



### Enhancing species rich grasslands

- Protect areas of semi natural woodland and seek opportunities to expand them where appropriate, using native broadleaved species
- Identify native woodland creation opportunities in the farmed landscape
- Resourcing pine marten populations, preying on grey squirrels, are paving the way for red squirrels to reclaim their rightful habitats
- Managing deer and goat numbers allows for the natural regeneration of semi-natural woodlands
- Upland hay meadows need protecting and enhancing. For example, by removing grazing animals early, and continuing to cut for hay
- Whin silt and waxcap (fungi) grasslands also need the right grazing regime

### Trees and woodland improvement

- Protect areas of semi natural woodland and seek opportunities to expand them where appropriate, using native broadleaved species

### What are the opportunities in this area?



- An overall aim is to see a connected landscape
- Habitats such as moorland, species rich grasslands, woodlands and wetlands would be connected throughout the Border Uplands area and nearby landscapes, including into Scotland
- Peatland restoration
- Grip blocking can reverse the damage caused by drainage, benefit wildlife, boost carbon storage, and mitigate downstream flooding
- Removing invasive trees, such as self-seeded conifers, allows native plants to flourish, enhancing biodiversity and restoring natural habitats
- Reducing or altering grazing can enable diverse plant life to recover and thrive

### Connectivity

There are many opportunities for nature protection and enhancement in the Border Uplands area.

Is there space for more hedges, better hedge management, trees in hedges on every farm? Space for a pond? Trees along riverbanks?

### What are the opportunities in this area?

## Contact information

Let us know what you think.

We have suggested some ideas in this leaflet, but what do you think are the most important actions that could be undertaken to help nature thrive in this area? Whether you manage land, run a business or are a local resident, we want to hear your views.

If you are a farmer or landowner there will be a more detailed consultation for you.

### Contact us

Email: [lnrs@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:lnrs@northumberland.gov.uk)

WhatsApp: 07929 746542

You can also leave voice notes and/or videos via our WhatsApp.



Leave your comments below:

Please note: Participation is voluntary, and you can join at any stage. There will be a consultation on the final document. While all public bodies will have a legal obligation to have regard to the LNRS, it is non-binding for private landowners. Private land managers will not be required to make changes or designate new nature reserves because of the LNRS.

- Identify win-win scenarios that align environmental management with profitable farm businesses
- Harness nature-based solutions to enhance farm adaptability and land resilience
- Tailor the strategy to reflect real-world situations, by highlighting key action areas
- Balance what is realistic and achievable, alongside effective food production
- Influence future funding opportunities, from a range of public and private sources
- If you work for a public body, the LNRS can help you to implement your legal duties to conserve and enhance the environment

### How can the LNRS help your business?



### How will it be delivered?

The LNRS will work alongside the new Environmental Land Management (ELM) scheme. Together, LNRS and ELM will determine how the Government will fund land-based environmental and climate projects. Funding will also be available through Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) and other nature-focused financial programmes.

Together we can deliver a wide range of benefits that play a vital role in enhancing our landscape.

- Influences future resources and funding allocations
- Represents your views on what is feasible and practical on your land
- Demonstrates a better alignment of food production and nature recovery

By contributing to our LNRS, you can help shape a practical and achievable strategy that:

No one knows the land like someone who has been working on it for generations. Which is why we want our LNRS to reflect the views and priorities, experience, knowledge, and the understanding of our farmers, land managers, landowners, and local organisations in the North of Tyne area who know the land inside out.

Our natural environment is a resource shared by everybody. It is important that we all have our say about the actions that should be taken to support nature recovery.

### Why does your input matter?

Your involvement now can shape what we do for nature, future funding, local planning policy and how we do things differently.

## What is the Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS)?

Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRS) aim to create and implement locally tailored solutions to improve our natural environment, address species loss, and build resilience in landscapes across England.

The North East Combined Authority oversees the LNRS in Northumberland, Newcastle, and North Tyneside, with Northumberland County Council leading the project. This strategy will serve as an essential plan for protecting our wildlife.

Preparing and implementing the strategy will require a collective effort involving farmers, landowners, land managers and local organisations who already have a vast knowledge of our landscape. Anyone involved in the local environment is encouraged to contribute to the strategy.

## Border Uplands Nature Recovery Conversations





We know there is already good work taking place for nature and biodiversity in some areas. We recognise the careful management over generations that has kept good habitats and species.

**The coloured sites on the map are simply the existing nature designations.**

Orange = National Nature Reserves  
Yellow = Local Wildlife Sites  
Brown = Some areas of blanket bog (PHI)  
Light green = SSSI  
Dark green = Ancient Woodlands



### Managing things differently

We'd love it if these conversations led to every farmer and land manager creating their own ideas and plans to improve nature for future generations. There are possibilities on every farm, at every scale. Lots of small things can add up across a landscape.

Land managers and estates, working at bigger scales, are experimenting with different grazing regimes. Varying the type of stock, the timing, and the numbers can increase the diversity of habitats and species on the land.



### Wading birds

Iconic wading birds, like curlew and peewits, need the moorland edges and grasslands - the right places to nest and feed.

### Wooler



### Red squirrels

This area still has native red squirrels, but is on the frontline between reds and invasive greys. Co-ordinated management of grey populations is needed across the LNRS area to keep the reds.



### Moorland

Grass and heather moorland dominates this area. The level and the timing of grazing is vital to keep and to improve the quality of the habitats. Special insects, like the mountain bumblebee, are found on the moors. There is an increasing risk of wildfires, so fire breaks and fire plans are important.



### Peat

Peat bogs have high ecological and carbon value. This area has lots of peat; the main areas are shown in brown. Important areas include the Border Mires and Whitelee Moor. Actions to improve the quality of peat - such as removing trees, blocking ditches and revegetating bare peat - are needed across the whole LNRS area.



### Plantation woodland

Historically, many plantation woodlands have been planted on peaty soils or close to upland streams. These sites can be restructured to benefit nature, while still producing timber. New tree planting should always be, "right tree, right place".



### Native tree planting

Existing broadleaf woodlands and ancient woods support lots of wildlife. They should be managed to improve their condition, enable natural regeneration, and prevent plant diseases.

There are opportunities to establish new trees and scrub in the right places particularly where they expand and join-up other woods and avoid existing good habitat. Are bracken areas good opportunities?



### Rivers and burns

Rare species like the white-clawed crayfish and the freshwater pearl mussel are in this area. They need excellent water quality which, in turn, needs good land management.

There are opportunities for renaturalisation of some watercourses that have been straightened or constrained.



### Restoring natural water cycles

Wetland areas around Hadden's Wall can be restored for nature, and water quality. These wetlands often cross boundaries, so farmers, land managers and neighbours can work together.

More generally, there are many farmer groups across this whole area, working cross boundary is going to be increasingly vital.

### Prudhoe

### Haltwhistle

### Bellingham