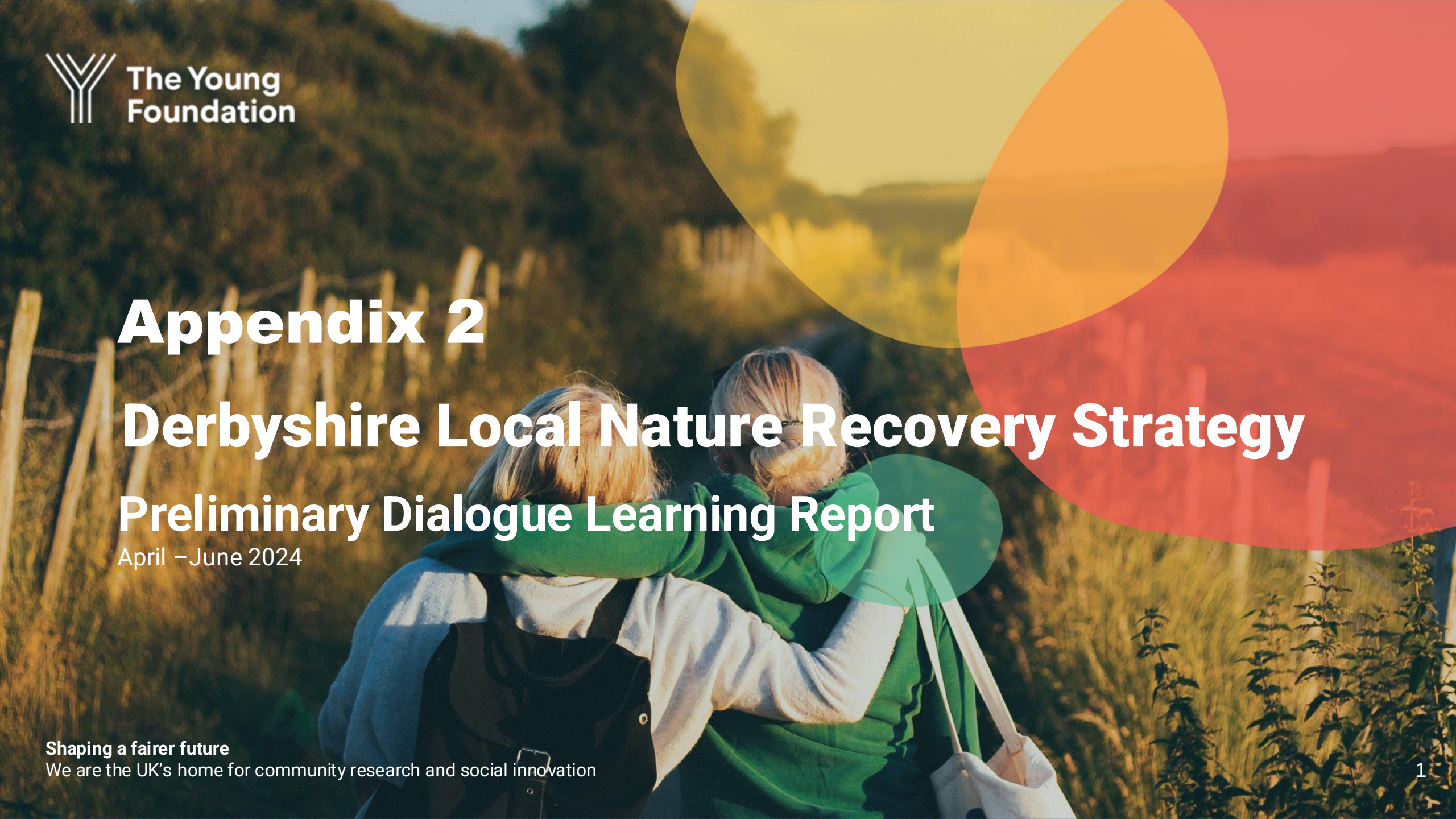


The Young Foundation

Appendix 2

Derbyshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy

Preliminary Dialogue Learning Report

April –June 2024

Shaping a fairer future
We are the UK's home for community research and social innovation

Setting the scene

Derbyshire County Council is working with The Young Foundation and The University of Derby to develop Derbyshire's Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS).

The LNRS will set out priorities for nature recovery and propose actions in locations that would contribute to achieving these priorities. This involves bringing together diverse perspectives from partners, communities, and citizens across Derbyshire to co-create a vision for nature recovery that responds to the needs of today and meets the challenges of the future.

This learning report is intended for internal use and presents the findings from the Preliminary Dialogue engagement work undertaken by The Young Foundation in April and May 2024.

Contents

- Introduction
  - Executive Summary
  - Purpose of the Phase 1 Engagement
  - Phase 1 in Numbers
- Deep Dive Workshops:
  - Attendees
  - Questions people are holding (you've got mail)
  - Mapping Derbyshire
  - Principles for the LNRS
  - Feedback on the data
  - Feedback on the Description of the Strategy Area NCAs
  - One-word check-out word clouds
- Steering Group Meeting
- Ongoing Agriculture Sector Engagement
  - NFU Branch Meeting
  - 1:1 Calls

Executive Summary

Throughout April and May 2024, The Young Foundation supported Derbyshire County Council in developing Derbyshire's first Local Nature Recovery Strategy, leading the preliminary dialogue with stakeholders, by convening a series of workshops, meetings and 1:1 calls. This report summarises the activities that took place in Phase 1 engagement, spotlighting tacit knowledge that has emerged alongside opportunities and challenges that will shape the next phase of engagement and consultation.

Phase 1 has provided a critical understanding of the diverse perspectives that will shape the ongoing development of the strategy. This executive summary outlines the foundational work carried out, highlighting both the collaborative spirit and ongoing challenges in developing a comprehensive nature recovery strategy. Across the activities, we established foundational principles for guiding the work, identified common ground amongst stakeholders and highlighted areas of tension that require continued dialogue to achieving a shared vision for nature recovery across Derbyshire.

In the initial engagement, The Young Foundation worked with stakeholders to co-create **principles for guiding the strategy in the right direction.** The principles are centred around ***what*** we collectively want to achieve with the LNRS and ***how*** we might go about achieving it.

Principles: *what* do we want to achieve with the LNRS?

- Grounded in evidence and knowledge, with a clear vision
- Connecting and enhancing
  - Nature
  - Economy
  - People
  - Landscape

  ... by building a framework that enables us to create healthy ecosystems that empower, protect (and recover) nature
- Ambitious but focused, realistic, scalable and sustainable for the future
- Contextual – the appropriate intervention into the appropriate landscape – who decides what's appropriate?
- Deliver benefits for people and communities – communities of place (locality) and communities of practice (e.g. farmers) providing support for people to navigate change and combat fear.

Principles: *how* might we achieve it?

- Inclusive and collaborative whilst recognising and addressing power dynamics – "people own what they help create", drawing experience both locally and nationally
- Listen to understand! Everyone has a valid view and contribution – "start anywhere and follow everywhere"
- Work at pace (balancing the sense of urgency with reflection)
- Practical, accessible and actionable with a clear call to action – provide frameworks, tools and mechanisms to maximise impact and reduce risk. Set out short-, medium- and long-term action plans
- Meaningful engagement (by appealing to people's motivations)
  - Build understanding: "if you don't know, you can't do anything about it"
  - Learn together
  - Shift mindsets/culture, acknowledging the systemic nature of the work

Executive Summary: moving into Phase 2

The engagement activities have proved essential to building our tacit knowledge base. This includes the knowledge and experience of individuals, communities and organisations on the ground, who understand the make-up of the landscape and nature across Derbyshire. Through the Phase 1 engagement we began to explore the different perspectives and views held by actors across Derbyshire to surface the challenges and opportunities for nature recovery from the lens of those that know and understand the land. In doing so, we identified several **questions** that participants were holding in relation to the LNRS. It is key that the work in Phase 2 continues to address and factor these in.

Building on the principles, stakeholders in the Steering Group reflected first on where their shared priorities and beliefs overlapped, and then, on the areas of difference and contrasting priorities. Here, we were able to identify the **tensions** that need to be kept in mind and/or worked through when developing the next phase of the strategy.

Tensions between the different views and perspectives

- Fear of the unknown
- Speaking many different languages whilst trying to shape a 'one voice' strategy
- Worries about implementation
- Feelings of misrepresentation
- Stereotypes, and oversimplified perceptions of 'what is important and to whom'
- *"If nature recovers, what people value is ruined – what some people value relies on nature, what others value in ruining nature"*
- Expectations on people to change their behaviours
- Not enough land to do everything everyone wants

Questions that stakeholders are holding, that need to be considered and taken forward into the next Phase of engagement.

Ambition
- What is the lowest hanging fruit?
- How might the LNRS encourage dynamic landscapes & natural processes (across boundaries)?

LNRS Process
- How can we distil such a broad range of info and knowledge into the LNRS?
- How will we add new sites and data over time? When deciding on what & where, what will inform decisions?
- How are we measuring the effectiveness of the LNRS?
- How are we measuring outputs?
- What does good engagement look like and how will this be measured?
- How are you going to address the different characteristics of the county?
- How do we prioritise investment opportunities?

Stakeholders
- How do we make this of value to deprived communities? How do we engage sceptical local members? How do we move beyond usual suspects?
- Who's not here?
- How do we harness the opinions of many stakeholders, and/or put priorities on different stakeholders' views/inputs?

Other
- Are you confident you're going to meet the deadline?
- How confident does the responsible authority feel in the data used so far?
- How do we navigate conflict (LNRS, Defra, ELMs)?

Purpose of the Phase 1 Engagement

To ensure the LNRS is co-produced, the preliminary dialogue set out in Phase 1 has been essential to testing and building on the initial knowledge gathering that colleagues at DCC have been working on. This has ensured diverse perspectives input into the LNRS from the base of the pyramid up, to ensure participation in the early-stage of the LNRS process can inform the strategy's development as we move up towards the priorities and later, the vision. This is underpinned by the design principle that ***the process you use to get to the future is the future you get*** – mobilising people around the challenge so that each engagement becomes an opportunity to shift the system.

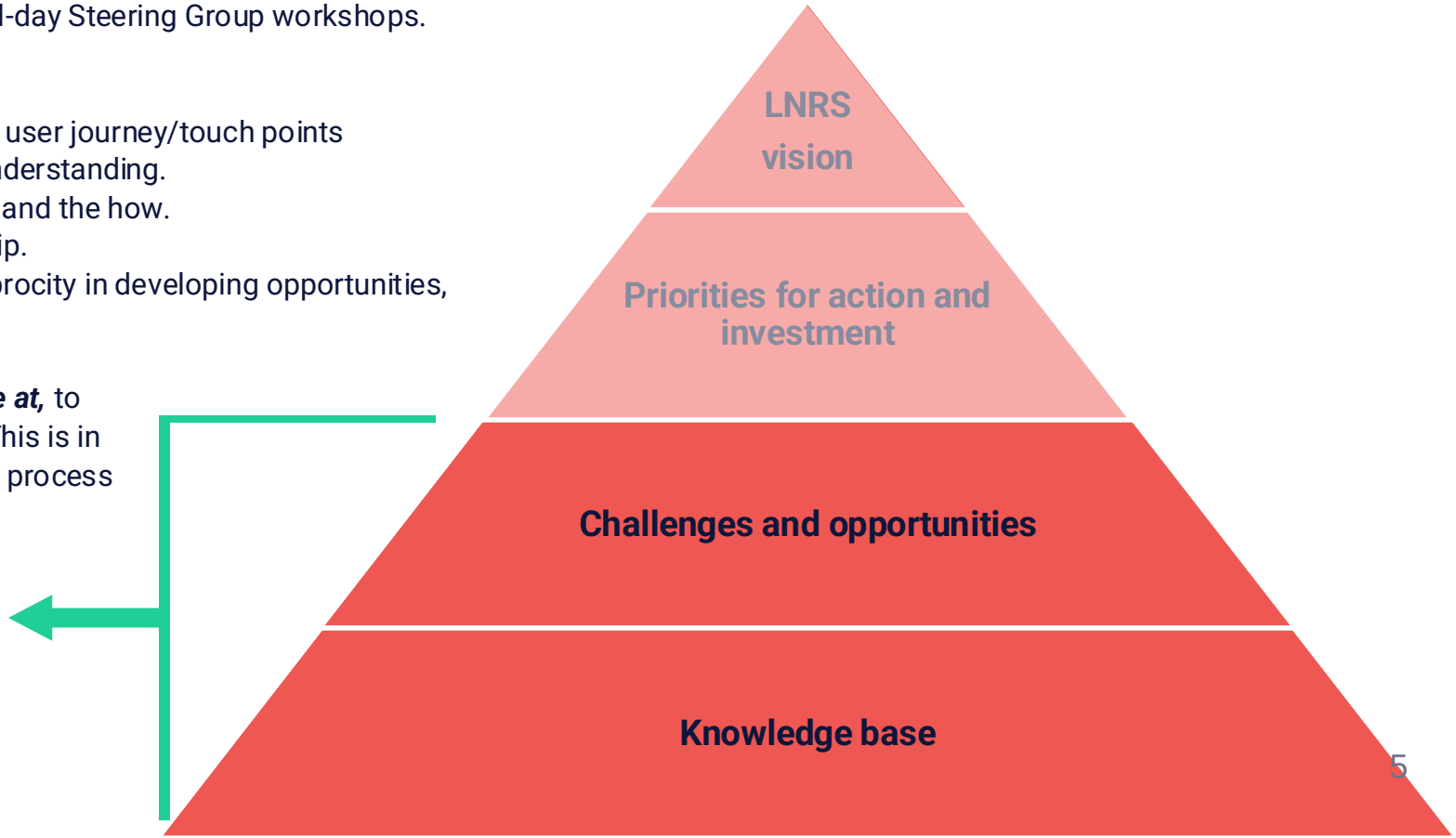
The early engagement has also been an opportunity to develop relationships with key stakeholders across Derbyshire – recognising that ***people own what they create,*** with workshop spaces for co-creation and collaboration that build empathy, ownership and new possibilities.

Phase 1 has comprised of a series of Deep Dive workshops, on-going and targeted agriculture sector engagement (farmers/landowners), and facilitation at full-day Steering Group workshops. The purpose of these engagements has been to:

1. Convey key messages from LNRS process and their user journey/touch points
2. Test knowledge and assumptions about levels of understanding.
3. Develop and test engagement principles – the what and the how.
4. Get stakeholders engaged, with a sense of ownership.
5. Create space for generative conversations and reciprocity in developing opportunities, outcomes and priorities.

A core component of this has been to ***meet people where they're at,*** to ensure that everyone can meaningfully participate in the work. This is in advance of a much broader LNRS engagement and consultative process leading up to December 2024.

Phase 1 Engagement: creating space to sense-check and challenge the assumptions we might be making and highlighting any gaps in our knowledge base, whilst contributing to the challenges and opportunities for nature recovery.



In numbers: who participated in the Preliminary Dialogue work

The Young Foundation

individuals took part

organisations were represented

workshops and meetings

The Young Foundation

Deep-Dive Workshops

17th – 19th April

Attendees

Across the week, we hosted four workshops divided into the following key stakeholder groups. This initial engagement was an opportunity to share and test the LNRS knowledge gathering that has been going on so far, whilst building relationships with a wide cohort of individuals and organisations.

LNRS Steering Group

This was a well-attended session, with a lot of energy and expertise in the room. It felt like there were a few representative voices missing from the steering group, namely the community.

Learnings /Actions

- What is the role of the steering group? Have we got the right people in the room?

Agriculture Sector

This was the lowest attended workshop, due to several factors, e.g., the business of lambing season, and the challenge of motivating the sector to come and join a session.

Learnings / Actions:

- More time to distribute invites
- Need to go out to farmers – 1:1, at markets or other meetings

LNRS Supporting Authorities

The sessions was attended by the majority of Supporting Authorities, with apologies from Bolsover Council, Derbyshire Dales District Council and Erewash Borough Council.

Learnings / Actions:

- Engage with those who were unable to attend to join the scoop-up workshop.

ENGOs and Communities

This session was the most well attended, with a cross-section of local community organisations including Green Spring, University of Derby and Denby Footpaths Group, as well as representatives from national ENGOs - National Trust, Woodland Trust, CPRE, and Canal and River Trust.

You've Got Mail! – Questions people were holding

The Young Foundation

At the start of the workshops, we invited all participants to share the questions that they were entering the session holding. This allowed space for people to air concerns, frustrations and queries – some of which we were able to answer on the day, others that will be useful to hold on to as we progress through this work and return to.

This is a snapshot of the questions that recurred multiple times.

Ambition
- What is the lowest hanging fruit?
- How might the LNRS encourage dynamic landscapes & natural processes (across boundaries)?

LNRS Process
- How can we distil such a broad range of info and knowledge into the LNRS?
- How will we add new sites and data over time? When deciding on what & where, what will inform decisions?

Data Confidence
- How confident does the responsible authority feel in the data used so far?

Tensions
- How are you going to address the different characteristics of the county?
- How do we ensure LCA is a starting point rather than a constraint?
- Conflict (LNRS, Defra, ELMs)
- How do we prioritise investment opportunities when there is only one delivery mechanism?

Evaluation
- How are we measuring the effectiveness of the LNRS?
- How are we measuring outputs?
- What does good engagement look like and how will this be measured?

Stakeholders
- How do we make this of value to deprived communities?
- How do we engage sceptical local members?
- How do we harness the opinions of many stakeholders?
- Do we put priorities on different stakeholders' views/inputs?

Timing
- Are you confident you're going to meet the deadline?

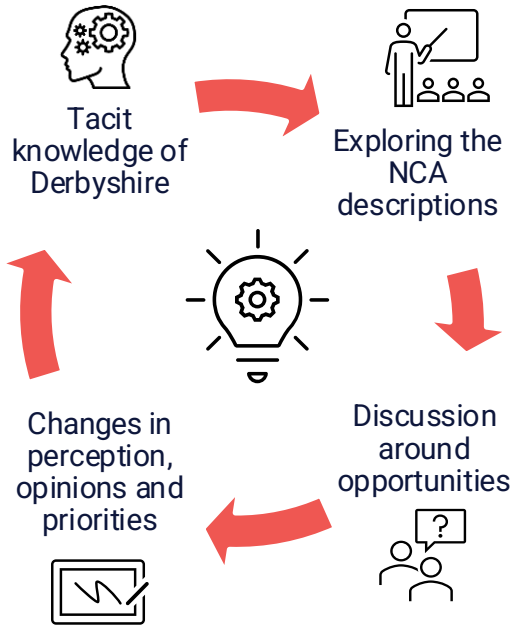
Mapping Derbyshire

We asked people to imagine the room was a map of Derbyshire and stand somewhere that means something to them (e.g. where they live, work or play). This was an active way to hear and discuss what (and where) matters to people in Derbyshire, highlighting bright spots of opportunity and interest across the county direct from those in the room.

Following the initial mapping activity, we posed the question, based on gut feeling, as to where there is the greatest opportunity for Nature Recovery in Derbyshire. This raised some interesting reflections, with participants bringing their own *tacit knowledge* of their area and the wider county. As we progressed through the session, presenting the National Character Area descriptions, we found that people's opinions and priorities changed. This effectively, created a learning loop where their knowledge adds value to the Description of the Strategy Area, whilst they also change their perceptions through growing their own knowledge-base.

This was reflected in participants sharing that they would have moved somewhere else in the room – if they had seen the NCA descriptions prior to the mapping activity.

In many ways, this represented a microcosm for how the LNRS engagement might progress over the coming months – with knowledge increasing as we progress through our collective learning-loop.



Mapping Derbyshire

Key moves, reflections and insights from the activity:

The Young Foundation

North-West (Castleton, Hope Valley) to South **"There's less going on, less funding and hence more opportunity to think about ecosystems"**

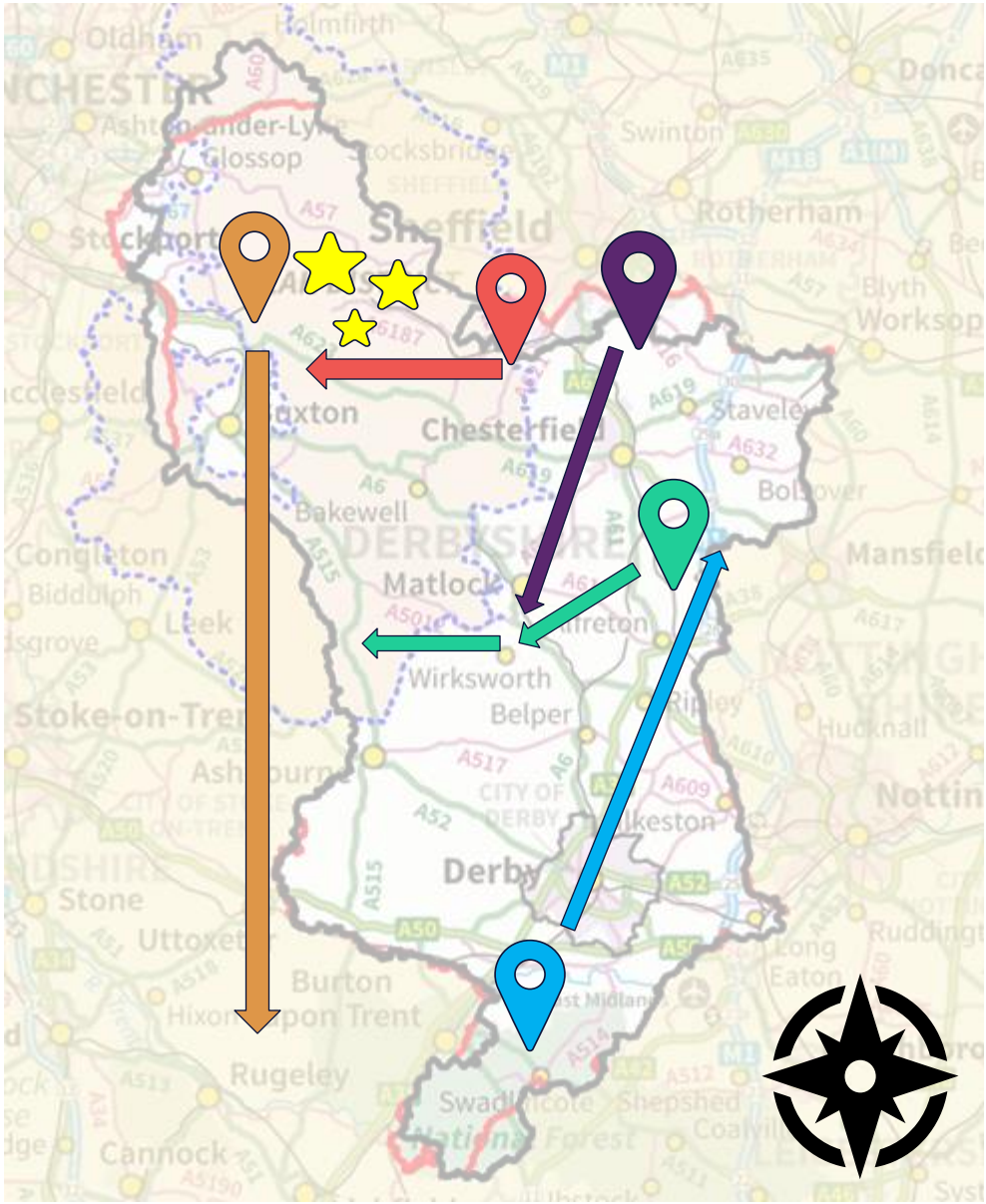
"There's a lack of voice and representation in the south".

North (Moss Valley) to North-West - **"there are more opportunities in the West, in the Peaks".**

"Conservation Hotspots":
The Peak District is the 'jewel in the crown', it is most famous with visitors and where there's most room for impact/engagement/change"

- Dark Peak
- White Peak
- Coalfields

The population density and more urban environment of the South can be opportunistic for nature recovery to have the most impact, but others see this as a barrier...



South and South-East to North-East **"There's more inequality in these areas"**

"Higher population, and with that comes higher deprivation".

North-East to more Central (Peak Fringe) **"Wildlife is moving out and people are moving in."**

"There's also something important about being central and the proximity/visibility/accessibility of other parts of Derbyshire."

East to Central **"Where there are more people, there are more opportunities"**

"...but after learning more and building a better understanding of the landscape, I see more opportunity in the West, the meadows and arable land of the White Peak".

Areas on the map where there are gaps are representative of the areas we know less well, rather than a lack of opportunity it's a lack of knowledge.

Principles for the *what* and *how* of the Derbyshire LNRS

Over the week stakeholders co-created a set of principles for guiding the strategy in the right direction. The Steering Group created the initial framework, which we then iterated, adding and fine-tuning it with other stakeholder groups throughout the week. The principles are centred around ***what*** we want to achieve with the LNRS and ***how*** we might go about achieving it.

The Young Foundation

What?

- Grounded in evidence and knowledge, with a clear vision
- Connecting and enhancing
  - Nature
  - Economy
  - People
  - Landscape
- ... by building a framework that enables us to create healthy ecosystems that empower, protect (and recover) nature
- Ambitious but focused, realistic, scalable and sustainable for the future
- Contextual – the appropriate intervention into the appropriate landscape – who decides what's appropriate?
- Deliver benefits for people and communities – communities of place (locality) and communities of practice (e.g. farmers) providing support for people to navigate change and combat fear.

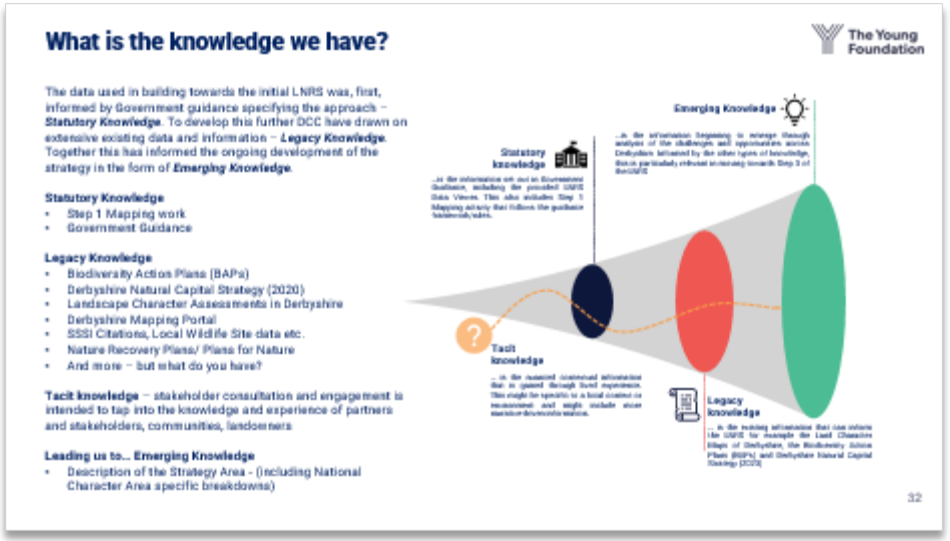
How?

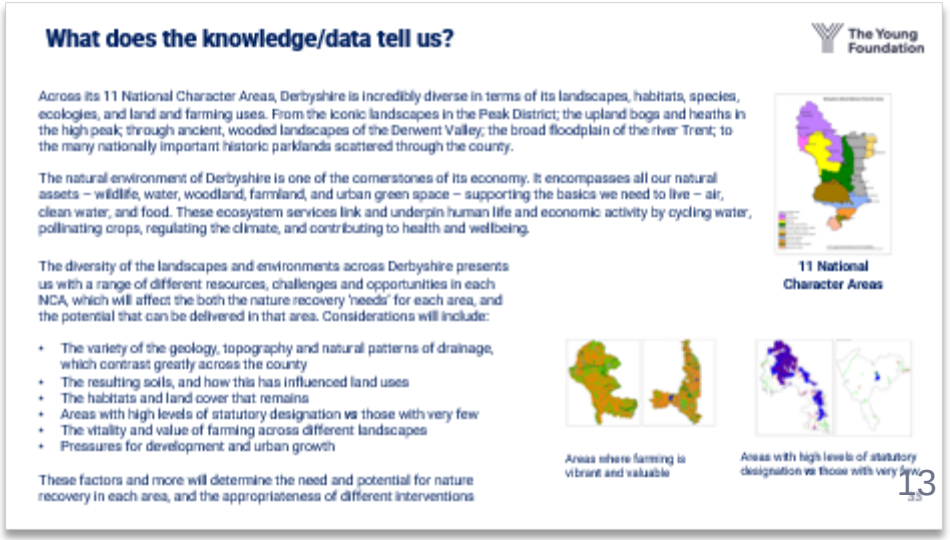
- Inclusive and collaborative whilst recognising and addressing power dynamics – "people own what they help create", drawing experience both locally and nationally
- Listen to understand! Everyone has a valid view and contribution – "start anywhere and follow everywhere"
- Work at pace (balancing the sense of urgency with reflection)
- Practical, accessible and actionable with a clear call to action – provide frameworks, tools and mechanisms to maximise impact and reduce risk. Set out short-, medium- and long-term action plans
- Meaningful engagement (by appealing to people's motivations)
  - Build understanding – "if you don't know, you can't do anything about it"
  - Learn together
  - Shift mindsets and culture, acknowledging the systemic nature of the work

Feedback on the knowledge

Clearly communicating the complex data and knowledge of the LNRS is a crucial part of this work. Stakeholder engagement is about bringing people along on the journey. The DCC team were challenged to condense the 'story of the data' into three slides to take through an iterative process and refine the content for the audiences. Individuals in each stakeholder group made a note whenever they were unclear or uncertain of what was being shared. Key feedback included:

Visual communication and education	Description	What's the story?
Make it visual! Use diagrams, figures, clear maps and images – less words the better. Careful with acronyms or references to reports/words/steps that aren't meaningful to the audience. Use this as an opportunity to educate *"I'm less anxious now I understand"*	Give examples! Remind people that the NCA is just a lens to look at the geology to break it down, not a value judgement. Be transparent about tensions/choices/trade-offs between people and nature. Is there too much of a rural focus? How do we ensure urban landscapes have a place?	Start with the why! We're not just doing this because the government told us to, bring it to life with feeling – why is it important to us as humans, as communities? Emotional connection is key. This is urgent.





The Young Foundation

Activity

Nature Café: Exploring the opportunities for each NCA

This activity presented the emerging opportunities and contextual information for each National Character Area on a 'Top Trump' style card. Each card was placed on a different a table allowing participants to move around and engage with each of the place-specific information.

The workshop participants were encouraged to add post-it notes to feed into additional opportunities or challenges, and other relevant factors might need to be considered. In doing so, they contributed significant *tacit knowledge* to the descriptions whilst also providing useful feedback on the information.

Some of the key learning surfaced throughout the week included:

- There was a need for bigger diagrams, more images or visual aids to balance the text-heavy and technical approach
- More examples to showcase the opportunities and bring the strategy to life
- To use National Character Areas as a tool for describing the strategy area
- To look for opportunities for community engagement particularly in deprived areas to drive connection to nature

A detailed breakdown of the feedback can be found in the appendix at the end of this document.

One Word Check-Out

To wrap up each of the workshops we invited the groups to share one word to describe how they were feeling following the session.

With all four of the key groups, there was a clear contrast between the relatively low expectations of the LNRS engagement process and the reality of **coming together and feeling heard**, many of the reflective words represented p**articipation, optimism and feeling part of something**. In the Agriculture Sector session, our NFU representative revealed that they assumed the session might be "like watching paint dry" but came away feeling "vibrant, and excited about the possibilities of working together".

LNRS Steering Group

LNRS Supporting Authorities

Agriculture Sector

ENGOs and Communities

The Young Foundation

Steering Group Meeting

Monday 13th May

Steering Group Workshop – Monday 13th May 2024

The Young Foundation

The focus of the Steering Group workshop was to reflect on the stakeholder engagement so far, revisiting the principles and the approach for the next phase, whilst testing and developing the draft LNRS Opportunities, Priorities and Measures. The workshop was structured as follows:

Process

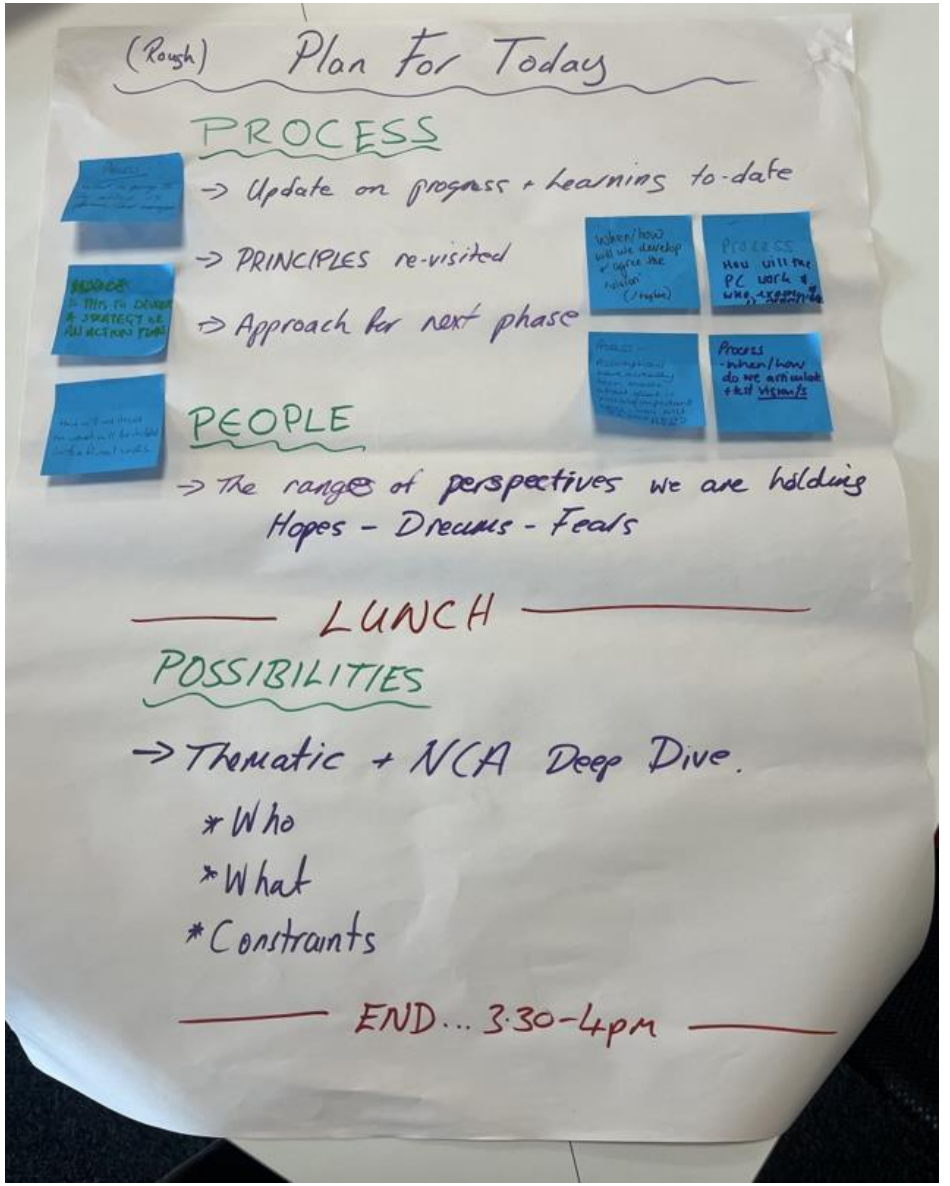
- Update on progress and learning to date
- Principles re-visited
- Approach for next phase

People

- Exploring perspectives: hopes, motivations, fears

Possibilities

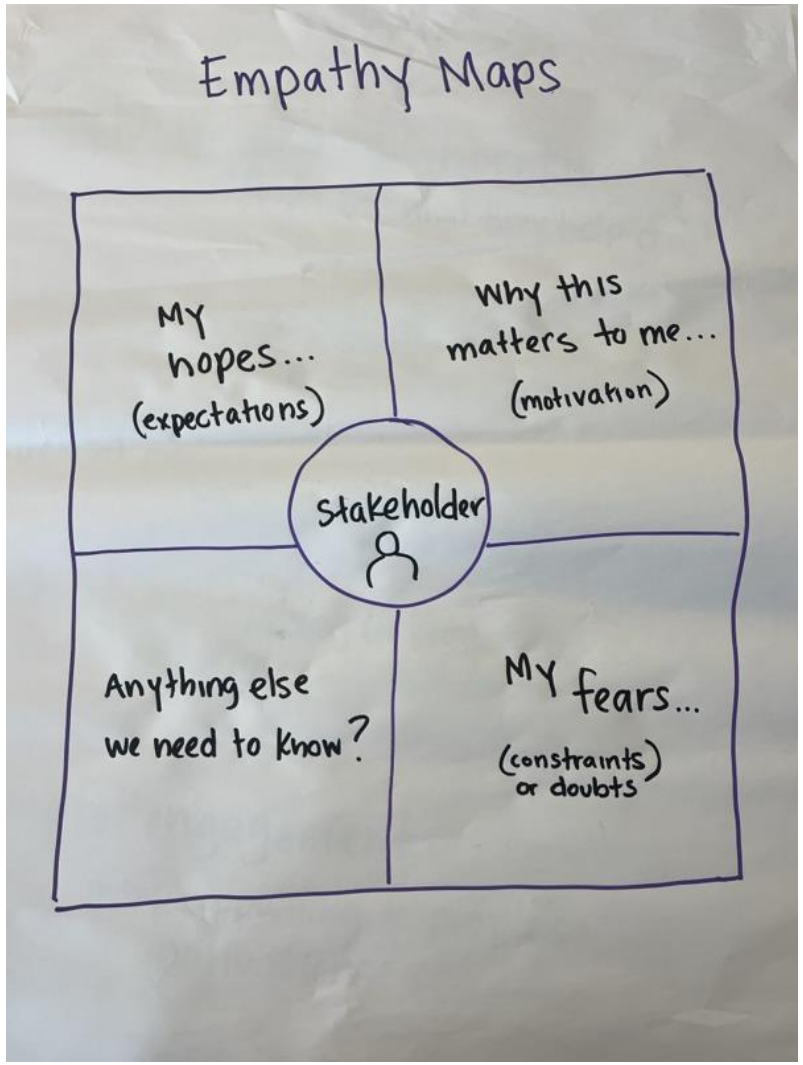
- Thematic deep dive: who, what, constraints

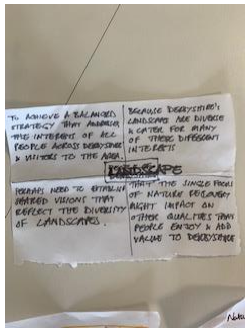


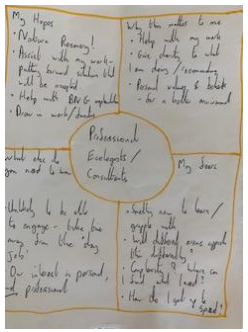
Empathy mapping – exploring the range of perspectives in the room

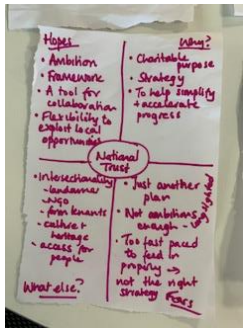
The Young Foundation

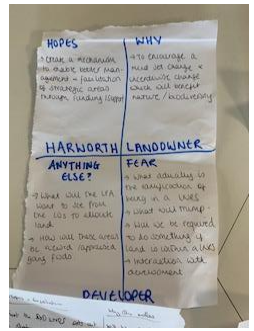
An empathy map is a quick digestible way to illustrate attitudes and behaviors of stakeholders, helping us to see things through the eyes of others, and reflect on own priorities. The group all created their maps for the stakeholders they represented, including a map specifically for nature as a key stakeholder in the process. These maps acted as the basis for activity to surface common ground and areas where there was less alignment.

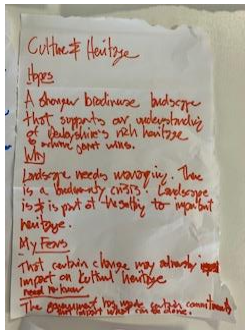


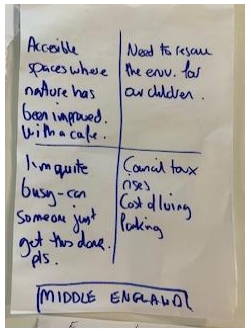


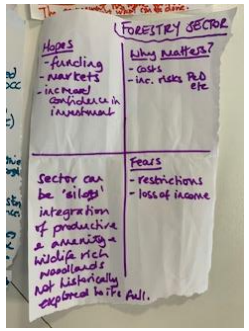


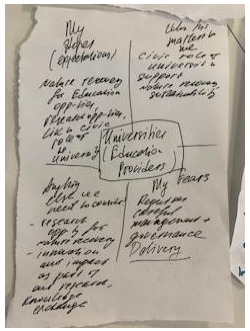


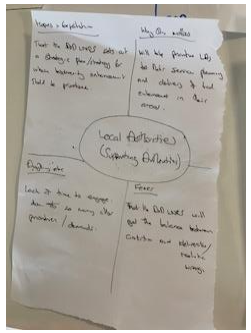


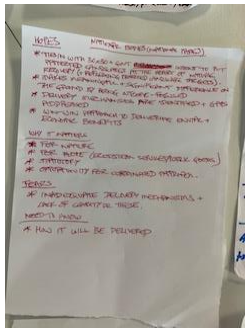


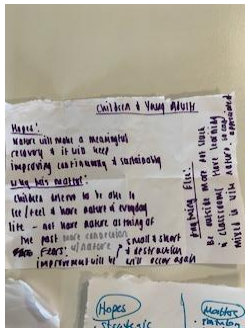


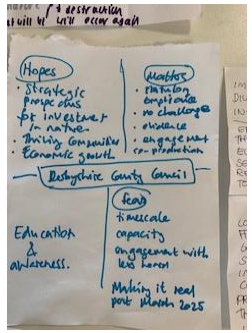


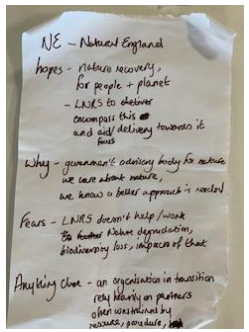


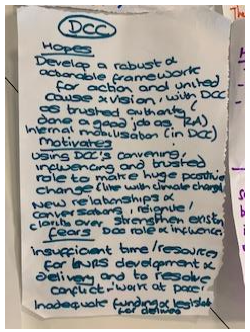


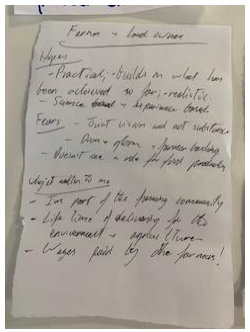


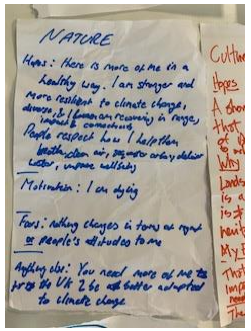


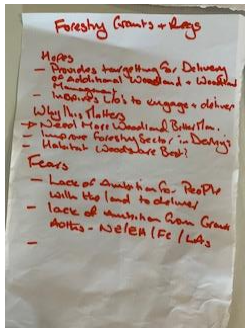












Part 1: finding common ground

The Young Foundation

The steering group was asked to cluster with other stakeholders where they shared priorities and beliefs – the results are outlined below:

Farmers and landowners	Nature	Derbyshire County Council	Landscape	Responsible Authority
Developers	Ecologists	University of Derby	Derbyshire County Council	People of middle England
Society	Volunteers	Education	Culture and heritage	
Environment Agency	Natural England	Young People	National Park	
Local Authorities			Forestry Commision	
National Trust				

• Focus on land • Focus on realistic solutions • Interest in monetary impacts • Access to support for implementation	• Responsibility first and foremost to nature "nature is our north star" • Evidence led	• Future focus • Legacy and sustainability • Responsibility to next generation • Long term goals • Short term wins	• More biodiverse landscape • Interest in an integrated approach that considers: • Land • Economy • Culture/heritage	• Make it 'real' • Need to be mobilised • Tap into connection of people to nature

Part 2: stepping towards the tension

It is important to recognise and reflect on areas of difference and contrasting priorities so tension can be worked through together:

- Farmers and landowners
- Society
- Environment Agency
- Local Authorities
- Derbyshire County Council
- Forestry Commision
- People of middle England
- National Park
- Young People
- Education

- Natural England
- Nature
- Ecologists
- People of middle England
- Landscape
- Derbyshire County Council
- Culture and heritage

- National Trust

- Fear of the unknown
- Speaking many different languages whilst trying to shape a 'one voice' strategy
- Worries about implementation
- Feelings of misrepresentation
- Stereotypes
- Oversimplified perceptions of 'what is important and to whom'

- "If nature recovers, what people value is ruined – what some people value relies on nature, what others value in ruining nature"
- Expectations on people to change their behaviours
- Not enough land to do everything everyone wants

- The role of the organisation can/should play in nature recovery
- Large organisation that moves at a slower pace
- Opportunity to play a connect and convene role

Thematic Deep Dive

Exploring the opportunities and priorities for each thematic area, we asked the Steering Group to identify who the key stakeholders are, what we need to ask them, and to detail the potential constraints. The information that surfaced can be grouped into the following recurring themes and will be key to informing the stakeholder engagement in Phase 2.

See the Appendix for a full breakdown of each Thematic Deep Dive.

Who are the key stakeholders?

- **Agriculture**: Landowners, Land managers, Farmers
- **ENGOs**: Environmental Agency, Natural England
- **Specific to each area**: Moorland association, Forestry agents/operators/contractors, Carbon investors, Trent Valley Waters
- **Local Groups**: Derbyshire Ecological Research Centre, Parish and Town councils, local businesses, park maintenance teams, 'Friend groups', Derbyshire Amphibian and Reptile Group,
- **Other**: Utility companies, Catchment Partnerships, Developers, Mineral Industry, Serven Trent

What do we need to ask?

- **Finance**: Where and what will it cost?
- **Measurement**: What is the baseline? How will this be measured? Are the targets realistic, and do they allow the journey to be on time?
- **Success**: What does good look like? Who defines this? How do we achieve it? What are the benefits?
- **Species**: What species are the priorities? What types of habitats and species are more desirable and realistic?
- **Motivations**: What incentives are needed? What can be more effective collaboratively? What is the appetite to do things differently?
- **Spillover benefits:** Are there opportunities to improve wider environmental benefits? How could improvements in upland habitats surrounding reservoirs improve water quality and quantity by increasing attenuation?
- **Design**: How do we ensure good design? What is appropriate, and where will conditions allow the work? How can we use nature-based solutions?

- Farmland
- Grassland
- Upland heath
- Accessible Semi-Natural Green Spaces
- People and Wildlife
- Species
- Blanket Bog
- Wetlands
- Rivers, river corridors and other water courses
- Woodland and trees

Constraints

- **Education**: for the general public around the value of nature and how to protect; shifting mindsets, values, ideas; tradition vs new
- **Finance:** difficult accessing funding; lack of funding available; economically viable farming
- **Incentives:** for landowners / farmers; for public to support LNRS; lack of capacity to carry out the work
- **Tensions:** conflict with existing management plans and objectives; need for LNRS to focus on areas that often get overlooked - comms, education, engagement; range of stakeholders involved
- **Other**: overpopulation (deer); demands on the land; skills needed e.g. design

Progressing to the next phase

In the next phase of the LNRS engagement process, the Steering Group's involvement in widening the engagement will be vital. The group has shared where they might be able to contribute to the next phase and one word that needs to be included in the final vision for the LNRS.

Contributions

- Research, information, how else I can help? – Julie
- Time, Data, Maps – Gary
- Time and energy – Miles
- Time, enthusiasm and seeking DCC venues – Caroline
- Critical friend, networks and links through Natural England, spreading the word – Sami
- Help with public consultation via existing routes and across Supporting Authorities – Chris
- We can help with public consultation; outreach to local community groups i.e. Tideswell and District Environmental Group – Scott
- Data, Technical info, advice and knowledge about woodlands and trees – Sallie
- Woodland group which has most of the Peak District Woodlands represented - Tristian
- Conversations! Let's keep talking! – Tom F
- Strategic leadership – Rupert
- Time and energy; knowledge; engaging other young people; helping out with the public consultation – Abigail
- To be a conduit to the many Environmental Agency Teams and to enable their technical input – James
- Knowledgeable students who can make things happen – Elle
- Effort and communication
- Feedback from developers and corporates – Alex
- Core team morale, and to listen
- Venue / inspiration, visit for future steering group; a conversation about vision approaches if useful – Nikki
- Reviewing the draft against Peak District National Park Management plan / landscape strategy, wooded landscape plan, nature recovery plan – and discuss with DCC – Rhodri

One-word to include in the vision

Farmers, landowners and agriculture sector engagement (on-going)

What we've heard so far...

The preliminary dialogue was designed to learn about both **WHAT** the LNRS should be, and about **HOW** to engage with key stakeholders, including farmers, landowners and the agriculture sector. Here's a snapshot of what we have heard about the 'how'.

*"**I do think you'll struggle to get much interest in inputting into lengthy documents and descriptions** if that's what you're currently looking for (?), so maybe that's not the right time/conversation to get farmer/landowner input?*

How you take that document and trim it down into bitesize, easily relatable messages and then start to engage and get input is the challenge!"

Neutral safe ground for meeting, or landowners and managers' own environments, meeting spaces, pubs etc are much more likely to work rather than new and different venues.

Individual target emails rather than group emails work better. Informal, zero jargon brings people in and makes it feel like a chat, rather than work

Frame all invites and comms to demonstrate farmers, landowners and managers are thought of as experts with deep knowledge that is crucial and hugely welcome.

Make spaces for hopes, questions, worries and concerns as well as consulting with a 'we think this, do you agree' method.

Tag onto another event/reason people are meeting...

Twilight sessions can sometimes be better timing wise.

What does this mean for future engagement?

An agile and responsive approach

We need to be adaptive and responsive to the emerging needs of stakeholder groups. This is particularly true for farmers, landowners and the wider agriculture sector as multiple factors (place, space, time, interest) impact on their likely engagement.

What does this look like in practice?

- More informal semi-structured conversations in place of large documentation
- Emphasising that we would value their expertise and deep knowledge
- Distilling and defining the ask. What is the benefit to farmers?

Meet people where they're at

This means meeting farmers and landowners where they are and allowing for more open-ended conversations to draw on rich tacit knowledge and build trust with the LNRS process.

With this, we are widening our approach to try different ways of engaging with the sector based on what we've heard so far.

What does this look like in practice?

- Bakewell Farmers Market, every Monday
- NFU Branch Meeting at the Red Lion Pub
- 1:1 calls targeting individuals across the sector
- Natural England / National Trust email lists to farmers
- Seeking other space at meetings via CLA, NFU etc.

Summary of the NFU Branch Meeting

On Monday 13th May, colleagues from Derbyshire County Council and The Young Foundation attended a National Farmers Union (NFU) Branch Meeting at the Red Lion Pub in Hollington. Over the course of just under two hours, we had a generative conversation with the 8 farmers present.

Attendees

- Andrew Critchlow, NFU and LNRS Steering Group member
- Tim Winder, NFU
- Farmers – mainly representing fringe farming (at the edge of urban areas):
    - Brian –Derbyshire Dales; 69 acres, farms cattle
    - John –Radbourne Area; 500 acres, arable farming, with 12,000 birds and beef
    - Ann – Ladburne Estate (tenant); 280 acres, dairy farm
    - Phillip – Kirk Langley; sheep, beef and arable crops (wheat and barley)
    - Angela – Retired farmer, but still involved giving talks etc.
    - Margaret – Duffield; mixed traditional farming, cow, sheep, grain

What worked…

- Meeting farmers at their level, on neutral ground and joining their event helped remove barriers to participation.
- Following an informal semi-structured conversation allowed space for individuals to vent about wider issues and concerns, whilst opening the dialogue to understand the problems they are facing around balance in nature and public access to land.
- Andrew Critchlow played a crucial bridging role as a trusted representative, by inviting and welcoming us to the NFU branch meeting, introducing the LNRS, and playing 'devil's advocate' to challenge some of the initial resistance from the group.

Learnings…

- Positioning the LNRS to get buy-in – with the possibility of shaping policy and future funding opportunities feels key with the ending of the Basic Payment Scheme.
- Challenge of continuing the conversation beyond the short 90 minutes we had together.
- The initial response to a government scheme for nature was negative, stemming from fatigue with the media pointing the finger at farmers. There is a need to be mindful of this.

Challenges and Opportunities

The NFU farmers identified 5 key challenges and opportunities for nature recovery. These were recurring themes throughout the evening.

The Young Foundation

Lack of payments / incentives

With the Basic Payment Scheme coming to an end, there are shared concerns around finance and the risk to livelihoods.

With nature recovery, this is reflected in the frustration around lack of payments on offer for looking after hedges and public foot paths, or wider land access. Those planting new hedges get payments but not farmers who spend time maintaining existing hedges.

Because of this finance is a major incentive for farmers who face challenges due to shift in BPS to SFI (Sustainable Finance Incentive).

Balance in the ecosystem

A recurring theme was the need for balance in the ecosystem – that culling large populations of species to a sensible level creates balance.

This point was underpinned by the wider debate around badgers and deer, and the risks they pose to livestock through spreading TB. They also shared that they had seen an increase in honeybees and other insects as a result of the cull. It was felt that greater badger testing is needed to make this sustainable.

Building regulations

The group highlighted the need for increased building regulations on greenfield sites to assess what wildlife exists on the site.

There have been instances of builders cordoning off badgers found on sites, which moves them on and creates turf war on farmers land – putting cattle and livestock at risk.

Education for the public

The group expressed frustration with people in villages and towns that don't see themselves as part of nature – either using large amounts of weed killer, whilst farmers are under strict regulations; or not treating access paths with respect.

It was agreed across the group that more education for the public is needed to ensure that nature recovery and increased biodiversity is a shared pursuit – not placing the onus only on farmers.

Access to land

A recurring theme of the conversation was the challenge of providing public access to land.

It is felt that too many people do not show respect – with farmers complaining of litter, dogs not on leads, and general noise.

It was felt that maintaining footpaths that increase wellbeing by creating access, keep the public safe and protect the land should come with benefits (e.g. payment).

Given that the group was made up of fringe farmers, close to urban areas, this was particularly relevant.

Overview of 1:1 calls

By tapping into the existing networks from Steering Group members and recommendations from both the Supporting Authorities and ENGOs stakeholder groups, we reached out to 'warm' farmers and landowners contacts to undertake one-to-one calls.

Karen Davies, Bagshaws, Farm Office Services – Thursday 16 May

Engagement is key – the right offer for them; from a farmer's perspective what are they going to get out of it, and what do they have to put into it that isn't too much labour/effort. Farmers are wary of bureaucracy so meeting them on their turf – like the NFU meeting is a massive step. DCC LNRS team coming to Bakewell market would be great, would be a real help – but consistency is key; sticking about – don't just leave if no one is around – gain trust.

End of **basic payment scheme** puts a lot of farmers in trouble. Sustainable farming is no use to a lot of farmers: those working unimproved grassland (meadows) or improved grassland (farmed grassland) have options available to them through SFI but **those working on semi-improved grasslands fall through the gaps**. What might be available to support the rich habitats there without stopping them from being farmers?

Dairy farmers must be high input grassland but that stops them from accessing a lot of funding schemes – **increasing the perception that funding is geared towards arable sector** who have greater payment options than upland farmers (where the margins are so tight).

Feeling that food production schemes are geared to reducing production – SFI had to put a cap on eligibility for food production

Balance with species is essential: conflict with high levels of certain species that have negative impacts – badgers, deer, corvid (crows), red kites.

Public perception / access is challenging – **lack of respect for farms** – rubbish, dogs, Duke of Edinburgh kids.

Grants are currently not fair. They need to be increased.

Alex Cooke, Devonshire Group, Head of Natural Capital – Monday 20 May

Everyone has a vision for what Chatsworth Estate could be – communities locally are really supportive, but different people have different perspectives on perfectly kept lawns, access etc. Need for more education on what nature recovery means, what is needed, and how the public can support.

Education piece is key – to ensuring that the public know what their role is.

Challenge of monitoring existing nature, natural resources and biodiversity. The Devonshire Group and other landowners work across diverse landscapes – from moorland to grassland to woodland, where there is lots of opportunity for nature recovery. The challenge is in monitoring what is already there in order to benchmark any efforts to increase/improve.

Appetite for rewilding or less well kempt approach exists – but **how** to go about it is the challenge, need for consultation vs doing it and educating people. **Their estate has a plan in partnership with Peak District National Park and DCC.**

Need for greater empathy – "to be nicer to our neighbours" – in recognising that nature recovery is a shared effort, and that behaviour has an impact further downstream. It feels particularly important to build empathy with challenges that are not immediately present on the land, in order to change behaviour and support others. This is in light of local flooding – and the need for interventions in moorland and upland areas where the impact and appreciation is felt downstream.

The Young Foundation

What next?

While the Preliminary Dialogue work has concluded, there is momentum in the system and the relationships formed through the early engagement are still very much live.

The final slide presents a stocktake of invites and opportunities to be actioned in the next phase of the work.

Invites and opportunities to connect

Who?	Update / Invite / Opportunity
Andrew Critchlow, NFU	Has invited LNRS colleagues to NFU meeting - farm walk and social (chat and hog roast) on Monday 17th June – and has also said he'll also be at Bakewell market that day for the last time for several weeks.
Bob Marsden, Natural England (via Jo Birch)	Bob is running face-to-face sessions to introduce and discuss SFI payments, at Bakewell Market. I've requested dates for these and whether we could drop in, or any other meetings spaces we might be able to join. Jo was on cc and got back to me (05/06) saying Bob is best placed for this, but yet to hear from Bob. Will chase again later this week.
Tina Bardill, Trent River Trust – oversees Derbyshire CaBa Agri-Advisor Group	Tina facilitates the CaBa group and has all the contacts for the people who sit on that specific agriculture group. We've requested either contact information for key agriculture people, or that she shares the general 1:1 request and Calendly with them. She responded (08/06) saying that she will be in touch over the next couple of weeks. I've also asked Tina if we can book in a call to further discuss engagement.
Elise Beatson, Dove Catchment	White Peak Farmers are holding a farm walk at Oldfields Farm in Grindon, on Friday 28th June, 11:30am until 2:30pm
Sami Lawson – Natural England	Sami has shared (11/06) email of Craig Best from the National Trust to ask to use their email list. She also shared that we are not going to be able to contact Natural England's list as it is sensitive. Has shared invite to Bakewell market via her colleague Sophie who is there on a weekly basis. Though Sophie has suggested we may want to tee up farmers that we'll be there somehow.
Una Maycock and Margaret Baile, Severn Trent Water Agriculture Advisors	We've been speaking on email and they said (on 30/05) they are going to share some LNRS info and a 1:1 request with their Certified Small Farm Operations (CSFO) list.
Derby College of Agriculture	We have been put in touch with the curriculum manager for Agriculture, and are arranging a call. What is the ask – would we want to visit college students for their input? Or do we want to speak with teachers/department?
Dr Kara MacRae, Organic Farmer	Introduced via Caroline, on 11/06. We have emailed to arrange a call.
Claire Teeling, PhD. Director/project lead, Grow Outside	Emailed The Young Foundation directly: *We were at a community event on Saturday and I was talking to a local landowner about the LNRS, of which he knew nothing. He's very switched on in terms of increasing biodiversity and shifting land use to be more sustainable, and is part of a local land owner alliance, although he himself faces challenges in influencing their thinking. He said he'd be happy to be linked in to the LNRS work; who or what is the best way of connecting him? I'm slightly wary of emailing his contact details to DCC and it getting lost, and for him to feel it's a fruitless line of enquiry, especially if he's able to engage with other significant land owners.*

The Young Foundation

Appendix

What is the knowledge we have?

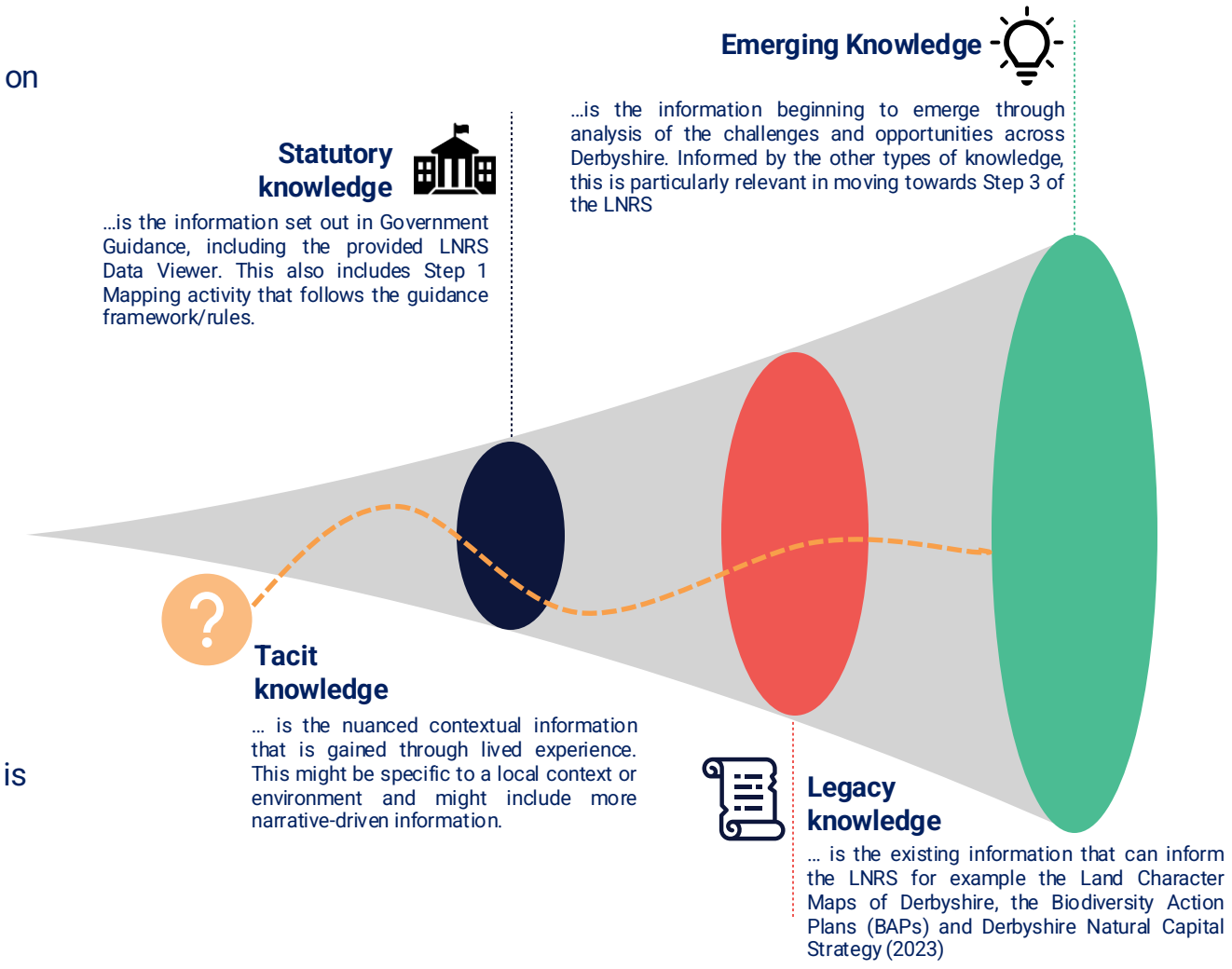
The data used in building towards the initial LNRS was, first, informed by Government guidance specifying the approach – ***Statutory Knowledge***. To develop this further DCC have drawn on extensive existing data and information – ***Legacy Knowledge***. Together this has informed the ongoing development of the strategy in the form of ***Emerging Knowledge***.

Statutory Knowledge
- Step 1 Mapping work
- Government Guidance

Legacy Knowledge
- Biodiversity Action Plans (BAPs)
- Derbyshire Natural Capital Strategy (2020)
- Landscape Character Assessments in Derbyshire
- Derbyshire Mapping Portal
- SSSI Citations, Local Wildlife Site data etc.
- Nature Recovery Plans/ Plans for Nature
- And more – but what do you have?

Tacit knowledge – stakeholder consultation and engagement is intended to tap into the knowledge and experience of partners and stakeholders, communities, landowners

Leading us to… Emerging Knowledge
- Description of the Strategy Area - (including National Character Area specific breakdowns)



What does the knowledge/data tell us?

Across its 11 National Character Areas, Derbyshire is incredibly diverse in terms of its landscapes, habitats, species, ecologies, and land and farming uses. From the iconic landscapes in the Peak District; the upland bogs and heaths in the high peak; through ancient, wooded landscapes of the Derwent Valley; the broad floodplain of the river Trent; to the many nationally important historic parklands scattered through the county.

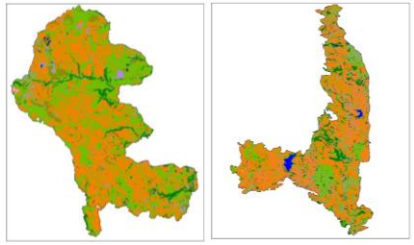
The natural environment of Derbyshire is one of the cornerstones of its economy. It encompasses all our natural assets – wildlife, water, woodland, farmland, and urban green space – supporting the basics we need to live – air, clean water, and food. These ecosystem services link and underpin human life and economic activity by cycling water, pollinating crops, regulating the climate, and contributing to health and wellbeing.

11 National Character Areas

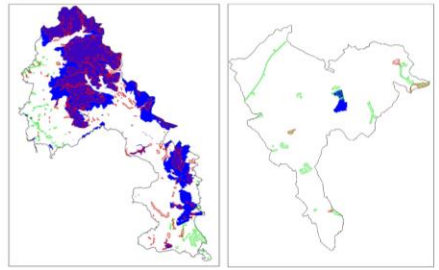
The diversity of the landscapes and environments across Derbyshire presents us with a range of different resources, challenges and opportunities in each NCA, which will affect the both the nature recovery 'needs' for each area, and the potential that can be delivered in that area. Considerations will include:

- The variety of the geology, topography and natural patterns of drainage, which contrast greatly across the county
- The resulting soils, and how this has influenced land uses
- The habitats and land cover that remains
- Areas with high levels of statutory designation ***vs*** those with very few
- The vitality and value of farming across different landscapes
- Pressures for development and urban growth

These factors and more will determine the need and potential for nature recovery in each area, and the appropriateness of different interventions



Areas where farming is vibrant and valuable



Areas with high levels of statutory designation ***vs*** those with very few

Why do we think it is important?

We want to develop nature recovery as part of a balanced approach:

- We need to get the right solutions in the right place. Nature recovery action will be most successful where it is targeted to the appropriate geologies, soils and environments, where it is associated with other habitats, strengthening habitat networks and connectivity
- We need to be ambitious to address the challenges ahead, understanding and reflecting the needs and priorities of stakeholders and partners from a variety of sectors
- But we also need to understand the constraints of each area, understanding and respecting the needs of other stakeholders, recognising the importance of heritage and culture, and supporting the delivery of increased ecosystem services

The Young Foundation

You’ve Got Mail - Questions

You've Got Mail! – Steering Group

The Young Foundation

Ambition

How to include dynamism landscapes & natural processes?

What is the lowest hanging fruit?

Apart from biodiversity, what are the main county objectives?

LNRS Process

Are there any doubts with this project?

How can we distil such a broad range of info and knowledges?

Tensions

What is the priority habitat area?

Evaluation

How are we measuring the effectiveness of the LNRS?

How to monitor updates and info?

Stakeholders

Have we got the right people or enough of us for such a big challenge?

National

How will Derbyshire approach work with other NLRS's?

Timing

What is the deadline?

You've Got Mail! – Supporting Authorities

Ambition

What will make people come back?

Data Confidence

How confident does the responsible authority feel in the data used so far?

Tensions

How to differentiate opportunities for nature recovery?

How are you going to address the different characteristics of the county?

Evaluation

How will we measure outputs?

LNRS Process

Has everyone had a look at step 1 mapping? any feedback?

Core values of LNRS for Derbyshire?

How will we add new sites and data over time?

Timing

Are you confident you're going to meet the deadline?

Stakeholders

How do we make this of value to deprived communities?

How do we engage sceptical local members?

What can planners bring to the process?

How do we harness the opinions of many stakeholders?

How often & in which format will the supporting authorities meet?

You’ve Got Mail! – Farmers and Landowners Sector

Ambition

How can we make farming sustainable?

Tensions

Conflict (LNRS, Defra, ELMs)

It's part of so much change

Policy

Is it just the latest strategy?

Evaluation

What does good engagement look like? How will this be measured?

Stakeholders

Do we put priorities on different stakeholder's views/inputs?

How do we move beyond usual suspects?

What is the incentive for farmers/landowners to be involved?

What can LNRS offer to farmers/landowners?

You've Got Mail! – ENGOs and Communities

The Young Foundation

Ambition

How might the LNRS encourage dynamic landscapes & natural processes (across boundaries)

Improving access to blue/green spaces?

Data Confidence

Confidence in data used so far?

LNRS Process

Are there specific target locations?

How will all of the info and views be distilled into the LNRS?

When deciding on what & where, what will inform decisions?

LNRS Impact / Aims

Will the LNRS impact/affect local planning policies?

What is the key aim of the LNRS?

Tensions

How do we ensure LCA is a starting point rather than a constraint?

How to manage the increase in access against the need to improve biodiversity

How do we prioritise investment opps when there is only one delivery mechanism?

Are we going to complete this in time?

Stakeholders

How can we maximise community engagement?

How might the LNRS support green ambitions of local communities?

How will I be able to present info to town and parish councils?

Who's not here?

How do we involve grass roots communities & citizens?

Why is this so white/middle class?

How will this be 'representative' inclusive?

Can young people factor in this and how?

The Young Foundation

Nature Café: Exploring the opportunities for each NCA

Southern Magnesian Limestone (Character Area 30)

LNRS Steering Group

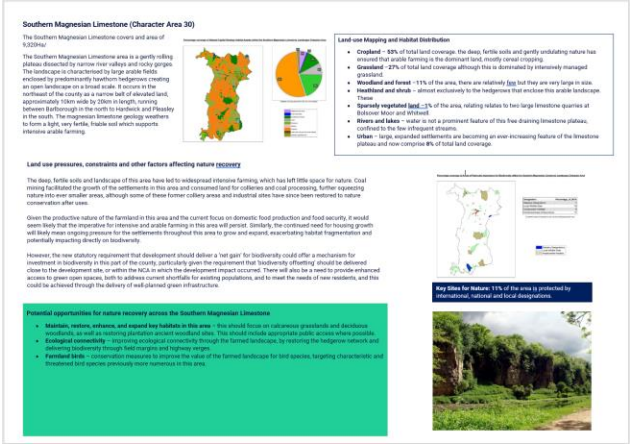
- More on hedgerow improvement
- Heathland restoration on Sandy ?

LNRS Supporting Authorities

- Pockets of deprivation increasing access to nature - community organising approaches.
- Opps around landfill (funding for communities affected e.g. Poolsbrook)
- Expand on more opps for farmers + landowners - could mention ELMS, other schemes and funding

ENGOs and Community

- "What we've got is what we should do more of" - NCA is dictating and constraining



Needwood and South Derbyshire Claylands (Character Area 68)

LNRS Steering Group

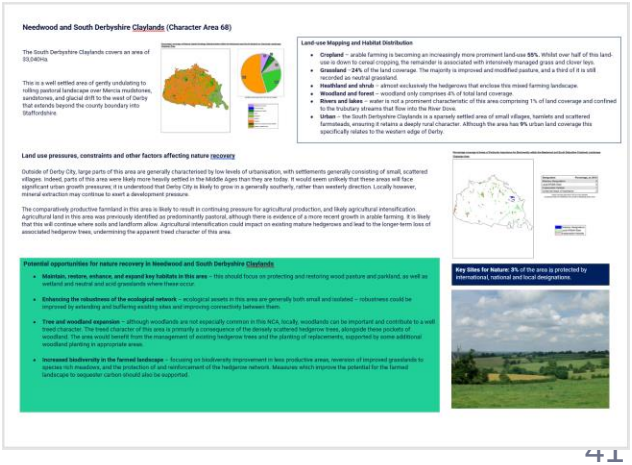
- Hedgrow trees
- Minerals noted as a pressure but not in the landscape map - % would be useful
- Is agroforestry a potential opportunity? Cropland is dominant land use, and it already says tree expansion is a necessity.

LNRS Supporting Authorities

- Include more "how" e.g. work with farmers, landowners, NHOs, communities
- Agricultural support - trials, innovation, champions & green finance support. Recognising opps lie largely with farmers/landowners

ENGOs and Community

- Area could benefit from more woodland to connect up habitats



South-West Peak (Character Area 53)

LNRS Steering Group

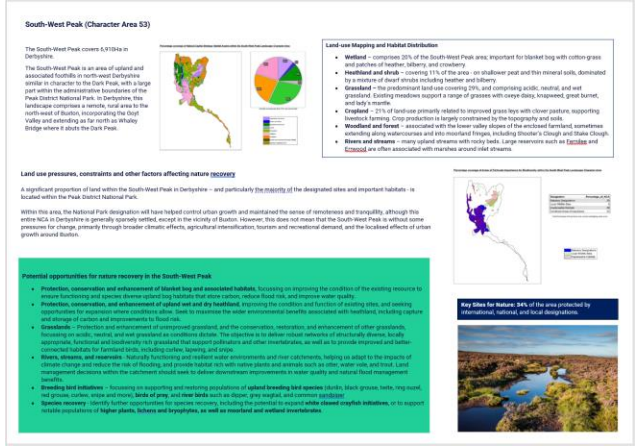
- Make pie chart bigger & remove some text and bullets
- Remove 'protection, conservation & enhancement'

LNRS Supporting Authorities

- Reference to specific species initiatives is good as provides a focus (indicator species?)

ENGOs and Community

- I think the quality of the habitats is more important than the type? Where can we make the most difference/impact?



Mease/Sence Lowlands (Character Area 72)

LNRS Steering Group

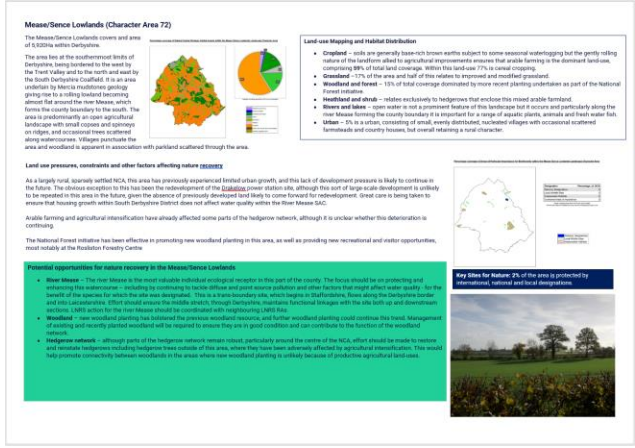
- Key criteria to compare - less text. Top trumps style. More bullets and headlines
- traffic light approach
- Repetition between land use mapping & land use pressures sections - reduce this

LNRS Supporting Authorities

- Refer to a few place names to help understand locality - most won't know NCS names
- As 59% of total land coverage is farming, this should be expanded (what opps in addition to hedgerow creation?)
- Very technical language and format difficult to follow

ENGOs and Community

- Agree with woodland planning to bolster woodland resource.
- Opportunity to connect woodlands across the middle of the NCA



Nottingham, Derbyshire & Yorkshire Coalfield (Character Area 38)

LNRS Steering Group

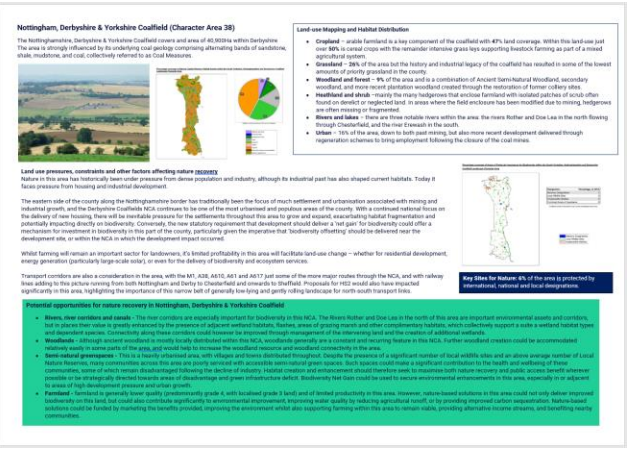
- Connecting people with nature opportunities
- Cross boundary opportunities
- Links to Notts woodland & east-west connections
- Pollution & contamination water quality NFM etc - try not to categoris opportunities
- Social impact of restoration
- What will happen to the farmers with land use charges?
- Focus on proccesses & objectives rather than habitat types
- Land use proportions

LNRS Supporting Authorities

- Brownfields open mosaic sites - pockets of nature 'stepping stones' within urban areas
- Chesterfield canal - both in terms of water body enviro + as a key network route connections area of habitat
- Land in green belt presents an opp due to its restraint of built development
- Natural flood management opps - Hipper & Chatsworth road corridor
- Riparian buffers making space for water
- Community involvement + education in deprived areas

ENGOs and Community

- Local landmarks - maybe reference approx. along M1 throughout the county
- Railside work
- Use of trees/woodland to use as flood protection along rivers
- Erewash canal - towpaths, hedgerows



Derbyshire Peak Fringe & Lower Derwent (Character Area 50)

LNRS Steering Group

- Assuming that the low carbon percentage is because it doesn't include Derby
- Agree about the development pressures in this area
- Map too small - what are designations for and why designated?
- Opportunities - names based solutions?
- More focus on nature context (urbanisation & heritage / landscape very heavy as focus area)
- Connectivity

LNRS Supporting Authorities

- Any opportunities arising within urban areas?
- Possible conflict between woodland creation & imposing views in WHS.
- No mention of cropland opportunities. The area is 50% of land coverage.

ENGOs and Community

- What orgs are present in the area that we can involve?
- Maps of quality - based on what criteria?
- Can we link to local wildlife sites?
- What are people currently doing?

Dark Peak (Character Area 51)

LNRS Steering Group

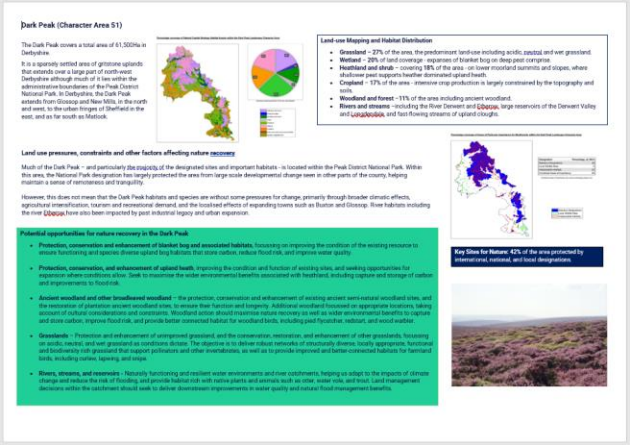
- Should we include other stationary designations that impact nature recovery delivery? Such as locations of scheduled ancient monuments -lots of these in the Dark Peak.
- Role of wider landscapes
- Addressing low bird of prey populations
- Knotty issue of legfal predator control needs considering
- Additional tree & shrub cover but not limited to woodland.
- Land management issues
- Clarity on joint approach
- Recognition of value & potential beyond boundaries of NCA
- Linking this to other NCAs

LNRS Supporting Authorities

- Areas/towns outside PDNP eg. parts of high peak are not sparsely settled.
- Maps & graphs difficult to interpret
- Eco tourism potential?
- More defined paths across moor lands to reduce erosion
- Improving quality of green space locally to avoid as much "driving out"
- High peak areas nature groups can help deliver more locally - focus on community projects
- Supporting coordinated efforts, especially in comms to the public
- Reference needed to key stakeholders inc landowners/farmers, PDNPA etc
- Glossop and other towns provide good opps for urban greening & enabling connectivity corridors
- Reference to peak district nature recovery plan
- Mixing strategic, tactical and local opportunities better to theme.

ENGOs and Community

- What are the most important habitats in the area?
- Protected sites doesn't mean they are in good condition
- What quick wins are there?
- There is significant nature recovery underway though partnership working to link into



White Peak (Character Area 52)

LNRS Steering Group

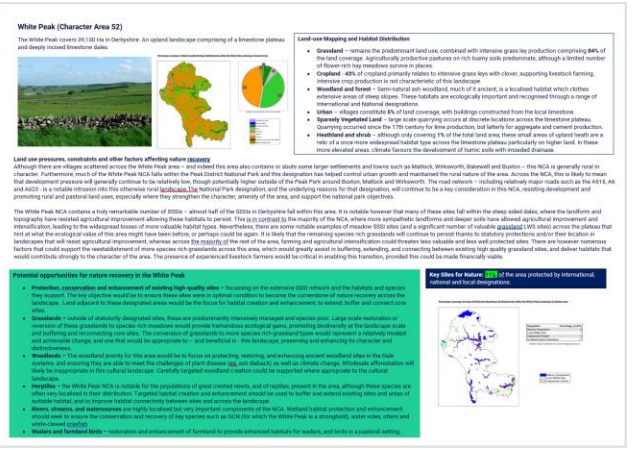
- Protected species recovery pilot is ongoing
- More visuals needed
- Dewpond restoration
- Need consistent approach across the LCAs to define grassland & cropland
- Connecting shelter belts is necessary to enhance the ecological connectivity of the landscape

LNRS Supporting Authorities

- Buffering. expanding the dales - plateau borders
- Supporting innovation, trials & nature champions, namely in sustainable farming
- Opening opps to mosaics/dynamic landscapes e.g. wood pasture
- Green finance support for farmers e.g. hosting a shared learning group
- Lots of similarities between green boxes - perhaps to assist with context could reference some larger nature sites

ENGOs and Community

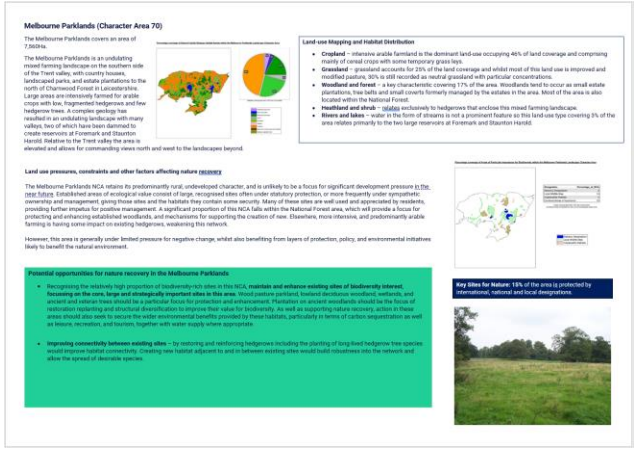
- Support target to protect ancient woodland. Key is ensuring any unmapped AW/irreplaceable habitats are picked up and protected
- Calcareous Heath recovery - how can the 1% be linked up?
- Need bigger maps within Derbyshire



Melbourne Parklands (Character Area 70)

LNRS Steering Group

- Legend difficult to read (green)
- Land use pressure/constraints could be bulleted for speed
- Examples of the negative change in the land use, pressure and constraints.
- Seven Trent and national trust in their large land holdings in this area - job of the land is protected (though not designated). Should STW be on the steering group?



Trent Valley Washlands (Character Area 69)

LNRS Steering Group

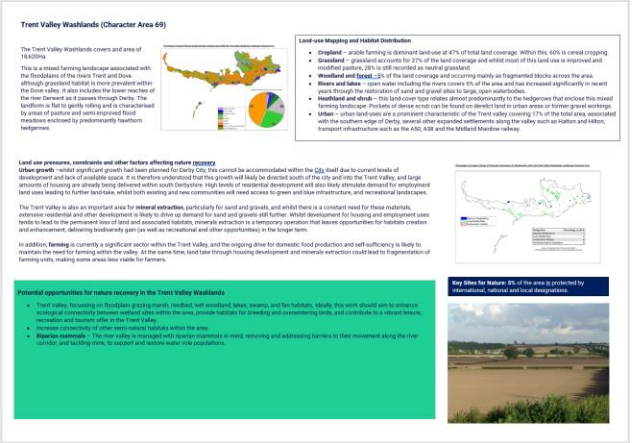
- Most value out of investment in biodiversity projects
- Land use pressure - maybe a main threats approach
- Should beavers be mentioned here?
- Connecting north to Shipley, beyond to Notts
- What we have now vs what we had before
- Mineral extraction could be a land use - mentioned as a land use pressure
- Connected ponds & wetlands
- Cross county partnership potential
- Derwent Trent corridors provide cross NCA connections

LNRS Supporting Authorities

- Too technical, generic, needs visual aid
- Supporting landscape recovery partnerships & schemes for larger scale wetland/floodplain restoration

ENGOs and Community

- Landscape scale partnerships for floodplain restoration, wetlands habitats & watercourse based corridors + connectivity (support for this)
- Is there an urban character area?
- Trent & Mersey canal



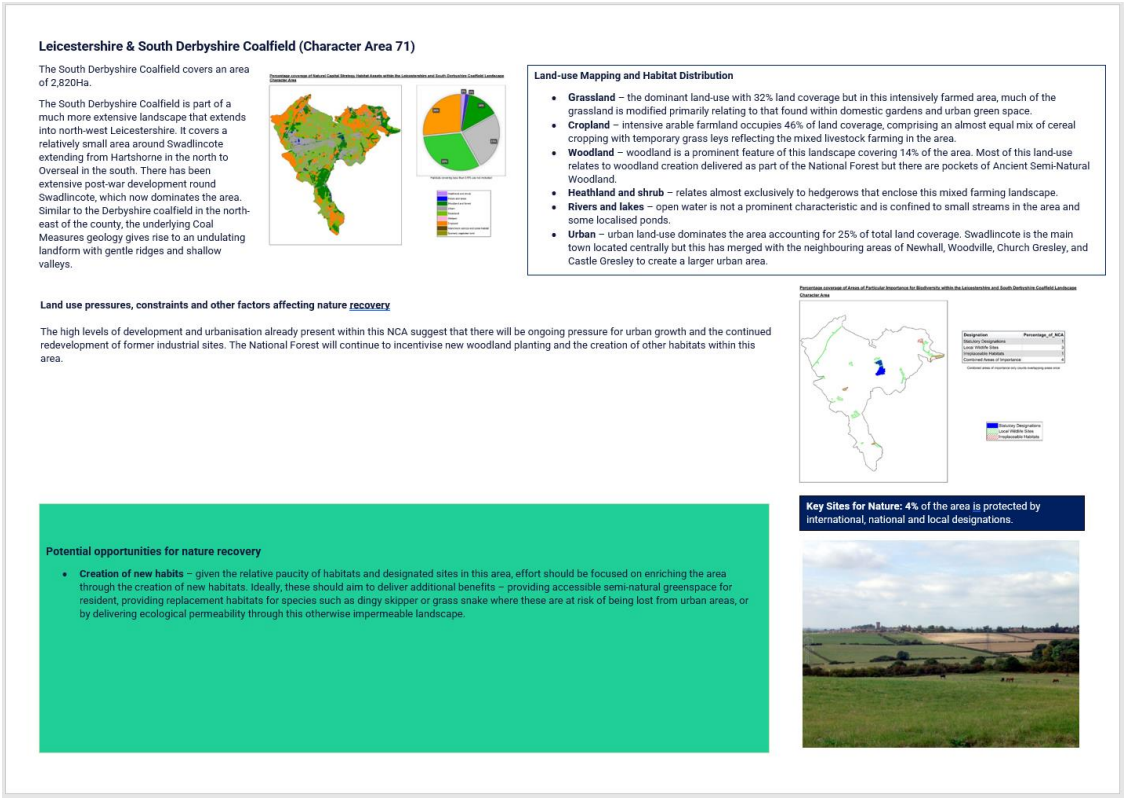
Leicestershire & South Derbyshire Coalfield (Character Area 71)

LNRS Steering Group

- Less text, bigger maps!
- Low designation potential, get more done.
- Social impact?
- Nature friends farming systems
- Learning lessons from national forest & partnering opportunities, esp. access, nature, biodiversity balances

ENGOs and Community

- Opportunity to increase urban canopy in towns & settlements
- Needs to foster a wider cultural change
- Historic local area knowledge has declined - pertaining to wildlife & habitat
- Working with organisations already doing outreach work with farmers & landowners
- Farmers need to sell to benefit farm business
- Question to row 104 - what about food production? There needs to be balance
- Local schools always looks for opps for their students to give purpose to take pride in local area



Leicestershire & South Derbyshire Coalfield (Character Area 71)

The South Derbyshire Coalfield covers an area of 2,820Ha.

The South Derbyshire Coalfield is part of a much more extensive landscape that extends into north-west Leicestershire. It covers a relatively small area around Swadlincote extending from Hartshorne in the north to Overseal in the south. There has been extensive post-war development round Swadlincote, which now dominates the area. Similar to the Derbyshire coalfield in the north-east of the county, the underlying Coal Measures geology gives rise to an undulating landform with gentle ridges and shallow valleys.

Land-use Mapping and Habitat Distribution

- **Grassland** – the dominant land-use with 32% land coverage but in this intensively farmed area, much of the grassland is modified primarily relating to that found within domestic gardens and urban green space.
- **Cropland** – intensive arable farmland occupies 46% of land coverage, comprising an almost equal mix of cereal cropping with temporary grass leys reflecting the mixed livestock farming in the area.
- **Woodland** – woodland is a prominent feature of this landscape covering 14% of the area. Most of this land-use relates to woodland creation delivered as part of the National Forest but there are pockets of Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland.
- **Heathland and shrub** – relates almost exclusively to hedgerows that enclose this mixed farming landscape.
- **Rivers and lakes** – open water is not a prominent characteristic and is confined to small streams in the area and some localised ponds.
- **Urban** – urban land-use dominates the area accounting for 25% of total land coverage. Swadlincote is the main town located centrally but this has merged with the neighbouring areas of Newhall, Woodville, Church Gresley, and Castle Gresley to create a larger urban area.

Land use pressures, constraints and other factors affecting nature recovery

The high levels of development and urbanisation already present within this NCA suggest that there will be ongoing pressure for urban growth and the continued redevelopment of former industrial sites. The National Forest will continue to incentivise new woodland planting and the creation of other habitats within this area.

Potential opportunities for nature recovery

- **Creation of new habits** – given the relative paucity of habitats and designated sites in this area, effort should be focused on enriching the area through the creation of new habitats. Ideally, these should aim to deliver additional benefits – providing accessible semi-natural greenspace for resident, providing replacement habitats for species such as dingy skipper or grass snake where these are at risk of being lost from urban areas, or by delivering ecological permeability through this otherwise impermeable landscape.

Key Sites for Nature: 4% of the area is protected by international, national and local designations.

The Young Foundation

Steering Group: Thematic Deep Dives

Thematic Deep Dive: Blanket Bog

Priority	Measure	Priority NCAs for action	Who are the other stakeholders?	What do we need to ask?	Constraints
1. Improve the condition of upland peatland in the strategy area to increase carbon sequestration	In the Dark and South-west Peaks, rewet blanket bog by using natural materials to block drainage channels, re-establish sphagnum cover and control over-dominant and invasive plant species, working towards further restoration creating a more attractive habitat for breeding bird species.	Dark Peak, South-West Peak	Peak District National Park, Moors for the future, NT, United utilities, Moorland association, RSPB, Carbon Investors, Enviromental agency, Natural England	• How much work left to do? • Where + What will it cost? • What stage do we want to get bogs to? (See moors for the future "states of blanket bogs") How do we safeguard against wildfire? • What does good look like? • Nfm + water quality	• ££ • Priority - rephrase (not just about carbon sequestration) • Land ownerships + Management • Difficulty for particular landowners to access funding component
2. Improve abundance of breeding bird species in upland peatland		Dark Peak, South-West Peak	As above	• What impact does reparation pressure have on bog birds? • Ask them on the ground what works.	
3. Improve the abundance and distributions of species associated with blanket bog, including lower plants, lichens, bryophytes, and invertebrates		Dark Peak, South-West Peak	As above	• Which species are priorities? • Transitional habitats - Trees +peat webinar • What can be more effective collaboratively?	• NE/SSS regulations too restrictive • Actions + impacts/ benefits not always in same location. • Limits of LNRS in terms of existing management plans/ objectives within designated sites – so focus on surrounding areas; comms/ education/ engagement.

Thematic Deep Dive: Upland Heath

Priority	Measure	Who are the other stakeholders?	What do we need to ask?	Constraints
1. Protect and improve the condition of upland heath in the strategy area, including for the benefit of associated breeding birds and other dependent species (upland heath assemblage - lower plants, lichens and bryophytes, moorland and moorland edge invertebrates, regionally scarce higher plants and animals, adder and common lizard)	Ensure appropriate management is implemented including controlling grazing, ensuring a diversity of heathland structure, controlling scrub and invasive species, and managing fire risk	Farmers/ organisations. Local owners, NE - (SPA), Public - Access	• Why are we limiting this priority to one benefit? • What are these?	
2. Expand the upland heathland resource into appropriate areas where conditions allow, providing expanded habitat for breeding birds and other dependent species (upland heath assemblage)	Identify areas with suitable substrate, manage to ensure nutrient status is appropriate and use heathland establishment (seeding, brash etc) measures, ideally using local sources		• What is appropriate? - Where conditions allow. • Opportunity for woodland heath lands rather than open habitat. • Is it structurally + Fundamentally diverse and resilient? • Is it connected? • Are there opportunities to improve wider environmental benefits? • Nature based solutions. • What does good look like? Who defines this? (the what is appropriate question) + not limiting the benefits • What are the benefits?	• Habitats vs Mosaic • Dynamic landscape

Thematic Deep Dive: Woodlands Part 1

The Young Foundation

Priority	Measure	Who are the other stakeholders?	What do we need to ask?	Constraints
1. Ancient woodland, woodland SSSIs and veteran trees are protected, managed and in good ecological condition	Sites are identified and in positive management to maximise their biodiversity value and ensure their longevity	Landowners, estates farmers, NT, LA's, FE, FC grants +Regs, NE utility Co's, WT…DWT, Foresty Agents RFs/ICF, Confor RSPB, Forestry Operators/Contractors	• Can they be exfunded + connected better?	• Deer
	Specialist tree management techniques are used to extend the life of veteran and ancient trees			
	•Restore Plantations on Ancient Woodland sites to native, locally appropriate broadleaved species			
2. Existing broadleaved woodland is well managed and better for wildlife	Introduce woodland management plans where possible and appropriate, bringing woodlands into active management to promote biodiversity		• Sector to support them. • Support for small woodland owner. • When is greying woodland good? • What does good look like?	• Deer • Funding for small woodland • Hard lines (mapped) between forestry + farming. • Needs more flexibility
	Reduce grazing pressures and harm from invasive species including grey squirrel			
	Allow species and structural diversification by natural processes where possible, or through planting where necessary			
3. New woodland creation delivers more, better and better connected woodland	Create new semi-natural broadleaved woodland following sound ecological principles and bring in to positive management.	Landowners, FC grants + Regs, RSPB, NT, Utility Cos, EA/NE, WA's - Finding + own land	• Capacity for the sector locally: trees, contractors. • Don't lose sight of productive woodland. • Good design is key. • Transitional habitats. Lost woodlands (historic maps).	• Skills/ design • Aging environment scheme • Deer
	Buffer existing woodland sites with new woodland creation, to protect core sites from impact, extend their benefit and provide edge habitats			
	Identify areas for new woodland creation specifically to improve connectivity between woodlands at the landscape scale where appropriate			
	Allow new woodlands to generate naturally where possible (i.e. adjacent to or close to existing high value woodland) or use planting where necessary			
	Planting should use locally appropriate species and local provenance/climate resilient stock			
	Take opportunities to create new woodlands for example around new residential developments, new employment land use, and sand and gravel sites, as part of managed change to improve the area for people and wildlife			

Thematic Deep Dive: Woodlands Part 2

The Young Foundation

Priority	Measure	Who are the other stakeholders?	What do we need to ask?	Constraints
4. Wood pasture parkland habitats within SSSIs or other designations are protected, managed and in good ecological condition	Sites are identified and in positive management to maximise their biodiversity value and ensure their longevity		• Are they not already protected? • Current condition?	Genuine Knowledge of management - Grazing regiment
	Specialist tree management techniques are used to extend the life of veteran and ancient trees			
	Species assemblages associated with historic wood pasture parkland - saproxylic invertebrates and fungi, bats etc - should be carefully considered, and their populations enhanced including through specific interventions where necessary			
5. Increase the resource of wood pasture and parkland habitats where appropriate, taking account of their historic origin and cultural associations	Target wood pasture parkland restoration to historic, neglected and relict wood pasture parkland sites, planting replacement parkland trees and bringing into active management to ensure their survival and longevity		• Quantifying resource. • When would this be the best management method?	
6. Increase trees in the wider landscape, including field trees, fruit trees, hedgerow trees and watercourse trees, especially where they can reinforce the local character as well as contributing to biodiversity	Plant locally appropriate hedgerow and in-field trees to diversify hedgerows and reinforce the wooded character of suitable landscapes		• Use this to blend existing woodland + new woodland into the L' scope. • Agroforestry - trees in fields hedgerows.	
	Protect and manage existing hedgerow trees positively, to support their retention and longevity			
	Identify and restore existing and derelict traditional orchards			
	Create new community orchards where appropriate, particularly in association with new development, for the benefit of people and wildlife			
7. Ancient and veteran trees are protected and managed	Protect and manage existing ancient and veteran trees in the wider landscape, including considering fencing or root protection measures, to support their retention and longevity		• Succession planning + Planting	
8. Urban trees become more common throughout towns and cities, for amenity, urban shading and air quality benefits as well as biodiversity	Existing street trees are managed positively to promote their longevity and are replaced at the end of their life		• What does 'good' look like? (incl right tree right place) and how do we achieve it?	
	New developments incorporate street trees wherever possible			

Thematic Deep Dive: Grassland Part 1

The Young Foundation

Priority	Measure	Who are the other stakeholders?	What do we need to ask?	Constraints
1. Protect and enhance grassland habitats in statutorily designated sites (SSSIs etc) including calaminarian grassland and other areas of unimproved grassland	Sites are identified and in positive management to maximise their biodiversity value as grasslands and for their associated species	Landowners + Land managers, PDNPA, Enviromental Agency, Natural England	• Are EIA (Agriculture) regulations thresholds adequate enough given ambition for nature recovery, let alone reducing loss?	• Low moor areas need more of meep at certain times of the year
2. Outside of protected sites, existing semi-natural grasslands are restored and enhanced to support greater levels of biodiversity including pollinators and other invertebrates	Existing moderate quality and neglected sites are enhanced through biodiversity-focussed management with appropriate cutting and/or grazing		• What is coherent? Importance of habitat Mosaic e.g. scrub grassland mosaics.	• Different mowing rapport different wildlife • Insufficient landowners incentives
	Species poor semi-natural grasslands are diversified through seeding, plug planting, the use of green hay or other measures, and grasslands are subsequently managed to maintain and enhance their species diversity			
3. The grassland resource is increased through the creation of new semi-natural and species rich grassland sites	Take opportunities to create new species rich grasslands for example around new development, through enhanced green infrastructure			• Not enough people understand importance of Meep area as most of the life aside them is small e.g. insects + small mammals. • Insufficient landowner incentives.
	Create new species-rich grasslands through the reversion of intensive grassland and arable farmland			
	Create high quality, species rich calcareous grassland particularly though the targeted restoration of limestone quarry sites			
	Create high quality, species rich lowland meadow and wet grassland, including through quarry restoration			
	Create high quality grasslands, particularly wet and acid grasslands, through other opportunities including quarrying and land restoration			

Thematic Deep Dive: Grassland Part 2

Priority	Measure	Who are the other stakeholders?	What do we need to ask?	Constraints
4. Buffer and extend existing grassland sites, to create bigger sites and allow movement and spread of species, and to protect core sites from impact	Target grassland creation and enhancement to locations adjacent to existing high-quality grasslands sites	• Derbyshire Ecolgical Research Centre	• What species, where are they? • How much benefit to biodiversity do herbal leys provide?	
5.Grassland sites are better connected through the landscape, particularly to facilitate robustness and the movement of species	Target grassland creation and enhancement to locations where they can contribute to or enhance connectivity within the grassland network	• Parish + Town Councils, Businesses		
	Road verges are managed to improve biodiversity, supporting habitat connectivity across the landscape			

Thematic Deep Dive: Rivers, river corridors and other watercourses (part 1)

Priority	Measure	Who are the other stakeholders?	What do we need to ask?	Constraints
1. Naturally functioning and resilient water environments and river catchments that help us adapt to the impacts of climate change and reduce the risk of flooding	Naturalise river channels restoring natural banks, beds and flows and introducing natural features where necessary	Environmental agency (James Fretborough Hobson), Catchment partnerships (Derbyshire Dement), Farmers + Landowners	• For plans and reports identifying opportunities • Water quantity data • Natural flood management mapping data • Incentive required	• No funding for flood stages • Range of stakeholders involved to create change, lack of evidence for what water to reduce
	Connecting rivers to their floodplains by lowering berms and banks			
2. Protect and enhance rivers and watercourse habitats in statutorily designated sites (SSSIs etc) including watercourses in dale systems	Protect and enhance watercourse habitat and water quality in the White Peak, including for the benefit of white clawed crayfish, water vole, and otters	Farmers and Land owners, Catchment partnerships	• Of the regulators - how the targets have been written as. • Are targets realistic & allow journey to be on time.	• Lack of knowledge how targets have been set.
	Protect and enhance watercourse habitat, water quality and species diversity and assemblages in other designated sites, including canals and reservoirs			
	Protect and enhance watercourse habitat and water quality in the River Mease for the benefit of spined loach, bullhead and white clawed crayfish			
3. Create, maintain and restore high quality and connected habitats along watercourses	Buffer strip creation and management - create natural habitats (grassland, scrub or woodland) within 10m from the bank top of rivers and watercourses	Farmers and Land owners, Catchment partnerships	• What is required?	• Incentive insufficient
	Create and protect ponds, wetlands, backwaters and associated habitats close to the river, particularly where they contribute to natural flood management			
	Identify and address both point- and diffuse sources of pollution, including sources of silt and agricultural run-off			
	Establish programmes for the eradication of invasive non-native species in watercourses, including mink control for the benefit of water vole			

Thematic Deep Dive: Rivers, river corridors (part 2)

Priority	Measure	Who are the other stakeholders?	What do we need to ask?	Constraints
4. Ensure riparian habitats support healthy and viable populations of native plants and animals characteristic of rivers, including riparian mammals and enabling fish passage etc	Ensure connectivity for species throughout the length of the river, including addressing barriers to fish passage, allowing the free-movement of otters and providing connected habitat for water vole	As above, Catchment partnership, Utility companies	• What/How much invasive non-native species do they have?	• Incentive insufficient, Sewage + waste pollution
	Identify remaining, viable populations of white clawed crayfish and protect from non-native species			
	Create ark sites for white clawed crayfish where populations are threatened			
5. Reservoirs are managed for biodiversity and public access and enjoyment whilst protecting their vital role in water supply	Whilst water supply function is prioritised, seek opportunities to enhance biodiversity, including ornithological interest and management of the surrounding land, whilst also facilitating appropriate public access and enjoyment	Farmers and Land owners where greater	• How could improvements in upland habitats surrounding reservoirs improve water quality and quantity by increasing attenuation? • How do farmers use the water table & how this affects said quality & diversity of botany/trees?	

Thematic Deep Dive: Accessible semi-natural green spaces

Priority	Measure	Who are the other stakeholders?	What do we need to ask?	Constraints
1. Habitat creation and enhancement seeks to deliver an improved network of locally appropriate accessible semi-natural green spaces, for the benefit of people and wildlife	Opportunities are sought to deliver new semi-natural green spaces in locations that will benefit existing and new communities, improving accessibility when measured using the ANGSt standards New accessible semi-natural green spaces are located adjacent to existing sites of biodiversity value and public access, to create larger and better connected sites for people and wildlife	Farmers + Landowners, Enviromental Agency, Public open spaces (teams, parks, maintenance), Town & Parish councils, sports, leisure and hospitality, Supporting authorities, Public, Developers, 'Friend groups'	• Impact on farming/ Land management - How can we mitigate this? • Opportunity mapping, data, evidence already captured/developed which highlights opportunities. • How can the space be maximised for biodiversity & resilience (nature and people) - diverse spaces offering more benefits? • What incentives are needed? • What types of habitats and species are more desirable and realistic? What understanding do they have of benefits across health + wellbeing for all? • Accessibility via public transport. • What future plans do they have for their land holdings? • Wider environmental benefits i.e. flood mitigation. • Will sufficient funding be available for these local community spaces?	• Finance & create access. • How to manage the land once access is created- Open access can affect the livestock. • Access vs diversity + resilience. • Inherent lack of understanding around the value of nature.

Thematic Deep Dive: Farmlands

Priority	Measure	Who are the other stakeholders?	What do we need to ask?	Constraints
1. Improve ecological connectivity through the farmed landscape	Existing hedgerows are brought into good ecological management, including gapping up to improve connectivity	Farmers and large landowners, Enviromental Agency (James Fretborough Hobson)	• What appetite to do things differently? • What incentives would be required? • How much land are you willing to give to biodiversity?	• Economically viable farming Lack of existing ecological value • Tradition
	Opportunities are sought to replant hedgerows on former alignments, or to create new native, locally appropriate hedgerows to improve connectivity			
	Field margins are used to improve habitat connectivity and landscape permeability for species			
2. The farmed landscape is more favourable and permeable to wildlife, particularly pollinators and farmland birds	Seek opportunities to improve the farmed landscape for pollinators, including through the establishment of flower-rich grass margins, in-field strips, nectar strips and/or herb rich arable leys, or leaving unsprayed areas in arable fields	Enviromental agency (James Fretborough Hobson), Catchment partnership (EA), Local government, Utilities, Agaway Authority?	• Is land sparing (land + nature) preferred or is land sharing preferred? • Biological control instead of pesticides/herbicides?	• Not enough education surrounding the importance of farmers + the land they have as well as biodiversity.
	Establish beetle banks and other areas for natural predators within arable farming			
	Deliver interventions for the benefit of farmland birds including skylark plots, sowing of wild bird seed mix for winter cover crop, leaving stubble on cropped fields			
3. Land use practices are modified to avoid adverse impacts on the wider environment, including freshwater habitats	In sensitive areas, farming practices seek to reduce agricultural run-off, particularly to watercourses, where they are affecting habitats downstream	Farmers and landowners	• Willing to change to low moor? • Or different methods of grazing? • Pesticides, herbicides + Pollution • Ask landowners/farmers what they wouldn't be prepared to do? • Focus on key 'no-go's'.	
	Where grazing occurs on land adjacent to streams and rivers, access by animals is controlled to prevent sediment entering the watercourse			
	Where evidence demonstrates agricultural land is at risk of becoming a net emitter of carbon, practices are modified to deliver greater carbon sequestration			

Thematic Deep Dive: Wetlands

Priority	Measure	Who are the other stakeholders?	What do we need to ask?	Constraints
1. Protect and enhance wetland habitats in statutorily designated sites (SSSIs etc) including ponds, lowland fen, swamp, marsh, reedbed etc	Sites are identified and in positive management to maximise their biodiversity value as wetlands and for their associated species	Utility companies, River catchment partnerships, Enviromental Agency	• Mapping/plans/ opportunities for environmental + flood risk projects can also help with catchment partnership plans/ideas.	• LNRS can't override/ conflict with existing management plans/objectives for designated sites.
2. Outside of protected sites, existing wetlands are managed and enhanced to support greater levels of biodiversity, for example for amphibians and invertebrates	Existing moderate quality and neglected ponds and wetlands are enhanced through biodiversity-focussed management	Trent valley waters, Towns/cities, DWT, Land owners	• Current condition of wetlands	• Sewage & pollution, water consumption & waste
	Investigate and improve water quality (for example through use of buffer strips) where this is having a detrimental effect on the condition of wetlands			
3. The wetland resource is increased through the creation of new semi-natural wetlands	•Take opportunities to create new ponds and wetlands for example around new development, through enhanced green infrastructure or SUDS		• How can we use nature-based solutions?	• Demands on land.
	Create new field ponds in appropriate locations and in areas of complementary habitat			
4. Buffer and extend existing wetland sites, to create bigger sites and allow movement and spread of species, and to protect core sites from impact	Target new pond and wetland creation to locations adjacent to existing high-quality wetland sites and use other complementary habitats (grasslands, rough margins, tree planting) to buffer and protect sites from impact			• Degraded habitats.
5. Wetland sites are better connected through the landscape, particularly to facilitate robustness and the movement of species	Target wetland creation and enhancement to locations where they can contribute to or enhance connectivity within the wetland or riparian networks		• How will this be measured? • What is the baseline?	

Thematic Deep Dive: Species

Priority	Measure	Who are the other stakeholders?	What do we need to ask?	Constraints
1. Birds of prey	Where habitats could support populations of birds of prey, identify and address causes for their decline/absence	Landowners, Derbyshire England Records centre, RSPB, Peak District Natural park, Raptor groups	• What habitats do they depend on to survive & how does that affect those species?	• Persecution from grouse moors owners.
2. Reptiles	In the White Peak, support the reptile populations centred in the key daleside SSSI complexes	Derbyshire Amphibian & Reptile group	• Where/how many species? Record data, relevant landscape.	
3. Great crested newts	In the White Peak, support GCN populations through the protection and enhancement of dewponds, positive pasture management and reversion, and provision of refugia/dry stone walls •Focusing on existing GCN populations and core habitat, seek to enhance and connect the network through strategic habitat delivery	Natural England, Peak District Natural Park Authority, Landowner, Farmers, Residential	• Record data. • Predators • Number of historical translocations. • What has affected reduction in numbers?	• Lack of contractor capacity to carry out dewpond restoration. • ££ for dewpond restoration.
4. Black poplars	Existing black poplars are identified, protected and managed to ensure their retention Seek to replant black poplars grown from locally sourced stock/plant material, to secure their long-term survival	Woodland trust, Local authorities, Trent River Trust, Serven Trent, Landowner, Farmers, Residential, Mineral industry	• What native trees have been "farmed" reduced? • What habitat do these trees bring to other species?	• Sourcing native stock/ Nursery in Willington ask delays WT.
5. Willow Tit				
6. Upland/Lowland woodland Bird Assemblages				
7. Lamprey				
Those species which haven't historically had protection and have declined as a result. Common species e.g. wood mice that support other species.				

Thematic Deep Dive: People and wildlife

Priority	Measure	Who are the other stakeholders?	What do we need to ask?	Constraints
1. People across Derbyshire are more engaged with the natural environment and are able to better engage with biodiversity issues.	Environmental education equips children with knowledge to be able to understand the natural environment and care about local issues Volunteering opportunities increase, and there are more people engaged with local green spaces	Public, Landowners, Farmers, Conservation organisations, Businesses, Green finance, Schools, Colleges, Universities, Enviromental Agency	• Understand landscape - Why you see what you see? • How they engage with nature? • Understanding preferencing in our relationship with nature. • Level of understanding what is available. • Understanding the value of nature? • Are they prepared to support? Voluntary vs mandatory. • Does spending time in nature impact your mental health? • How is the LNRS answering the question? • What can I/we do for 'wildlife/nature'? • What would improve your relationship with nature/ green spaces/wildlife?	• People's mindset / values/ ideas. • Ensuring demographic representation for public consultation. • Resources - skills/money. • Lack of incentives to support LNRS. • Conflicts between recreational preserve and wildlife. Disturbance to breeding birds - dogs -wildfire. • Erosion - Transport +Carbon. • Education system. • Understanding the link between food and nature i.e. pollination id very soon Apples will be £5 each. • Food security. • Not achieved by intensive agriculture relying on fertiliser of which we import 60%. Avoiding eco-anxiety. • Balancing access and biodiversity recognising the greater benefits to people of more diverse and resilient landscapes and green spaces.


The Young Foundation
Thank you.