

For the attention of LNRS Supporting Authorities,

The Environment Act 2021 (c. 30, “the Act”) requires responsible authorities in England to prepare and publish local nature recovery strategies. In July 2023, Oxfordshire County Council was appointed as the Responsible Authority for leading the preparation of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy for Oxfordshire and your authority was appointed as a Supporting Authority to oversee, support, and guide the preparation of the strategy.

Your role as a Supporting Authority has been integral to the creation of this strategy and Oxfordshire County Council would like to thank you and your officers for their consistent support on this project since August 2023.

Previously in late 2024 we shared a draft copy of the strategy with yourselves and others through a formal public consultation. Now, having made a number of requested changes to the strategy, we are very pleased to share with you the final version of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy for Oxfordshire. Oxfordshire County Council intends to publish the final strategy on its website in the second week of November 2025 (expected the 12<sup>th</sup> November 2025).

The strategy sets out how (and where) people and organisations in Oxfordshire could work together to create a more resilient, connected, network of nature in Oxfordshire with great benefits for both people and wildlife. Additionally, the strategy offers recommended actions to be taken in the wider countryside to improve the environment across the county. The strategy contains:

1. The **Description of the Strategy Area** – a written description of biodiversity in the county with an explanation of what the LNRS is and how it has been prepared.
2. The **Statement of Biodiversity Priorities** (SBP) – a list of actions to enhance or create habitats in Oxfordshire that would enable the county to achieve priority outcomes for biodiversity. Delivering these actions is of great importance in Oxfordshire.
3. The **Species Priorities List** (SPL) – a list of species that require additional, bespoke actions in order to recover their populations and range in the county.
4. The **Local Habitat Map** – an online, public, interactive map tool that identifies the locations where habitat creation or enhancement is most likely to provide the greatest benefits for nature, certain species, and the wider environment in Oxfordshire. The mapped actions come from the actions listed in the SBP and SPL (above)
- 5.

### **What we are asking of you**

As a Supporting Authority, we (Oxfordshire County Council) are now sharing the Local Nature Recovery Strategy documents and map with you to invite you and enable you to begin your democratic approvals processes and seek endorsement from your authority for the publication of this strategy.

Please note that whilst the regulations state that there is a 28-day window to raise a notice with the Responsible Authority if your Supporting Authority needs to object to the publication of the final LNRS (this objection is called a “publication advisory notice” or PAN). However, this letter

sent to you on the 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2025 is not designed to start or trigger that process. In Oxfordshire, we (County Council) spoke with you (the Supporting Authorities) and understood the need for local authorities to have more time to review this final LNRS and to ensure that the strategy has time to go through your various democratic processes. Therefore, Oxfordshire County Council is giving Supporting Authorities the opportunity to start their democratic processes earlier than the start of the 28-day window. This letter and the accompanying strategy is designed to invite you to start that process and to notify you that we intend to send the 28-day letter to you on Thursday the 25<sup>th</sup> of September 2025 and the 28-day period would end on Wednesday the 22<sup>th</sup> October 2025. We strongly encourage you to let us know as early as possible of any concerns or problems with the strategy that you think might cause you to need to raise a PAN during the 28-day window. This can allow us an opportunity to rectify any relevant problems before that time. Please ensure that you all re-read the [Regulations](#) that we are all being held to during this LNRS process.

Please note that between July – late October the documents will go through a full design process including proofreading. You should not expect any major changes to these documents but there may be tweaks to wording or layout to improve the look and flow of the documents as well as the wording and functionality of the map tool.

We sincerely look forward to having endorsement from all Supporting Authorities to be able to publish this first Local Nature Recovery Strategy for Oxfordshire. Once published, the LNRS documents and map may not be changed until their formal review and republication in 3-10 years' time unless specific agreement is sought from the secretary of state.

Kind regards,

Chloe

**Chloe Edwards**  
**Local Nature Recovery Strategy Project Manager**  
**Oxfordshire County Council**

**Reference materials:**

- **LNRS Statutory Guidance:**  
[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/1146160/Local\\_nature\\_recovery\\_strategy\\_statutory\\_guidance.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1146160/Local_nature_recovery_strategy_statutory_guidance.pdf)
- **The Environment (Local Nature Recovery Strategies) (Procedure) Regulations 2023:**  
<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2023/341/made>
- **The Environment Act (2021):** <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2021/30/contents>