its [Natural Capital Investment Strategy 2019](#).

While developing a set of principles is not a defined step within the LNRS (see Figure 1 below), they reflect key insights outlined in step 3; the development of a description of the strategy area, its biodiversity and opportunities for recovery and the pressures on nature and wider environment. They also provide additional context for step 4: the identification of priorities for nature's recovery within the LNRS area.



Note:

There are two Local Nature Recovery Strategies being developed for Sussex, one for West Sussex and one covering East Sussex and Brighton & Hove. Due to their proximity, the two Sussex counties share similar challenges and recommendations in respect of nature's recovery.

The term Sussex has been used in this document to refer to both LNRS areas where this is the case. Where specific habitats or issues are mentioned, then East Sussex or West Sussex are used.

Proposed principles for nature's recovery in Sussex

The following seven principles will underpin our approach to nature's recovery in Sussex:

1. **In our core areas for nature: hold on to what we have and make it better**
2. **Create a network of 'bigger, better, more and joined' wildlife rich spaces across our rural and urban landscapes**
3. **Think big: work at scale to support ecosystems and natural processes**
4. **Showcase and support action for nature across our farmed landscapes**
5. **Support our vulnerable and threatened species**
6. **Invest in and use nature to deliver wider benefits where we need them**
7. **Bring nature into everyday life, providing places for people to benefit from and engage with nature**

Principle 1: In our core areas for nature: hold on to what we have and make it better

The Challenge:

- Our designated sites, irreplaceable and priority habitats form the foundation of our ‘nature-recovery network’. They capture many of the important spaces and places for wildlife in Sussex and provide core areas of wildlife-rich habitat, around which and from future action can be based (See Figure 2&3* below, which are maps of Protected Sites & Irreplaceable habitat, but exclude priority habitats).
- Together they make up >30% of the LNRS area, which is relatively high compared to some parts of England. The fundamental starting point for nature recovery in Sussex is therefore to conserve these existing areas of important habitat, preventing further loss or degradation, and improving their ecological condition.
- Some of our important areas for nature are well-managed, are in good condition and are the jewels in the crown of our nature recovery network. Others are in poor condition and are not achieving their potential due to external pressures and/or inappropriate management. Across the two LNRS areas, habitats are also very fragmented and so don’t function well as a network.
- Some of our most valuable habitats are particularly under pressure due to their fragmentation, small area and their location outside of designated sites. In 2019, the Sussex Nature Partnership identified these as ‘natural capital assets at risk’¹ and flagged the need to prevent any future loss of these habitats to development. If we lose more of these areas, we not only lose the habitats but the species and the ecosystem services and natural capital benefits they provide.
- Of key significance across Sussex is the condition of our large, flagship designated sites of international importance. Many of these are in poor ecological condition (identified by their ‘failing’ SSSI status), due to a combination of factors, both internal and external to these sites. Those which are estuarine are under particular threat from upstream pollution, sea level rise, increased coastal erosion and visitor pressure. Our important heathland sites are under stress from air pollution and visitor pressure. Urgent work is needed to enhance the condition of these sites and to improve their resilience by connecting them to a wider network of ‘more, bigger and better’ wildlife rich areas. Addressing this situation is complex and requires landscape-scale interventions and collaboration across multiple stakeholders but is vital for the future of these sites and the habitats and species they support.
- Beyond our designated sites, there are many non-designated sites being managed for wildlife (such as the Knepp Estate in West Sussex) which play a vital role as core areas of habitat. There are also many ‘ordinary’ areas of wildlife habitat which form part of our farmed landscape and urban areas. These all make an important contribution to the overall nature recovery network in Sussex and action is needed to ensure that whilst new areas of habitat will be created through each LNRS, we look after what we already have and ensure it makes a greater contribution to nature’s recovery where possible.

¹ Natural Capital Assets at Risk were identified by Sussex Nature Partnership in its Natural Capital Investment Strategy in 2019
https://sussexinp.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/24.-Natural-Capital-Investment-Strategy_ADOPTED_Final_Dec-2019.pdf

The two maps below show the location of nationally designated sites, Local Wildlife Sites and Irreplaceable habitats in East Sussex including Brighton & Hove, and West Sussex. Note these maps do not include priority habitats.

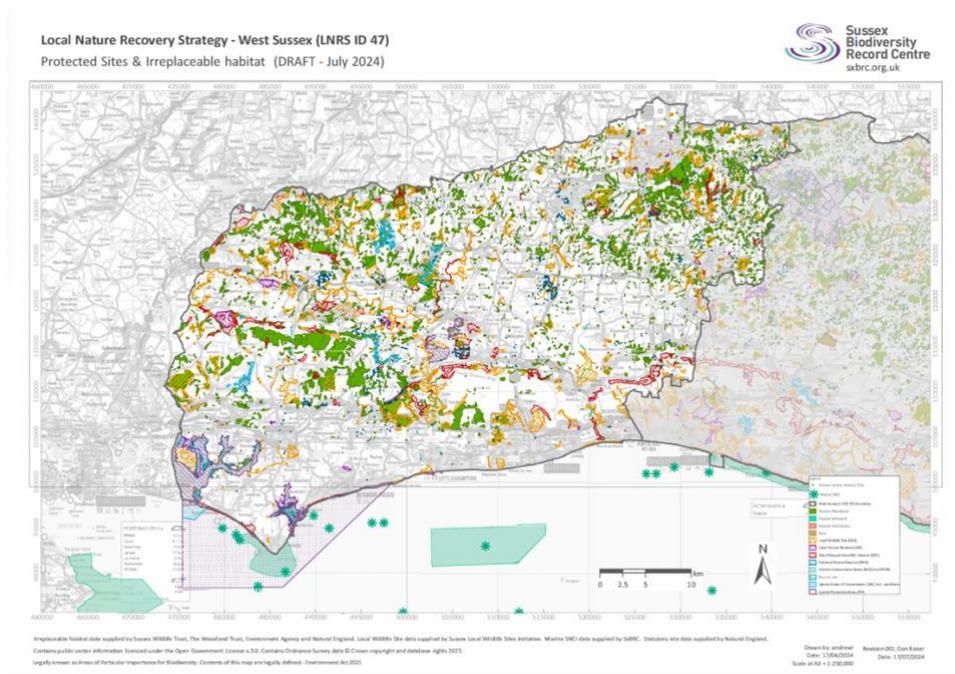
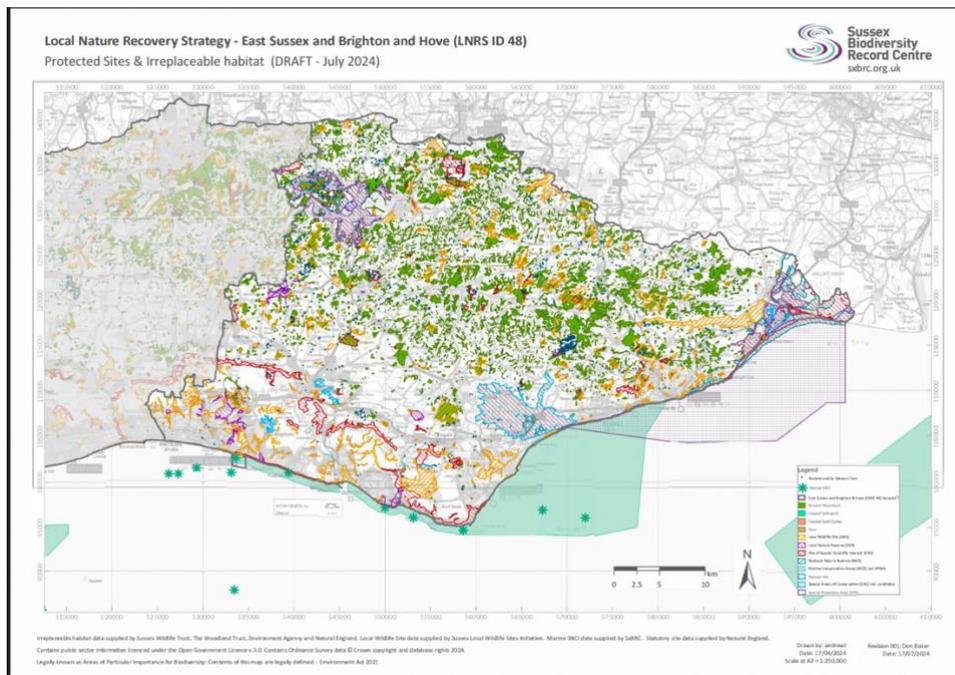


Figure 2 & 3 Protected Sites & Irreplaceable habitat in East and West Sussex (official title: APiB: Areas of Particular Importance for Biodiversity, see Step 1 of statutory guidance).

The role of LNRS:

- Identify areas beyond the APIB (above) that are also of current importance for biodiversity and are therefore an important part of a future Nature Recovery Network for Sussex.
- Identify where the condition of habitats and sites can be improved and specify useful measures to achieve this.
- Identify where the creation of new habitat (in the form of ‘habitat buffers’ or corridors and stepping stones of habitat) can help to expand and better connect existing sites and habitats to reduce fragmentation, improve their ecological functioning and increase resilience to change – **see Principle 2.**
- Understand the pressures on our designated sites, priority and irreplaceable habitats and take action to reduce these where possible. Identify where this can be done through habitat creation and enhancement (Nature-based Solutions) – **See Principle 6.**
- Flag the need for urgent, collaborative action in and around our large, designated sites that are ‘failing’ to reverse their decline and support their recovery.

Action that depends on other mechanisms:

- Improve the management of nationally designated sites where this is needed to bring them into ‘favourable condition’. This is under the jurisdiction of Natural England who work with the landowners on which designated sites are located.
- Reduce direct pressures on these sites, for example from pollution, abstraction and visitor pressure. Other regulatory and governance mechanisms are in place to achieve this.
- Increase protection for priority habitats (particularly ‘Natural Capital at Risk’ in Sussex) from loss to development. Local Authorities can assist with this by embedding this principle within Local Plans and planning decisions.

Principle 2: Create a network of ‘bigger, better, more and joined’ wildlife rich spaces across our rural and urban landscapes

The Challenge:

- As noted in **principle 1**, our designated sites, priority and irreplaceable habitats tend to be small in area, in poor ecological condition and/or disconnected from other wildlife-rich habitats due to development, infrastructure or the presence of other types of land use that lie between them. While we need to hold on to these and make them ‘better’, we also need to create new areas of habitat to expand the core sites that we have and help to ‘join them up’ across the landscape. By creating a ‘network’ of bigger and more connected areas of habitat, we will support species and the ability for these areas of habitat to deliver ecosystem services, such as pollination, water quality, carbon storage and so on.
- Taking action to make areas of habitat ‘bigger, better and joined up’ will be helpful everywhere in Sussex. But in some places, the specific focus may differ depending on what is already there and what is needed.
- For example, some landscapes in Sussex (e.g. High Weald which crosses both counties) are much-valued examples of what a well-connected and wildlife rich landscape looks like and provide an example for other areas to aspire to. They already contain some very useful corridors for wildlife, such as river corridors, field margins, hedges, historic routeways and other features which help species to connect across the landscape. The emphasis in these areas is to protect what is already there whilst seeking opportunities to enhance it by improving habitat condition and buffering and expanding patches of habitat where possible.
- In other areas, the emphasis is to restore the connections between the remaining fragmented areas of habitat scattered across the landscape. The chalk grassland areas across the South Downs National Park and beyond provide such an example, where expanding these areas and joining them up will make the most difference.
- The farmed landscape of Sussex provides many patches and corridors of valuable habitat for wildlife but the potential exists to expand and better connect these for nature alongside food production. Farmers and landowners in some strategic areas are already working on ambitious approaches to ‘landscape scale recovery’ which will help to deliver this, however more can still be done (see **Principle 4** on supporting action across the farmed landscape).
- Our coastal habitats are often subject to coastal squeeze – caught between the sea and the built environment (urban development, roads and rail corridors). With sea level rise, they have ‘no-where to go’ and expansion of these habitats further inland will be very difficult (the opportunities are already scarce). The emphasis in these areas is to identify how best to respond to this habitat loss and create new areas of habitat where it is viable and will remain into the future.
- Some of our habitats and sites are at extreme risk from climate change. In places this is related to habitat loss through sea level rise, in others to habitat degradation and species loss due to changes in temperature, precipitation, pests and disease etc. There is an urgent need to better understand these impacts and to take action to improve the resilience of these habitat types to predicted changes. In general, the bigger and better connected a habitat is, the more resilience it will have to change.

- Across the board, many of our sites and habitats are in poor condition because of lack of management, over-or under grazing or loss of traditional management practices (e.g. coppicing). In some areas, deer numbers are placing significant pressure on woodland habitats, preventing regeneration and impacting flora and fauna. Our water dependent sites are struggling with issues of water quality and flows due to pressures from beyond their boundaries. Creating 'better' areas of habitat and improving their ecological quality can only be done if these key pressures are tackled.
- In our cities, towns and rural settlements we know that residents value 'nature nearby' but that in many cases there is a 'nature deficit' due to the lack of parks and greenspaces or little presence of nature in these spaces. Hyper-local, small-scale action in private gardens, burial grounds, allotments and other types of green spaces can make a vital contribution to supporting 'urban nature'. Beyond individual actions and projects however, there is often little connectivity for wildlife across urban areas or to the wider countryside beyond. Creating more green and blue corridors in our urban areas is an important area for specific action by local authorities. (See **Principle 7** for additional detail on connecting people to nature in our urban environments).

The role of the LNRS:

- Identify where we can create more habitat across the landscape (rural and urban) – thus creating more space for nature across Sussex.
- Specify where we can do this so that we create new corridors or stepping stones for nature – or achieve bigger areas of contiguous habitats with our existing sites and habitats at their core. Build on the existing ambition in Sussex for working together to create bigger and/or joined up areas for nature across the landscape.
- Identify where we can enhance the value of existing corridors within our urban and rural landscape for wildlife (e.g. river corridors, coastal fringe, routeways and transport corridors).
- Help to secure the future of our big flagship sites by identifying how and where to connect them to this wider network of wildlife-rich habitats, increasing their connectivity and resilience.
- Specify measures that will enhance the habitat condition of existing habitats and sites (linked to priorities for nature's recovery).
- Identify issues where collaborative work is required to address the key pressures affecting our habitats (e.g. water quality, deer populations).
- Identify where we have 'nature deficit' in our urban areas and target habitat creation and enhancement in these areas; specify where we can improve existing green and blue spaces for nature and create new green and blue corridors to better connect them.

Action that depends on other mechanisms:

- Designation of new areas for formal protection. This requires separate processes at the national and local level (for Local Wildlife Sites for example).
- Implementation of actions on private land. The LNRS cannot impose land management approaches or instruct landowners on where or how to create habitat on their land - this is their choice. However, LNRS can help by providing insights into what would be strategically

helpful for nature in particular areas and encouraging action, e.g. by signposting to community and farmer-led initiatives.

- Protection of existing habitats from loss to development. These sorts of decisions lie within the planning system, overseen by local planning authorities. The LNRS can, however, influence where habitat creation via 'Biodiversity Net Gain' would best be located. See later sections (*Areas that Could become Important for Biodiversity*) for more information.
- Provision of a local abattoir or creation of markets for local venison and woodland products, which will support the sustainability of management of habitats (e.g. woodland and heathland management, deer control etc). Making this happen will require a range of stakeholders including local government, businesses, landowners, protected landscapes and others.

Principle 3: Think big: work at scale to support ecosystems and natural processes

The Challenge:

- The landscape of Sussex is heavily modified by human presence. As a result, many of our key ecosystems such as woodland, wetlands, heathlands, marine and coastal, and soils are under pressure, and with this comes a threat to their ability to deliver the ecosystem services we all depend on.
- In many places, natural processes such as flood plain function, natural water storage in the landscape, the role of coastal habitats in protecting our shores from coastal erosion, carbon storage in our soils, woodland regeneration/recolonisation and so on - have been lost or degraded to the detriment of both nature and people.
- In other places, traditional practices which mimic natural processes, such as coppicing of woodland, have diminished with implications for the structure and function of the habitats in question.
- Invasion by non-native species provides a threat to ecosystem function across Sussex, particularly in our freshwater ecosystems and woodlands. This may become more serious with climate change.
- In some areas of Sussex, work is going on to encourage the return of natural processes and larger scale 'ecosystem approaches' to nature recovery both on land (e.g. Knepp, Weald to Waves), in our freshwaters (river restoration in the Adur Valley) and our coast/sea (Sussex Bay, the Sussex Kelp Recovery Project); this is leading the way locally and nationally in thinking big and creating a vision of what can be done, but further work is required to scale-up these approaches across each LNRS area.
- Natural geomorphological processes, which move sediment, shape and influence habitats and coastal landforms, have been modified by hard coastal defences which predominate along large sections of the Sussex coastline (with a few notable exceptions where natural coastal processes have been allowed to prevail). Projections for increased sea level rise, sea water inundation and coastal erosion mean that future coastal defence needs are already being investigated by the Environment Agency. Given the severity of risk in some places, these may require revision of existing policies for coastal defence and shoreline management. At the very least, it will stimulate thought as to how best to balance social, economic and environmental needs along our coast in the face of climate change.

The role of the LNRS:

- Identify where the restoration of natural processes has a role to play in supporting nature's recovery and how this can be done.
- Identify where there is potential and appetite to work together at a landscape scale to create and enhance larger areas of contiguous habitats, to support ecosystem functioning at this larger scale.
- Identify where use of specific measures to reintroduce/enhance natural processes can be introduced to support nature's recovery.

Action that depends on other mechanisms:

- Strategic planning for flood risk and shoreline management. This process is led by the Environment Agency and has to balance a range of social, economic and environmental priorities when determining which solution to adopt; however, the LNRS can inform these decision-making processes by identifying where restoration of natural processes could be an option.

Principle 4: Showcase and support action for nature across our farmed landscapes

The Challenge

- C.60% of the landscape of Sussex is farmed (*Land Use in England 2022*). The countryside that we have is very much a product of farming and woodland management that has continued over centuries. This has created many of the ancient habitats we value and supports their management. Yet changes in farm practices and intensification over the decades has also placed pressures on nature and the wider environment, which continue particularly through widespread use of agro-chemicals and impacts on water quality from diffuse pollution.
- Many farms and estates across Sussex already invest in nature on their farms and have done for generations. Where funding has not been available via previous agri-environment schemes or more recently from Environmental Land Management Schemes (ELMS), this is often privately funded. This is a reflection of the personal interest many farmers take in the stewardship of their land.
- In some areas, farmers have come together through ‘farm clusters’ and landscape scale recovery initiatives to identify opportunities to work together over a larger scale. These farmer-led approaches are providing vision and experience for others to follow, and these are likely to be a very important focus for nature recovery in Sussex in the years ahead.
- However, many farmers (particularly those running small, family farms) are working at capacity to merely stay in business in a difficult economic conditions. Although many want to be more proactive in their support of wildlife, they do not have the time or expertise to engage with Nature-based Solutions or complex land management schemes. Additionally, the consequences of an increasingly unpredictable climate, such as the very wet conditions experienced in 2023 and 2024 that followed the drought of 2022, further challenge the stability of farm income.
- The current funding environment for sustainable farming and habitat/species activities (via the Environmental Land Management Schemes (ELMS)) is new and continues to evolve. Many in the sector remain unsure about future funding options for supporting nature on their land. It also remains unclear as to how LNRS will be used to help target distribution of these schemes (if at all). Engagement in the LNRS process has thus been described by many as a ‘slow burn’ – with time needed to engage farmers and landowners in its preparation. It may take more than one LNRS cycle to make progress in this regard.
- In Sussex, the Farming in Protected Landscapes (FiPL) scheme is in place in the South Downs National Park (SDNP), Chichester Harbour National Landscape and High Weald National Landscape and has seen positive uptake for nature-focused projects. SDNP had a positive response from farmers in the Park to a ‘Call for Nature Sites’ initiative.
- Regenerative farming (also called regenerative agriculture) is an approach that is being used by some farmers and landowners in Sussex. Its purpose is to improve the health of land, soil and water while enhancing the wider environment and improving the nutrient density of food produced. It is also ideally suited as an approach in some areas of Sussex such as the High Weald as it works with the complex mixture of habitat types found across that landscape. Regenerative farming could become a key component of nature recovery in the farmed landscape if it can be incorporated into the farming business model and if farmers are supported and encouraged to implement it. Regenerative farming, however, currently lacks a

formal certification process/standard to help to underpin confidence in its application and effectiveness.

What the LNRS can do:

- Work with farmers and landowners (via farm clusters, co-operatives and landscape scale groups) to identify the priorities for nature's recovery that can best be delivered across our farmed landscapes and how and where these can be delivered.
- Capture existing and future ambitions for nature-recovery being expressed by estates, farms, farm clusters and other farmer-led initiatives and demonstrate/showcase this; it is hoped that if included within the LNRS, this may help to unlock funding for these ambitions into the future.
- Identify where Nature-based Solutions (which may attract specific funding for farmers and landowners) could best be located to address wider environmental issues and reduce pressures on wildlife and water resources from agricultural practices. See **Principle 6** for more details.
- Encourage development and adoption of a standardised approach to regenerative farming to ensure its credibility, effectiveness and uptake.

Action that depends on other mechanisms:

- Changes in farming practices and wider engagement with the farming sector to reduce impacts on the environment such as pollution, pesticide use etc. This is being driven by individual farmers, farming organisations, others within the food supply chain, government policy and schemes.

Principle 5: Support our vulnerable and threatened species

To be completed once parallel species related work is done

Principle 6: Invest in and use nature to deliver wider benefits where we need them

The challenge

- Nature-based Solutions are actions that use nature and the natural functions of habitats and ecosystems to tackle pressing issues we face such as flooding, coastal erosion, poor water quality, drought, increasing urban temperatures, carbon storage and so on. In some places they can also be used directly to support human health and wellbeing by improving local environmental quality and opportunity for access to nature.
- Using nature in this way is a ‘win-win’ as it not only uses nature to address a problem, but helps to support nature and wildlife through the creation of more habitats and by supporting better ecosystem function.
- Nature-based Solutions are important as they bring a range of funding sources into the nature-recovery effort e.g. funds that are earmarked not specifically for nature, but for flood risk reduction, public health, water supply, water quality, climate change mitigation and so on. This may certainly be the case in urban areas where few other funds for ‘urban nature’ are available.
- Because Nature-based Solutions are not driven solely by ecological need, the principle of a ‘biodiversity double-lock’ was introduced by the Sussex Nature Partnership in 2019 to ensure that where Nature-based Solutions are used, they are implemented in a way and in a location that provides positive benefits for nature². This is necessary to avoid unintended impacts on nature, such as planting of trees for carbon storage in places where this would damage other types of habitats, or creation of wetlands on chalk aquifers which may have detrimental impacts on the groundwater hydrology.
- A key challenge is to know where best to apply Nature-based Solutions to deliver the required outcomes. Work is going on within Catchment Partnerships, government agencies and water companies across Sussex to help to target, design and deliver these approaches. More can be done, however, to scale up and coordinate activity on the ground to ensure a greater impact.
- New green finance initiatives are often based on Nature-based Solutions, using the creation of new areas of habitat to deliver a desired environmental impact for investors, or if possible, a financial return. They are thus a very important part of how we will have to fund nature and our ‘natural capital’ into the future. Some Nature-based Solutions are more ‘mainstream’ than others and are based on a greater-evidence base or history of use; yet there is a great interest in innovation and demonstration in this area in Sussex.

What the LNRS can do:

- Use available evidence and expertise to identify the wider environmental issues in Sussex where Nature-based Solutions can be part of the approach (and why).
- Engage a wider range of stakeholders in decisions about where habitat creation and enhancement can help to deliver specific benefits of interest to them.

² Sussex Nature Partnership (2019). Natural Capital Investment Strategy https://sussexlnp.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/24.-Natural-Capital-Investment-Strategy_ADOPTED_Final_Dec-2019.pdf

- Specify how and where they can be used effectively – and what benefit to nature this can also help to support (ensuring the ‘win win’).
- Identify where there are options for innovation and ambition in the use of nature-based approaches in Sussex as part of the wider strategy for nature recovery.
- Identify precautions that may need to be taken when considering the application of nature-based solutions in particularly fragile environments

Action that depends on other mechanisms:

- Confirmation of where Nature-based Solutions will be delivered in practice as this is linked to agreement with landowners, confirmation of funding and granting of permissions and licenses if required.
- Detailed design of nature-based projects at the site level, as this requires detailed site-based assessments and project design involving landowners and other project partners.

Principle 7. Bring nature into everyday life, providing places for people to benefit from and engage with nature

The Challenge:

- Spending time in nature has a proven positive impact on our health and wellbeing³ ; repairing the connection between people and nature is also vital to ensure wider support for nature and the types of decisions needed to achieve its recovery.
- Having nature-rich green spaces in neighbourhoods provides many benefits. They bring more habitats and species into our towns and settlements, provide attractive spaces for community development and cohesion, and support nature-based approaches to a changing climate including flood risk reduction and shading/cooling of urban areas from increasing temperatures.
- Natural England has developed 'Accessible Greenspace Standards' (AGS)⁴ to help planners, developers, park managers, local communities and others identify the optimal provision of greenspace in a local area. The most basic of these standards states that *"everyone has access to good quality green and blue spaces close to home for health and wellbeing and contact with nature, ... with an initial focus on access to green and blue spaces within 15 minutes walk from home"*.
- Residents of Sussex particularly value and benefit from 'nature nearby', close to where they live and work day-to-day⁵. However, in parts of Sussex, there is an acknowledged 'nature deficit' with lower-than-average access to nature within 15 minutes walk from people's homes. These areas tend to overlap with areas of deprivation and poor health outcomes. There are thus obvious spatial 'hotspots' in Sussex where creating more and better areas of natural greenspace will help to deliver multiple benefits for people and nature.
- Many of these places are located in our coastal towns, sandwiched between the urbanised coast and the South Downs. There is acknowledged potential to provide green and blue corridors to better connect these settlements to the nature around them.
- In our rural areas, it cannot be assumed that accessing nature is easy, particularly for certain demographic groups; in many cases it relies on linear footpath networks and green space provision may be poor.
- Even in areas where there is no shortage of natural greenspaces nearby, there may be significant social, cultural and economic barriers which prevent people from accessing and engaging with nature.
- In some parts of Sussex, population numbers are growing at pace due to new housing development; not all of these are providing adequate green spaces which will put pressure on existing spaces and/or leave these new populations with insufficient 'nature nearby'.
- Many residents of Sussex are concerned about the decline in nature and engage with local green groups that seek to take action to support wildlife. This hyper-local action can play a very important role in creating change across Sussex whilst also bringing more nature into their communities and lives⁶.

³ See Sussex Nature Partnership publication on 'Shared Outcomes for a collaborative approach to Nature and Health' (2024).

<https://sussexlnp.org.uk/nature-health-wellbeing/>

⁴ <https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/GreenInfrastructure/Downloads.aspx>

⁵ This is a key message coming from the Sussex LNRS survey responses 2024

⁶ Again, this is a principle emerging from the Sussex LNRS Survey responses 2024

- However, it is acknowledged that bringing more nature into urban areas can be challenging for many reasons. Creation of new green spaces may be difficult (e.g. many pressures on existing areas of land; conflicts with utilities/infrastructure provision) and budgets for enhancement of existing spaces are under increasing pressure. Natural verges and areas of grassland in public greenspaces left for pollinators may not be perceived as welcome by many. Greater success will be based in identifying the opportunities locally that are practical and achievable and where possible, community-led.
- Finally, in many areas of accessible natural greenspace, the greatest challenge is to create more meaningful space for nature alongside intensive public use. Disturbance, trampling, vandalism and other such pressures are particularly acute in urban and urban-fringe areas and provide a very particular challenge to delivering more wildlife-rich habitat there.

What can the LNRS do:

- Use existing evidence to identify where there is a 'nature deficit' and where this overlaps with other social, economic and health issues.
- Identify specific areas for intervention – where provision of more greenspace is advised if government Accessible Greenspace Standards are to be met (e.g. 15 minutes walk from accessible greenspace).
- Identify options for enhancing existing greenspaces for nature, making them much more valuable for nature and engaging for local people (e.g. habitat creation, changing mowing regimes, reduce use of chemicals etc.).
- Developing ideas for creation of new green and blue corridors to better connect people to other natural areas within walking distance of their homes.
- Acknowledge the local and hyper-local projects going on throughout Sussex where communities and local residents are doing their bit for nature – linking them to the wider strategy for nature recovery.

Action that depends on other mechanisms:

- Provide additional social/cultural/economic support to enable communities to access and engage with nature in their neighbourhood (this may need to be done via public health, community development or social prescribing mechanisms and will require commitment to collaboration across government sectors and action at the community scale.