



- 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

Peatland restoration

- Reconnecting rivers with natural floodplains provides habitats for wading birds and provides a natural defence against flooding
- Planting trees along riverbanks creates habitats for invertebrates and fish fry, provides shade for salmon and trout, stabilises banks, regulates water flow, and maintains soil health
- Removing obstacles to fish migration and controlling invasive species like signal crayfish and Japanese knotweed supports healthier and more resilient aquatic ecosystems

River restoration

There are many opportunities for nature protection and enhancement in the Cheviot Fringe 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?

Woodland improvement

- New native woodlands can be introduced in bracken beds and steep-sided ghylls in the uplands
- Resurgency pine marten populations, preying on grey squirrels, are paving the way for red squirrels to reclaim their rightful habitats
- Managing deer populations allows for the natural regeneration of semi-natural woodlands
- Including additional hedges, improving hedge management, and planting trees within hedges can capture pollution, mitigate flooding, and provide food and shelter for wildlife
- Using existing wet areas to create ponds can significantly enhance biodiversity
- Diversifying field margins, wild bird seed mixes, and over-wintered stubbles can contribute significantly to important populations of farmland birds

Enhancing arable land for wildlife

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About the Cheviot Fringe area

A rich tapestry of habitats and species makes the Cheviot Fringe a vital area for biodiversity.

This is mostly a lowland landscape that features the Coquet, Aln, Breamish, Till, and Tweed rivers, which are highly mobile and, in places, are well connected to their floodplains.

Ancient fens and bogs support a range of scare plants and invertebrates such as the large heath butterfly. Areas of moorland add to the diversity and support important species such as juniper and breeding waders.

Agriculture is diverse, with pasture in the west and some of the county's best arable land in the north. The area includes sand and gravel quarries, small coniferous plantations and deciduous woodlands.

Key species include salmon, lampreys, otter, water voles, red squirrels, farmland birds and moorland birds, and large heath butterflies. Storm Arwen severely impacted this entire 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

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?



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.

How will it be delivered?



Cheviot Fringe Nature Recovery Conversations



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.



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

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.

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





Fish and water quality

The river Tweed area is important for salmon, trout, and lamprey. We know that all the rivers have culverts, dams, and weirs that make fish migration difficult. How should these be prioritised?

There are hotspots of bad or poor water quality (for many reasons) in this map area.

The LIFE WADER project is currently working in the coastal strip and up the river Tweed.



Woodland

Ancient woodlands (dark green) are along the river valleys. They support lots of wildlife including fungi, plants and invertebrates. They are fragmented and vulnerable. They would benefit from natural regeneration or planting around their edges, and/or removing conifers or rhododendron and replanting with native trees. All woodlands need appropriate management plans.



Farmland

Important farmland birds are associated with the agricultural landscape. There are opportunities for natural habitat, even in corners of arable areas.

The "23 Burns" and the "South Low" farmer groups are in this area and in the coastal area.



Whin and waxcap grassland

There are pockets of whin grassland and waxcap grassland in this whole area. These habitats need the right management.



River restoration

The Harehope River Restoration project is taking place in summer 2024 following years of planning. It is an ambitious, large-scale project restoring up to 50 ha of wetland habitats. The wider area has opportunities for flood plain restoration and wet grassland creation.



Peat

Around here is Berwick and Beasley Moors, but also north of Rothbury is peat. Peat and bogs have high ecological and carbon value. On the moors and moorland fringe, breeding waders will nest and feed. There are more areas of peat than this map shows (otherwise the map would be too cluttered). Actions around peat and peat soils are needed across the whole LNRS area.



Invasive and non-native species

All the river catchments have problems with invasive species, such as giant hogweed and himalayan balsam. Pirri pirri burr and signal crayfish are also problems.

Grey squirrel are another invasive species.

The release and feeding of gamebirds threatens sensitive sites nearby.



Trees

Ancient and veteran trees are in hotspots. They are a habitat for bats, invertebrates, birds, fungi and lichen in particular.

Tree planting and natural regeneration is checked by the large numbers of roe deer.

Hedges are a great way of providing for nature.



Ponds

This whole area has a good network of ponds. These are excellent carbon sinks. They support amphibians, birds, aquatic invertebrates and plants. Existing ponds need to be protected from land use changes or pollution. New clean water ponds could be created, especially in clusters. Creating small ponds in the right places is one of the easiest ways of providing for wildlife.



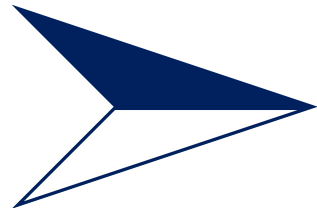
Meadows

There are relict hay meadows which have the potential for restoration and landscape connectivity in the wider landscape using some road verges.



Rivers

A river restoration study has highlighted many opportunities around the Coquet river catchment (red boundary). The river is also a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).



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