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Dear Katherine,

## Local Nature Recovery Strategy Pilots

I want to congratulate you and your team on all the work you have done to pilot and produce prototype Local Nature Recovery Strategies.

This is a huge achievement, particularly considering the challenges caused by the pandemic and the pace at which the pilots have needed to progress. Your team's hard work and dedication to the Cumbria pilot is commendable and very much appreciated.

I have been particularly impressed by the level of technical detail on the outcomes and measures illustrates the extent of work undertaken. The Local Habitat Map is visually excellent and demonstrates to me the potential strength Local Nature Recovery Strategies have to identify positive changes for nature.

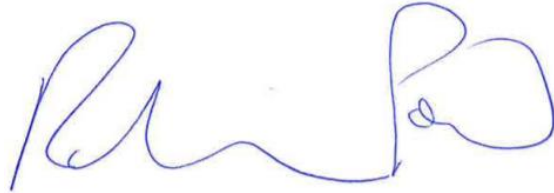
The work that you have done on the pilot has shown real leadership and excellent collaboration with stakeholders. This work will be essential in helping us to inform how we deliver on our commitments to nature recovery across England through the strategies. Local Nature Recovery Strategies will also be an essential tool in helping to deliver the Nature Recovery Network, to agree, prioritise and map opportunities for nature recovery.

The pilots have been an extremely valuable learning exercise for Defra. They will directly inform the development of policy on Local Nature Recovery Strategies, including any future Regulations and Statutory Guidance following Royal Assent of the Environment Bill. The pilots will also help inform the approach to national rollout which I hope we can commence as soon as practicable once the legal framework has been put in place.

My officials and I look forward to continuing to work with you and your team ahead of the national rollout of the strategies. Thank you once again and please do not hesitate to contact me in the future.

Yours sincerely,

**Rebecca Pow MP**

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Rebecca Pow', written in a cursive style.