

plots, and species-rich field margins to benefit farmland birds Creation of wader scrapes, ponds, over winter stubbles, skylark

hedgerow trees

Creation, enhancement and management of hedgerows and

**Farmland** 

your legal duties to conserve and enhance the environment If you work for a public body, the LNRS can help you to implement

Influence future funding opportunities, from a range of public and

production and development

- Balance what is realistic and achievable, alongside effective food
- Tailor the strategy to reflect real-world situations, by highlighting
- Harness nature-based solutions to enhance farm adaptability and
- with profitable businesses • Identify win-win scenarios that align environmental management

**¿ssauisnd** LNRS help your How can the



How will it be delivered?



• Influences future resources and

Represents your views on what is feasible and practical on the

development, and nature recovery Demonstrates a better alignment of food production, planning /

achievable strategy that:

By contributing to our LNRS, you can help shape a practical and in the North of lyne area who know the land inside out.

managers, landowners, developers, planners, and local organisations experience, knowledge, and the understanding of our farmers, land Which is why we want our LNRS to reflect the views and priorities,

nature recovery.

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

### Why does your input matter?

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

Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRS) aim to

loss, and build resilience in landscapes across

The North East Combined Authority oversees the LNRS in

Northumberland, Newcastle, and North Tyneside, with

will serve as an essential plan for protecting our wildlife.

create and implement locally tailored solutions to

improve our natural environment, address species

Northumberland County Council leading the project. This strategy

Preparing and implementing the strategy will require a collective

organisations who already have a vast knowledge of our landscape.

Anyone involved in the local environment is encouraged to contribute

effort involving farmers, landowners, land managers and local

What is the Local Nature

England.

**Recovery Strategy (LNRS)?** 

### **About the North of Tyne Lowlands area**

The North of Tyne Lowlands area is a densely populated area heavily influenced by urban settlements, industry, and infrastructure. Several streams and rivers are present throughout this area, the main one being the iconic River Tyne which flows to the mouth of the estuary at Tynemouth.

The coastline has national and international statutory designations due to its importance for wintering birds. There are several high tide wading bird roosts that provide important feeding and roosting habitat.

The area has important areas of ancient woodland in the steep-sided valleys of the Rivers Blyth and Wansbeck, as well as in the denes within Newcastle and North Tyneside. It also hosts many urban greenspaces and parks that function as important recreational spaces and valuable habitat for wildlife.

There are many brownfield sites in this area formed on previously used land, some of which support valuable open mosaic habitat and associated species. Important areas of unimproved neutral grassland support a range of scarce plant species, along with an extensive pond and wetland network, which is important for amphibians. The arable farmland around the urban fringe area is extremely important for farmland birds.

### Key species include:

- White-clawed crayfish and otter in the rivers
- Ancient woodland plants and
- Wading birds along estuaries
- Kittiwakes on the Tyne
- Important farmland bird populations on arable land
- Dingy skipper and grayling butterflies on brownfield sites
- Great crested newt and other amphibians in ponds and wetlands

The coastal area also supports important populations of wintering birds associated with the Northumbria Coast Special Protection Area (SPA) and Northumberland Shore Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).

### **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.

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

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

### Contact us

Email: Inrs@northumberland.gov.uk WhatsApp: 07929 746542

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

Leave your comments below:

designate new nature reserves because of the LNRS.



resilience and carbon

regeneration

**Brownfield land** 

Coastal & estuary

in this area?

in the Cheviot Fringe area.

additional roost sites

help with climate change

appropriate locations, to

• Creation of new woodlands in

planting with native species

Control of invasive species

Trees and woodland management

brownfield habitats for key species

ancient woodland, especially through natural

Mative woodland establishment next to existing

Better management including removal of conifers and re-

Protection and management of key sites and creation of new

There are many opportunities for nature protection and enhancement

Protection of key kittiwake breeding sites and creation of

creation of more high tide wading bird roosts

What are the opportunities



Nature Recovery Conversations



**North of Tyne** 

Lowlands

x264049\_NCC\_A2\_N Tyne Lowlands map\_p5\_sw.indd 1

### The coloured sites on the map show the existing designations.



Many formed from historic mining and subsidence. These are excellent carbon sinks. They support a wide range of plants and animals, including protected species such as great crested newt. Ponds and wetlands are vulnerable to being lost or in poor condition because of land-use change, recreational activity, invasive species, pollution, and a lack of management. A priority for these habitats and their wildlife is creating, protecting and managing. Creating small ponds in the right places is one of the easiest ways of providing for wildlife. ea has a good network

### G

There are ancient species-rich grasslands in this area with rare plants and invertebrates, provide habitat for amphibians, reptiles and ground-nesting birds. Some are Local Sites or Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), but others have no protection, and many are small and isolated. Habitat loss and the wrong (or no) management have contributed to the loss and decline of these species rich grasslands. Creation and enhancement of this habitat is needed.

### on-native species

26/07/2024 11:43

There are issues with invasive nonnative species throughout the area mostly Japanese Knotweed,
Himalayan Balsam and wetland
species like New Zealand
pigmyweed. There are also issues
with animals, like grey squirrel, mink,
and more recently, the ring-necked
parakeet. There are also potential
threats from invasive non-native
species yet to arrive here.





# Morpe

### by-the Wb iggin e-Sea

They are fragmented and vulnerable. They would benefit from better protection and management. Many ancient woodlands would benefit from natural regeneration or planting around their edges, and/or removing conifers or rhododendron and replanting with native trees. Tree establishment increases habitat and provides connectivity for wildlife.

All woods need appropriate management plans

Ancient woodland (dark green) is along the steep-side river valleys. There is also a network of broadleaved woodlands in the area. They support lots of wildlife including fungi, plants and invertebrates, and provide carbon stores. In urban areas they have recreational value for people.

Woodland

The length of the coast is designated for important wintering birds. They feed and roost along key parts of the coast. They also rely on many hightide roost sites, such as St Mary's wetlands, and the farmland fields near the coast. Birds that are feeding in winter can be disturbed by people and their dogs, which affects the birds' survival. Recreational and development pressures need to be managed, to keep disturbance and loss of habitat to a minimum. Coastal

# ington

Farmland is in the urban fringe and wider countryside of this area. It is mostly arable and intensively managed. Often there are a network of hedges around the boundaries. These areas support a range of wildlife and are important for birds like skylark, grey partridge, lapwing, golden plover, linnet, and yellow hammer.

nteland

Farmland and hedgerows

Hedgerows (in the right places) is one of the easiest ways of providing for wildlife. These habitats and species, particularly the birds, have declined because of changes in farming practices and a loss of land to development. Birds like barn owl and kestrel need wide hedges, tussocky margins and nest boxes.

Whitley Bay

**Tynemouth** 

Prudho

## Green links and waggonways

There is a network of green links (verges, paths, waggonways) that can be used by wildlife for breeding, feeding, and moving about. Even the former track bed of the waggonways is valuable habitat. These sites are vulnerable to habitat loss, inappropriate management, disturbance, and antisocial behaviour. They need sympathetic management and would benefit from buffer zones around them. ites

Brownfield sites are found in derelict or unmanaged land in urban areas where there is past industrial use. Many of these sites have thin soils that keeps them open, with glades of bare ground. They can support important species like reptiles, the dingy skipper, and the grayling butterfly.

**Brownfield sites** 

These sites are vulnerable to development pressure, reclamation, lack of management, invasive species and antisocial behaviour. The best sites should be kept and protected. We should take opportunities to sympathetically keep and manage valuable sites, or to create new ones.

The rivers include a range of habitats including mudflats and saltmarsh, which are important for wading birds. The rivers themselves are important for salmon and trout. The kittiwake colony along the river Tyne is one of our special features, but is also threatened, by human-wildlife conflict, and by bird flu.

Rivers and Estuaries

Rivers are vulnerable to pollution, recreational disturbance, development pressures and climate change. Existing habitats need to be protected.

Opportunities to create habitat need to be taken. Artificial hard surfaces like the sea walls in the estuary and on the coast can be enhanced for wildlife. For example "vertipools" which are like rockpools, or rough surfaces for seaweed and shellfish to colonise.

Northumberland County Council

1:95,000

x264049\_NCC\_A2\_N Tyne Lowlands map\_p5\_sw.indd 2