

Greater Manchester Local Nature Recovery Strategy

6th March 2024

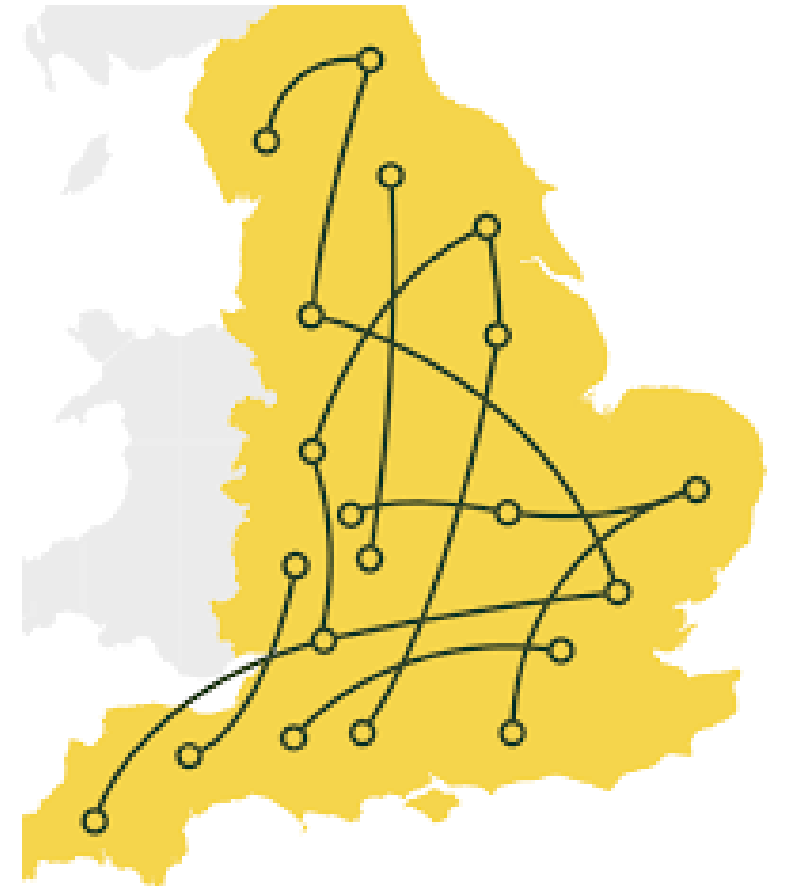
Rachel Morrison
(Environment)

Local Nature Recovery Strategies

- What are Local Nature Recovery Strategies?
- Why do we need Local Nature Recovery Strategies?
- How are we developing our Greater Manchester Local Nature Recovery Strategy?
- What next?

Local Nature Recovery Strategies

- Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRS) are a new system of spatial strategies for nature and environmental improvement required by law under the Environment Act 2021.
- They are intended to show where and how we should be taking action for nature and provide wider benefits, to drive collaborative action for nature recovery.
- Defra decides the area that each strategy covers and appoints a 'responsible authority' to lead its preparation.
- 48 LNRS across England - collectively intended to form a National Nature Recovery Network.
- We will need to report on progress on the strategy every 3-10 years – enhanced biodiversity duty under the Environment Act.

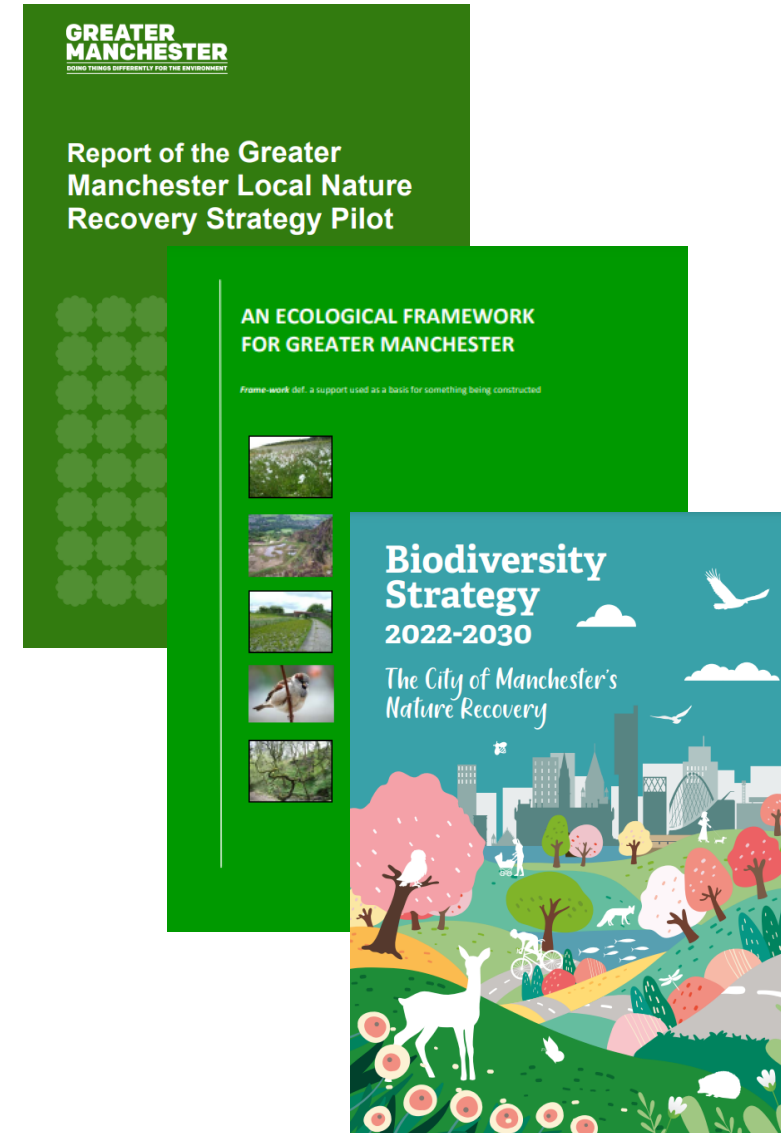


Local Nature Recovery Strategies

In lined with the statutory regulation and guidance published by Defra, the GM LNRS need to be evidence-led and collaboratively developed.

Each strategy should:

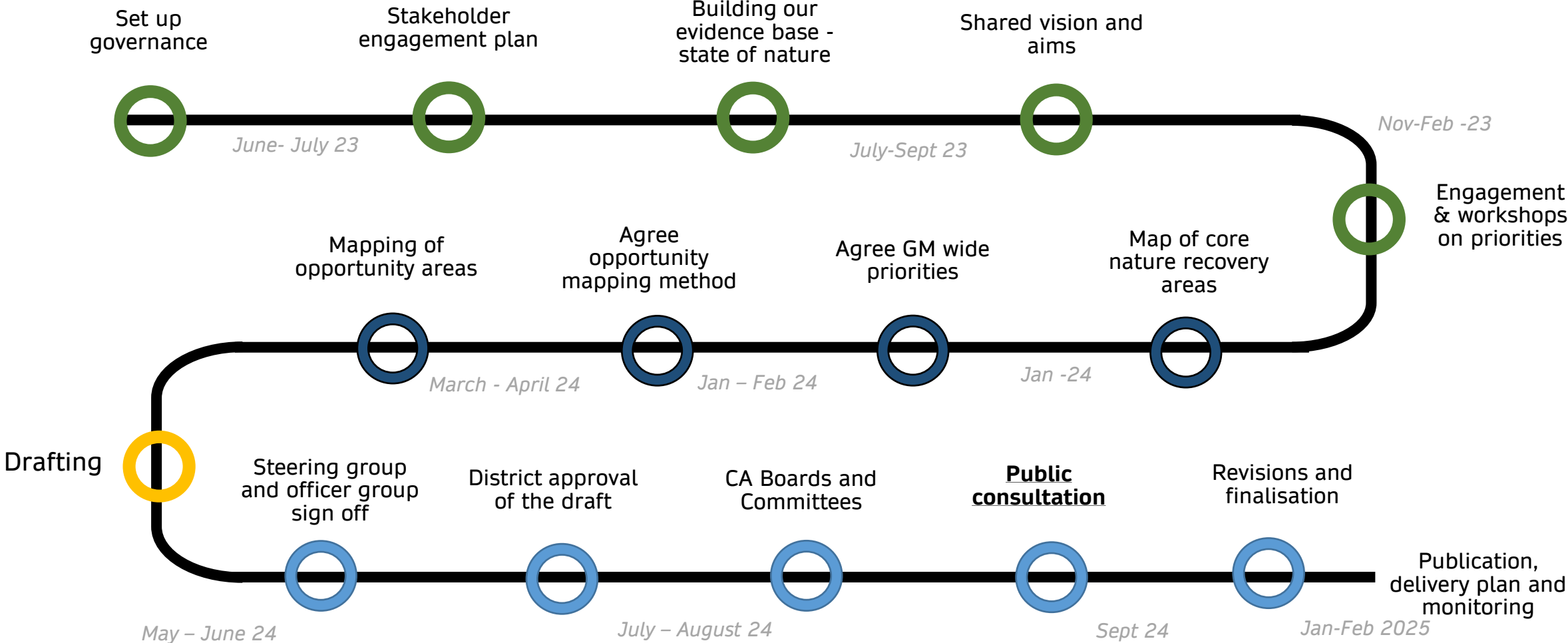
- Map valuable existing areas for nature (as defined by Defra)
- Ascertain the **state of nature**, and the **opportunities** and issues important in Greater Manchester
- Collaboratively agree the **priorities and opportunities** for nature recovery in GM, for broad habitat types and species
- Detail measures (practical actions) **for delivering** them
- Map proposals '**opportunity areas**' for creating or improving GM for habitats and species
- Set out how the strategy will be monitored
- Undertake a **public consultation**



Strategy at a glance

Vision	What GM looks like if the strategy is delivered
Aims	The key results required to achieve that vision
Targets	Quantifiable, GM-specific targets, linked to national targets, which can be monitored to enable understanding of progress towards meeting those aims
Opportunities	A description of the major opportunities for recovering or enhancing biodiversity, in terms of habitats and species
Priorities	Long-term end results that the strategy is seeking to achieve, described in terms of the species and habitats that the strategy will focus on supporting or the achievable improvements to the wider natural environment using nature-based solutions.
Measures	The practical actions that, if taken, would make positive contributions to delivering the priorities. Most measures should be creating or enhancing existing habitats and have a clear reference to habitat type using the same classification as the Local Habitat Map.

Where are we now?



Developing the strategy

Evidence base



Engaging people

Our Local Nature Champions
Jason Williams, The Cloud Gardener

“Connecting to nature is important, but education around nature for all ages is vital too - from teaching children about where food comes from to explaining to adults the nuances of using peat free compost.”

Scan the QR code to hear more from Jason and our plan for nature recovery across Greater Manchester.

#GMGreenCity

GREATER MANCHES
DOING THINGS DIFFERENTLY FOR THE

The graphic has a green background. On the right, there is a circular inset photo of Jason Williams, a man with a beard wearing a blue cap and a grey shirt. A QR code is located in the bottom right area of the text.

Shared vision and aims

A network for nature across Greater Manchester, connecting and enhancing spaces for wildlife and people to thrive

Greater Manchester State of Nature

March 2024



GREATER MANCHESTER
DOING THINGS DIFFERENTLY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

Photo credit: Andy Hankinson

Our headline findings



Our wildlife populations are declining

Individual bird species population has declined up to 40% over the last 40 years and populations of common mammals have dropped by between 20-40% since 1995.



Our protected sites are valuable refuges for wildlife

...but cover only 11% of GM, are highly fragmented, and are not in as good a condition as they could be and should be.

Our natural environment provides us with around

£1bn

of benefits each year

...but these are under threat with the continuing decline in nature.



Our peatlands have been degraded by human activity over two centuries and now emit carbon rather than locking more of it away.



80% of our waterbodies have been heavily modified by human activity

...and none of our rivers are assessed as being in good ecological condition.

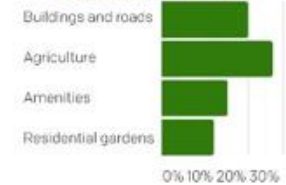
Our tree canopy covers

16%

of Greater Manchester

with the management of existing woodlands and trees under-resourced when compared to the creation of new woodlands and planting of new trees.

Estimated land use in GM



...leaving less than 10% dedicated to nature.

93%

of residents surveyed consider it important or very important to live close to greenspace. But an estimated third of GM's population do not live within 15 minutes of a greenspace.

Get involved in Greater Manchester's plan for nature

Greater Manchester Combined Authority is currently working on a **Greater Manchester plan for nature**, setting out local priorities for nature recovery.

Anyone can help us shape this plan. We want to know what you think would make Greater Manchester more wildlife-friendly.

Let us know what you think by completing our survey.

**GREATER
MANCHESTER**
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You can access our survey by **clicking this link** or scanning our QR code.



How will the strategy be used?

**Inform and
evidence**

**Plan where
invest
should be
prioritised**

**Drive
collaborative
action**

**Promote
engagement
with nature**

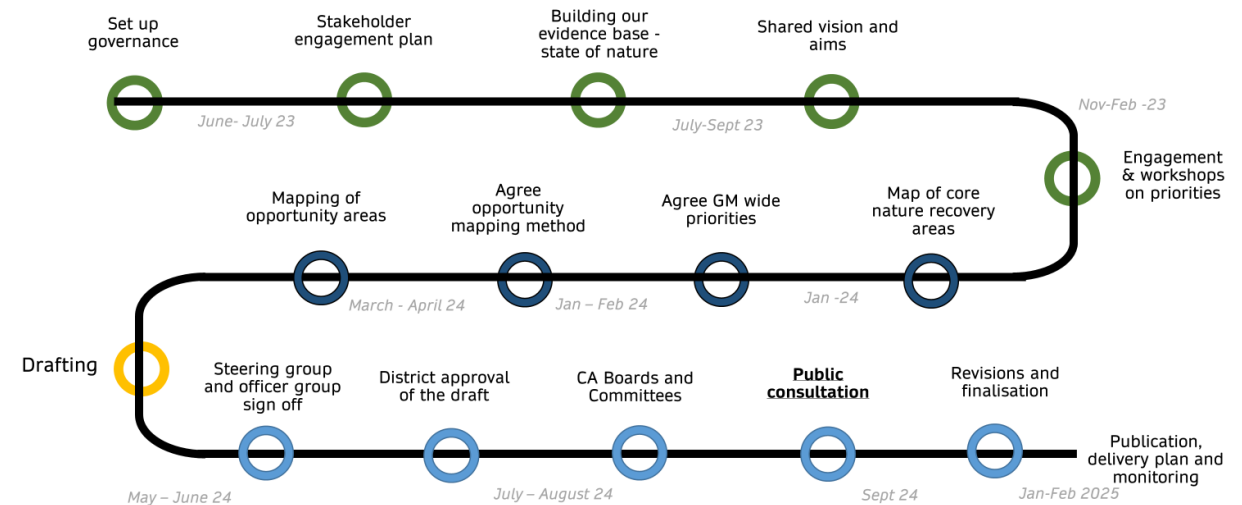
LNRS and local planning

- The Environment Act sets out that LPAs will need to have regard to the Local Nature Recovery Strategies in local planning policy and decisions (S102).
- Government recently added a clause to the Levelling up and Regeneration Bill which will create a new requirement on all relevant plan-makers and requires all tiers of planning to “**take account of**” LNRS.
- Designed to support development plans and provide closer alignment with the planning system and environmental outcomes.
- Government has stated will provide separate guidance to explain how LPAs should take account of LNRS and reflect them in local plans and what this means in practice. However, it has not yet done so and the timeline and level of detail that guidance will contain is not clear.

Next steps

Key current steps and milestones for spring 2024 include:

- The publication of GM's first State of Nature report (March 2024).
- Completion of maps of our 'core network' areas of particular importance for biodiversity (as defined by Defra).
- The [launch of a public survey to engage residents, community groups, landowners and businesses](#) (February 2024).



To better inform members regarding the remit and preparation process for the GM Local Nature Recovery Strategy, **GMCA are running a councillor webinar on March 4th at 12-1.30pm. If you would like to attend [please register here for the webinar.](#)**
