ISLE OF WIGHT

Local Nature Recovery Strategy

TECHNICAL METHODS

Island Nature

www.islandnature.org

Contents

Image below: The Needles chalk stacks and lighthouse. Photography by Daneen Cowling.

1. Introduction

This document outlines all methods and information sources that were followed and applied throughout the Isle of Wight Local Nature Recovery Strategy process (2023-2025).

1.1. Isle of Wight Local Nature Recovery Strategy Process

Below is a detailed outline of the process undertaken to create and shape the Isle of Wight LNRS Priorities, Measures and Mapping, and the 4 Step process proposed by Defra within LNRS regulations and statutory guidance.

Figure 1: LNRS Regulations and Guidance Process diagram with ordered steps to be followed as presented in the Local Nature Recovery Strategy Statutory Guidance, 2023

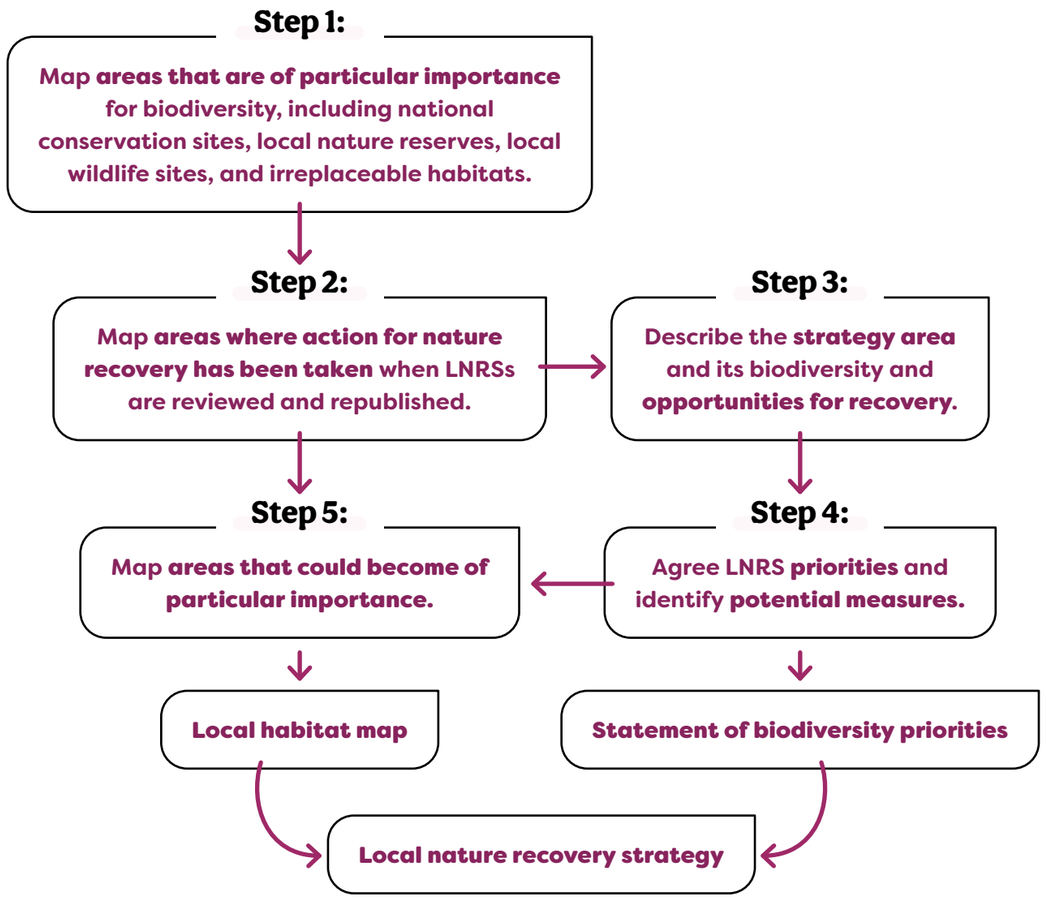
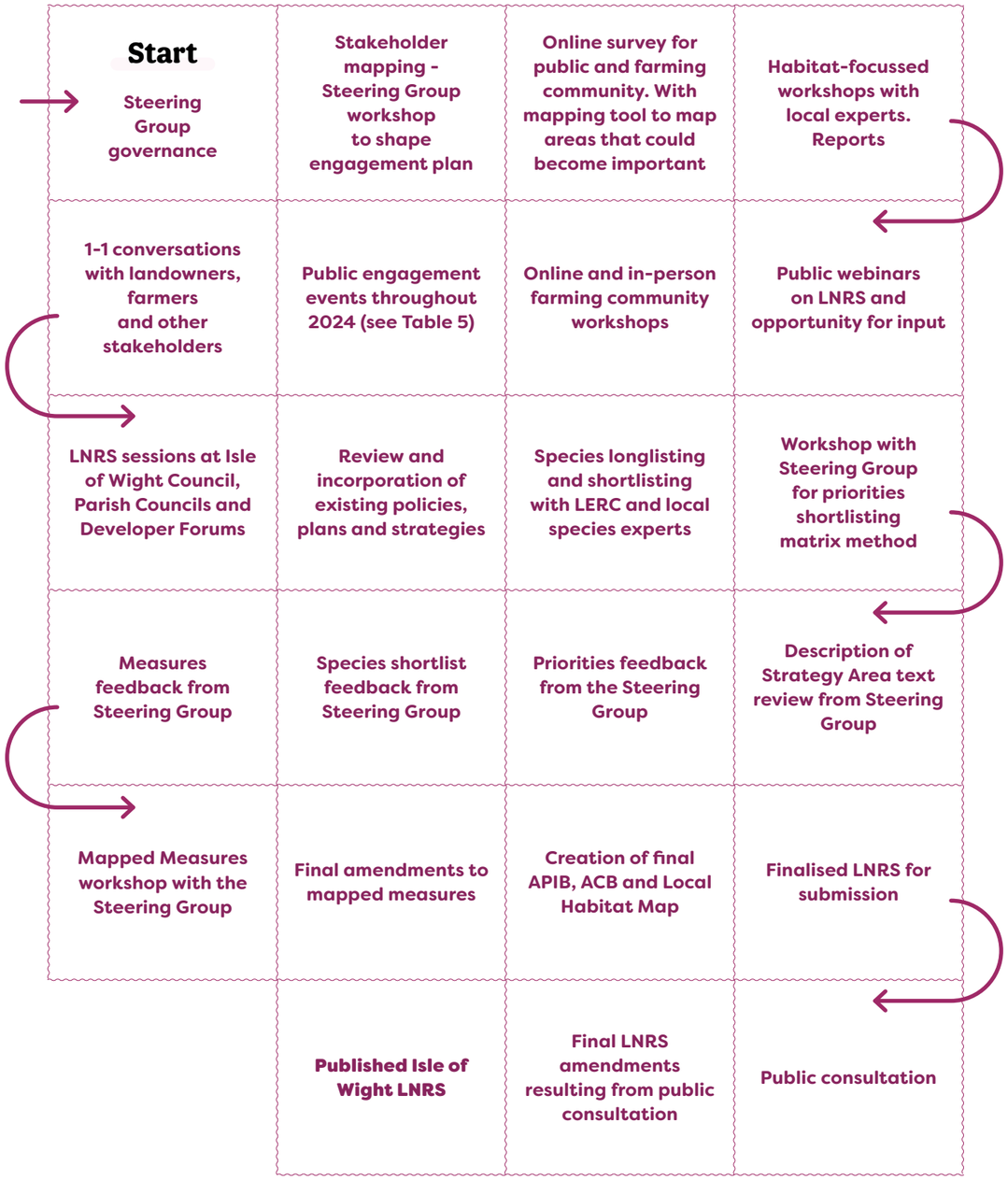


Figure 2: Isle of Wight LNRS Process



1.2. Governance

The Isle of Wight LNRS Governance was split into 3 layers: the Core Team (Island Nature), the Project Team (Core Team, Isle of Wight Council, Natural England, and Isle of Wight National Landscape) and the Steering Group. The Isle of Wight LNRS Steering Group was created in November 2023 to support the process and content decision-making of the LNRS. The group consisted of the existing Biodiversity Action Plan Group, with additional representatives to cover a wider range of stakeholders. Table 1 outlines the memberships of each of these groups.

Table 1: IW LNRS governance structure and membership

Governance Team	Name	Organisation
Isle of Wight LNRS Core Team (Island Nature)	Ian Boyd	Arc Biodiversity and Climate Ltd The Common Space CLG
	Sam Buck	
	Claire Hector	
	Daneen Cowling	Nature Data Solutions The Common Space CLG
Isle of Wight LNRS Core Project Team	Island Nature Team	(above)
	James Brewer (Planning Policy Manager)	Isle of Wight Council (Planner)
	Carolyn Herbert (County Ecologist)	Isle of Wight Council (Ecologist)
	Stephanie Evans (LNRS Senior Officer)	Natural England
	Richard Grogan (Landscape Manager)	Isle of Wight National Landscape
	Lucy Temple (Environmental Records Officer)	Isle of Wight National Landscape/Local Records Centre
Isle of Wight LNRS Steering Group	British Trust for Ornithology	
	Catchment Sensitive Farming	
	Country Land and Business Association (CLA)	
	Environment Agency (EA)	
	Environmental Farmers Group (EFG)	
	Forestry Commission (FC)	
	Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust	
	Island Rivers Partnership	
	Isle of Wight Council - Estuaries Officer	
	Isle of Wight Council - Planning	
	Isle of Wight Council - Archaeology	
	Isle of Wight Council - Coastal Engineer	
	Isle of Wight Local Records Centre	
	Isle of Wight Natural History and Archaeology Society	
	National Farmers Union (NFU)	
	Isle of Wight National Landscape	
	National Trust	

Governance Team	Organisation
Isle of Wight LNRS Steering Group (continued)	Natural England
	Natural Enterprise
	People's Trust for Endangered Species (PTES)
	RSPB
	Solent Forum
	Wight Rural Hub
	Wight Squirrels

2. Engagement and Information Review

2.1. Plans, Policies and Strategies Included

As outlined in the LNRS regulations and guidance, each LNRS must assess and be informed by existing locally and nationally relevant plans, strategies, and policies. Additionally, bespoke or relevant guidance was also assessed during the process. Arm's Length Bodies resource provided by Defra supported the collation and inclusion of their own plans, priorities and objectives. Table 2 below outlines all plans, policies and strategies included within the LNRS process to inform priorities, measures, and mapped locations. Table 3 displays all additional resources used to inform species prioritisation and shortlisting alongside specialist engagement.

Table 2: Plans, policies and strategies reviewed to inform the Isle of Wight LNRS

Plan/Policy/Strategy Name	Owner
Isle of Wight Biodiversity Action Plans/Habitat Action Plans 2002/2003/2004/2005/2019	Isle of Wight Biodiversity Action Partnership
Isle of Wight National Landscape Management Plan 2025-2030	Isle of Wight National Landscape
Isle of Wight National Landscape Delivery Plan 2025-2030	Isle of Wight National Landscape
Isle of Wight National Landscape Nature Recovery Plan 2021	Isle of Wight National Landscape
IW Plan (draft)	Isle of Wight Council
Isle of Wight Core Strategy 2012	Isle of Wight Council
IWC Rights of Way Improvement Plan 2018-2028	Isle of Wight Council
Isle of Wight Local Transport Plan 2011-2038	Isle of Wight Council
A Cycling Strategy for the Isle of Wight 2017-2019	Cyclewight

Plan/Policy/Strategy Name	Owner
Isle of Wight Healthy People Report	Isle of Wight Council
Local Walking and Cycling Infrastructure Plans	Isle of Wight Council
Solent Recreation Mitigation Strategy	Bird Aware
Solent Waders and Brent Goose Strategy 2020	Solent Waders and Brent Geese Steering Group
IWC Tree Planting and Management Strategy	Isle of Wight Council
Isle of Wight Open Space Assessment	Isle of Wight Council
South East River Basin Management Plan	Environment Agency
Isle of Wight Local Flood Risk Management Strategy	Isle of Wight Council
Isle of Wight Shoreline Management Plan 2 (2010)	Isle of Wight Council
West Wight Coastal Flood and Erosion Risk Management Strategy (2016)	Isle of Wight Council
Brading Neighbourhood Development Plan 2015	Brading Town Council
Bembridge Neighbourhood Development Plan 2014	Bembridge Parish Council
Gurnard Neighbourhood Development Plan 2017	Gurnard Parish Council
Ryde Place Plan 2019	Ryde Town Council
Freshwater Neighbourhood Development Plan 2018	Freshwater Parish Council
Brighstone Neighbourhood Development Plan 2016	Brighstone Parish Council

Plan/Policy/Strategy Name	Owner
Cowes and Northwood Place Plan 2020	Cowes Town Council and Northwood Parish Council
The Bay Place Plan 2024	Sandown/Shanklin/Lake Town and Parish Councils
Shaping Newport Place Plan 2018	Newport and Carisbrooke Community Council
Visit Isle of Wight Business Plan	Visit Isle of Wight
HEAP Report for Historic Routeways	Isle of Wight Council
All the Wonder: Cultural Strategy for the Isle of Wight	Isle of Wight Council
Island Rivers Catchment Management Plan	Island Rivers
Targets and Outcomes for Protected Landscapes Framework	Defra
Natural England Conservation Priorities (2020-2025)	Natural England
Natural Character Assessment (NCA 127)	Natural England
Green Finance Strategy	Defra
Biodiversity Net Gain	Defra
Farming in Protected Landscapes	Defra
Countryside Stewardship	Defra
Nature Recovery Network	Natural England
25 Year Environment Plan 2018	Defra
Environment Improvement Plan 2023	Defra

Plan/Policy/Strategy Name	Owner
Environment Act 2021	Defra
National Planning Policy Framework	Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government
Southern Water Resources Management Plan 2024-2075	Southern Water
Catchment Sensitive Farming	Island Rivers
IWC Minerals Safeguarding Areas	Isle of Wight Council
Isle of Wight UNESCO Biosphere Principles	Isle of Wight Biosphere
IW Climate and Environment Strategy 2021	Isle of Wight Council
Fourth Strategy for Climate Adaptation Reporting 2023	Defra
Third National Adaptation Programme	Defra
Isle of Wight Historic Landscape Character	Isle of Wight Council
Isle of Wight Local Geodiversity Action Plan	Isle of Wight Council
Solent Seascape	Solent Seascape Project
Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust Wilder Strategy 2019	Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust
RSPB and Environment Agency	Lower Eastern Yar Water Level Management Plan
Isle of Wight Forest Plan	Forestry England
Isle of Wight Coastal Defence Scheme	Environment Agency
South Marine Plan 2022	Marine Management Organisation

Plan/Policy/Strategy Name	Owner
Chalk Stream Restoration Strategy 2021	Catchment Based Approach
State of Our Rivers 2024	Catchment Based Approach
Coastal Plans and Strategies	Solent Forum
SSSI, SAC and SPA Designation Details	JNCC and Natural England designations and site feature conditions
Plantlife (various LNRS guidance)	Plantlife
PTES key species and habitat guidance for LNRS	PTES
Big Chalk LNRS practitioner resources	Big Chalk
Recognising and reporting other effective area-based conservation measures - Protected Area Technical Report Series No 3	IUCN
Southern Water Natural Capital in Our Catchments	Southern Water
Buglife Brownfield and Light Pollution Guidance	Buglife
Isle of Wight Saltmarsh Restoration Project (2023)	Isle of Wight Estuaries Project
Aggregates Nature Recovery	Aggregate Industries
Crown Estate Nature Recovery Ambition	Crown Estate
The Mosaic Approach: Managing Habitats for Species - B2020-009	Natural England

Table 3: Plans, Policies and Strategies reviewed to inform species for Isle of Wight LNRS

Strategy/Plan/Policy used for Species	Owner
IW species status and distribution data	British Bryological Society https://www.britishbryologicalsociety.org.uk
IW species status and distribution data	British Mycological Society https://www.britmycolsoc.org.uk
IW species status and distribution data	Botanical Society of Britain and Ireland https://bsbi.org
IW species status and distribution data	British Lichen Society https://britishlichensociety.org.uk
IW species status and distribution data	UK Dipterists Forum https://dipterists.org.uk/home
IW species status and distribution data	Bees, Wasps and Ants Recording Society https://bwars.com
IW species status and distribution data	UK Beetle Recording https://www.coleoptera.org.uk/home
IW species status and distribution data	British Dragonfly Society https://british-dragonflies.org.uk
IW species status and distribution data	Butterfly Conservation https://butterfly-conservation.org
IW species status and distribution data	British Trust for Ornithology https://www.bto.org
IW species status and distribution data	Mammal Society https://mammal.org.uk
IW species status and distribution data, nationally important sites	Buglife https://www.buglife.org.uk
IW species status and distribution data, nationally important sites	Plantlife https://www.plantlife.org.uk
IW species status and distribution data, locally important sites	Hantsmoths https://www.hantsmoths.org.uk
IW species status and distribution data, locally important sites	Butterfly Conservation Hampshire https://www.hantsiow-butterflies.org.uk
IW species status and distribution data, locally important sites	Isle of Wight Dragons https://isleofwightdragons.blogspot.com
IW species status and distribution data, locally important sites	Isle of Wight Birds http://iowbirds.awardspace.biz/IOW.htm
IW species status and distribution data, locally important sites	Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust https://www.hiwwt.org.uk
IW species status and distribution data, locally important sites	Isle of Wight Natural History and Archaeological Society https://iwnhas.org
IW Priority Species	Isle of Wight National Landscape https://isleofwight-nl.org.uk
Technical and survey reports	Island Rivers https://islandrivers.org.uk
Red Data and other priority taxa status reports and distribution	Joint Nature Conservation Committee taxa status report series https://jncc.gov.uk
Red Data species information	IUCN Red List https://www.iucnredlist.org
Invertebrate species assemblages	Pantheon https://pantheon.brc.ac.uk
Priority species data	Freshwater Habitats Trust https://freshwaterhabitats.org.uk
Priority species survey and mapping	UK Centre for Ecology and Hydrology https://www.ceh.ac.uk
IW species status and distribution data, locally important sites	The Marine Life Information Network https://www.marlin.ac.uk
IW species status and distribution data, locally important sites	National Biodiversity Network https://nbn.org.uk
IW species status and distribution data, locally important sites	The Archive for Marine Species and Habitats Data https://www.dassh.ac.uk
Priority species survey and mapping	Marine Conservation Society https://www.mcsuk.org

2.2. Engagement

2.2.1. Habitat-focussed workshops

Habitat-focussed workshops were run through May 2024 with Isle of Wight specialists in order to determine the pressures, priorities and measures for the following habitats:

- **Trees and Woodlands**
- **Conservation Grasslands and Heath**
- **Coastal**
- **Wetlands**
- **Urban**

Over 40 organisations from a range of industries attended the workshops. Table 4 details all organisations that attended. The outcome of each workshop was published in Summer 2024 with a PDF report for each habitat topic, available on the Island Nature website (www.islandnature.org).

Table 4: Organisations in attendance at each habitat-focused workshop

Attendee	Habitat Workshop
Forestry Commission	Woodlands
Woodland Trust	Woodlands
IWC Tree Officers	Woodlands
Natural England	Woodlands
Isle of Wight National Landscape (AONB)	Woodlands
Isle of Wight Local Records Centre	Woodlands
National Trust	Woodlands
Wight Nature Fund	Woodlands
People's Trust for Endangered Species	Woodlands
BAE	Woodlands
Self-employed Woodland Managers and Consultants	Woodlands
Forestry Commission	Wetlands
Isle of Wight Council	Wetlands
Natural England	Wetlands
Isle of Wight National Landscape (AONB)	Wetlands
Isle of Wight Local Records Centre	Wetlands
NatureSpace Partnership	Wetlands
Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust	Wetlands
Southern Water	Wetlands
Environment Agency	Wetlands
Parishes	Wetlands
Isle of Wight Bat Group	Wetlands
Island Rivers	Wetlands
Solent Forum	Wetlands
Forestry Commission	Grassland and Heathland

Attendee	Habitat Workshop
Isle of Wight Council	Grassland and Heathland
Natural England	Grassland and Heathland
Isle of Wight National Landscape (AONB)	Grassland and Heathland
Isle of Wight Local Records Centre	Grassland and Heathland
Independent Farm Ecologist	Grassland and Heathland
National Trust	Grassland and Heathland
Southern Water	Grassland and Heathland
South Western Railway	Grassland and Heathland
Catchment Sensitive Farming	Grassland and Heathland
Isle of Wight Council	Coast and Intertidal
Natural England	Coast and Intertidal
Isle of Wight National Landscape (AONB)	Coast and Intertidal
Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust	Coast and Intertidal
University of Portsmouth	Coast and Intertidal
National Trust	Coast and Intertidal
Isle of Wight Estuaries Project	Coast and Intertidal
Project Seagrass	Coast and Intertidal
Solent Forum	Coast and Intertidal

Attendee	Habitat Workshop
Blue Marine	Coast and Intertidal
MMO	Coast and Intertidal
Environment Agency	Coast and Intertidal
Harbour Authorities	Coast and Intertidal
Isle of Wight Council	Urban
Natural England	Urban
Island Roads	Urban
National Trust	Urban
WSP	Urban
Independent Landscape Architect	Urban
Modh Design	Urban
Isle of Wight Swift Box Scheme/ iWatchWildlife/Isle of Wight Natural History & Archaeological Society	Urban
Isle of Wight College	Urban
Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust	Urban
Isle of Wight Bat Group	Urban
Pesticide Action Network UK	Urban

2.2.2. Public Engagement

LNRS's engagement with the public was consistent and extensive. Dedicated public weekend webinars were held online in April 2024. There was regular LNRS presence at a variety of public events throughout the year to gather feedback and engagement on priorities, measures, and opportunity locations. Table 5 outlines all the public events attended.

Table 5: List of public events where the LNRS team had an engagement presence

Event	Date
Discovery Bay, Sandown	18/05/2024
IWNHAS and National Trust BioBlitz, Dunsbury Estate	22/06/2024
Open Farm Sunday, Nunwell	09/06/2024
IW Chamber Business Expo, Ryde	10/07/2924
Biosphere Festival/FOCAS, Sandown	29/06/2024 - 30/06/2024
Royal Isle of Wight Agricultural Society County Show	13/07/2024 - 14/07/2024
National Landscape Conference	20/11/2023
Wolverton Garden Fair	31/08/2024 - 01/09/2024
National Landscape AGM	23/04/2024
IW Lord Lieutenants Conference	13/05/2024
Local volunteer presentations	Spring/Summer 2024
Sheepdog Trials	02/06/2024

2.2.3. Farmer, Landowner and Land Manager Engagement

Farmer, Landowner and Land Manager consultation has been an LNRS priority. Owning and managing the majority of land that sits outside the protected sites network, a progressive and balanced Island agriculture is central to landscape-scale nature and species recovery. Engagement consisted of:

- **CLA, NFU, Environmental Farmers Group and Wight Rural Hub representatives on Steering Group with continued additional engagement throughout**
- **Presence on Wight Rural Hub and mail outs from CLA and NFU**
- **Online farmer LNRS webinars**
- **Pub workshop for farmers, land managers and landowners**
- **Pizza, LNRS mapping, and ELMS workshop with IW Young Farmers Club**
- **Catchment Sensitive Farming engagement**
- **Southern Water Farm advisor engagement**
- **Environmental Farmers Group meetings – a series of meetings to integrate LNRS into cooperative plans for BNG, but moving into the creation of an investable landscape for ESG, private finance and philanthropy**
- **Presence at public agri-events: County Show (LNRS Stand), Open Farm Sunday, Sheepdog Trials**
- **Wight Rural Hub Spring update – presentation of LNRS purpose and value, how to get involved, relevance to Sustainable Farming Incentive (SFI) and Farming in Protected Landscapes (FiPL) funding**
- **5 one-to-one site meetings with individual farms**
- **Online survey for farmers (March 2024)**
- **LNRS briefing for farmers with environmental funding information**
- **BNG and LNRS infographic resources for farmers.**

2.2.4. Local Authority, Public Bodies, and Developer Engagement

- Crown Estate
- Natural England Coastal Team
- Ryde Town Council
- Isle of Wight Council Forum on Environment and Sustainability
- Island Roads
- Isle of Wight Biosphere
- Environment Agency Coastal Defence Schemes
- Together for Mission Net Zero
- Together for Net Zero Education Hub
- Shaping Newport Steering Group
- Isle of Wight Association of Local Councils (IWALC)
- Isle of Wight Economic Strategy
- Natural Enterprise
- Isle of Wight Councillors – Enhanced Biodiversity Duty and LNRS Presentation and Meeting
- SNG Housing Association
- Southern Housing
- Vectis Housing Association
- Agents and Architects Forum

2.2.5. Wider Engagement

In addition to structured events, 1-1 engagement was consistent throughout the process, with phone calls, online video meetings, in-person meetings and site visits. The following organisations and individuals were all also contacted directly in this way:

- Isle of Wight Youth Trust
- Ryde School
- Crown Estate
- Shanklin Theatre volunteers
- Arts Council England
- We Can Be Active (Public Health)
- Island Roads
- UK Marine Eco Engineering Conference
- MMO South Marine Plan Training
- Portsmouth University
- EA Isle of Wight Coastal Defence Scheme
- Solent Marine LNRS workshops
- Wildheart Trust
- Hampshire and Isle of Wight Local Nature Partnership
- Island Rivers Steering Group
- Independent Arts
- IW Youth Trust
- Solent Forum
- IW Professional Horticulture Group
- Big Chalk
- IW Beacon Project

- **Southern Water**
- **Vectis Housing Association**
- **SNG Housing Association**
- **Southern Housing**

Cross-county engagement was also undertaken. Although the Isle of Wight has no shared terrestrial boundary and thus does not need to ensure aligned prescriptions to the level of other responsible authorities, dialogue was nevertheless considered important to share information, methods, challenges and opportunities, and to work towards consistent regional messaging. The Isle of Wight LNRS has engaged with Hampshire LNRS, West Sussex LNRS, and the wider South-East region. The Isle of Wight LNRS also participated in and learned from landscape-scale collaborative projects like Big Chalk.

2.2.6. Online Survey Tools

An online survey tool was created in January 2024 to collect feedback from those who live and work on the Isle of Wight and to find out what may be important to them in terms of nature recovery. A separate online survey was also created for farmers, landowners and land managers. In May 2024, an online mapping survey tool was created to collect locations of nature recovery opportunities. Total responses across all surveys amounted to 496. All feedback was analysed and integrated into the process to create and shortlist priorities, measures, and mapped measures.

2.3. Summary of Methods to Collect Priorities and Measures

In accordance with Responsible Authority guidance provided by Natural England and Defra, there has been a strong emphasis on ensuring that the Isle of Wight LNRS is locally and stakeholder-led, and that engagement is far-reaching and not reliant on the 'usual suspects.' An extensive and varied approach to constant-effort engagement has been pursued across all media, from direct contact to public events and has been used to reach as many and as wide a range of stakeholders as possible.

The Island Nature programme began with stakeholder mapping, sharing information and exploring options with the Steering Group in a tailored workshop which helped to agree the baseline consultee list for the year ahead.

LNRS engagement was designed to be a participative, collaborative and a co-curated process, building up stakeholder preference, opinion, experience and comment alongside evidence-led biological, socio-economic and geographical data analysis.

A broad range of methods, with an action, activity or event happening on average every other day for over 12 months from September 2023, provided maximum access opportunity to diverse audiences and helped build a comprehensive longlist (c.700) of nature recovery priorities and measures for the Island.

Methods to collect Priorities and Measures included:

- **Specialised habitat-focussed workshops**
- **Online public workshops**
- **External public events presence**
- **Online form surveys**
- **Online mapping survey**
- **1-1 calls**
- **1-1 farm and site visits**
- **Stakeholder network events**
- **Attendance at existing forums**
- **Social media posts**

- **Articles and press releases via local news channels**
- **Review of local strategies and plans**
- **Review of national strategies and plans**
- **Working with ALBs and other public authorities to include their priorities, measures and data.**

3. Prioritising and Shortlisting

This section explains the methodology for prioritising and shortlisting priorities, measures and species.

3.1. Methods to Shortlist the Priorities

As per the LNRS guidance, the longlist must be reduced to a manageable number of priorities for the strategy area. Feedback and experiences from other RAs informed the development of an Island methodology. A draft matrix table was then produced with support from Natural England's senior officer (Steph Evans) and using inspiration from the approach taken by the Hampshire LNRS.

The LNRS Steering Group then met at a priorities shortlisting workshop to decide the suitable criteria for shortlisting priorities within the matrix. The Steering Group reviewed the draft table to refine the matrix removing risks of pre-judgment and bias, creating the right tool to deliver meaningful and justified outputs that respected the contributions from all stakeholders and contributors to the development of the strategy.

LNRS national guidance sets out that priorities should:

- **Contribute to a balanced range of National Environmental Objectives**
- **Address the pressures and opportunities identified in the description of the strategy area**
- **Sufficiently cover the variation of landscapes and ecosystems in the strategy area**
- **Balance the contributions from different stakeholders i.e., from national experts to local residents**
- **Be a manageable number of agreed priorities that end-users can understand and focus on while planning delivery.**

Step 1: Initial Review

Before putting priorities through the matrix, an initial review was conducted to remove/combine duplicates and check whether the priority is within the scope as per the National Environmental Targets and the requirements of the LNRS Regulations and Guidance. The following criteria were applied:

Table 6: Filter methodology for shortlisting Priorities

Query	Action
The priority does not relate to a habitat or species, only an Other Environmental Benefit	Review whether the priority can be linked to another Habitat/Species relevant priority; otherwise, remove it and share it with the Steering Group for discussion.
The priority is only relevant to an area in the APIB	Review whether the priority can be linked to another that would widen the range of applications beyond the APIB; otherwise, remove and share with the Steering Group for discussion.
The priority does not respond to any identified pressure	Review whether the priority is relevant to another that does react directly to a pressure; otherwise remove and share with the Steering Group for discussion.
The priority is out of the scope of the timeframe within which the LNRS iteration will operate	Review whether the priority can be broken down into more applicable components; otherwise remove and share with the Steering Group for discussion.

After review from the Steering Group (SG), a draft priority was either kept and put through the shortlisting matrix or excluded from the shortlisting process and stored in a separate database archive.

Step 2: Applying the shortlisting matrix

After initial sifting, the list of priorities was put through a shortlisting matrix. The matrix has five scoring sections:

1. **Priority Context**
2. **Criteria-based Prioritisation**
3. **Deliverability Potential**
4. **National Target Alignment**

Some of the questions will involve values that will have an associated score. The final score of the prioritisation matrix outputs determined the shortlist.

The matrix is outlined below:

Table 7: Shortlisting Matrix for LNRS Priorities

Query	Value and Score (if applicable)	Justification
Habitat Category	Free text	Category of habitat to align with habitats used in the Isle of Wight LNRS – for information
Priority Focus	Score 3 - Habitat Creation, Habitat Enhancement or Species-focused Score 2 - Habitat Management Score 1 - Not Habitat/ Species-related	Ensure that priorities centred around habitat restoration/ creation and species recovery are valued highest, as per the LNRS Regs and Guidance.
Priority Description	Free text	Brief description of the priority and what it will aim to achieve - for information.
Potential Measures	Free text	To help start the process of matching measures to priorities – for information.

Query	Value and Score (if applicable)	Justification
Priority Source	Free text	To keep track of where priorities have come from – for information.
Pressures Addressed	Drop-down	Pressures identified through engagement and existing strategies will inform whether the priority addresses an important local pressure. If it is not, but it is a pressure that can be controlled, it will score higher than addressing a pressure we cannot control.
Urgency for Action	Score 3 - 0-5 years Score 2 - 5-10 years Score 1 - 10+ years	The urgency for action can help us rank priorities higher and inform which priorities should be addressed first. We use periods that work with the LNRS iteration timeframes (3-10 years).
Alignment with strategies and plans	Score 3 – Isle of Wight-specific strategies and plans Score 2 – Regional (neighbouring counties) strategies and plans (includes other LNRS) Score 1 – Wider regional/ national strategies and plans (excluding NEOs) e.g., NAP3, GI, Access to Nature. Essentially, the other environmental benefits	Ensure LNRS works with existing strategies and targets and, where possible, can identify hooks to unlock more action for nature. Ensure LNRS works across county borders, particularly for pressures and priorities applicable to neighbouring counties. This is also encouraged by NE RA guidance and LNRS Guidance. Find as many links as possible to other policies to enable the LNRS to hook into other delivery mechanisms.
Funding Alignment The ability for LNRS priorities and measures to link with existing schemes and provide guidance and proposals for funding sources to achieve priorities, e.g., Agri environment scheme options relevant to habitat/species priority.	Score 3 – Deliverable by existing scheme/options (tick all relevant) Score 2 – Likely deliverable by non-government funding Score 1 – No clear funding mechanism	It does align with existing government funding schemes and/or private green finance options. It does not currently align with existing government funding schemes but has the potential to link with private green finance options. Unclear if there are currently private or public finance mechanisms that can be applied – but there may be in the future.
Deliverability Timeframe	Score 3 – Deliverable within 0-3 years Score 2 – Deliverable within 3-5 years Score 1 – Deliverable within 10 years	Similar to urgency – ensuring deliverability timelines align with LNRS iteration timelines (3- 10 years).
Relevant Biogeographical Unit	Tick all relevant units	For information. To help provide the spatial framework of priorities and support a wider ability for nature recovery action and projects in alignment with unit narrative and needs.

Query	Value and Score (if applicable)	Justification
Environment Act Targets and Environment Improvement Plan	List relevant targets	Priorities that can contribute as much land and to as many NEOs / EIPs will score higher than those that cannot, to raise the importance of those that can help achieve our national targets.

Once shortlisted using final scores from the matrix, the list was shared with the Steering Group for review. The matrix was applied to priorities, then proposed measures were linked to shortlisted priorities.

3.2. Supporting information: Tables

Table 8: Biogeographical Units

Draft Biogeographical Units	
Medina Confluence and Estuary	North-East Forest
North-West Forest	Ryde Coast
Wellow Plain	Bembridge Isle
Freshwater Isle	Eastern Ridge
Western Ridge and Plateau	Eastern Yar
Atherfield Plain	Southern Uplands
Upper Medina	Undercliff

Figure 3: Map of Biogeographical Units

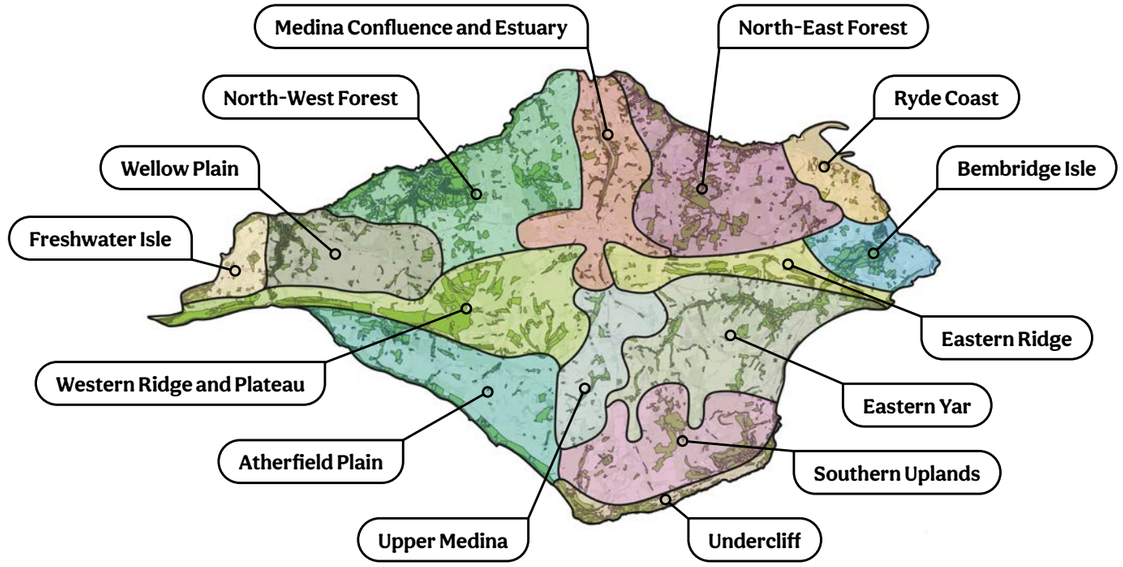


Table 9: National Targets under the Environment Act (2021)

Key additional relevant commitments from the Environmental Improvement Plan (2023)

Objective	How LNRSs can contribute
Biodiversity on land - Restore or create in excess of 500,000 hectares of a range of wildlife-rich habitat outside protected sites by 2042, compared to 2022 levels	The purpose of LNRSs is to identify opportunities to create or improve habitat in locations where it would have the greatest benefit to biodiversity and the wider environment.
Biodiversity on land – Halt the decline of species abundance by 2030. Ensure that species abundance in 2042 is greater than in 2022, and at least 10% greater than 2030	All actions proposed in every LNRS should be designed to make a positive contribution to biodiversity, including species abundance, considering their habitat and connectivity requirements.
Biodiversity on land - Reduce the risk of species extinction by 2042, when compared to the risk of species extinction in 2022	All LNRSs should include targeted habitat creation or improvement to support the recovery of the most threatened and near threatened species which are present.
Woodland cover - Increase total tree and woodland cover from 14.5% of land area now to 16.5% by 2050	All LNRSs should seek to identify opportunities for new areas of woodland, expand existing areas of woodland and trees outside of woodland where this will benefit biodiversity and other environmental outcomes.
Improve water quality and availability - Reduce nitrogen (N), phosphorus (P) and sediment pollution from agriculture into the water environment by at least 40% by 2038, compared to a 2018 baseline	All LNRSs should seek to make a positive contribution to the water environment, including by limiting or mitigating nutrient and sediment pollution from agriculture, through the creation or improvement of habitat. For example, through creation of habitat along water courses to reduce the inflow of surface water carrying agricultural pollutants whilst also acting as wildlife corridors.
Access - Work to ensure that everyone in England lives within 15 minutes' walk of a green or blue space	All LNRSs should look for opportunities to contribute to improving public access when proposing actions to enhance biodiversity. This includes actively seeking to target actions and areas for nature recovery in Green Belts and other suitable areas near to people's homes (see paragraphs 56 and 83 of the statutory guidance).
Peatland restoration - Restore approximately 280,000 hectares of peatland in England by 2050	All LNRSs in suitable upland and lowland parts of England should seek to identify locations for peat restoration and appropriate management.
Water quality - Restore 75% of our water bodies to good ecological status	All LNRSs should seek to make a positive contribution to the water environment through the creation or improvement of habitat for biodiversity.
30 by 30 - Protect 30% of land and of sea in the UK for nature's recovery by 2030	All LNRSs will identify opportunities to create and improve wildlife-rich habitat which could, where protection or agreements for ongoing management are in place, contribute to meeting the 30 by 30 goal. Responsible authorities should focus on National Parks and National Landscapes (AONBs) to help increase biodiversity in these existing protected areas.
Hedgerows - Support farmers to create or restore 30,000 miles of hedgerows by 2037 and 45,000 miles of hedgerows by 2050	All LNRSs should seek to identify opportunities where the creation, restoration or connection of hedgerows would make a particular contribution to biodiversity or wider environmental outcomes.

Key additional relevant commitments from the Environmental Improvement Plan (2023)

Objective	How LNRSs can contribute
Woodlands - Manage our woodlands for biodiversity, climate, and sustainable forestry	All LNRSs should seek to identify opportunities to improve the management of existing areas of woodland for biodiversity and wider benefits.
SSSI condition - Restore 75% of Sites of Special Scientific Interest to favourable condition by 2042. By 31 January 2028 50% of SSSIs will have actions on track to achieve favourable condition	All LNRSs should seek to help improve the condition of SSSIs in their area by identifying opportunities for the creation or improvement of habitat in connected areas outside the SSSI boundary. For example, through action upstream of a wetland site to improve water quality. LNRSs may also propose actions on SSSIs themselves but should not duplicate or conflict with statutory requirements.
Climate change adaptation - Ensure delivery and management of actions and policies that contribute towards our 25YEP goals are suitable and adaptive to a changing climate	All LNRSs should consider the anticipated impacts of climate change throughout their preparation to help biodiversity and the environment in their area adapt to future changes.
Flood risk management - Make sure LNRSs include proposals for Nature-based Solutions which improve flood risk management where appropriate	All LNRSs should seek to identify opportunities and suitable locations for undertaking natural flood management through the creation or improvement of habitat for biodiversity.

Key additional relevant commitments from the Environmental Improvement Plan (2023)

Objective	How LNRSs can contribute
Marine environment - Achieve Good Environmental Status for our seas	Coastal LNRSs should seek opportunities to create or improve habitat at the coast or in the intertidal zone that would benefit the marine or coastal environment. For example, through the creation of saltmarsh in suitable areas. Wider actions to improve water quality in rivers will also benefit estuarine and marine habitats downstream.
Pollution - Reduce emissions of nitrogen oxides by 73% and ammonia by 16% by 2030 relative to 2005 levels	LNRSs should consider opportunities for targeted creation or improvement of nitrogen-tolerant habitats for biodiversity that can buffer or shield more nitrogen sensitive habitats from significant nitrogen sources. For example, planting of tree shelter belts.
Invasive non-native species - Reducing the rates of introduction and establishment of invasive non- native species by at least 50%, by 2030	Restoration of habitats may sometimes involve the removal of invasive non-native species. Delivery of actions proposed should be mindful of the risks of introducing or enabling the spread of non-native species. For example, by appropriate sourcing of tree saplings.
Other - Climate change mitigation and carbon sequestration	

3.3. Methods for Shortlisting Priority Species

This section outlines the methodology applied to create a long list of species on the Isle of Wight, shortlist to a list of priority species, and assign measures and locations of measures for their recovery.

Compiling the Longlist

The IW LNRS species prioritisation process has been informed throughout by the species guidance issued to Responsible Authorities. The initial listing was undertaken in partnership with the IW Local Records Centre (LRC), establishing which species from the database of 10,000 met IUCN criteria, as well as candidates for which the Island has a regional, national or international responsibility.

The resulting list of 1,100 was then shared with a technical group comprising the local recorder network, professional ecologists and representatives of national recording bodies (such as BSBI). All relevant published data from those national bodies were also examined, along with all relevant JNCC publications for national priority taxa. At the same time, the results of online, in-person, and event-based public consultation and engagement were referred to for nominated species of importance to local stakeholders in order to ensure equitable consideration.

Species Specialist Engagement

To compile and shortlist the species list for the Isle of Wight LNRS, the following individuals were consulted as local species specialists:

- **Jon Cox**
- **Mark Larter (Natural England)**
- **Adam Wright**
- **Iain Outlaw**
- **Paul Davies (National Trust)**
- **Jim Baldwin**
- **Roger Herbert (Bournemouth University)**
- **Ian Boyd (The Common Space)**

Species Shortlisting Methodology

The technical group worked throughout this period to repeatedly review the data against the given criteria for priority, including deliverability and efficacy of possible interventions. This iterative review was essential as the LNRS team received new candidate species via contributions from external bodies, university researchers and amateur experts. An important parallel task has, therefore, been to test data submission against the LRC records and to fill any gaps where the reliability of the record is clearly sound.

This circular review process culminated in an evaluation against the species prioritisation matrix adapted from the model developed and tested by the Greater Manchester LNRS, assessed by the IW LNRS Steering Group against the standard government guidance criteria. The final scored selection produced a list of 485 species grouped into 14 habitat-based assemblages. The priority list approved by the IW species technical group is substantial, and this reflects the biological richness of the Island ecosystem and is the definitive LNRS species resource, useful for stakeholders, researchers, funders, regulators, project communications, local engagement, delivery monitoring and more. The constituent assemblages provide a more targeted format for access to key species information aligned with priority habitats and with mosaic and matrix management approaches to nature recovery. The following criteria was used to shortlist species:

- **Assemblage**
- **Scientific name**
- **Common name**
- **Champion Species**
- **Taxon**
- **Recorder comments**
- **Local Importance: 3 = high; 2 = moderate; 1 = low**
- **National Importance: 3 = high; 2 = moderate; 1 = low**
- **Urgency: 5 = very urgent, 5 years; 3 = urgent, 10 years; 1= less urgent, 15+ years**
- **Deliverability: 5 = high; 3 = medium; 1 = low**
- **Biodiversity co-benefits: 4 = multiple; 2 = some; 0 = minimal**

- **Environmental co-benefits: 2 = Multiple; 1 = Few; 0 = no/minimal**
- **Negatively impacted by climate change: 3 = very high/very severe; 2 = high/severe; 1 = moderate/some; 0 = Low/resilient**
- **Pre-existing initiatives (for information): Yes; Limited; No**
- **Shortlist Total Score (total of all scores)**
- **Mosaic or Bespoke Habitat**
- **Conservation Action**
- **Source List**
- **Included in IW Biodiversity Action Plan Species (Audit update July 2013)**
- **Included in IW Biodiversity Action Plan**
- **IUCN Red List (IW)**
- **Flagship BAP species**
- **Included in Habitat Action Plan**
- **BAP 1 = National Priority, 3 = Local Conservation Concern**
- **Primary habitat**
- **Subsidiary habitat**
- **Local abundance**
- **Local population trend**
- **Included on iNaturalist**
- **Included within NBN**

Along with additional detail collected for climate vulnerability of species:

- **Is habitat loss/degradation due to climate change a main pressure?**
- **Are adverse impacts of climate change being observed (on population and/or distribution)?**
- **If yes, describe here**
- **Likelihood of loss of climate space in England**
- **Climatic niche specificity**
- **Dispersal ability**
- **Overall vulnerability**
- **Are positive impacts of climate change being observed (on population and/or distribution)?**
- **If yes, describe here (along with any wider impacts)**
- **Climate change comments**
- **What is this information based on?**
- **Confidence in evidence**
- **Confidence in expert opinion**
- **Confidence in comments**

Assigning to Assemblages

The 14 nominated species assemblages have been derived from the process of species shortlisting. This was informed by information on habitat requirements for each species as set out in standard handbooks, expert online taxonomic groups, and more detailed local knowledge on precise locations and niche preferences provided by specialist recorders. The assemblages are not intended to map exactly onto the priority habitat descriptions, and this is important as it allows the LNRS to properly develop the 'offset' nested mosaic management approach that is fundamental to Island landscape ecology. This methodology has also avoided leaving any 'stand-alone' species that do not fit within the integrated nature recovery model and would risk becoming unnecessarily siloed, exceptional, or stranded.

Assigning Champion Species

'Champion' species are proposed from each assemblage, aiding public and stakeholder communication and monitoring nature recovery delivery. These species are considered those most useful to carry the key messages regarding conservation management prescriptions and measurable change as these apply to their host assemblages.

Measures and Mapping

Measures have been set out and described in such a way that the hierarchy of large-scale, site-scale and species-scale priorities and actions can be clearly understood and interrelated. Beneficiary assemblages and champion species are assigned to relevant measures (mapped and unmapped), and these may repeat and overlap where the aggregation of habitat mosaic components in the landscape, together with their transitions, are multi-functional.

Locations of mapped measures have been identified by using the mapping methods framework (explained in the section above), which combines habitat, species, ecosystem service and wider environmental benefits to optimise the scope for successful delivery within the timeframe of this first LNRS iteration.

Species Documentation

Species, as assemblages and as nominated champions, appear in parts 2 and 3 of the IW LNRS Statement of Biodiversity Priorities. In part 2, they are listed alongside measures to provide a complete set of ecological components for each Island priority.

Part 3 presents the complete species list for the LNRS in alphabetical order. This is intended to be the definitive taxonomic reference sheet available to be consulted by anyone looking for information to support and inform local projects and work programmes.

Part 3 also presents the full list broken down into 14 assemblages within which taxa share common ecological requirements or inter-specific dependencies.

In Part 3, the champion species are highlighted for easy identification.

4. Mapping Methods

This section outlines the methodology applied to map the Areas of Particular Importance for Biodiversity (APIB), the mapped measures, and the resulting Areas that Could become Important for Biodiversity (ACB) for the Isle of Wight LNRS and the final Local Habitat Map.

4.1. Creating the APIB

As per the LNRS Data Standards Guidance (February 2024), the APIB was created using the local and national designated sites, irreplaceable habitat and ancient and veteran trees. All layers were merged and formatted in accordance with the scheme provided in the Guidance. Table 10 below outlines the layers used to create the APIB.

Table 10: Layers used to create the Isle of Wight LNRS APIB

Layer Name	Source
Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)	© Natural England copyright. Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2024
Special Protected Area (SPA)	© Natural England copyright. Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2024
Special Area of Conservation (SAC)	© Natural England copyright. Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2024
Ramsar	© Natural England copyright. Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2024
Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ)	© Natural England copyright. Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2024
Site of Importance of Nature Conservation (SINC)	IW Local Environmental Records Centre

Layer Name	Source
Local Nature Reserve (LNR)	© Natural England copyright. Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2024
National Nature Reserve (NNR)	© Natural England copyright. Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2024
Irreplaceable Habitat	IW Local Environmental Records Centre
Ancient and Veteran Trees	Woodland Trust *Data reproduced with the permission of The Woodland Trust for use for LNRS purposes only. The data is subject to the conditions of their non-commercial licence. For any other uses contact ancienttreeinventory@woodlandtrust.org.uk.*

4.2. Summary of Approach: Mapped Measures

The mapping approach to preparing the Isle of Wight LNRS was a layered, multi-dataset prioritisation exercise. The methods consisted of a 5-step approach, starting with a broad baseline of the current habitat coverage, then mapping habitat suitability to inform potential and constraints on habitat creation and restoration suggestions. Prioritisation of where certain actions should be focussed was then reflected in mapping hotspots by pressure and vulnerability together with locations flagged as important from LNRS stakeholder engagement and species distribution data. Mapped measures that overlapped were assessed to ensure measures were not incompatible and could deliver aggregated gains for nature recovery. Finally, mapped areas and edges were validated using satellite imagery and iteratively refined with local experts.

The development of LNRS mapped outputs has used public data sets as much as possible (except for species distribution data from the Local Environmental Records Centre). The objective has been to limit licensing issues and promote public access and usability.

The initial assessment of the Isle of Wight habitat characterisation undertaken by the Steering Group showed the critical importance of mosaic fragments and transitions in the absence of larger continuous habitat blocks. Hence, it was concluded that no suitable model could adequately capture this habitat fabric. Further, the current array of public datasets produced by environmental partners and Arm's Length Bodies is significant in its range, coverage, quantity, and usefulness. Therefore, instead of using a model to produce outputs, the Isle of Wight LNRS used only existing datasets to inform location scoping and prioritisation. Working closely with our partners and Arm's Length Body representatives meant datasets used were informed by knowledge and experience of their use and potential. Datasets were then used in combination and isolation, analysed with various GIS tools, and iteratively refined with local experts.

Throughout the process, mapped measures were thought through to ensure:

1. **Areas most in need of habitat creation and restoration were captured**
2. **Language represented the transitional habitat nature of the Isle of Wight**
3. **Measures worked for habitats and priority species**
4. **All measures in their spatial coverage and written content link to and deliver National Environmental Objectives and other Nature-Based Solutions**

4.3. Step 1: Current Habitat Coverage

Current known habitat coverage was initially mapped using available habitat datasets. Each dataset was built from different methods, so there is variation between them. Due to a lack of complete ground truth data that is current and comprehensive, it is also likely inaccuracies of habitat type and coverage exist for the datasets used. Nonetheless, the value of these datasets outweighs these limitations. The following datasets were used to map a baseline habitat coverage for the Isle of Wight:

- **Living England**
  - Satellite imagery and machine learning output
  - Owned by Natural England
  - High-resolution habitat coverage
  - Owned by Natural England
- **Priority Habitat Inventory (PHI)**
  - Dataset of all priority habitats in England
  - Informed by surveys, partner datasets and designations
  - Owned by Natural England
- **Land Cover Map 2023**
  - Owned by the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology (CEH)
  - Land cover classes based on the UK Biodiversity Action Plan Broad Habitats
  - 10m classified pixel dataset
- **National Forest Inventory (NFI) (2022)**
  - Owned by the Forestry Commission
  - Maps all forest and woodland cover over 0.5Ha with a minimum 20% canopy cover
- **Ancient and Veteran Trees**
  - Owned by The Woodland Trust
  - Individual point locations
- **Tree Preservation Orders (TPO)**
  - Individual trees/tree groups/trees in a woodland with protections that inhibit activities (e.g., uprooting, cutting down, etc.) without consent from the Council
  - Owned by Isle of Wight Council
- **Local Habitat Data**
  - Available local habitat data from the Local Environmental Records Centre
- **Statutory Main Rivers Map**
  - Owned by the Environment Agency (EA)
  - All statutory watercourses designated as main rivers by EA
- **Isle of Wight Rivers Operational Catchment (Water Framework Directive)**
  - 10 waterbodies of the Isle of Wight
  - Owned by the Environment Agency
- **Open Rivers**
  - High-level view of watercourses in Great Britain
  - Owned by Ordnance Survey
- **Priority Ponds**
  - Owned by Freshwater Habitats Trust
  - Identified ponds with particularly high conservation values e.g., Great Crested Newt presence
- **Ancient Woodland (England)**
  - Ancient Woodland Inventory
  - Owned by Natural England

4.4. Step 2: Habitat Suitability and Opportunity

Habitat suitability was then assessed to narrow down areas with suitable soil and geology for specific habitat creation (e.g., chalk grassland on chalk geology). Suitability was also assessed regarding future land cover change under climate change and sea level rise. For example, assessing flood zones ensures proposals are compatible with changing water levels. Other sensitivities were also assessed, including designations, agricultural classifications, and habitat sensitivity. The following datasets were used to inform habitat suitability:

- **Geology 50K**
  - **Owned by British Geological Survey (BGS)**
  - **1:50,000 scale**
  - **Includes bedrock geology, superficial deposits, mass movements, artificial ground**
- **Isle of Wight Tidal Flooding**
  - **Isle of Wight Council layer**
- **Risk of Flooding from Rivers and Sea**
  - Owned by Environment Agency (EA)
  - Datasets show chance of flooding from rivers and/or sea from 50m cells
- **Flood Map for Planning (Rivers and Sea) – Flood Zone 3 & 2**
  - Owned by Environment Agency (EA)
  - Summary of Zone 3 from EA: ***"The Flood Map for Planning (Rivers and Sea) includes several layers of information. This dataset covers Flood Zone 3. It is our best estimate of the areas of land at risk of flooding, when the presence of flood defences are ignored and covers land with a 1 in 100 (1%) or greater chance of flooding each year from Rivers; or with a 1 in 200 (0.5%) or greater chance of flooding each year from the Sea"***
- **Provisional Agricultural Land Classification**
  - Dataset that maps different grades of agricultural land
  - Highest grades of agricultural land were avoided
  - Owned by Natural England
- **England Woodland Creation Full Sensitivity Map v4.0**
  - **Layers to identify where locations are likely to have fewer sensitivities to woodland creation**
  - **Used to inform woodland creation areas and exclude areas where sensitivity is high**
  - **Owned by the Forestry Commission**
- **Habitat Networks**
  - **Individual habitat layers used for woodland measures and grassland measures**
  - **Habitat creation, restoration, fragmentation action and network enhancement and expansion zones used to inform measures**
  - **Owned by Natural England**
- **Road Verges**
  - **Owned by Island Roads**
  - **Verge categories, including special verges and rural verges**
  - **Used to support opportunities for connectivity**
- **Land Cover Plus: Hedgerows 2016-2021 (England)**
  - Owned by the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology (CEH)
  - Describes the extent and height of woody linear features using Environment Agency LiDAR data.
  - Used to inform opportunity on farm edges and boundaries, as well as connectivity opportunity for woody habitats
- **National Forest Inventory (NFI) (2022)**
  - Owned by the Forestry Commission
  - Maps all forest and woodland cover over 0.5Ha with minimum 20% canopy cover
- **OS Terrain 50**
  - Contour map
  - Owned by Ordnance Survey

- **Greenspace**
  - OS Greenspace – Owned by Ordnance Survey
  - Greenspace pulled from Open Street Map
- **Golf Courses**
  - Informed by Greenspace layers with any missing golf courses being manually added
- **Registered Parks and Gardens**
  - Owned by Historic England
  - Opportunity for lowland meadow restoration – developing on King's 100 Meadow Project
- **Graveyards, campsites, healthcare sites**
  - Extracted from Open Street Map
- **Environmental Non-Governmental Organisation Land Ownership**
  - Landholdings from Isle of Wight environmental Non-Governmental Organisations (eNGO)
- **SINC surveys**
  - Management survey of a select number of SINCs undertaken by the Local Environmental Records Centre
- **Isle of Wight Council Registered Land**
  - Land owned by the Isle of Wight Council
  - Data owned by Isle of Wight Council
- **Minerals sites**
  - Owned by Isle of Wight Council
  - Locations of Sand and Gravel pits
- **IWC proposed local green space**
  - Owned by Isle of Wight Council
- **Isle of Wight Local Ecological Network**
  - Owned by Isle of Wight Council

  - Network outlining important areas for connectivity for habitats and species
- **Ports, Harbours, Marinas**
  - Pulled from Open Street Map
- **Fenland opportunity**
  - Opportunity areas for Fenland restoration and creation
  - Provided by Island Rivers

4.5. Step 3: Pressure and Vulnerability Hotspots

Suitable sites were then prioritised to reflect where there are pressure and vulnerability hotspots. This was done by overlaying the various datasets that directly or indirectly represent pressures on and vulnerabilities of habitats and species.

- **Combined Sewer Overflows**
  - Owned by Environment Agency
  - Point locations of Sewer Overflows
- **Groundwater Source Protection Areas**
  - Zones that show the level of risk to source from contamination
  - Owned by the Environment Agency
- **Chalk Rivers (England)**
  - Priority Habitat Chalk Rivers
  - Based on Environment Agency Detailed River Network v3
  - Owned by Natural England
- **Unfavourable SSSIs**
  - SSSI units, filtering all that fall below 'Favourable' category
  - Used as a best estimate of sites that are in need of improved management/condition
  - Owned by Natural England
- **Shoreline Management Plan**
  - Map of management policies over set year intervals outlining defence approaches to the coastline
  - 50-year policy taken
  - Owned by the Environment Agency
- **National Heritage List (England)**
  - Owned by Historic England
  - Map out scheduled monuments and battlefields, which may have management requirements that could limit other habitat proposals
- **Spatial Flood Defences**
  - Flood defences that are currently owned, managed or inspected by the Environment Agency
  - Owned by the Environment Agency
- **SINC surveys**
  - Management survey of a select number of SINCs undertaken by the Local Environmental Records Centre
- **Solent Wader and Brent Geese Strategy Sites**
  - Sites important for Brent Geese and Waders
  - Owned by Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust
- **Consented Discharge to Controlled Waters**
  - Owned by the Environment Agency
- **Provisional Agriculture Land Classification**
  - Classified land into 5 grades for quality agricultural land
  - Owned by Natural England
- **Crop Map of England 2022**
  - Classified map of England into 15 main crop types and other land cover types
  - Owned by Rural Payments Agency
- **River Obstacles**
  - Priority river obstacles provided by the Environment Agency
  - Owned by the Environment Agency
- **Saltmarsh Change**
  - Change in saltmarsh extent relative to baselined inventory 2006-2009
  - Owned by the Environment Agency
- **Soft Cliff Erosion**
  - Extract soft cliff priority habitat from the Priority Habitat Inventory
  - Apply a representative average erosion rate as a buffer to the habitat polygon (200m)

4.6. Step 4: Engagement, Species and Overlapping Measures

The extensive engagement process for the LNRS suggested a number of proposed sites for measures. These were brought in and adapted to existing mapped areas. Species distribution data was also brought in and overlaid where the important areas are for identified priority species. This created several overlapping areas for action. Overlapping measures were extracted and assessed to ensure that there is no incompatibility in proposed actions. Measures were then amended to capture the array of actions that can complement and align in one location, working towards improved habitat transitions and mosaics and enabling land management choices that can still serve the needs of the area. If measures were incompatible, the most important measure in this area was taken. This decision making was done in the context of survey data, existing plans and strategies, priority species and contribution to National Environmental Objectives.

4.7. Step 5: Local Knowledge and Satellite Imagery Refinement

The outputs of this process were then iteratively reviewed and refined by a selection of local experts. This involved several in-person workshops to review areas and contextual datasets. A dedicated Steering Group workshop was also run to get their input and provide comments in the session and via an online map.

In addition to local knowledge, satellite imagery was used to check the habitat coverage accuracy, get a feel of the density of habitats, understand where hard barriers intersect, and check the drawn area boundaries follow logical boundary lines (e.g., hedgerows, field lines, roads). The imagery also informed where an area could be resized to represent what is on the ground (e.g., expanding a woodland area to capture a density of hedgerows that would benefit from the same measures).

Several geospatial tools were used to **clip, buffer, dissolve, difference, intersect, join, merge and union** datasets. This is in addition to manually creating and vertices editing of polygons.

The table below outlines a selection of layers used and a brief methodology for each of the mapped measures:

Table 11: Description of method and datasets to create each mapped measure (next page)

Measure Code	Measure	Datasets	Method
BSS1.2	**Protect, enhance and manage beach roosting and nesting sites.**	Priority Habitat Inventory (NE) Satellite imagery Mean Low Water (LNRS 46 boundary)	Using specialist and stakeholder knowledge and feedback on sites with high recreational pressure in areas important for vulnerable bird species. Manually mapped areas where the biggest opportunity is for roost sites, in terms of partner deliverability, existing habitat coverage and current recreational pressure hotspots.
BSS2.1	**Protect and conserve significant intertidal beds of Seagrass, Egg Wrack and Kelp species. Seek to expand and extend these zones for their intertidal nursery habitats for fish and marine invertebrates.**	Seagrass inventory data (NE/HIWWT) Mean Low Water (LNRS 46 boundary)	Due to lack in current extent of data, using existing data and local knowledge of current planting schemes and habitat coverage, mapped the Solent Coast up to MLW as an important area for intertidal vegetation.
BSS3.1	**Incorporate constructed habitats for marine and coastal species in all coastal defence repairs and renewals, new marine infrastructure, and development.**	Shoreline Management Plan (EA/IWC/NE)	Areas of “Hold the Line” on the SMP up to policy 50 years.
CR1.1	**Combine the delivery of Natural Flood Management with nature recovery by designing and co-creating with stakeholders high ecological value floodplain mosaics.**	Isle of Wight Tidal Flood Layer (IWC) Risk of Flooding from Rivers and Sea (EA) Priority Habitat Inventory (NE)	Merged the tidal flood layer held by the IWC, and the risk of flooding from rivers and seas layer from the EA, to map the expected potential coastal and fluvial flooding that will necessitate habitat migration.
CR1.2	**Restore and sustain grazing and cutting regimes on neglected grazing marsh and rush pasture.**	Priority Habitat Inventory (NE)	Current coverage of Floodplain and Grazing Marsh from PHI.
CR1.3	**Restore ecologically informed water level management in reedbeds and fens and expand habitat coverage.**	Priority Habitat Inventory (NE) Fenland Opportunity Areas (Island Rivers)	Mapped current extent of reedbeds as per PHI, alongside mapped out fenland opportunities from Island Rivers.

Measure Code	Measure	Datasets	Method
CR1.4	**Remove in-channel obstructions and naturalize rivers and streams to enhance physical and ecological connectivity with their floodplains.**	River Obstacles (EA)	Through collaborative working with the EA, mapped all river obstacles and buffered by 1km to make visible polygons.
CR1.5	**Support the natural establishment and transition of bankside habitats within 20m buffers to rebuild emergent vegetation stands and protect in-channel habitat features.**	Main Rivers (EA) Open Rivers (OS)	20m buffer to all main rivers refined from 10m after SG feedback. Limited to main rivers to capture priority rivers, not map everything, and allow other mapping to pick up other priority water bodies with more specific measures (chalk streams).
CR2.1	**Ensure sympathetic, precautionary and protective land management practices across all Groundwater Source Protection zones integrating nature recovery.**	Source Protection Zones (EA)	Mapped source protection zones to align with policy and knowledge of where is priority for water quality. Method taken over using overland flow as came with too many assumptions/ not enough on the ground knowledge.
CR4.1	**Prioritise all chalk-influenced stream habitats and their catchments for integrated water quality, river restoration and habitat mosaic, focusing on Caul Bourne and Lukely Brook catchments.**	Chalk Rivers (NE) GB Geology 50K (BGS)	Mapped all chalk streams from NE layer and applied 50m buffer.
CR5.1	**Control water levels, water quality and overall habitat structure (intact vegetated surface, minimum necessary drainage network, no boundary creep from unfavourable land use) to conserve the Island's unique deep valley peat sites and upper catchment bog habitats, their feeder ditches, overflows, streams, flushes and seepages that feed them, avoid degradation through abandonment or neglect, avoid decline to scrub monoculture from over-wetting preventing management access.**	Peaty Soils Location (NE) Bog SSSI and SINC's (NE/LERC)	Mapped peat distribution and bog sites (SSSI and SINCs), then merged.

Measure Code	Measure	Datasets	Method
CR6.1	**Protect, enhance and expand the known priority pond network for IW, focussing on significant groups of ponds and their setting.**	Priority Ponds (FBA) EWCO - Flood Risk Management	Mapped all ponds and applied a 1km buffer to points to make visible polygons. Mapped out zone of pond opportunity informed by pond cluster, GCN hotspots and catchment reaches.
EH1.3	**Medina Estuary ecological rescue. Improving the environmental and ecological health for the estuary's intertidal habitat.**	Main Rivers (EA) Tidal flood zone (IWC) Flood risk from rivers and sea (EA) Solent Wader and Brent Geese Sites (HIWWT) Combined Sewer Overflows (EA) Satellite imagery	Overlaid CSOs, main rivers, flood zones and SWBGS to identify a hotspot area of pressure and fragility. Then, informed by stakeholders and published evidence on the pollution severity and range of sources in the Medina, alongside urban river pollution as a key stakeholder and public engagement priority, mapped the area as priority for pollution mitigation and reduction. Refined by specialist input on sources and other fragile sites (e.g., ferry terminals, breakwater).
EHT1.1	**Use the built environment of harbours to add designed habitats for wildlife, reduce pressures from boating and recreation, and enhance public experience of wildlife.**	Harbours (OSM) Marinas (OSM)	Mapped all marinas as meaningful polygon sites to represent this measure.
EHT1.2	**Conserve, enhance, and extend saltmarsh and intertidal mudflats and their transitions; make room for them to migrate and adapt to changing climatic conditions.**	Priority Habitat Inventory (NE)	Mapped coastal saltmarsh and mudflat PHI.
EHT2.1	**Secure existing, and create new safe high tide roost, nesting and feeding areas for priority wader and wildfowl species.**	Solent Wader and Brent Geese Sites (HIWWT)	Mapped all SWBGS from HIWWT.
LDS1.1	**Improve the management of lagoon, dune and shingle bank habitat and extend with useful supplementary features where appropriate.**	Priority Habitat Inventory (NE)	Mapped all lagoon, dune and vegetated shingle PHI.

Measure Code	Measure	Datasets	Method
LDS2.1	**Make space for new supplementary and transitional zones as well as designed and constructed replacement sites for niches and assemblages threatened by habitat shrinkage and local extinction.**	Priority Habitat Inventory (NE)	Existing lagoon, dune and vegetated shingle buffered by 200m.
LGH1.1	**Reconnect and recover chalk and upper greensand sites along the spine of the Island and the southern uplands.**	GB Geology 50K (BGS) Isle of Wight LNRS APIB Priority Habitat Inventory (NE)	Mapped chalk and upper greensand geology. Mapped PHI and APIB over the spine through the Island. Difference from geology and mapped remaining area as opportunity for chalk grassland.
LGH1.2	**Retain and extend early successional features in all priority sites.**	Priority Habitat Inventory (NE)	Mapped all chalk grassland and acid grassland PHI.
LGH1.4	**Design, develop and maintain a landscape-scale dry grassland mosaic.**	GB Geology 50K (BGS) Priority Habitat Inventory (NE) OS Terrain® 50 (OS)	Mapped PHI over geology, informed by slopes. Identified 'Western plateau' of priority grassland connectivity, enhancement and expansion. Informed by specialist input.
LGH1.5	**Habitat restoration on remaining limestone grassland.**	GB Geology 50K (BGS) Satellite imagery Priority Habitat Inventory (NE)	Mapped PHI and geology to identify remaining areas of limestone grassland. Worked with specialist to prioritise site for enhancement and expansion. Buffered site and cut off at alternative geology.
LGH1.6	**Promote meadow heath recovery and creation on appropriate industrial, agricultural and forestry brownfields where relic habitats persist.**	GB Geology 50K (BGS) Satellite imagery Priority Habitat Inventory (NE) National Forest Inventory 2022 (FC)	Mapped all existing priority habitats. Overlaid geology. Identified areas for connectivity and expansion opportunity from existing areas. Specialist input of historic habitat extent, also informed by place names. Specialist input of location of new rare species. Mapped priority zone refined by this. Avoiding heavily wooded areas.

Measure Code	Measure	Datasets	Method
LGH1.7	**Retain and conserve chalk and sand pits, quarries, clay pits and brickworks, and other excavated features providing rich bare ground and short sward habitats.**	Minerals sites (IWC)	Minerals sites provided by Isle of Wight planning data, with a mapped additional site in Knighton as inputted from specialists.
LGH2.2	**Protect priority headwaters through sympathetic land management in the southern Chalk and Upper Greensand blocks.**	GB Geology 50K (BGS) Priority Habitat Inventory (NE) OS Terrain® 50 (OS)	Mapped southern area of chalk and greensand geology that provides essential headwater resource. Informing edges by slopes.
LGH3.1	**Recover lost chalk, acid grassland, meadow heath and wood meadow in commercial plantations and wooded matrix landscapes.**	National Forest Estate Ownership England 2019 (FC)	Mapped plantation forests using the Forestry Commission estate layer.
LGH4.1	**Improve the management of urban lowland meadows in public realm, churchyard meadows and other community sites of important grassland habitat (particularly for rare fungi communities).**	Churchyards and Graveyards (OSM)	As influenced by public and stakeholder engagement, and ongoing eco-church projects, highlight the role of churches and graveyards as important meadow sites that could expand the meadow estate through improved management.
LGH4.2	**Improve the management and expansion of lowland meadows in historic parks and grounds where priority habitat persists.**	Priority Habitat Inventory (NE) Satellite imagery Historic England Parks and Gardens (EH) Habitat Networks (NE) Graveyards and Churchyards (OSM)	Current meadow extent, habitat network expansion opportunity, graveyards and churchyards and meadow proxies, and Historic England parks and gardens. Narrowed down to Osborne as a priority due to ongoing projects, historic meadow coverage and connectivity opportunity.
LP1.2	**BETTER and BIGGER: Improve the quality and function of high-value nature conservation sites through on-site and surrounding habitat management and expand their coverage.**	SSSI Units (NE) Isle of Wight LNRS APIB	Mapped all SSSIs that have a condition below ‘Favourable’. Buffered the full APIB estate by 50m. Merged the two together.

Measure Code	Measure	Datasets	Method
LP1.4	**High-Uplift Lawton Zones: Identify agricultural zones with low protected site density and high potential uplift from existing conditions for wildlife, where field boundary work can be tested at landscape scale for i) reconnecting relic habitats, and ii) building nature recovery into working farmland without compromising food production.**	Land Cover Maps Plus: Hedgerows (CEH) Satellite imagery Countryside Stewardship Management Areas and Options 2016 (NE) Agricultural Land Classification (NE)	Through engagement with farmers and farm reps, and ecological specialist, mapping hedges and edges as entry points for farmers agreed as best approach. Using satellite imagery, CS agreements, satellite imagery and hedgerows, where CS agreements in low density (for nature) and hedges most fragmented, mapped as priority. Refined further using local knowledge and satellite imagery to map the areas most intensively farmed and thus hold most potential for biodiversity uplift, without impeding food production.
SC1.1	**Allow space for natural processes to continue unimpeded for soft cliff and chine habitats to continually reproduce the complex mosaic of wet and dry habitats essential to key species and conserve and extend refuge from degraded environmental conditions in the hinterland.**	Priority Habitat Inventory (NE) National Coastal Erosion Risk Mapping (EA) GB Geology 50K (BGS)	Mapped Maritime cliffs priority habitat from PHI, applied 100m buffer informed by erosion rates, clipping around hard chalk geologies within this buffer zone.
TW1.10	**Create and maintain ecologically appropriate and useful open space provision within medium and larger woodlands and plantation forests.**	National Forest Estate Ownership England 2019 (FC)	Mapped all plantation woodlands as captured in the FC estate layer.
TW1.2	**Enhance priority landscape-scale woodland-meadow matrix on the northern clay through managed woodland creation and fostering natural regeneration.**	Priority Habitat Inventory (NE) National Forest Inventory 2022 (FC) EWCO - Flood Risk Management (FC) England Woodland Creation Low Sensitivity Map (FC)	Used existing woodland and priority habitat coverage alongside habitat network enhancement zones for woodlands, mapped an area where woodland integrated with woodland-meadow creation. Informed by local knowledge, specialist input and projects that are underway that would support this as a priority.

Measure Code	Measure	Datasets	Method
TW1.3	**Enhance natural flood management through good woodland management, woodland creation and tree planting along watercourses in forested stream catchments.**	EWCO - Flood Risk Management (FC) Priority Habitat Inventory (NE) National Forest Inventory 2022 (FC) Habitat Networks (NE) Land Cover Maps Plus: Hedgerows (CEH)	Used EWCO NFM priority areas alongside habitat network areas to identify an opportunity area for connected woodland creation that supports flood management. Monktonmead catchment highlighted as priority from mapping and engagement. Already a very flooded catchment. Using current woodland extent, other priority habitats and hedges to make meaningful zone. Used satellite imagery to refine further. Key priority for delivery with enthused SWR owning land in this area.
TW1.4	**Create landscape-scale habitat connectivity and enhancement in priority Lower Greensand valley woodland clusters through woodland creation and fostering natural regeneration.**	GB Geology 50K (BGS) National Forest Inventory 2022 (FC) Priority Habitat Inventory (NE) England Woodland Creation Low Sensitivity Map (FC) OS Terrain® 50 (OS) Public Footpaths (OSM) Land Cover Maps Plus: Hedgerows (CEH) Habitat Networks (NE)	Investigated a collection of woodland extent and opportunity layers. Avoided chalk geology for woodland creation. Avoided important wetland habitats that would not benefit from tree planting. Used satellite imagery, hedge data and NFI woodland cover to envelope a meaningful area for woodland connectivity. Included cycle paths to enhance connection with nature. Avoided steeper slopes in the south. Led by stakeholder and specialist input, with Borthwood and America Woods connectivity expressed strongly as a recommendation from engagement.
TW1.5	**Buffer all Ancient Woodlands and Planted Ancient Woodlands to extend ecological function, alongside improved conservation management**	Ancient Woodlands (NE)	Mapped all Ancient Woodlands, buffered by 50m as per the Isle of Wight Council policy.

Measure Code	Measure	Datasets	Method
TW1.9	**Restore and reconnect large-scale wood park and wood pasture landscapes through new planting and natural regeneration.**	GB Geology 50K (BGS) National Forest Inventory 2022 (FC) Priority Habitat Inventory (NE) England Woodland Creation Low Sensitivity Map (FC) Wood Pasture and Parkland (NE) Habitat Networks (NE)	Investigated a collection of woodland extent and opportunity layers. Avoided chalk geology for woodland creation. Using local knowledge, specialist input and technical design input from ecology and archaeology experts, crafted this area. Informed by historic landscapes of wooded parkland.
UGG1.1	**Increase the ecological and wider environmental functionality of urban parks and public and community greenspace of all kinds.**	Greenspace (OS)	Mapped all greenspace.
UGG1.2	**Increase the ecological and wider environmental functionality of roadside verges.**	Isle of Wight Verges (Island Roads) Priority Habitat Inventory (NE)	Filtered to Special and Rural after investigating distribution and relationship to existing priority habitat.
UGG1.7	**Habitat restoration and management of important features and edges of golf courses.**	Golf Courses (OSM) Satellite imagery	Mapped all golf courses using OSM data and manual mapping.

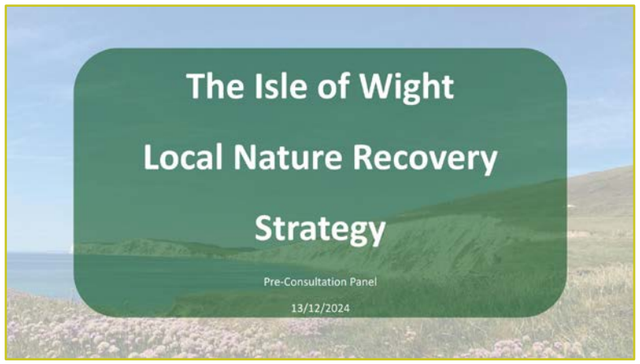
5. Pre-Public Consultation and Pre-Publication Panels

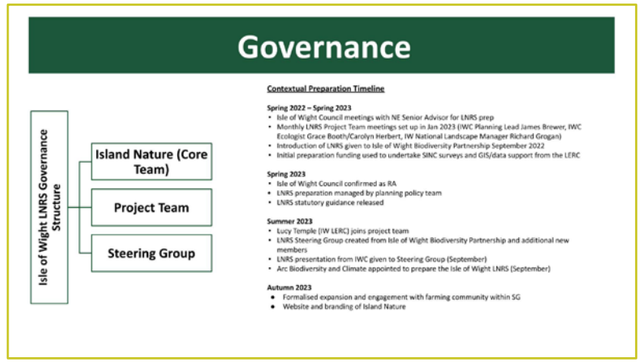
5.1. Pre-consultation Panel

As per the requirements of the LNRS process, the Island Nature team attended a pre-publication panel to run through our process and outputs to a Defra ALB panel and to receive confirmation for permission to proceed to consultation.

Below are the slides used to run the panel through our process and justify some key decisions regarding the strategy's production.

Figure 4: Pre-publication Panel Slides





Island Nature

Priorities and Measures Process

Inputs	Methods	Iterative Feedback and Refine
• 70+ local and national plans, policies and strategies • Public engagement: Priorities, measures and mapped locations • Habitat-focussed workshops: Priorities, measures and mapped locations • Survey responses: Priorities, measures and mapped locations (450+) • Farmer input of priorities, locations, projects and measure support • Species data from LRC, local recorders, national organisations, existing assemblage data (NVC and Pantheon) from SSSI, SAC, SPA	• Priorities matrix methodology workshopped with Steering Group - how to prioritise a list of 740+ priorities • Using matrix and conglomeration, produced list for SG review - refined list and language for accessibility • List of measures produced from inputs and put against shortlisted priorities, shared with SG for review • Ground-truthing against in-house and SG local knowledge, species mapping and site visits	• Steering Group review of priorities, measures and Description of Strategy area • 1-1 review with technical experts • Continuing review of species information, new data, revised and updated information • Non-technical reader review of priorities, measures and Description of Strategy Area

Priorities and Measures Outputs

Priorities

28 priorities across the following categories:
Trees and Woodland | Catchment and Rivers | Estuaries, Harbours and Transitional Waters | Lowland Grassland and Heath | Lagoons, Dunes and Shingle Banks | Beaches, Seafronts and Seashores | Maritime Soft Cliffs and Chines | Urban Green and Grey | Isle of Wight Lawton Principles | Overarching

Measures

Total of 69 measures, 40 of them being mapped measures

Additional Information

Detail explanation of how to undertake measure provided for each
Benefiting species/species assemblages, NEO's and other environmental benefits outlined for each measure, *will be adding AES options*

Species Process and Outputs

Winter 2023	Spring 2024	Summer 2024	Autumn 2024	Winter 2024
• First meetings with Local Records Centre to test listing methodology and generate first outputs • Trials of visualisations, heat maps, dot maps • Taxonomic composition, gap analysis • Marine work with Solent Forum including work on intertidal biotopes	• Review of species prioritization work done by IW BAP (1999 – 2019) • Review of IWNHAS Proceedings and IW Bird Reports • Review of WeBS and BBS data • Stage One Longlist produced and shared with recorder network • Technical Group initiated	• Iterative process of testing Stage One list against criteria alongside continuing input of information and proposals from eNGOs and recorders including public and community feedback through the engagement programme • Review of all relevant JNCC species status reports • Review of all national recorder bodies' data	• Stage Two prioritization and assemblages reviewed with recorders and other specialists • Iterative process continues with incoming data and shortlisting. • Stage Three evaluation against agreed matrix • Incorporation of key species themes and requirements into measures and mapping	• Iterative process of review of assemblages and constituent species with eNGOs, recorders and other specialists. • Final alignment of assemblages with measures and mapping

Important principles: security of rare species; mapping where we're going not just where we are; alignment with given assemblages; treatment of APIB species; equal respect for public/personal response and science-based evidence.

Mapping Process

Datasets Used

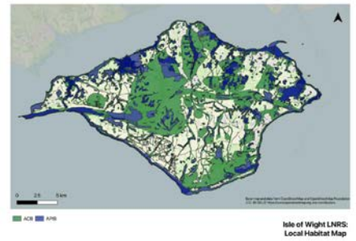
PHI (NE)	Mean Low Water (LNRS Boundary)	Seagrass Inventory Data (NE and HIWWT)	IoW Tidal Flood (IWC)	Risk of Flooding for Rivers and Seas (EA)	Fenland Opportunity Areas (Island Rivers)	River Obstacles (EA)	Isle of Wight Road Verges (Island Roads)	Public Footpaths (OSM)
Priority Ponds (HPSA)	Peaty Soils Locations (NE)	QB Geology 50k (BGS)	Chalk Rivers (NE)	Source Protection Zones (EA)	Open Rivers (OS)	Main Rivers (EA)	Wood Pasture and Parkland (NE)	England Woodland Creation Low Sensitivity Map (FC)
EWCO - Flood Risk Management (FC)	Solent Wader and Brent Geese Sites (HIWWT)	Combined Sewage Overflows (EA)	Harbours and Marinas (OSM)	OS Terrain (OS)	National Forest Inventory (FC)	Minerals Sites (IWC)	Greenspace and Golf Courses (OS and OSM)	National Coastal Erosion Risk Mapping (EA)
National Forest Estate Ownership (FC)	Churchyards and Graveyards (OSM)	Historic England Parks and Gardens (NE)	Habitat Networks (NE)	SSSI Units (NE)	Land Cover Plus: Hedgerows (CEH)	Countryside Stewardship Management Areas and Options 2016 (NE)	Ancient Woodlands (NE)	Agricultural Land Classification (NE)

1. **Current Habitat Coverage**
   Using Living England, CEH Land Cover and PHI to establish current habitat coverage.
2. **Habitat Suitability**
   Mapping Geology, future flooding, ALC and woodland sensitivity layers to establish habitat suitability.
3. **Pressure and Vulnerability Hotspots**
   Map distribution of pressures and vulnerable habitats e.g., CSOs, Source Protection Areas, chalk rivers, unfavourable SSSIs.
4. **Engagement, Species and Overlapping Measures**
   Assess against sites brought forward from engagement and species distribution. Assess the overlaps and ensure sympathetic land decisions, referenced in mosaic measures.
5. **Local Knowledge and SI Refinement**
   Manually re-drawing/adding areas as led by local experts. Amending to reflect SI to what is most deliverable on the ground. Species technical experts helped refine habitat suitability proposals.

Mapping Process

1. **Habitat coverage**
   - National Forest Inventory
   - Priority Habitat Inventory
   - Hedgerows
   - Ancient Woodlands
   - Living England (not shown)
2. **Habitat suitability**
   - Geology
   - Habitat Network (Ancient and Semi Natural Woodland)
   - Woodland Low Sensitivity Map
3. **Pressure and Vulnerability Hotspots**
   - Flood Zone
   - EWCO Flood Risk Management
   - EWCO Keeping Rivers Cool Riparian Buffers
   - APIB
   - Priority Habitat Inventory
4. **Engagement, Species and Overlapping Measures**
   - Bat survey data
   - Other habitat measures
   - South Western Rail landholding/public engagement
5. **Local Knowledge and Refinement**
   - Technical Experts
   - Flooding locations

Mapping Outputs



Isle of Wight LNRS:
Local Habitat Map

Next steps of additional resources:
- Isle of Wight Data Commons
- Socio-economic, Climate Change and NEO maps to support different funding avenues
- Developing on Story Map to support engagement
- Videos and How-To's

Online Map in Comment Format

Consultation Process

Where	Isle of Wight Council and Island Nature Website	• Webpages on IWC and Island Nature websites where strategy sections, online map and consultation questionnaire is available • Instructions and videos explaining the docs and how to use the map • FAQ page to address common Qs- informed by other FAQs from RAs
What	Survey and Map Comments	• Maximum of 15 questions - focus on what additional resources can be provided, delivery and how strategy can be improved • Interactive map where comments can be made by adding points to map - function to comment on specific measures • Tried and tested with SG
How	Media, Workshops, Steering Group	• IWC Press Release and Social Media • Targeted sessions with Farming community, SG, Developers and Planners, Parish and Town Councils, Councillors • SG social media
Outcome	Survey Responses, 1-1's, Consultation Outputs, Triggered Responses	• 350-400 meaningful responses that have been responded to • X individual survey submissions • X map additions - X landholding removals (*controversial form*) • Suite of bespoke toolkits, technical notes and engaging resources

5.2. Public Consultation

As per statutory requirements, the Isle of Wight LNRS held a month-long public consultation (17th January - 14th February 2025) to obtain views and comments on the draft strategy. The consultation was held through an online questionnaire, shown in Figure 5 below. The mapped measures could be viewed interactively and commented on via an online interactive map. The map included tools to add point comments against mapped measures, draw new areas to be included within mapped measures, or draw a change in the extent of a measure (e.g., remove an area of land, or extend to another area of land).

Figure 5: Public Consultation Questionnaire

Consultation on the Isle of Wight Draft Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS)

This questionnaire collects feedback for the draft LNRS for the Isle of Wight. The feedback will be reviewed after the 4 week public consultation ends on February 14th 2025. The final strategy will be published later in 2025.

All questions are optional, but we value as much feedback as possible to help shape the Island's LNRS.

Please read through the FAQs before completing this survey form if you'd like to understand more about LNRS and why one has been created for the Isle of Wight. Definitions of terms used within the LNRS are provided in the LNRS Glossary. For additional support on using the LNRS package, videos and documentation are also available on the consultation homepage.

Please use the mapping survey tool to add comments on the suitability of mapped areas and suggest amendments.

Overview of the LNRS

Reviewing the whole LNRS package

1. Do you understand what the Isle of Wight LNRS is and what it is trying to achieve?

2. Please provide any comments to support your answer:

Statement of Biodiversity Priorities: Part 1

These questions ask for feedback on the Description of the Strategy Area in the document Statement of Biodiversity Priorities: Part 1.

3. Does the description of the Strategy Area accurately describe the Isle of Wight's key habitats and species and the current and future pressures on them?

4. If you disagree, please provide detail below:

Statement of Biodiversity Priorities: Part 2

These questions ask for feedback on the Priorities and Measures in the document Statement of Biodiversity Priorities: Part 2.

5. Do you think the priorities and measures for nature recovery within the Isle of Wight LNRS address the key environmental issues on the Island? *An LNRS priority is the overarching aim that has been identified for this habitat to enable nature recovery is achievable by the corresponding potential measures.*

6. If you disagree, please outline which environmental issues are not addressed and why:

7. The Isle of Wight LNRS has identified the correct priorities and measures for nature recovery for the Island's habitats?

8. The Isle of Wight LNRS has identified the correct priorities and measures for nature recovery for the Island's species?

9. The LNRS has identified the correct priorities and measures for nature recovery for wider environmental objectives on the Island? *A wider environmental objective refers to National Environmental Objectives set by the UK Government, and other environmental benefits (e.g., well-being benefits from access to nature).*

10. If you disagree, please provide detail below:

Statement of Biodiversity Priorities: Parts 3 & 4 (Species)

These questions ask for feedback on the Priority Species and Species Assemblages in the documents Statement of Biodiversity Priorities: Part 3 and 4.

11. Are there any species that you think may be missing from the full species list?

Local Habitat Map

These questions ask for feedback on the Local Habitat Map. The Local Habitat Map shows Areas of Particular Importance for Biodiversity, Areas that Could be of Importance for Biodiversity, and Mapped Measures. The mapped outputs are described in The Statement of Biodiversity Priorities: Part 2. Go to the Online Mapping Feedback Tool to add comments directly on the map to give feedback on the suitability of locations and suggest amendments.

12. Looking at the map of proposed measures, did you find the map easy to navigate and understand? *An LNRS measure refers to an action that can be undertaken on the ground to achieve the overarching priority. They are mapped in places that have the biggest impact for nature recovery.*

13. Please provide any supporting comments for your answer

Technical Methods

These questions ask for feedback on the Priority Shortlisting and Mapping Methods in the document Technical Methods.

14. It is clear from the process described in the Technical Methods how the priorities have been shortlisted for action within the LNRS?

15. Is it clear from the process described in the Technical Methods how specific locations have been identified?

16. If you disagree, please provide detail below:

Delivery

These questions ask for feedback on the deliverability of the LNRS

17. How do you think the LNRS will help deliver nature recovery in your local area?

18. What additional support would help deliver nature recovery on the Island?

Accessibility

This question asks for feedback on the overall accessibility of the LNRS.

19. Do you feel the LNRS documents are easy to understand and use?

Final Comments

Please add any final thoughts and feedback here

20. Please provide any other comments you may have on the Isle of Wight Local Nature Recovery Strategy?

21. Please leave us your email address if you would like to be added to the LNRS mailing list and stay up-to-date with progress

In addition to survey tools, the Island Nature team also provided a series of short and long videos explaining each document as well as a glossary, an FAQ document, and a navigation infographic explaining each component part of the LNRS. Extensive social media activity was undertaken throughout the month. This included promotion thanks to Steering Group member organisations' social media, Isle of Wight Council social media posts and press releases, local news reports (featured by Isle of Wight News, Isle of Wight County Press, Isle of Wight Observer, Island Echo), and local radio (IW Radio). The opportunity to take part in the questionnaire/survey was also publicised directly amongst community groups and Island organisations, featuring in We Can Be Active and Community Action Isle of Wight networks and newsletters for example.

Following the public consultation, relevant changes to the documents and the mapping were made where proposals aligned with the methods employed to create the strategy. All responses to the survey were provided via a summary document and a detailed spreadsheet. Map changes were assessed on a case-by-case basis. Land removals were accepted when they did not conflict with existing local and national policy, were not part of the APIB, and did not undermine the integrity of the measures impacted. Additions were assessed against the prioritisation methodology and, where accepted, drawn within logical boundary limits, e.g., hedge lines or roads.

The team then attended a pre-publication panel to outline changes and explain the next steps for the Island's LNRS. Following this, the strategy was then accepted for publication.

With Thanks to the Isle of Wight LNRS Steering Group

Published by IWC as Responsible Authority in conjunction with Natural England following appointment by Defra

Island Nature

www.islandnature.org

Written for the Isle of Wight Council
by the Island Nature Team:

Ian Boyd
Daneen Cowling
Sam Buck
Claire Hector

PUBLISHED MAY 2025

Design and Illustration by MooksGoo
www.mooksgoo.co.uk