



West  
Yorkshire  
Combined  
Authority

Tracy  
Brabin  
Mayor of  
West Yorkshire

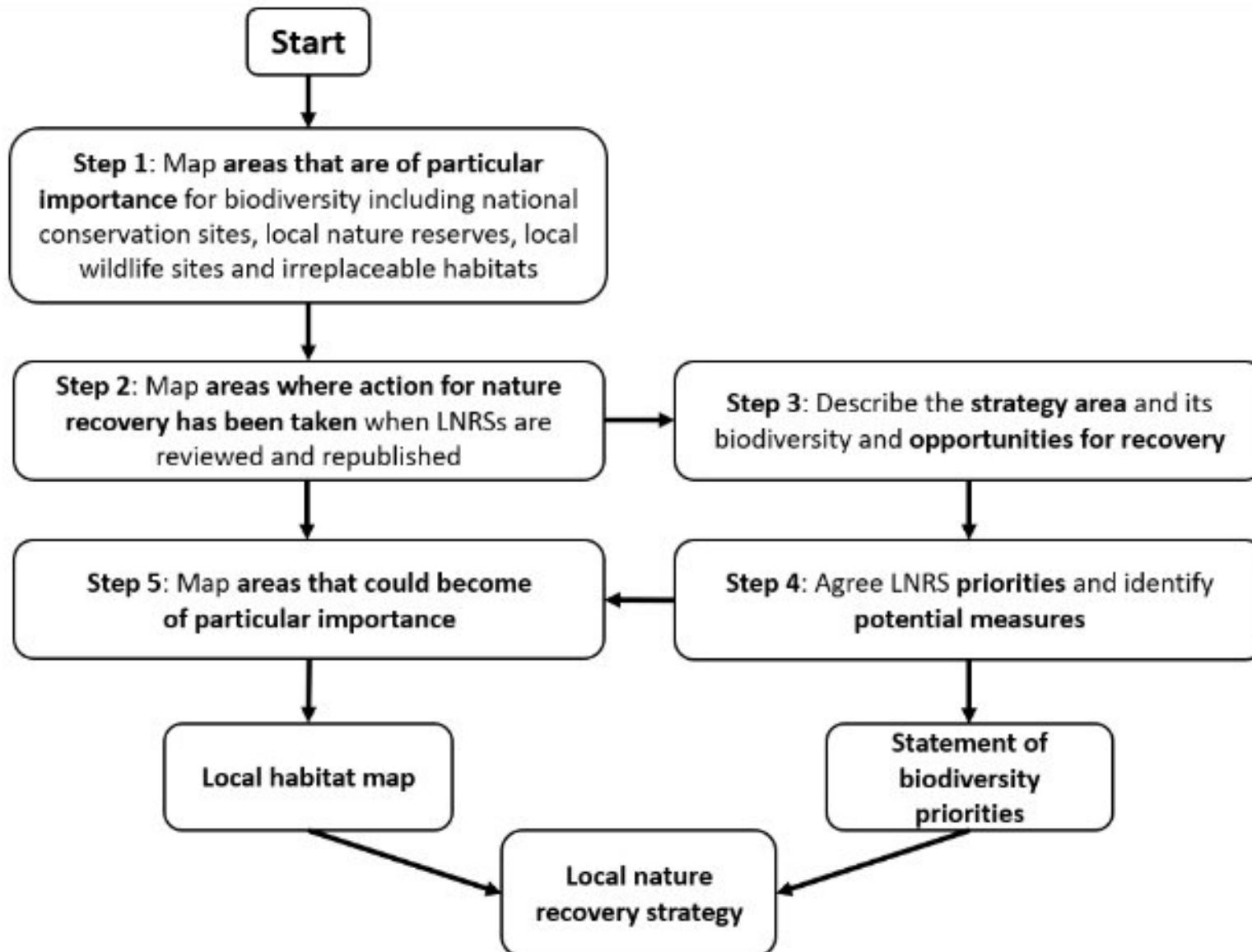
# Update: West Yorkshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy



## This presentation will cover:

- Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) process and methodology
- Stakeholder engagement
- The emerging strategy:
  - Vision and mission
  - Draft themes
  - Priorities and measures
  - Update on mapping
  - Structure of the document
- Points for discussion

# LNRS: Process and Methodology



- This diagram sets out Natural England's standardised approach to developing the LNRS.
- This is a new process, and further guidance has continued to be published throughout the development of the strategy.
- In West Yorkshire, step 1 is complete and step 3, 4 and 5 are all ongoing with the first draft due in late spring 2025.

# LNRS: Engagement (1)

Engagement has been based on Natural England's *Inclusive Engagement with Communities* guide. The combined Authority has adopted Natural England's research into potential participatory democracy to ensure that the strategy is well informed and locally rooted.

## Who have we engaged with?

- Engagement on the LNRS so far has been extensive, but we are continuing to work to ensure we hear from all of our desired audiences.

## What activities have we done so far?

- **Farmers and landowners** – this work set out to understand what farmers and landowners need to strategy to do for them. As part of this commission, a young farmer was hired to help communicate and understand what practical ideas for nature recovery farmers have.
- **Business and commercial** – this project focused on engaging with the key businesses and commercial sector. This included a roundtable during the UK Real Estate Investment and Infrastructure Forum. Further engagement included 1-2-1 interviews and a survey. The feedback showed that there is willingness within the community, but many are waiting for a clear steer on what they need to do.
- **Community groups** – this included a series of online workshops for larger eNGOs and small community groups.
- **Youth engagement** – recognised as a key group considering given age profile in West Yorkshire. Two workshops were held with two diverse groups of students at Greenhead College, Huddersfield. As part of the workshops, young people voices shared their nature-based interests and ideas, captured in their manifesto (see right).
- **Survey** – A survey was hosted online on Your Voice in the Summer of 2024. We received approximately 1,200 responses, which included over 250 locations suggested for where nature recovery in currently happening or could happen in the future.



# LNRS: Engagement (2)

## Marginalised groups: Participatory democracy commission

- We recognise that some communities are underrepresented in the engagement we have conducted thus far. We want to listen to what these groups have to say, to help strengthen the strategy. These include:
  - Young people, aged 16-24
  - Minority ethnic groups
  - People in areas of deprivation with poor access to nature
  - People with long-term health conditions or disabilities
- This engagement will give participants to opportunity to improve the strategy by making it clearer and easier from their perspective - making the strategy more relevant, meaningful and likely to succeed.
- Work is currently underway.



# LNRS: Engagement (3)

## Key messages from engagement

- The LNRS sits within a difficult policy context – it's often hard to understand and follow.
- There are limits to, and competing priorities, for funding and resources.
- We need to learn from, as well as educate and engage with, communities on the importance of nature recovery.
- Ensure equitable access to nature to promote health, wellbeing and inclusive participation in nature recovery.
- We need to understand and prioritise the co-benefits of nature recovery – health, NFM, food security.
- Farmers are truly interested in supporting nature and have their own ideas on how they can help.
- Farmers face a lot of uncertainty and are often confronted with a wide variety of overlapping and conflicting schemes.

**What do farmers and landowners in West Yorkshire really think about supporting nature?**

PERSPECTIVES FROM ACROSS THE REGION

A report to share what we've heard from farmers and landowners across West Yorkshire to help inform the Local Nature Recovery Strategy.

NOVEMBER 2023 - MARCH 2024

Insights from engagement to  
inform the Local Nature Recovery  
Strategy for West Yorkshire

October 2024



# **The Emerging Strategy**

## Draft Vision and Missions

### VISION

For West Yorkshire to pioneer post-industrial nature recovery and forge a just, green, revolution, from moor to forest, peak to valley, river to city – a bigger, better, more joined-up nature network.

### MISSIONS

#### WILDLIFE & HABITATS

Enhance, expand and connect habitats so nature's workforce of plants, animals and fungi can fix and maintain West Yorkshire's critical natural infrastructure.

#### ECOSYSTEM SERVICES

Heal the environment so that it can supply the goods and services West Yorkshire needs, such as clean water, healthy soil and fresh air, and tackle climate change.

#### PEOPLE

Build on our unique heritage (industry, geography and culture) to connect more people in West Yorkshire to nature, for health, community, economy, fairness and action for the future.



## Draft Themes

The section outlines some of the emerging elements that our engagement has identified as the key areas of focus that will, together, support nature in West Yorkshire.

# VISION

## MISSION: WILDLIFE & HABITATS

### THEMES

Biodiversity  
Towns & cities  
Trees & woodlands  
Rivers & wetlands  
Uplands  
Grassland  
Farmland  
Special species

## MISSION: ECOSYSTEM SERVICES

### THEMES

Healthy natural  
systems  
Water as golden  
thread  
Regional / national /  
global targets

## MISSION: PEOPLE

### THEMES

Connectedness  
Communities  
Culture & heritage  
Green futures  
Working together

## Priorities and Measures – what are they and what role do they have?

The strategy will include around 25 habitat 'priorities'. The habitat priorities will be supported by c70 mappable measures (actions), along with c100 generic (i.e. non-mappable) habitat measures and a suite of c200 supporting measures.

- **Priorities** = the end results that the strategy is seeking to achieve – or the '*why*'
- **Measures** = the specific practical actions to achieve those priorities – or the '*how*'
- We held several habitat workshops with experts and supporting authorities (SAs), including the West Yorkshire Districts in August/September 2024 to generate a longlist of priorities and measures.
- Following these sessions, the CA worked with Yorkshire Wildlife Trust to shortlist priorities and measures. These have been shared with experts and SAs for comments before finalising.
- The following slides help illustrate priorities and measures in a practical sense as we start to shape the LNRS.

## DRAFT Example Habitat – Built Environment

### Priority – High-quality accessible nature in towns and cities

**Measure 1:  
Create/enhance  
habitat: mappable**

Plant resilient tree species to increase significantly the number of trees and woodlands in urban areas for the long term. Do this especially in areas where there is less or no existing canopy cover, where social deprivation is high, and where there are existing land use opportunities or through land-use change, where this supports stepping stones and linear habitat linkages.

**Measure 2:  
Create/enhance  
habitat: non-  
mappable**

Grow food throughout the built environment: add edible fruiting plants, orchard trees, herbs and other edible plants wherever possible, expanding the concept of 'orchard' or 'allotment' beyond an enclosed space and incorporate edible planting into urban spaces and streets.

**Measure 3:  
supporting**

Create more opportunities for people to connect to nature. Make it easier (e.g. with signs, activities, webcams, apps, initiatives, events, opportunities to 'do-green' etc) for people to feel part of nature, to unlock the pro-nature behaviours associated with that.



## DRAFT Example Habitat – Farms

### Priority – Nature friendly farming

**Measure 1:  
Create/enhance  
habitat:  
mappable**

Plant hedgerows using a mix of native shrub and tree species, connecting existing hedgerows and filling gaps where possible. Plant trees and shrubs in field corners.

**Measure 2:  
Create/enhance  
habitat:  
anywhere**

Increase the biodiversity of existing woodlands, wetlands and other habitats on farms and other land; preserve ancient / veteran trees.

**Measure 3:  
Supporting  
measures**

On-site, draw people's attention to farmer efforts to support wildlife, so that the public learns about local species (such as ground-nesting birds), nature recovery efforts (such as woodland management) and experiments (such as reduced fertiliser use) and connect to nature to increase support.



## DRAFT Example Habitat – Water and wetlands

### Priority – In water (aquatic habitats)

**Measure 1:  
Create/enhance  
habitat: mappable**

Create new habitat corridors and ‘stepping stones’ such as wetlands, well laid native hedgerows etc to connect and extend existing green and blue places within urban spaces, through the urban fringe and into the wider countryside.

**Measure 2:  
Create/enhance  
habitat: anywhere**

Create floating habitats in heavily modified urban rivers.

**Measure 3:  
Supporting  
measures**

Build on people’s existing instinct to connect to water to boost support for action to create or restore habitats. Involve people and groups wherever possible in initiatives such as river-health citizen science, volunteering etc.



# Developing the LNRS Local Habitat Map

The Strategy will propose where to map nature recovery actions where they are most needed and where they provide the best environmental outcomes. The map will include existing nature sites and 'mapped measures'. The key stages for developing West Yorkshire's map are below:

**STAGE 1**  
Engage with key landowners to gain buy-in and establish process for collaborating on the map

**STAGE 2**  
Establish a high-level methodology for mapping habitats (the 'recipes')

**STAGE 3**  
Develop recipes for each measure, with expert input

**STAGE 4**  
Map measures according to agreed method, editing the approach based on further expert feedback

**STAGE 5**  
Develop an approach for prioritisation to resolve conflicts where multiple measures are mapped to the same location

**STAGE 6**  
Final mapped measures produced; include all information in Local Habitat Map

**STAGE 7**  
Finalise consultation draft Local Habitat Map

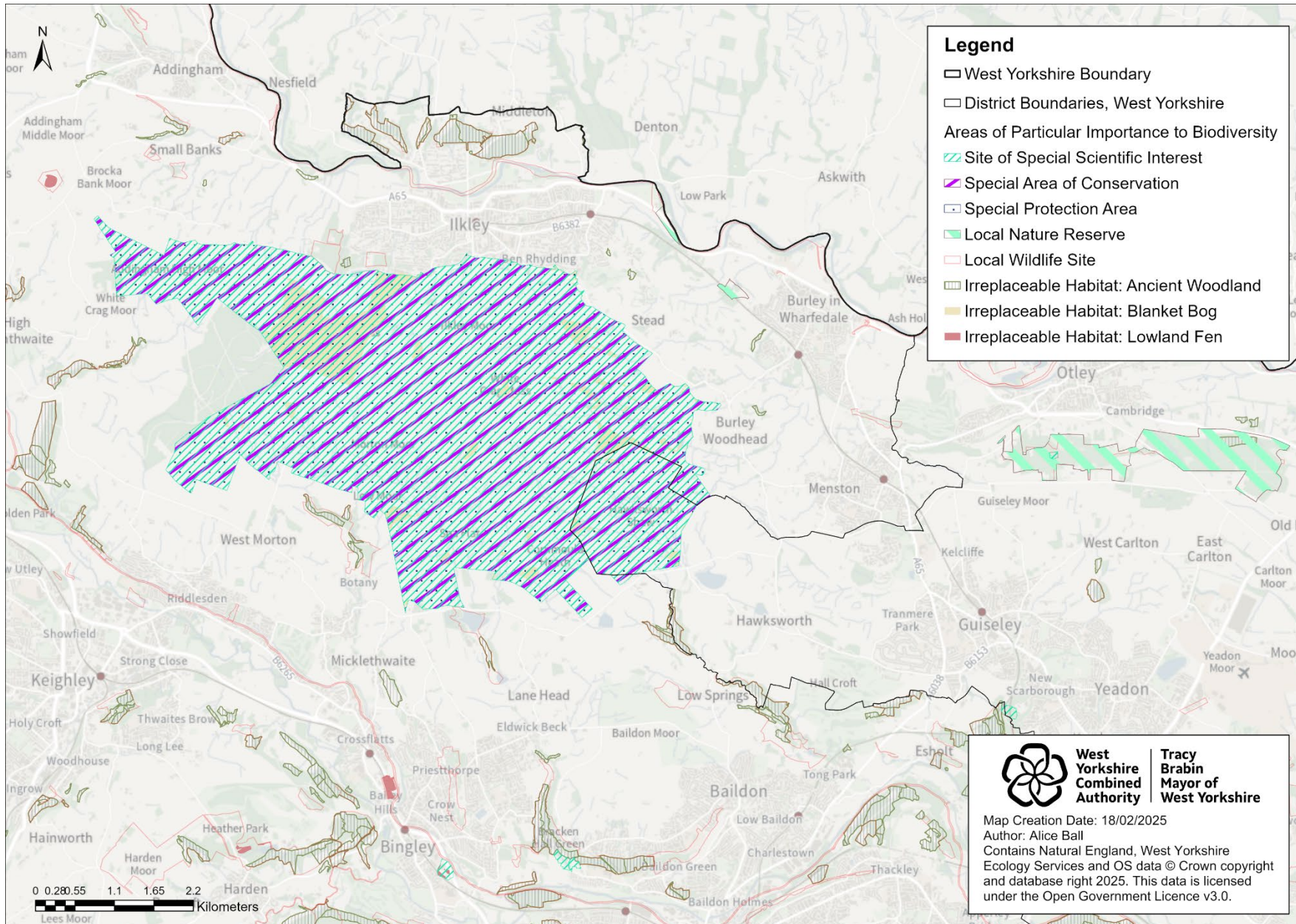
**STAGE 8**  
Public consultation

**STAGE 9**  
Updating final map based on engagement and updates to source data.

**STAGE 10**  
Publish final LNRS Local Habitat Map

Ongoing user testing to maximise accessibility of Local Habitat Map product

# LNRs: Mapping Example



# Emerging structure of the LNRS

## Acknowledgements

- Mayor's forward & priorities

## Executive summary

- Vision
- Mission
- How will we get there – what West Yorkshire needs and what need to do

## Introduction

- Strategic spotlight – a spotlight on partners – big partners, small partners and end users
- About the LNRS

## Nature in West Yorkshire

- Opportunities and challenges – what needs fixing and what are the options to do so

## People in West Yorkshire

- The people of West Yorkshire say – highlights from the engagement

## Action plan: West Yorkshire priorities and measures

- How we have developed the action plan
- Priorities and measures

## How to use the map

- Step-by-step user guide

## Supporting documents

- **How to use this strategy**
- Planners and developers (including a Developer's Charter');
- Green social prescribing (nature connectedness for health and biodiversity);
- Farmers and landowners;
- Communities and businesses; public bodies



## LNRS Timeline & Milestones

- Supporting Authority 28-day period of objection – September/October 2025
- Statutory Public Consultation – October/November 2025
- Second Supporting Authority 28-day review period – February/March 2026
- Publication of the LNRS – Spring 2026

What next? –  
Ways in which the Local Nature Recovery Strategy may be delivered/used in the future.

Criteria in future government nature recovery funding schemes

To inform where private companies choose to provide corporate donations

To guide private investments in nature and carbon markets

To inform the identification of areas that may contribute towards the government's 30 by 30 commitment



# How will we monitor the actions in the LNRS?

## **National Data**

- DEFRA hosts an annual People and Nature survey – opportunity for us to monitor local data to understand people's connectedness with nature (an indicator of pro-nature behaviour and health/wellbeing).

## **Local Data**

- Monitor access to green space using the Natural England methodology.
- Approximately 65 of the measures within the Strategy are mappable. Using the extent of these Mapped Measures, we'll be able to work with partners to monitor changes and progress over time.





## Discussion Points

# We would welcome the views of Climate, Energy and Environment Committee on:

## **Our engagement so far**

We have commissioned a piece of engagement to engage with harder to reach communities.

- Have we gone far enough on this and do the key findings of engagement to date resonate with you and your communities?

## **Vision, Mission and Priorities**

We have developed an early draft of these elements following rounds of engagement and habitat workshops.

- Do these align with the nature aspirations for your communities?
- How do you think your communities value nature and how connected to it are they? What could the LNRS do to enhance their connectedness?

## **Delivery**

Through engagement with this group, there is often the reality that communities are not fully engaged in the development process.

- How could we encourage those delivering (e.g. developers & landowners) to do more to involve local communities?