



**South of Tyne and Wear
Local Nature Recovery Strategy
Stakeholder Engagement Plan**



Background

Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRS) are a new system of spatial strategies for nature and environmental improvement required by law under the Environment Act, 2021. Each strategy must:

- agree priorities for nature's recovery.
- map the most valuable existing areas for nature.
- map specific proposals for creating or improving habitat for nature and wider environmental goals.

The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs has appointed Gateshead Council as the Responsible Authority to lead on the preparation of the **South of Tyne and Wear (STW) Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS)** covering the combined areas of Gateshead, South Tyneside and Sunderland, with South Tyneside and Sunderland Councils and Natural England appointed as Supporting Authorities [Local nature recovery strategies: areas and responsible authorities - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/local-nature-recovery-strategies-areas-and-responsible-authorities).

The STW LNRS will be one of forty-eight covering the whole of England with no gaps or overlaps. These will help in the effective targeting of action and investment for nature, contributing to the Nature Recovery Network – ([Nature Recovery Network - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/nature-recovery-network)). The main purpose of LNRS is to identify locations to create or improve habitat most likely to provide the greatest benefit for nature and the wider environment.

Actions which support and draw on nature to provide wider environmental or societal benefits are called 'nature-based solutions'. These can help in tackling issues including climate change, flood regulation, water security, water pollution, food security and human health and wellbeing, as well as, reversing biodiversity loss.

Preparation of the STW LNRS will involve people and groups from across the public, private and voluntary sectors and help them work together effectively to ensure its successful delivery.

Along with Environment Land Management Schemes [Environmental land management schemes: overview - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/environmental-land-management-schemes-overview) and investment from the private sector, The Environment Act 2021 introduces two new mechanisms to help support the delivery of LNRS:

- mandatory Biodiversity Net Gain – [Understanding biodiversity net gain - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/understanding-biodiversity-net-gain)
- a strengthened biodiversity duty on public authorities – [Complying with the biodiversity duty - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/complying-with-the-biodiversity-duty)

The LNRS will identify where the delivery of net gain measures will have the most impact and encourage action in these locations through the way net gain is calculated. All public authorities will also have to have regard to relevant LNRS under the strengthened biodiversity duty.

The government intends for LNRS to inform the local planning process. Local planning authorities must have regard to them in complying with the strengthened biodiversity duty. The government will provide separate guidance to explain what this means in practice.

Gateshead Council as Responsible Authority with support from South Tyneside Council, Sunderland City Council and Natural England as Supporting Authorities will contribute to the delivery of the strategy as well as leading its preparation. However, they will not be solely responsible for delivering

the strategy. This will be a shared effort with public, private and voluntary sector partners all playing a role.

The review and republication of LNRSs forms part of an ongoing cycle which considers what has been achieved and proposes what further work is needed for nature to recover. The LNRS regulations set out when and how often reviews will take place. The stages in this cycle are:

1. Prepare - agree priorities, identify 'potential measures' (actions for achieving them) and map suitable locations for carrying them out.
2. Publish - finalise the strategy and make it available.
3. Take action - local partners work together with landowners and managers to create and enhance habitat for nature and environmental improvement and take other biodiversity-positive actions.
4. Review - recognise what actions have been delivered, including those not identified in the current strategy.
5. Update - revisit priorities, potential measures and suitable locations, to reflect progress and changing circumstances to ensure the strategy remains relevant and ambitious.
6. Republish - finalise the updated strategy and make it available.

Under the regulations, responsible and supporting authorities will work together with partners when preparing their strategy and later when reviewing and preparing it for republication. This aims to:

- provide a single vision for nature recovery and the use of nature-based solutions that all interested parties have been able to contribute to and work towards.
- build and strengthen local partnerships that will be important for delivering the strategies as well as preparing them.
- involve the people who own and manage the land, and the people who take regulatory decisions, so they can contribute to what action is being proposed, where and why.

The following principles will be applied in the preparation of the STW LNRS:

- transparency – be able to show how partner contributions have been considered, how decisions have been made, and what the basis for them is.
- inclusivity – enable everyone with an interest to be involved, where possible.
- clear communication – avoid using technical terms that may not be understood by partners and end users.

By working with local partners in this way, we will be able to produce a strategy that is technically sound and evidence based. The South of Tyne and Wear LNRS will also benefit from local knowledge and have the support from partners to help achieve successful delivery.

This document sets out how public, private and voluntary sector partners and the public will be engaged in the preparation, delivery and review of the STW LNRS, maximising people's awareness of, participation in and support for the project. This includes engaging with neighbouring LNRS Responsible Authorities and, once established, the North East Mayoral Combined Authority [Historic £1.4 billion devolution deal for North East - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/historic-1.4-billion-devolution-deal-for-north-east).

Stakeholder Engagement Steps

Commencement	Awareness raising and questionnaire
Step 1.	Map areas of particular importance for biodiversity
Step 2.	Maps areas where action for nature recovery has been undertaken
Step 3.	Describe strategy area and its biodiversity and opportunities for recovery
Step 4.	Agree LNRS priorities and identify potential measures
Step 5.	Map areas that could become of potential importance
Statutory Consultation	Consultation on draft LNRS incl. Local Habitat Map and Statement of Biodiversity Priorities

Communication and Engagement

Vision and narrative for the STW LNRS

This will be established prior to any engagement and will be used consistently in all communication and engagement activities.

Stakeholder engagement

All activity should be under the umbrella of the STW LNRS (natureplan Gateshead , South Tyneside , Sunderland) using the agreed branding, vision and narrative throughout. Messaging will be adapted to reflect the various stages in the process and the stakeholders, including the public, the project is seeking to engage.

Approach to engagement and consultation

Gateshead Council as the appointed Responsible Authority is required under the LNRS regulations to take reasonable steps to:

1. involve all supporting authorities for its strategy.
2. involve such persons and organisations as appear appropriate.

Gateshead, South Tyneside and Sunderland Councils and Natural England, together with the Environment Agency, Forestry Commission, Durham Wildlife Trust, and the Environmental Records Information Centre North East (ERIC NE) have identified an initial list of stakeholders that will be engaged at certain points throughout the preparation of the STW LNRS. Stakeholders can be separated in to two distinct groupings for engagement activities and are included in this engagement plan:

- a) stakeholders who must be kept up to date and informed of progress regarding the LNRS.
- b) stakeholders who will be consulted and asked for feedback and information.

NB The status of stakeholders will vary depending on which Step of the LNRS preparation is being undertaken. Not all stakeholders, e.g. the general public, will be asked for information/feedback at every Step in the process.

Where appropriate and agreed with the Responsible Authorities for the North of Tyne LNRS, Durham LNRS and Tees Valley LNRS, consideration will be given to the initial coordinated engagement of certain stakeholders where this is considered practicable and advantageous.

Stakeholder Groupings and Engagement Schedule

Stakeholders (Grouped)	Commencement	Step 1.	Step 2.	Step 3.	Step 4.	Step 5.	Consultation
Academic Institutions (Schools, Colleges & Universities)							
Businesses							
General Public							
House Builders & Housing Associations							
Landowners, Agents & Managers (incl. Representative Bodies)							
Local Gov. incl. Councillors, MPs, SAs & RAs							
Media Groups (local)							
Minerals & Waste Operators							
Nature Conservation Groups							
Partnerships & Partners							
Planning, Ecological & Landscape Consultants incl. Representative Bodies							
Statutory Bodies							
Statutory Undertakers & Emergency Services							
Volunteer, Community & Special Interest Groups							

Establishing the vision, narrative, and brand for the STW LNRS

The vision, narrative and brand for the STW LNRS will be developed and agreed prior to engaging an external audience.

The narrative will be based on the ambitions of the strategy and be used to describe it publicly so audiences understand in simple terms what the strategy will achieve. It will be used across all public facing communication and engagement activities and across all channels, and although it will not be used in its entirety all of the time, all messaging will be consistent and reflect this.

Branding

A brand, project name and logo have been developed for the STW LNRS and this will be used on all materials and launched as part of the first stage of engagement. This brand will follow Gateshead Council's branding and accessibility principles. It has been developed to provide the STW LNRS with a stand-alone, unique identity that can be used by all partners in the project. The project will be branded as natureplan Gateshead . South Tyneside . Sunderland and the domain name www.natureplan.org.uk has been registered to host a dedicated website.



Commencement - Awareness raising and questionnaire

The commencement phase of the project is intended to raise awareness of the STW LNRS and ensure there is a clear understanding of its purpose and what the outcomes will be. It will also ensure that all stakeholders are aware of how and when they can feed in and influence the preparation of the LNRS. A key objective is to manage expectations so that stakeholders feel able to input and influence the process and have a clear understanding of what the end outcome will be.

Initial discussions and learnings from the Cornwall pilot LNRS have led to the proposal for an online survey, open to all, to be included on the natureplan website. This will include questions to gather data on people's perceptions and understanding of nature, and their access to it. Questions will be worded in a way that is accessible to all. All data gathered through this process will be designed to allow for easy and meaningful interpretation of the results. The purpose of the questionnaire will be to raise awareness of South of Tyne and Wear LNRS and gather contact details of interested parties, which will be used for further consultation. This process and the design of the questionnaire will be agreed and finalised by the South of Tyne and Wear LNRS Working Group.

An additional tool under review is an online map for individuals and organisations to identify areas they consider to be important or could be improved for nature. The map will require respondents to provide information in a set format with a limited word count, along with their contact details.

Aims and objectives of communications and engagement

- To raise the awareness of the STW LNRS, natureplan brand and the website.
- Start a transparent and inclusive conversation with stakeholders – to seek views on how and where nature should be recovered.
- Establish the scope and aim of the LNRS to manage stakeholders' expectations.
- Ensure there are no surprises and that all stakeholders are aware of the process and how and when they can feed in and influence the end result.
- Thinking outside the box – gathering ideas and local knowledge that we might not have thought of.
- Raise awareness of what LNRS are and what their main objectives will be.
- Develop a comprehensive database of interested stakeholders.
- Encourage participation and engagement – explaining why the LNRS is important and how it will impact nature recovery in South of Tyne and Wear.
- Ensure there is timely and accurate information accessible for all.

Key messages

Agreed key messages will ensure we are consistent about what we say about the South of Tyne and Wear LNRS from the outset, and this will help to increase engagement and raise the audience's awareness and understanding of our aims.

The messaging will need to be reviewed as each phase of the work is completed, especially as the draft LNRS is developed. Although LNRS are being produced covering every Local Authority area in England, most people are not aware of them or how to get involved. All messaging must be delivered so that it is inclusive and easy to understand.

- The South of Tyne and Wear LNRS is an important spatial strategy for nature and environmental improvement.
- The main purpose of the South of Tyne and Wear LNRS is to identify locations to create or improve habitat most likely to provide the greatest benefits for nature and the wider environment.
- The strategy will not force the owners and managers of land identified to make any changes. It will encourage action through identification of opportunities for funding and investment.
- The South of Tyne and Wear LNRS will inform the local planning process and will help guide how each local authority complies with the strengthened biodiversity duty.
- Gateshead, South Tyneside and Sunderland Councils and Natural England are not solely responsible for the delivery of the strategy, this will be a shared effort with public, private and voluntary sector partners.
- The authors want to hear from a wide range of stakeholders and consultees in the process of preparing the LNRS.

Target audiences

For this stage of the process all identified stakeholders will be engaged to ensure there is broad awareness of the STW LNRS, its aims and objectives and brand. Stakeholders have been identified through a combination of DEFRA guidance and by the STW LNRS Working Group. Extensive discussions have taken place to identify stakeholders to be consulted at each stage of the strategy's preparation.

Commencement – Engagement will take place with the stakeholders identified in the table below.

Commencement – Awareness raising and questionnaire

Stakeholders	Channel	Activity
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Academic Institutions • House Builders & Housing Associations • Landowners, Agents & Managers • Minerals & Waste Operators • Nature Conservation Groups • Partnerships & Partners • Statutory Bodies • Statutory Undertakers & Emergency Services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social, Television & Print Media • Website (incl. questionnaire) • Email • Workshop/Webinar/Meeting • STW LNRS Working/Sub-Groups 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of social, television and print media directing stakeholders to dedicated STW LNRS website. • Use of targeted email, where appropriate, directing stakeholders to dedicated STW LNRS website. • Option for targeted workshop/webinar/meeting for selected stakeholders. • Option for targeted representation on STW LNRS Working Group and/or Sub-Groups.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Businesses • Planning, Ecological & Landscape Consultants • Volunteer, Community & Special Interest Groups 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social, Television & Print Media • Website (incl. questionnaire) • Direct Contact (e.g. Email) • Workshop/Webinar 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of social, television and print media directing stakeholders to dedicated STW LNRS website. • Use of targeted email, where appropriate, directing stakeholders to dedicated STW LNRS website. • Option for targeted workshop/webinar/meeting for selected stakeholders.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General Public 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social, Television & Print Media • Website (incl. questionnaire) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of social, television and print media directing stakeholders to dedicated STW LNRS website.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Gov. incl. Councillors, MPs, SAs & RAs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social, Television & Print Media • Website (incl. questionnaire) • Email • Workshop/Webinar/Meeting • Internal Memos & Reports • STW LNRS Working/Sub-Group • NE LNRS Working Group 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of social, television and print media directing stakeholders to dedicated STW LNRS website. • Use of targeted email, where appropriate, directing stakeholders to dedicated STW LNRS website. • Option for targeted workshop(s) and/or webinar for selected stakeholders (e.g. elected members). • Use of internal memos and reports (e.g. Portfolio & Cabinet) • The hosting and attendance of STW LNRS & NE LNRS working group and sub-group meetings.

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Media Groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Social Media• Direct Contact (e.g. Email)• Website (incl. questionnaire)• Press Release• Articles	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Coordinated communications campaign involving social media and press releases issued to television and print media and articles in partner organisations websites, magazines and newsletters, directing stakeholders to dedicated STW LNRS website.
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Step 1 – Map of areas of particular importance for biodiversity

Using data provided by Government and held by the contributing local authorities, a map will be produced identifying all international and national statutory designated nature conservation sites and Local Nature Reserves within the strategy area. It will also identify “other areas which in the opinion of the Responsible and Supporting Authorities are of particular importance for biodiversity”.

The STW LNRS will take a consistent approach to identifying ‘other areas of particular importance for biodiversity’ in its Local Habitat Map, including:

- all existing Local Wildlife Sites
- areas of Irreplaceable Habitat
- other areas identified by the Secretary of State as being of particular importance.

This will enable the STW LNRS to integrate well with other environmental and land use policies.

‘Local Wildlife Site’ is a term used to describe areas identified at a local level for their biodiversity value and which are granted protection through the planning system from inappropriate development or change of use. Including them in the Local Habitat Map as Areas of Particular Importance for Biodiversity will help align the STW LNRS with the planning system.

Irreplaceable Habitats are those with a high biodiversity value that would be difficult if not impossible to recreate. Such habitats receive significant protection through the National Planning Policy Framework. The Local Habitat Map will identify areas of Irreplaceable Habitat, such as ancient woodland and coastal sand dunes, as Areas of Particular Importance for Biodiversity. The government is preparing regulations to establish a clear legal definition of ‘Irreplaceable Habitat’. Until this is available, the definition of Irreplaceable Habitat in the National Planning Policy Framework will be used.

The Secretary of State may identify areas that, in their opinion, are of particular importance for biodiversity. If the Secretary of State does this, they will inform the Responsible Authority who will map these areas as being of particular importance - unless there are strong reasons not to.

When reviewing the STW LNRS ahead of republication, the Responsible and Supporting Authorities will identify any changes to the areas of particular importance for biodiversity and update their Local Habitat Map.

To do this they may need to consult with other parties including Natural England and neighbouring LNRS Responsible Authorities. They may also need to request data from other organisations, for example, on the distribution of irreplaceable habitats. However, this step is not expected to require wide engagement with stakeholders and so should be comparatively quick to complete.

Aims and objectives of communications and engagement

- Work with ERIC NE to map Areas of Particular Importance for Biodiversity.
- To ensure a consistent approach to the mapping of Areas of Particular Importance for Biodiversity with neighbouring LNRS (i.e., North of Tyne, Durham and Tees Valley).
- Ensure participation by key stakeholders in mapping Areas of Particular Importance for Biodiversity.

Step 1. Engagement will take place with the stakeholders identified in the table below.

Step 1. Map areas of particular importance for biodiversity

Stakeholders	Channel	Activity
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Gov. incl. Councillors, MPs, SAs & RAs • Partnerships & Partners • Statutory Bodies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Email • Workshop/Webinar/Meeting • STW LNRS Working Group • NE LNRS Working Group 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engagement with STW LNRS Supporting Authorities (SAs) and neighbouring LNRS Responsible Authorities (RAs), the local records centre (ERIC NE) and statutory agencies via email, workshop/webinar/meeting and hosting/attending STW LNRS and NE LNRS working and sub-group meetings.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Academic Institutions • Businesses • General Public • House Builders & Housing Associations • Landowners, Agents & Managers • Media Groups • Minerals & Waste Operators • Nature Conservation Groups • Planning, Ecological and Landscape Consultants • Statutory Undertakers & Emergency Services • Volunteer, Community & Special Interest Groups 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social Media • Website 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awareness raising – stakeholders directed to website following publication of Map.

Step 2 - Map areas where nature recovery action has been taken

The Defra Secretary of State will tell Responsible Authorities when they must review and republish their LNRS. This will be every 3 to 10 years. These reviews will document what and where action for nature has been undertaken since the strategy was last published.

Mapped areas will show the previous strategy's proposed actions ('potential measures') that have been taken forward. They will also include other actions that were not included in the strategy but have been undertaken since it was last published and which support delivery of its priorities. The review will consider whether the action taken is significant enough to be included in the local habitat map, taking advice from Natural England if necessary. Actions will only be mapped if they have or are expected to bring about significant or lasting positive change rather than minor, short-term or uncertain benefits.

The review will consider both published information and information provided by local partners to inform this mapping. They will use published information which includes:

- reports published by public bodies as part of their duty to conserve and enhance biodiversity.
- the biodiversity net gain site register.
- other government data.

When undertaking the review and republication of the STW LNRS strategy, decisions will be taken on whether the locations of previous activity should be kept on the local habitat map. Positive action does not necessarily need to have been taken for a proposed action to remain mapped.

Engagement with a broad range of targeted local partners will be undertaken to identify areas where action has been taken to recover nature. This is likely to include individuals and organisations who hold information on how areas of land are managed.

Although Step 2 is not legally required until the review and republication of LNRS, it is the intention to carry out engagement on recently delivered actions for nature recovery in preparing the first STW LNRS. This engagement will be used to provide case studies to inform future nature recovery work.

Aims and objectives of communications and engagement

- Raise awareness of targeted stakeholders to the purpose of the map
- Set out criteria for proposed and delivered actions for nature to be included/mapped as part of the LNRS review and republication and initial storyboard exercise.
- Ensure all targeted stakeholders know when to provide information, the format it is to be provided in and where to send it.
- Raise awareness of workshops and events that will be held to gather this information.
- Engage with targeted stakeholders to identify case studies where action for nature recovery has been taken.

At review and republish stage, engage with targeted stakeholders to build a comprehensive map of areas where action for nature recovery has been undertaken.

Step 2. Engagement will take place with the stakeholders identified in the table below.

Step 2. Map areas where action for nature recovery has been taken

Stakeholders	Channel	Activity
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Gov. incl. Councillors, MPs, SAs & RAs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Direct Contact (e.g. email; MS Teams) • STW LNRS Working Group • NE LNRS Working Group 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engagement with SAs via email, MS Teams and regular STW LNRS working and sub-group meetings. • Engagement with neighbouring RAs via email, MS Teams and regular NE LNRS working and sub-group meetings.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landowners, Agents & Managers • Minerals & Waste Operators • Nature Conservation Groups • Partnerships & Partners • Statutory Bodies • Statutory Undertakers & Emergency Services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social Media • Website • Direct Contact (e.g. email) • Workshop/Webinar/Meeting • STW LNRS Working Group 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of social media directing stakeholders to STW LNRS website. • Use of targeted email directing stakeholders to website and requesting submission of info. • Option for targeted workshop/webinar/meeting for selected stakeholders to raise awareness and gather info. • Option for targeted representation on STW LNRS Working Group and/or Sub-Groups.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Academic Institutions • Businesses • General Public • House Builders & Housing Associations • Media Groups • Planning, Ecological & Landscape Consultants • Volunteer, Community & Special Interest Groups 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social Media • Website 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awareness raising – stakeholders directed to website following publication of StoryMap.

Step 3 - Describe the strategy area, its biodiversity, and opportunities for recovery

The STW LNRS statement of biodiversity priorities will include a description of the strategy area, its biodiversity, and opportunities for recovery.

The purpose of the strategy area description is to inform the setting of priorities and identifying of measures and locations for recovering or enhancing biodiversity and environmental improvement within the strategy area. To do this, consideration will be given to:

- the range of habitats in the strategy area and their general distribution, especially priority habitats, and habitats of local importance, including those that support scarce or declining species.
- how the distribution and extent of habitats has changed in recent decades, including habitats that may have been lost entirely from the strategy area.
- the species or groups of species for which the strategy area is, or could feasibly be, of national importance.
- anticipated future pressures likely to influence species or the extent, distribution or quality of different habitat types – including recognising the impact of climate change scenarios, land use and new development, including house building and infrastructure.
- wider environmental issues affecting part or all of the strategy area which changes in land use or management could help to address – for example improvements to the water environment, flood risk management, or climate mitigation and adaptation.

The South of Tyne and Wear LNRS will consider both habitats and species. The authorities will refer to habitat types throughout their statement of biodiversity priorities to help link them together and connect the statement to the local habitat map.

When writing the description of the STW LNRS area, its biodiversity and opportunities for recovery, reference will be made to:

- the areas of particular importance for biodiversity
- the areas where action has been taken (for strategy reviews)
- relevant nationally held data provided by government.

A wide range of other available data and expertise from local partner organisations will also be used in preparing the STW LNRS area description, along with the engagement of neighbouring LNRS to ensure a common approach, where appropriate

When describing the strategy area, regard will be had to other relevant spatial plans and strategies. This will include local development plans and environmental plans such as river basin management plans and related plans for water management. This will avoid duplicating effort and help integrate the activities that each plan is promoting into the strategy. Preparation of the area description will offer good engagement opportunities for targeted partner organisations before critical decision-making steps later in the LNRS process.

Aims and objectives of communications and engagement

- Maximise engage with targeted stakeholders to produce an accurate description of the LNRS area, its biodiversity and opportunities for nature recovery.

Step 3. Engagement will take place with the stakeholders identified in the table below.

Step 3. Describe the strategy area, its biodiversity and opportunities for recovery

Stakeholders	Channel	Activity
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Gov. incl. Councillors, MPs, SAs & RAs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Email; MS Teams • STW LNRS Working Group • NE LNRS Working Group 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engagement with SAs via email, MS Teams and regular STW LNRS working and sub-group meetings. • Engagement with neighbouring RAs via email, MS Teams and regular NE LNRS working and sub-group meetings.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nature Conservation Groups • Partnerships & Partners • Statutory Bodies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social Media • Website • Email; MS Teams • Workshop/Webinar/Meeting • STW LNRS Working Group 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of social media directing stakeholders to STW LNRS website. • Use of targeted email directing stakeholders to website and requesting info./data/input. • Option for targeted workshop/webinar/meeting for selected stakeholders to raise awareness and gather info. • Option for targeted representation on STW LNRS Working Group and/or Sub-Groups.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Academic Institutions • Businesses • General Public • House Builders & Housing Associations • Landowners, Agents & Managers • Media Groups • Minerals & Waste Operators • Planning, Ecological & Landscape Consultants • Statutory Undertakers & Emergency Services • Volunteer, Community & Special Interest Groups 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social Media • Website 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awareness raising – stakeholders directed to website following publication of STW LNRS area description.

Step 4 - Agree LNRS priorities and identify potential measures

The STW LNRS statement of biodiversity priorities will set out ‘the priorities, in terms of habitats and species, for recovering or enhancing biodiversity (taking into account the contribution that recovering or enhancing biodiversity can also make to other environmental benefits)’. This is a critical step in the LNRS process as it establishes what the strategy is seeking to achieve. It is, therefore, a stage in strategy preparation where effective engagement with stakeholders will be particularly important.

The reference to ‘other environmental benefits’ will be an important feature of the STW LNRS. This is how the strategy will include ‘nature-based solutions’ to address wider socio-environmental issues as well as priorities for recovering or enhancing biodiversity.

The statement of biodiversity priorities will also include ‘proposals as to the potential measures relating to those priorities’.

The strategy will try to clearly distinguish between priorities (the end results that the strategy is seeking to achieve) and the specific practical actions to achieve those priorities (the ‘potential measures’). However, there is a close relationship between these two required elements and the decision may be taken to develop them at the same time.

The priorities identified in the strategy will reflect local circumstances and have regard to the responses of stakeholders including the wider public. It will also reflect the contribution the strategy area can make to national environmental objectives, commitments, and targets, including those legally binding targets established by the Environment Act, 2021. This is so the STW LNRS can integrate coherently with other LNRS to recover and enhance biodiversity and improve the natural environment across England.

Priorities for recovering or enhancing particular species or habitats to improve biodiversity and deliver wider socio-environmental goals will be based on the assessment of opportunities. However, local partners will still be able to suggest additional habitats and species that they consider important at this stage.

Examples of wider socio-environmental objectives that the STW LNRS will seek to contribute to are:

- climate change mitigation and adaptation (for example, through the potential measure of planting trees)
- improving the water environment (for example, through the potential measure of creating wetlands)

The STW LNRS will focus on supporting the recovery and enhancement of species and habitats, and achievable wider socio-environmental improvements through their conservation and enhancement.

Local partners will have a vital role to play in identifying a comprehensive set of potential measures to deliver the agreed priorities, with contributions being sought from partners with ecological, environmental and practical land management experience.

The LNRS will set out the potentially complex relationships between priorities and potential measures as clearly as possible. This will enable local partners, including landowners and other decision makers, to understand:

- why particular potential measures are being proposed.
- how different potential measures can contribute to the same priority.

- how a potential measure can achieve multiple priorities.

Doing this transparently will increase the chances of the strategy leading to positive practical action. To be persuasive, both priorities and potential measures will be expressed clearly, simply and in an accessible way for the range of stakeholders who will use them.

Potential measures will include sufficient detail so that non-experts can understand their purpose and be able to seek further guidance or instruction (if necessary) to confidently carry them out successfully. The STW LNRS will be an ambitious but practical, realistic and deliverable document.

The LNRS will engage with local partner organisations to find out what environmental projects are already planned or underway to see if they can be included as potential measures. This allows the South of Tyne and Wear LNRS to incorporate existing relevant work and align with other environmental spatial strategies. This will help improve efficiency and achieve better environmental outcomes.

Aims and objectives of communications and engagement

- Ensure all stakeholders have an awareness of the work to date and how to give further feedback.
- Bring in any stakeholders not yet engaged with the process.
- Ensure stakeholders are aware of the draft priorities and potential measures and have an opportunity to further shape them.
- Ensure all stakeholders have another opportunity to engage with the STW LNRS and shape its development.
- Ensure no stakeholder feels like the STW LNRS is a 'done deal' when the consultation phase commences.

Step 4. Engagement will take place with the stakeholders identified in the table below.

Step 4. Agree LNRS priorities and identify potential measures

Stakeholders	Channel	Activity
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Academic Institutions • House Builders & Housing Associations • Landowners, Agents & Managers • Minerals & Waste Operators • Nature Conservation Groups • Partnerships & Partners • Statutory Bodies • Statutory Undertakers & Emergency Services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social & Print Media • Website • Email • Workshop/Webinar/Meeting • STW LNRS Working/Sub-Groups 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of social, television and print media directing stakeholders to website and draft Priorities & Potential Measures document for comment. • Use of targeted email, where appropriate, directing stakeholders to website and draft Priorities & Potential Measures document for comment. • Option for targeted workshop/webinar/meeting for selected stakeholders to provide input on development of draft Priorities & Potential Measures document. • Option for targeted representation on STW LNRS Working Group and/or Sub-Groups, contributing to development of draft Priorities & Potential Measures document.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Businesses • Planning, Ecological & Landscape Consultants • Volunteer, Community & Special Interest Groups 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social & Print Media • Website • Email • Workshop/Webinar 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of social, television and print media directing stakeholders to website and draft Priorities & Potential Measures document for comment. • Use of targeted email, where appropriate, directing stakeholders to website and draft Priorities & Potential Measures document for comment. • Option for targeted workshop/webinar/meeting for selected stakeholders to provide input on development of draft Priorities & Potential Measures document.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General Public 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social & Print Media • Website (incl. questionnaire) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of social, television and print media directing stakeholders to website and draft Priorities & Potential Measures document for comment.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local Gov. incl. Councillors, MPs, SAs & RAs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Social & Print Media Website Email Workshop/Webinar/Meeting Internal Memos & Reports STW LNRS Working/Sub-Group NE LNRS Working Group 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use of social, television and print media directing stakeholders to website and draft Priorities & Potential Measures document for comment. Use of targeted email, where appropriate, directing stakeholders to website and draft Priorities & Potential Measures document for comment. Option for targeted workshop/webinar/meeting for selected stakeholders to provide input on development of draft Priorities & Potential Measures document. Use of internal memos and reports (e.g. Portfolio & Cabinet) The hosting and attendance of STW LNRS & NE LNRS working group and sub-group meetings.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Media Groups 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Social Media Email Website Press Release Articles 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordinated communications activity involving social and print media including partner organisations social media channels, websites, magazines and newsletters; directing stakeholders to website and Priorities and Potential Measures document for comment.

Step 5 - Map areas that could become of particular importance

The STW LNRS will include a map of areas that could become of particular importance for biodiversity or where the recovery or enhancement of biodiversity could make a particular contribution to other environmental benefits. These areas are collectively referred to as 'areas that could become of particular importance'. They are where, based on evidence, effort should be concentrated to restore nature, to achieve the most for biodiversity and the wider environment.

The mapping of 'areas that could become of particular importance' will involve identifying locations where potential measures from the statement of biodiversity priorities could be carried out in a way that contributes to the strategy's wider priorities. This will enable consideration of areas of potential importance for biodiversity and wider socio-environmental benefits in an integrated way.

This mapping will also build on the distribution of existing habitats and the areas of particular importance for biodiversity, identified at the first stage of preparing the Local Habitat Map. This is so areas of particular importance for biodiversity can be expanded and/or connected. This can help to establish larger and more resilient networks of high-quality habitat. Areas mapped could range in size, from linear features such as hedgerows, to larger landscape-scale features.

When considering alternative feasible locations for a potential measure or different potential measures in the same location, responsible authorities should consider:

- which would have the greatest impact on achieving the priorities.
- which would achieve greater connectivity of similar biodiverse habitats across the landscape.

Where a potential measure could feasibly be delivered in multiple locations, consideration will be given to those that would benefit nature's recovery and the delivery of wider socio-environmental goals the most.

Preparation of the LNRS will consider other relevant environmental plans, strategies and knowledge held by local partners about where nature conservation activity is already proposed, and where additional action would have the most impact. The process will identify areas that could become of particular importance for specific potential measures and make it clear which potential measure has been proposed in those areas.

The views of landowners and managers will be sought when mapping areas that could become of particular importance for biodiversity. The draft strategy will go through formal public consultation.

Aims and objectives of communications and engagement

- Ensure all stakeholders have an opportunity to influence the final map of areas that could become of particular importance.
- Bring in any stakeholders not yet engaged with the process.
- Ensure all stakeholders have another opportunity to engage with the STW LNRS and shape its development.
- Ensure no stakeholder feels like the South of Tyne and Wear LNRS is a 'done deal' when the consultation phase commences.
- Identify a wide range of measures and locations that could deliver nature recovery and wider socio-environmental goals.

Step 5. Engagement will take place with the stakeholders identified in the table below.

Step 5. Map areas that could become of particular importance

Stakeholders	Channel	Activity
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Academic Institutions • House Builders & Housing Associations • Landowners, Agents & Managers • Minerals & Waste Operators • Nature Conservation Groups • Partnerships & Partners • Statutory Bodies • Statutory Undertakers & Emergency Services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social & Print Media • Website • Email • Workshop/Webinar/Meeting • STW LNRS Working/Sub-Groups 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of social, television and print media directing stakeholders to website and draft Priorities & Potential Measures document for comment. • Use of targeted email, where appropriate, directing stakeholders to website and draft Priorities & Potential Measures document for comment. • Option for targeted workshop/webinar/meeting for selected stakeholders to provide input on development of draft Priorities & Potential Measures document. • Option for targeted representation on STW LNRS Working Group and/or Sub-Groups, contributing to development of draft Priorities & Potential Measures document.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Businesses • Planning, Ecological & Landscape Consultants • Volunteer, Community & Special Interest Groups 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social & Print Media • Website • Email • Workshop/Webinar 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of social, television and print media directing stakeholders to website and draft Priorities & Potential Measures document for comment. • Use of targeted email, where appropriate, directing stakeholders to website and draft Priorities & Potential Measures document for comment. • Option for targeted workshop/webinar/meeting for selected stakeholders to provide input on development of draft Priorities & Potential Measures document.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General Public 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social & Print Media • Website (incl. questionnaire) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of social, television and print media directing stakeholders to website and draft Priorities & Potential Measures document for comment.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local Gov. incl. Councillors, MPs, SAs & RAs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Social & Print Media Website Email Workshop/Webinar/Meeting Internal Memos & Reports STW LNRS Working/Sub-Group NE LNRS Working Group 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use of social, television and print media directing stakeholders to website and draft Priorities & Potential Measures document for comment. Use of targeted email, where appropriate, directing stakeholders to website and draft Priorities & Potential Measures document for comment. Option for targeted workshop/webinar/meeting for selected stakeholders to provide input on development of draft Priorities & Potential Measures document. Use of internal memos and reports (e.g. Portfolio & Cabinet) The hosting and attendance of STW LNRS & NE LNRS working group and sub-group meetings.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Media Groups 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Social Media Email Website Press Release Articles 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordinated communications activity involving social and print media including partner organisations social media channels, websites, magazines and newsletters; directing stakeholders to website and Priorities and Potential Measures document for comment.

Consultation on draft LNRS incl. Local Habitat Map and Statement of Biodiversity Priorities

Consultation on Draft STW LNRS incl. Local Habitat Map and Statement of Biodiversity Priorities

Stakeholders	Channel	Activity
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Academic Institutions • Businesses • General Public • House Builders & Housing Associations • Landowners, Agents & Managers • Local Gov. incl. Councillors, MPs, SAs & RAs • Media Groups • Minerals & Waste Operators • Nature Conservation Groups • Partnerships & Partners • Planning, Ecological & Landscape Consultants • Statutory Bodies • Statutory Undertakers & Emergency Services • Volunteer, Community & Special Interest Groups 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social, Television & Print Media • Website (incl. questionnaire) • Email • Workshop/Webinar/Meeting • STW LNRS Working/Sub-Groups 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of social and print media directing stakeholders to website and consultation tool. • Use of targeted email, where appropriate, directing stakeholders to website and consultation tool.