



**Cumbria
Local Nature
Recovery
Strategy Pilot
Scheme**

**Update
Bulletin –
September
2020**

Following the announcement in August that Cumbria will be one of 5 Pilot areas trialling development of a Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS), Cumbria County Council has been working through the initial set-up arrangements with Natural England and starting to plan delivery of this exciting project.

What does the Pilot scheme involve?

Cumbria County Council will be leading this work as the acting Responsible Authority. £140k funding from DEFRA is available to support this work. The funding is to be used for production of the LNRS document itself – so may be spent on things to support this such as staff resources; data and mapping; communications and engagement. The funding is not for the delivery of projects on the ground; however, it is envisaged that the production of the strategy will make it easier for groups/organisations to tap into related funding streams in the future.

Work includes mapping existing sites and habitats that are important for biodiversity and nature recovery; identifying priority outcomes for enhanced nature recovery across the county and potential measures to achieve these outcomes; and mapping suitable locations for delivery of these measures. Together the Local Habitat Map and Statement of Biodiversity Priorities will form a Local Nature Recovery Strategy for Cumbria.

Work on the Pilot schemes is scheduled to begin during September with the aim of a Draft LNRS for each Pilot area being completed by March 2021.

What is the purpose of the LNRS?

The purpose of the LNRS is to restore and link up habitats so that species can thrive, and agree the best places to help nature recover, plant trees, restore peatland, mitigate flood and fire risk, and create green spaces for local people to enjoy. With an agreed LNRS in place, the nature recovery work of everyone in Cumbria - from the designated landscapes and large conservation partnerships, to farmers, local businesses and community groups - can help to deliver a bigger, better and more joined up nature recovery network across the whole of the county.

First steps – Pilot Area Team

The first stage in the process is to establish a 'Pilot Area Team' who will act as steering group for delivery of the LNRS. We have recently established this first group including a representative from each of the local planning authorities in Cumbria – the six district councils and both National Parks - as well as a representative from Natural England, Environment Agency and the Forestry Commission. This group also includes a representative from the Cumbria Local Nature Partnership and the Cumbria Local Enterprise Partnership to represent the many individual partnerships and organisations already working on nature recovery within the county whilst keeping the group to a manageable size for overseeing the project.

Project Stages and Next Steps

There are key stages in the Pilot where stakeholder input and discussion is required, in particular around the setting of nature conservation priority outcomes, proposed measures and location for delivery of these measures. In Cumbria we are fortunate to have a number of well-established networks and partnerships already working on nature recovery initiatives within the county. A wider Collaborative Development Group will be set up to work through these stages which will include all these individual partnerships and organisations, along with other stakeholders and interested parties.

Before work on setting priorities can begin, however, the Pilot Area Team must first work through the initial technical stage of adding local data to the habitat map and setting out the description of the LNRS area. During this initial stage we will also be contacting those of you with existing nature recovery work in place to discuss how this can be integrated into a county-wide strategy.

Once DEFRA and Natural England are satisfied with this initial work, we can then move on to the wider collaborative working to identify priorities and start developing our strategy together.

Contact

Rachel Whaley – Planning Officer, Cumbria LNRS Project Manager
T: 07917 076 815 E: rachel.whaley@cumbria.gov.uk