



**Norfolk**  
**& Suffolk**  
Nature Recovery  
Partnership

# Norfolk and Suffolk's Local Nature Recovery Strategy

**November 2024**

**Final Strategy to be published in 2025**

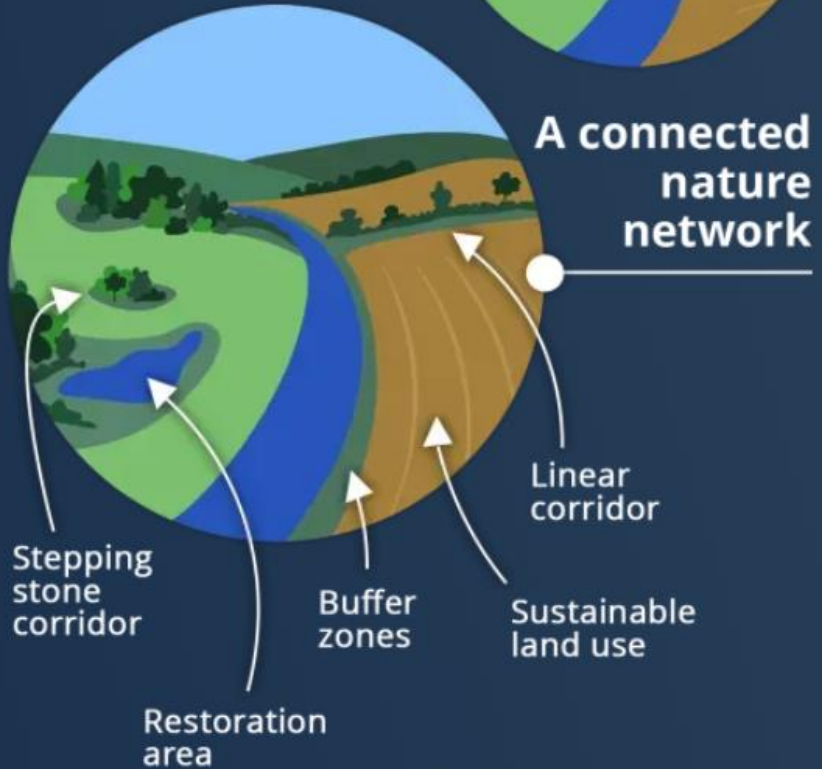


# Situation

A fragmented landscape



A connected nature network



The current system of designated spaces for wildlife is not working to prevent the decline of species. Something must be done to improve nature “networks”!



43%  
of birds



31%  
of amphibians  
and reptiles



28%  
of fungi  
and lichen.

# Benefits of Nature Recovery

---



**POLLINATING  
OUR FOOD  
CROPS**



**FILTERING AIR  
AND WATER**



**KEEPING SOILS  
HEALTHY**



**IMPROVING  
DRAINAGE TO  
REDUCE  
FLOODING**



**COOLING URBAN  
AREAS**



**SUPPORTING  
PHYSICAL AND  
MENTAL  
WELLBEING**



**CAPTURING  
CARBON**

# LNRS – Key Facts

*“LNRS is a critical new tool for driving the national ambition to increase species abundance and reduce risk of species extinctions”.*

## CONTEXT

- Introduced by the Environment Act 2021
- A tool designed to guide action for Nature Recovery



# Planned Solution

A new, mandatory Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) that will show areas of opportunity to improve nature for the benefit of wildlife and people.

48 “Responsible Authorities” have been designated, which includes NCC and SCC.

Strategies must be agreed and supported by local planning authorities





## OUTPUTS

- **Current description of nature and local priorities for Nature Recovery**
- **Maps of existing areas of particular importance for biodiversity**
- **Location of the priority opportunities for Nature Recovery**

## USE

**Helping to shape the Nature Recovery Network**

**Targeting Biodiversity Net Gain in the areas where it will have the most positive benefit**

**Targeting and supporting Environmental Land Management implementation and payments**

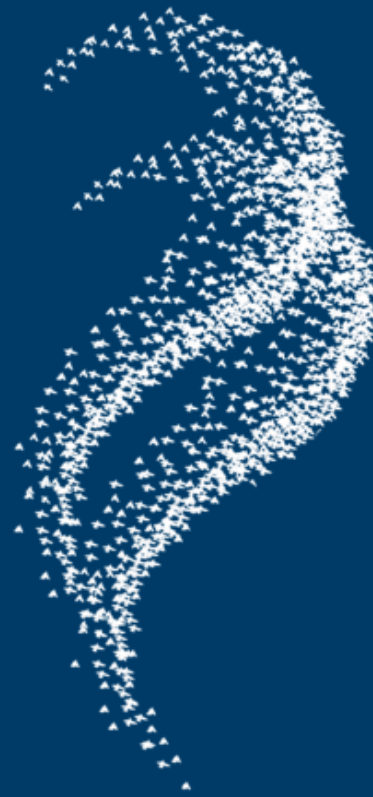
**Prioritising Nature Recovery in the right places**

**A spatial plan for Local Planning Authorities to consider**



# Norfolk and Suffolk Nature Recovery Partnership

Jen Burlingham  
N&S NRP Manager



**Norfolk**  
& **Suffolk**  
Nature Recovery  
Partnership

[nsnrp.org](https://nsnrp.org)



# NORFOLK AND SUFFOLK NATURE RECOVERY PARTNERSHIP



Members	
Norfolk County Council	Norfolk Rivers Trust
Suffolk County Council	FWAG
Supporting Authorities	Norfolk Biodiversity Information Service
Broads Authority	Suffolk Biodiversity Information Service
Norfolk Wildlife Trust	Natural England
Suffolk Wildlife Trust	University of East Anglia (Environmental Sciences)
Norfolk National Landscapes	Environment Agency
Suffolk National Landscapes	Forestry Commission
NFU	
CLA	

# LNRS Steering Group & Themed Working Groups

Norfolk & Suffolk  
Nature Recovery Partnership



Nature Recovery Partnership  
Steering Group



Themed Working Groups



Mapping



Water and  
Coast



Planning  
(Suffolk)



Planning  
(Norfolk)



Species and  
Biodiversity



Land  
Management

# LNRS Sector Groups and Communities



Health, Wellbeing  
and Access



Business and Leisure



Parish and  
Town Councils



Local Communities

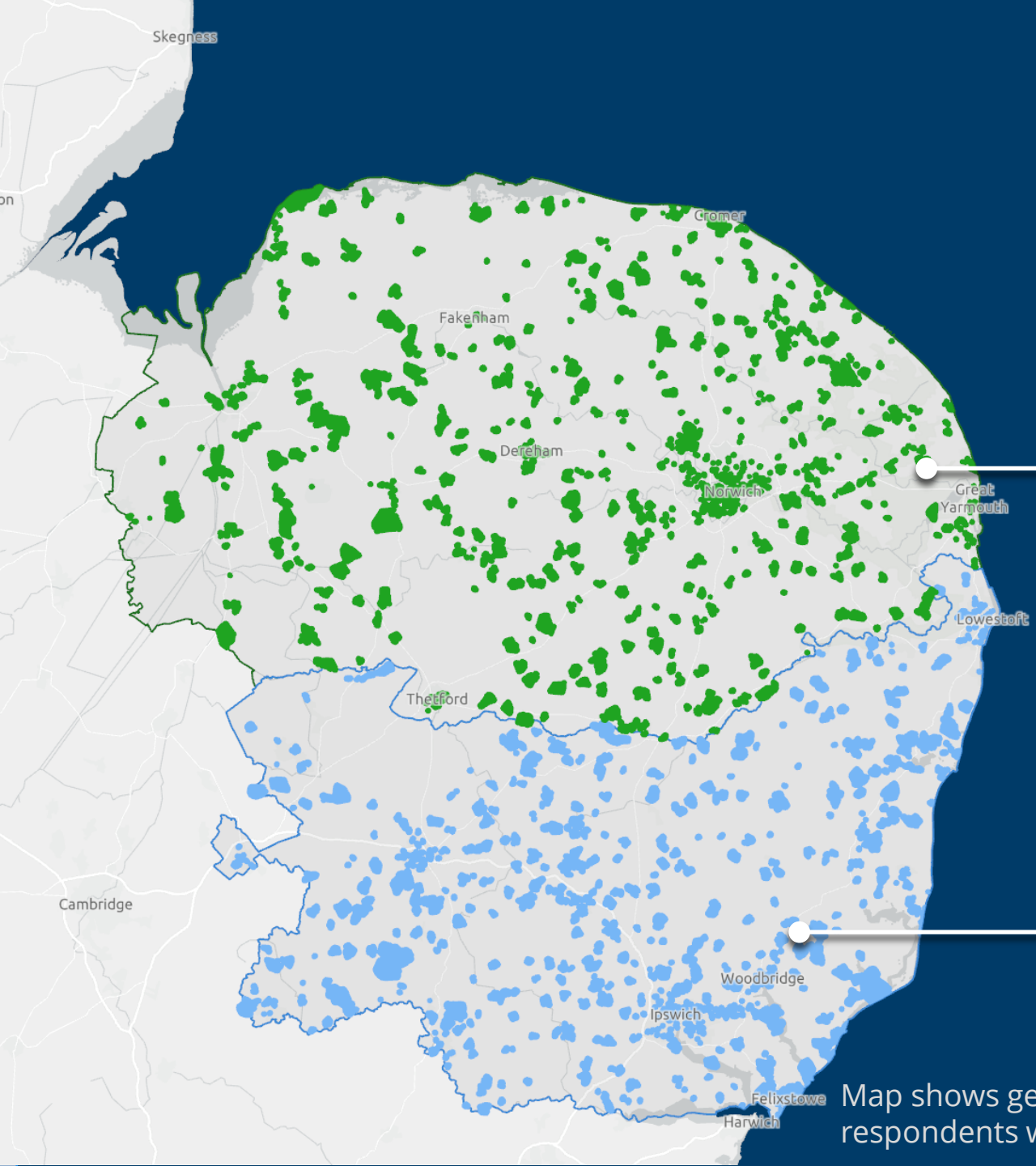
# LNRS Surveys

## Norfolk:

- **Public** survey reached **1470** respondents
- **Land managers** survey had **120** responses from land managers across **92** different parishes

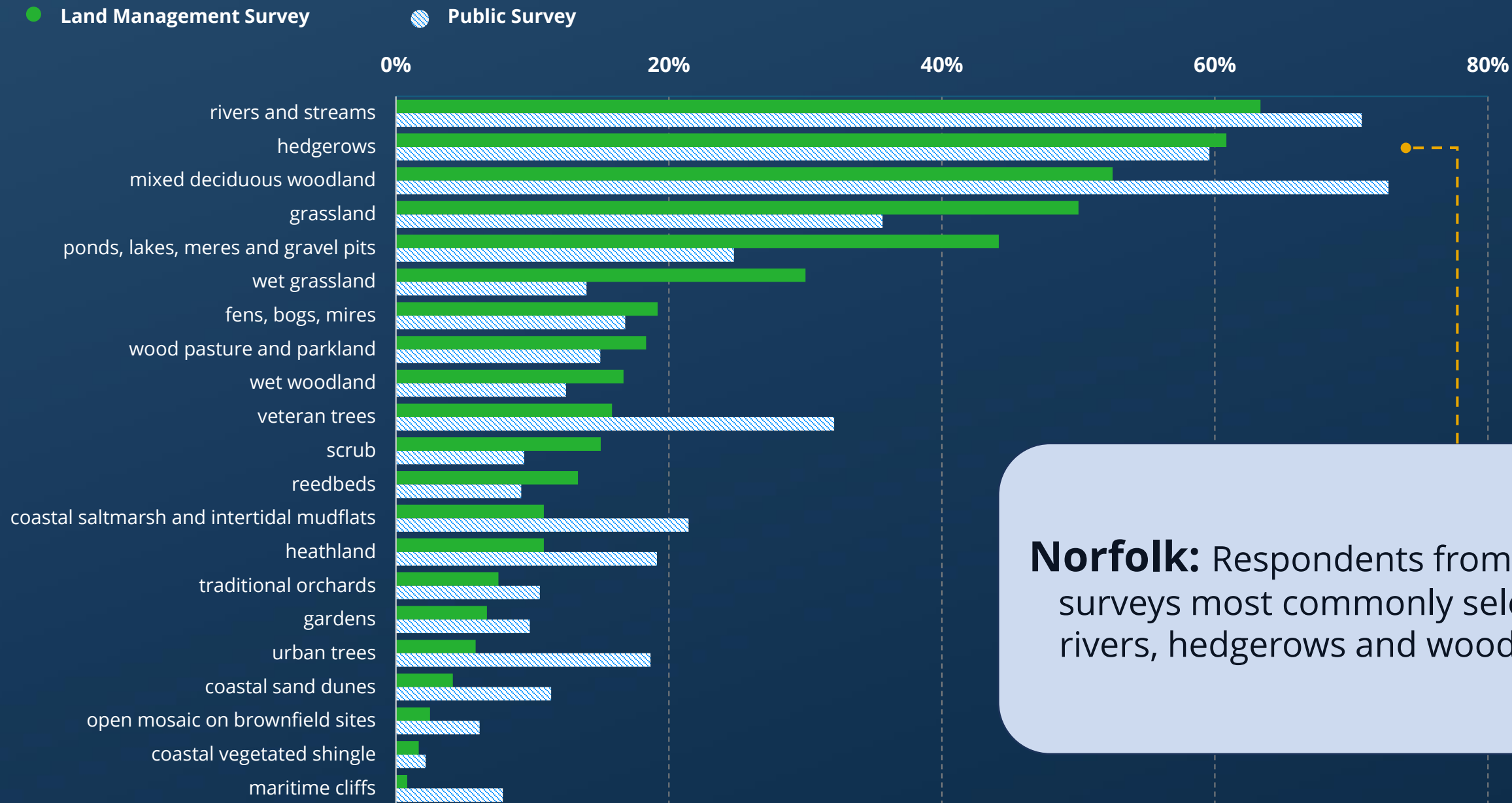
## Suffolk:

- **Public** survey reached **1496** respondents
- **Land managers** survey had **151** responses from land managers across **112** different parishes



Map shows general locations of respondents who supplied full postcodes

# 'What are the most important habitats to prioritise in our LNRS?' | Norfolk

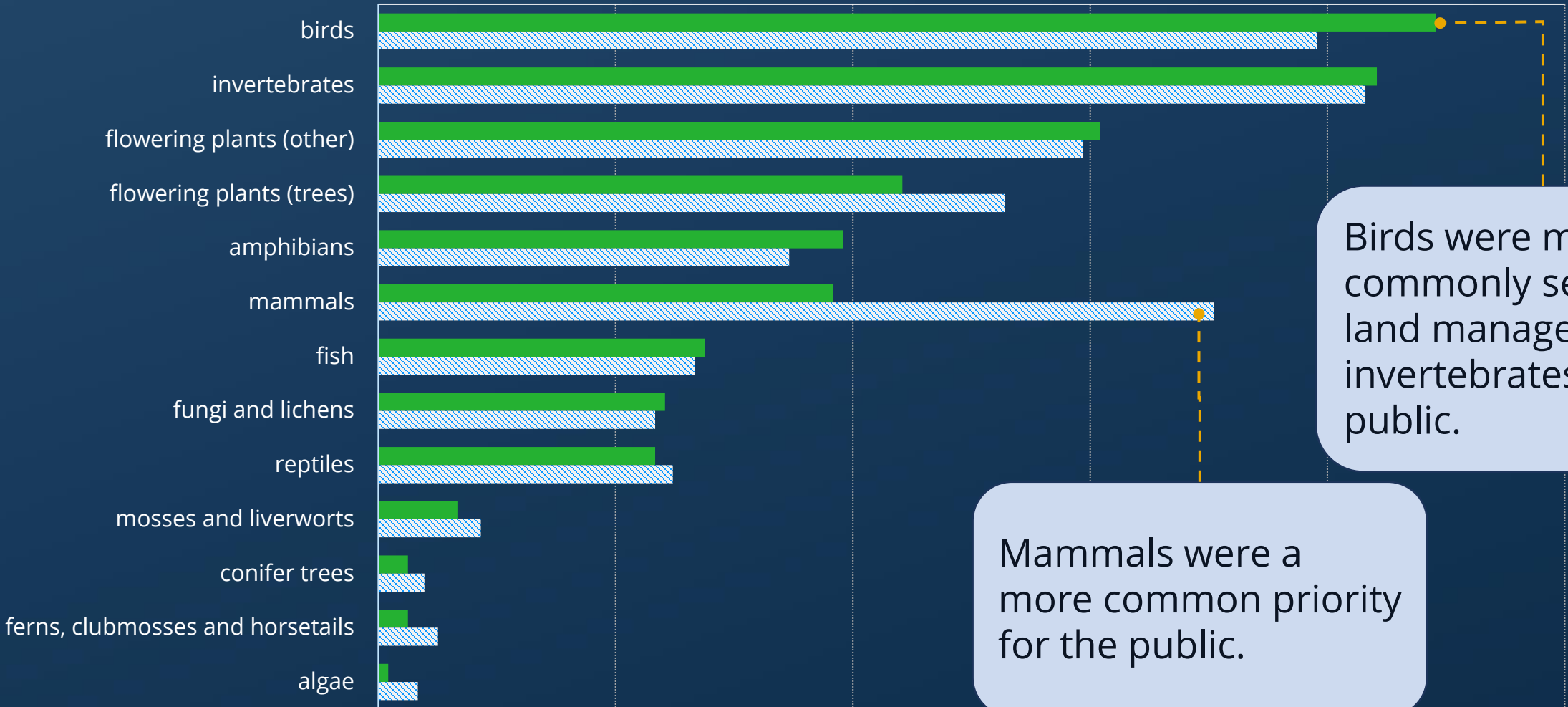


**Norfolk:** Respondents from both surveys most commonly selected rivers, hedgerows and woodland.

# 'Which groupings of species do you consider to be the most important for inclusion in the nature recovery strategy?' | Norfolk

● Land Management Survey ● Public Survey

0% 20% 40% 60% 80% 100%



Birds were most commonly selected by land managers, and invertebrates by the public.

Mammals were a more common priority for the public.

# 'Where is your favourite place?'

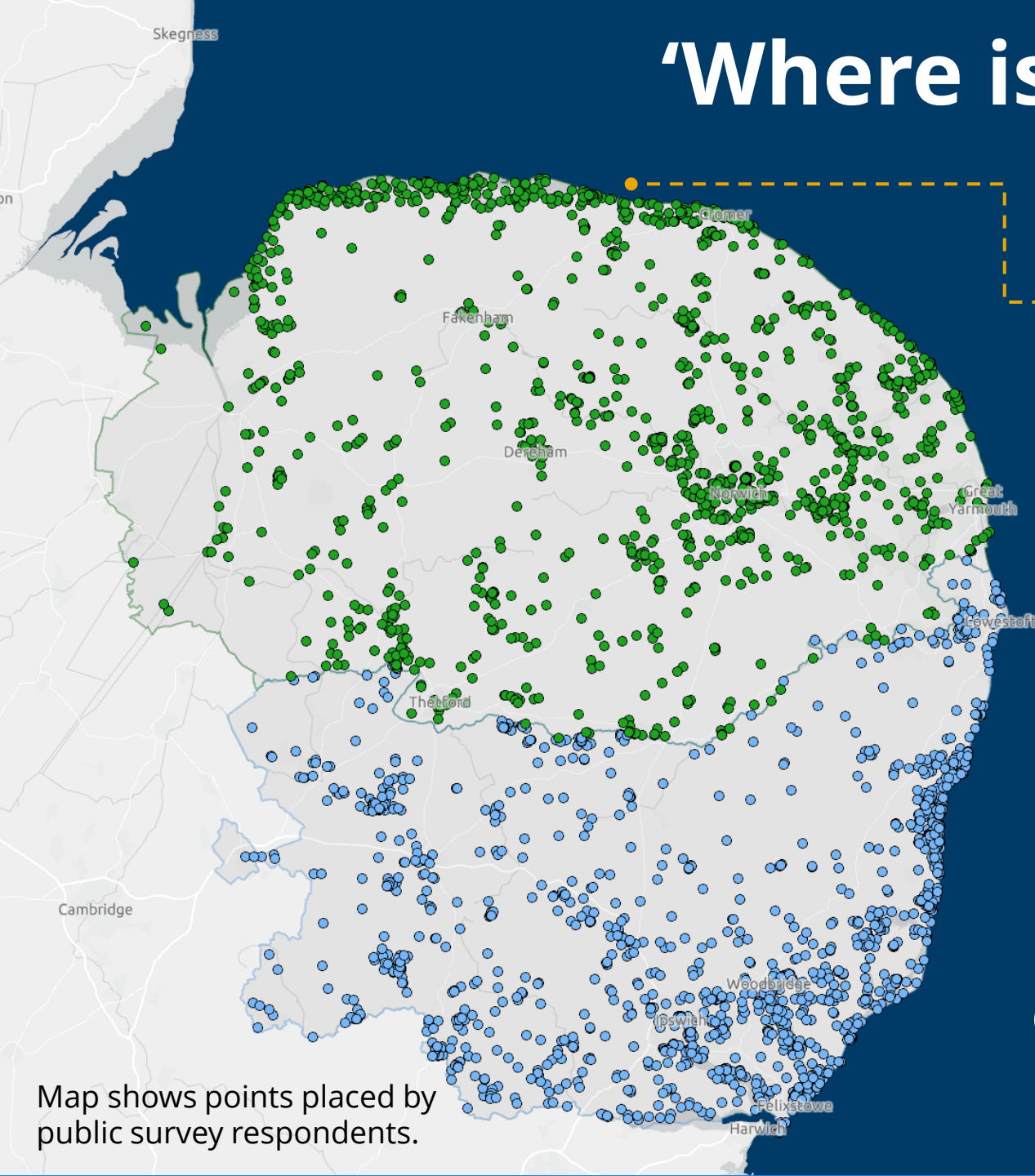
In Norfolk, popular locations included the North Norfolk Coast and greenspaces around Norwich such as Mousehold Heath.

## Woodland habitats

were most common at the selected locations, with grasslands and urban areas also popular.



Map shows points placed by public survey respondents.



# 'Is there anything that prevents you from accessing nature?'

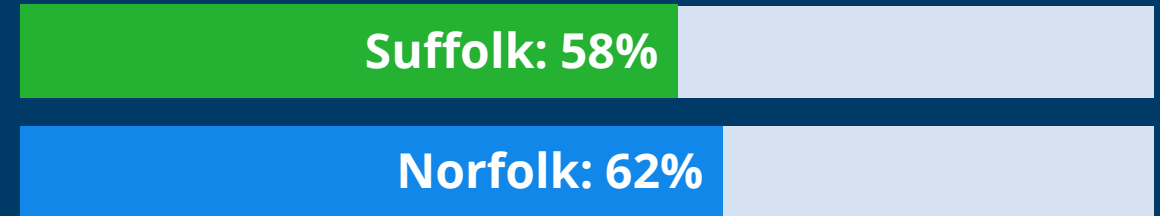


92%

Said having access to nature was very important

(Norfolk and Suffolk public surveys)

Percentage of respondents with access issues:



Most common themes amongst responses included:

1

Poorly maintained or lack of footpaths, trails, and walking routes

2

Housing and development encroaching on natural areas

3

Public transportation accessibility

4

Pollution and environmental degradation

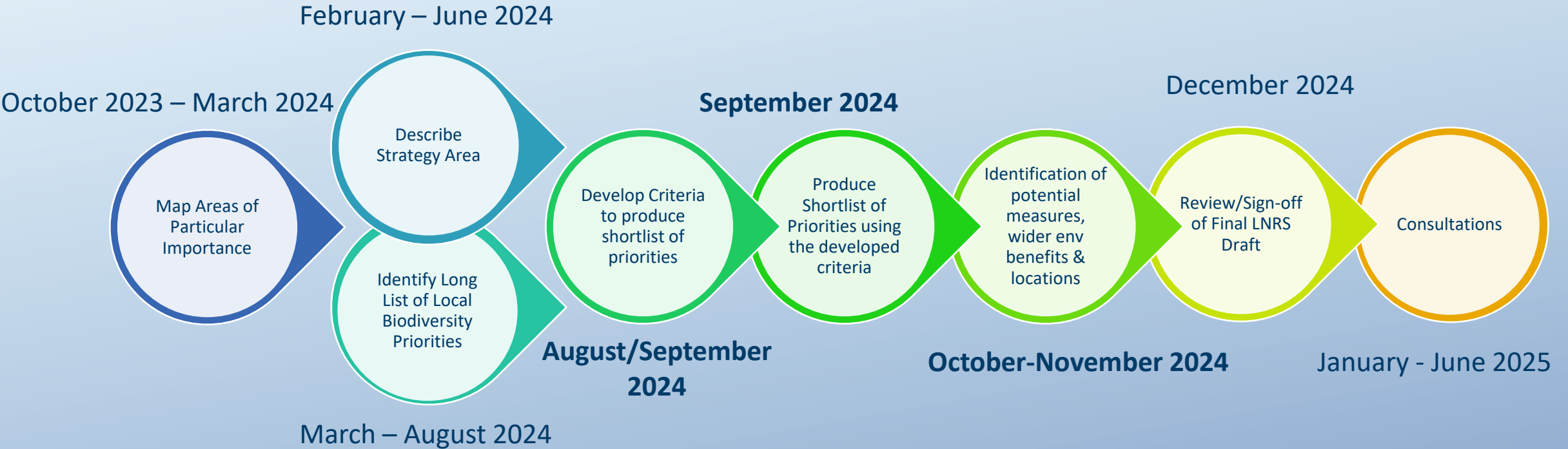
5

Time constraints due to work and other commitments

# Current Progress

**Norfolk**  
**& Suffolk**  
Nature Recovery  
Partnership

# Norfolk & Suffolk Stakeholder Engagement Framework



Awareness Raising

# Species Short Listing, Assemblages and Habitat Priorities



**Norfolk**  
& **Suffolk**  
Nature Recovery  
Partnership

# Species Long List

Over **1600** species were identified for the long list. These were drawn from:

- **Public and Land Manager Survey results.**
- **292 relevant plans and strategies within Norfolk and Suffolk.**
- **Threatened and Near-Threatened native species, or with evidence to suggest they should be.**
- **Extinct native species that have re-established or been rediscovered.**
- **Species suitable for translocation.**
- **Local species that are iconic in the local area.**



**Norfolk  
& Suffolk**  
Nature Recovery  
Partnership

# Overview – 'short-listed' species

Taxon Group	Combined County Total
Mammals	7
Fish	5
Reptiles & Amphibians	6
Birds	36
Fungi & Lichen	26
Non-Vascular Plants	4
Vascular Plants	97
Invertebrates	85
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>264</b>

# Overview



Taxon Group	Key Species	Habitat Assemblage Flagship Species
Mammals	3	2
Fish	1	0
Reptiles & Amphibians	2	1
Birds	3	8
Fungi & Lichen	3	0
Vascular Plants	5	3
Non-Vascular Plants	1	0
Invertebrates	11	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>15</b>



# Key Priority Species – both counties

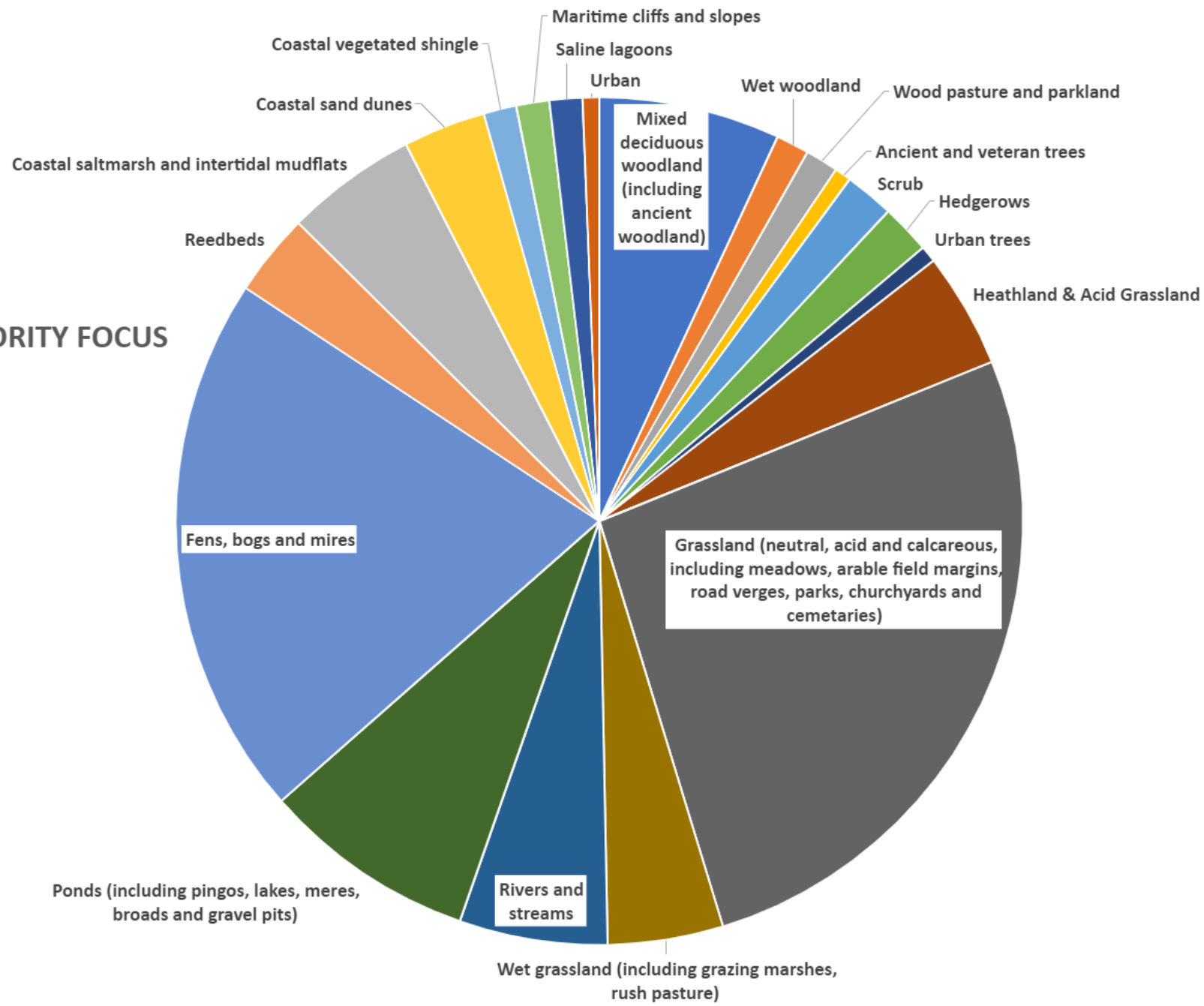


**Norfolk  
& Suffolk**  
Nature Recovery  
Partnership

Species			
Taxon Group	County	Common Name(s)	Scientific Name
FISH	Both	Eel	<i>Anguilla anguilla</i>
MAMMAL	Both	Water Vole	<i>Arvicola amphibius</i>
MAMMAL	Both	Serotine	<i>Eptesicus serotinus</i>
MAMMAL	Suffolk	Hazel Dormouse	<i>Muscardinus avellanarius</i>
REPTILE&AMPHIBIAN	Both	Natterjack	<i>Epidalea calamita</i>
REPTILE&AMPHIBIAN	Norfolk	Northern Pool Frog	<i>Pelophylax lessonae</i>
LICHEN & FUNGI	Both	Starry breck lichen	<i>Buellia asterella</i>
LICHEN & FUNGI	Suffolk	Bark-sulphur fire-dot	<i>Caloplaca flavorubescens</i>
LICHEN & FUNGI	Both	Orange-Fruited Elm-lichen	<i>Caloplaca luteoalba</i>
VASCULAR PLANT	Norfolk	Crested buckler fern	<i>Dryopteris cristata</i>
VASCULAR PLANT	Both	Crested cowwheat	<i>Melampyrum cristatum</i>
VASCULAR PLANT	Norfolk	Holly-leaved Naiad	<i>Najas marina</i>
VASCULAR PLANT	Both	Suffolk lungwort	<i>Pulmonaria obscura</i>
VASCULAR PLANT	Both	Dwarf eelgrass	<i>Zostera noltei</i>
NON- VASCULAR PLANT	Both	Intermediate Stonewort	<i>Chara intermedia</i>

INVERTEBRATE	Both	Little Whirlpool Rams-horn Snail	<i>Anisus (Disculifer) vorticulus</i>
INVERTEBRATE	Both	White clawed crayfish	<i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i>
INVERTEBRATE	Norfolk	One-grooved Diving Beetle	<i>Bidessus unistriatus</i>
INVERTEBRATE	Suffolk	Rosser's Sac-spider	<i>Clubiona rosserae</i>
INVERTEBRATE	Both	Basil-thyme Case-bearer	<i>Coleophora tricolor</i>
INVERTEBRATE	Both	Fen Raft Spider	<i>Dolomedes plantarius</i>
INVERTEBRATE	Norfolk	Lesser Water Measurer	<i>Hydrometra gracilentia</i>
INVERTEBRATE	Both	Starlet Sea Anemone	<i>Nematostella vectensis</i>
INVERTEBRATE	Both	Scarce Vapourer	<i>Orgyia recens</i>
INVERTEBRATE	Norfolk	Witham Orb Mussel	<i>Sphaerium solidum</i>
INVERTEBRATE	Both	Narrow-mouthed Whorl Snail	<i>Vertigo angustior</i>
BIRD	Both	Eurasian Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>
BIRD	Suffolk	Kittiwake	<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>
BIRD	Both	Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>

# HABITAT PRIORITY FOCUS



# Habitat Assemblages & Their Flagship species

- **Still waters** – Great Crested Newt
- **Rivers and Riverside Habitats** – Kingfisher
- **Native Woodland** – Barbastelle Bat
- **Trees Outside of Woodlands** – Oak
- **Urban, Built and Garden Environments** - Hedgehog
- **Scrub and mosaic** – Nightingale
- **Farmland Landscapes** – Turtle Dove
- **Lowland Meadows and Pastures** – Green Winged Orchid
- **Chalk Grassland** – Chalk Hill Blue
- **Breckland Grass Heath** – Stone Curlew
- **Coastal Shingle and Dunes** – Little Tern
- **Acid Grassland and Heathland** - Nightjar
- **Saltmarshes and Lagoons** - Redshank
- **Reedbeds and Freshwater Wetlands** – Bittern
- **Lowland Fen** – Fen Orchid



# Key Priority Species – example of measures

SPECIES		Appropriate Relevant Habitat(s)	Potential Measure(s)
Common Name(s)	Scientific Name		
Natterjack	<i>Epidalea calamita</i>	Open coastal areas with small-medium ponds. Upper saltmarsh with freshwater inflow.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve or create links to other suitable habitats, such as warm, open coastal dune</li> <li>• Improve existing habitat, for example by reducing the amount of pond vegetation like algae or desilting ponds after works remove shade affecting water bodies</li> <li>• Increase ephemeral water bodies</li> <li>• Provide hibernation shelters, such as dry stone walls or south facing sandy slopes</li> <li>• Remove scrub from around breeding ponds</li> <li>• Keep vegetation in ponds to a minimum</li> <li>• Maintain the terrestrial habitat by grazing to keep grass short make sure fish stocking can coexist with the toads make sure no new physical barriers are created, such as fences and walls or vertical ditches</li> </ul>

# Habitat Priorities - examples

Habitat Priorities	Appropriate Habitat Assemblage (linked to identified Species Priorities)	Habitat sub-priorities
<p><b>More, bigger, better and more connected mixed deciduous woodland (including ancient woodland)</b></p>	<p><b>Native Woodland</b></p>	<p>Create new deciduous woodland</p>
		<p>Enlarge and expand existing deciduous woodland</p>
		<p>Connect deciduous woodland areas</p>
		<p>Restore and enhance existing deciduous woodland</p>

# Habitat Priorities - examples

<b>More, bigger, better and more connected habitats in urban, built and garden environments</b>	<b>Urban, Built and Garden Environments</b>	Improve the condition of the existing urban tree estate
		Increase urban tree cover
		Identify focus areas for improved garden connectivity and wildlife friendly management practices
		Identify areas suitable for creation of community gardens
		Create green crossings over roads or railway lines that fragment blocks of habitat
		Create new habitats through drainage features on development sites

# Habitat Priorities - examples

**More, bigger and better coastal sand dunes**

**Coastal Shingle and Dunes**

Facilitate the formation of new coastal sand dunes

Enlarge and expand existing coastal sand dunes

Restore and enhance existing coastal sand dunes

# Wider Priorities

Habitat Priorities	Habitat sub-priorities
<p><b>General priorities to enhance a wide range of habitats and processes across the region - not spatially targeted to particular locations</b></p>	Reduce impacts on nature from pesticide use (including insecticides, herbicides and fungicides)
	Reduce flood risk through nature based solutions
	Make space for more, bigger, better and joined up nature in and around built development
	Reduce air pollution pressures on nature from all sources
	Reduce water pollution pressures on nature from all sources
	Reduce water use pressures on nature from all sources
	Reduce recreational pressures on nature from all sources
	Make space for more, bigger, better and joined up nature in and around the farmed environment
	Improving soil quality
	Make space for more, bigger, better and joined up nature in and around forestry land
	Control native and non-native invasive species (separate priority list)
	Reducing the use of peat products
<p><b>Better protected ancient and veteran trees - <i>non-mappable due to extent of tree locations</i></b></p>	Increase the longevity of ancient and veteran trees

# What are measures?

“the practical actions that, if taken, would make positive contributions to delivering the nature recovery priorities” for example....



Tree planting



Creation of roadside verges



Hedgerow regeneration



Wetland creation



Urban green roof creation



Removal of invasive species

**Where can we create more, bigger, better or more connected habitats?**

**What landscape or species management practices should be encouraged and where?**



**Where should species be re-introduced or introduced?**

**What community-based actions could promote nature recovery and where?**

# Opportunities for Engagement



CONSULTATION PHASE  
MARCH 2025



CONTACT US ON  
[naturalnorfolk@norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:naturalnorfolk@norfolk.gov.uk)

[Further information on  
nsnrp.org](https://www.nsnrp.org)