

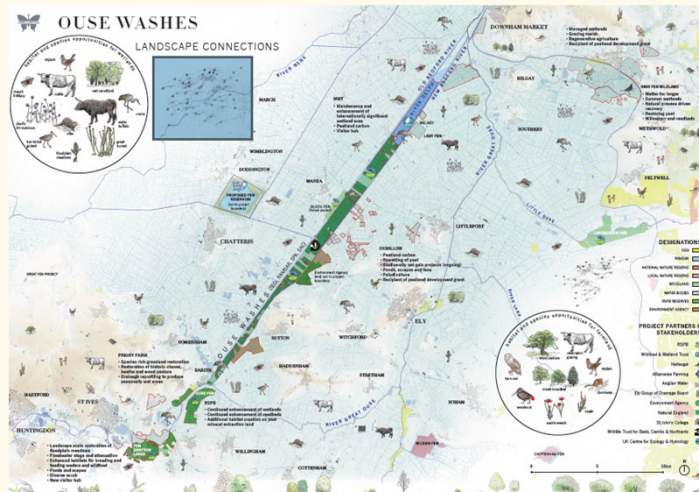
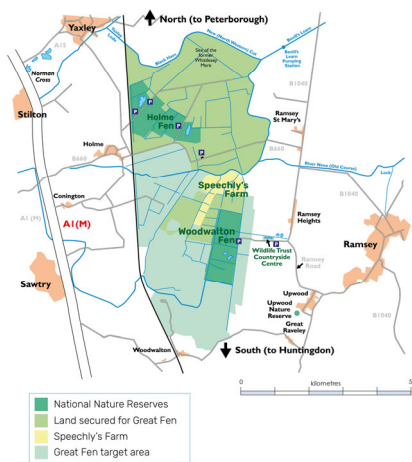


# Local Nature Recovery Strategies Working together to recover nature

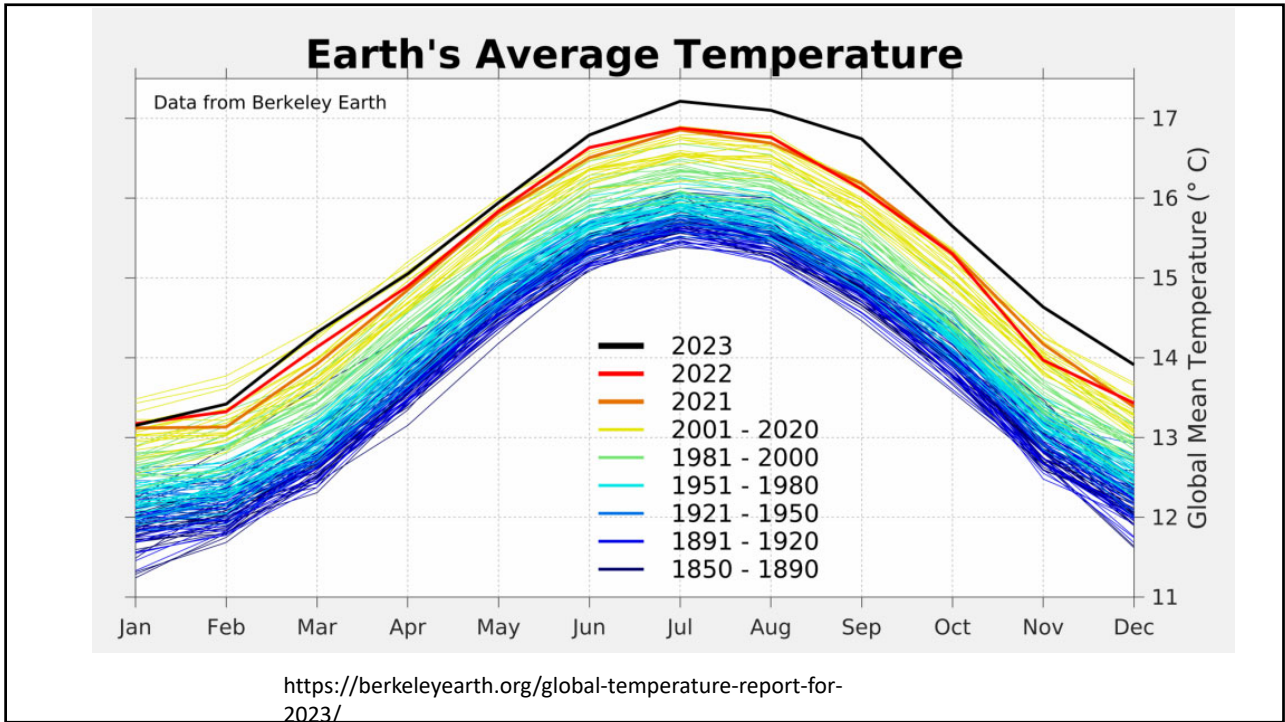
*John Torlesse  
Deputy Director West Anglia*

1

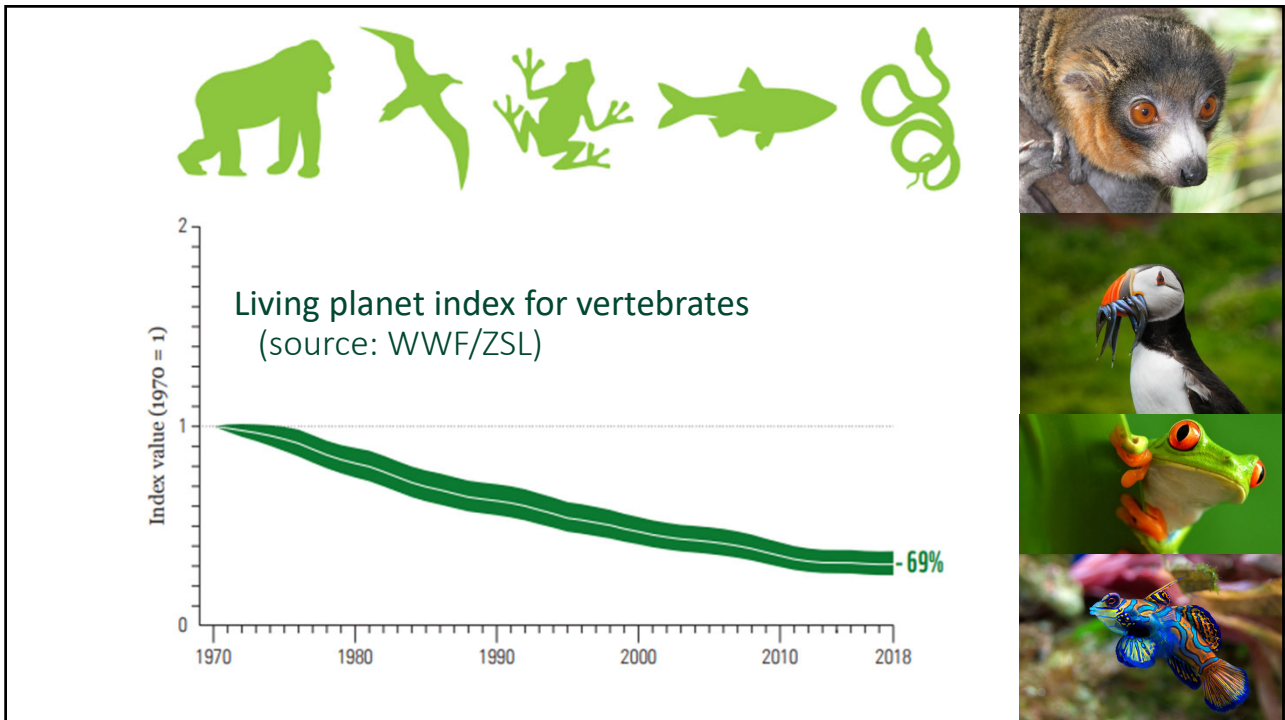
## Working together on nature recovery..



2



3



4

## UK state of nature

Large historic and ongoing changes to our habitats

>95% East Anglian Fens lost since 17<sup>th</sup> Century

84% lowland heathland lost since 1800

97% flower-rich meadows lost since 1930 (and still happening)



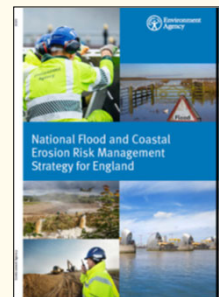
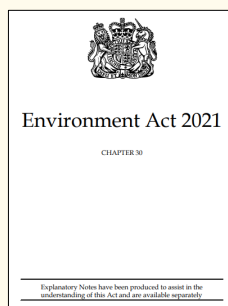
### Species

- >40% UK species are in decline
- 25% mammals threatened with extinction
- 73 million fewer birds over the past 50 years
- Flying insects (may) have declined by 64% in past 20 years
- Earthworms have probably declined by >33% in past 25 years



5

## The Policy and Legal frameworks....



- Nature recovery network
- 500,000 ha restored / created habitat
- 25 nature recovery areas

- Biodiversity Net Gain
- Local Nature Recovery Strategies
- 30 by 30

- Halt decline species abundance by 2030

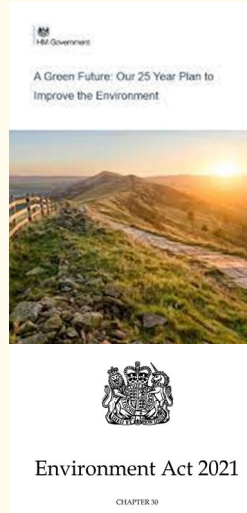
- Nature-based solutions

6

## Local Nature Recovery Strategies



- Introduced by the Environment Act 2021
- Establish a Strategy
- Locally owned spatial plans for nature
- A focus for a strengthened duty to conserve and enhance biodiversity



They will work alongside other measures in the Act to:

- Help planning authorities incorporate nature recovery objectives into decision making and plan preparation;
- Support the delivery of Biodiversity Net Gain (February 2024);
- Support the growth of a nature recovery network across England
- Help deliver our national environment targets
- Join-up with funding initiatives

7

## Aims of Local Nature Recovery Strategies



The Strategy will contribute to:

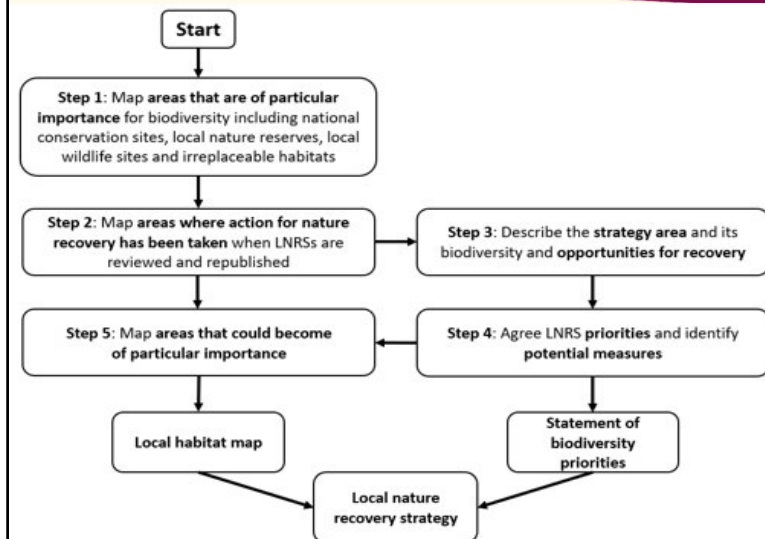
- 30x30 goals and the species abundance target
- climate change mitigation and adaptation
- reduced flooding
- improved air and water quality
- woodland management,
- soil management
- wider environmental benefits (public access, green infrastructure, people's connection with nature and levelling-up).

8



## LNRS: process and engagement

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- Requirement for wider engagement
- Strengthen and build partnerships
- LNRSs should be practical and deliverable
- Contribute to wider environmental benefits

9

## ADA and IDB's – Pivotal to nature recovery

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- Supply and management of water critical to habitat restoration and creation
  - Water level management key to net zero – peat soils
  - Reach and engagement with land managers
  - As engineers and water managers on the ground
  - Ability to broker and facilitate solutions across holdings
- How we can work together to create a viable future for lowland agriculture with nature recovery...



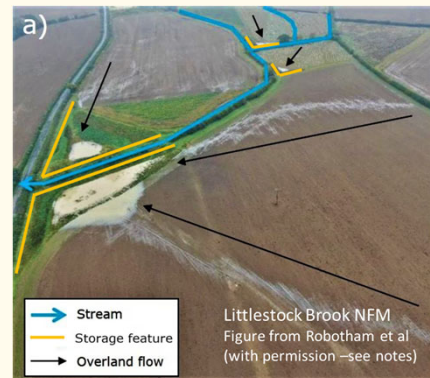
10

## Environmental Land Management – drivers for change?



Increased payment rates and new options....

- Creating and managing three-dimensional buffer strips to afford increased protection to buffer natural waterbodies and drainage networks £1,182/Ha
- Managing grassland for increased flood and drought resilience benefits £938/ha
- Managing features (e.g. swales, bunds, infiltration ponds) for flood and drought resilience on arable land £1241/Ha
- Enhancing floodplain floodwater storage £366/Ha
- Raised water level on cropped or arable land on peat soils £1409/Ha
- Raised water levels on grassland on peat soils £1381/ha



11

## Where we can work together...



### Landscape Recovery

- 56 projects in development covering 250K ha e.g Somerset Levels and Ouse Washes
- Drainage Authorities are actively engaged in Round 1 and 2 projects – for example at Leven Carrs, Beverley and North Holderness IDB
- Round 3 opening for applications in 2024 – interest in the scheme remains very high
- LR provides an opportunity to develop a vision and plan for multiple objectives over large area (funded for 2 years)
- 20+ years implementation funding

### Nature Recovery projects

- 12 so far with a further 13 expected to be identified
  - Somerset Coast Levels and Moors
  - The Lost Wetlands – Cheshire to Lancashire



12

## The Paludiculture Exploration Fund



Agreement holder	Business area	Crop focus	Exploration focus
AutoSpray Systems	Agricultural Drone suppliers	Various	Machinery (arial drones)
Broads Authority	NPA	Typha, reed, canary grass, miscanthus	Crops strategic and products
Coates English Willow	Willow growing and weaving	Willow	Crop and product
FWAG southwest Ltd	ENGO	Typha & willow	Crops and nutrient management and machinery
Fenland Soil Ltd	NGO	Various	Strategic land use
Harper Adams University	Higher Education	Sphagnum and Typha and Celery	Crop development
Lancashire Wildlife Trust	ENGO	Sphagnum and Typha	Crop development
MMU	Higher Education	Various	Engagement/Research
Micropropagation Services	Sphagnum production	Sphagnum	Cropping Sphagnum
Ponda	Textiles insulation	Typha	Crop and product
UKCEH	Higher Education	Various	Crops - Biochar
Vitagrass Farms (Holker) Ltd	Agricultural estate	Sphagnum and Typha	Crops - business plan

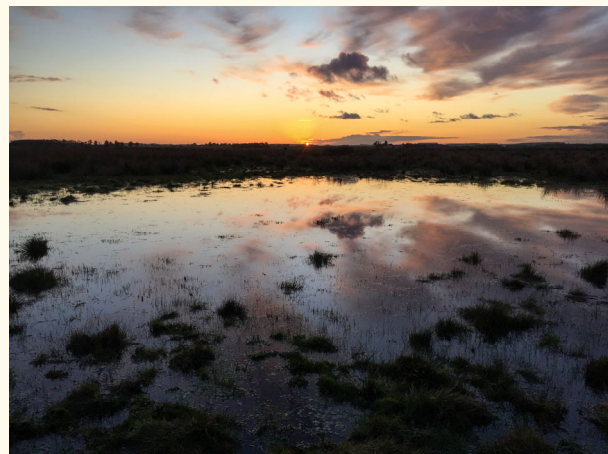


13

## Working together to deliver more for nature and business



- Working at larger scale and with multiple benefits
- Natural England needs to change and respond
- Farmers and land managers making the shift
- IDBs can play a critical role
- Further collaboration / engagement welcomed!



14