

Local Nature Recovery Toolkit Appendix I: Relation to National Policy and Objectives

Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRSs) should contribute towards national environmental objectives, commitments and targets for nature recovery and other environmental goals. The most relevant ones are briefly set out below.

Environment Act Targets

The thirteen legally binding targets in the Environment Act are to:

- **To halt the decline in species abundance by 2030.**
- **To ensure that species abundance in 2042 is greater than in 2022, and at least 10% greater than 2030.**
- **Improve the Red List Index for England for species extinction risk by 2042, compared to 2022 levels.**
- **To restore or create in excess of 500,000 hectares of a range of wildlife-rich habitat outside protected sites by 2042, compared to 2022 levels.**
- **Reduce nitrogen, phosphorus and sediment pollution from agriculture into the water environment by at least 40% by 2038 (against a 2018 baseline)**
- **Reduce phosphorus loadings from treated wastewater by 80% by 2038 (against a 2020 baseline)**
- **Increase total tree and woodland cover from 14.5% of land area now to 16.5% by 2050.**
- **Reduce the use of public water supply in England per head of population by 20% from the 2019/20 baseline reporting year figures, by 2037/38.**
- **An Annual Mean Concentration Target for PM2.5 levels in England to be 10 µg m⁻³ or below by 2040.**
- **A Population Exposure Reduction Target for a reduction in PM2.5 population exposure of 35% compared to 2018 to be achieved by 2040.**
- **Restore 70% of designated features in our Marine Protected Areas to a favourable condition by 2042, with the rest in a recovering condition.**
- **Halve the waste per person that is sent to residual treatment by 2042.**

The first seven of these, in bold, are of most relevance to the LNRS, although the targets on water supply, air pollution and Marine Protected Areas could also be assisted by restoration of the natural environment and reducing pollution.

In addition, there is a commitment from UK Government to protect 30% of land for nature by 2030, and a target for 50% of SSSIs to have actions on track to achieve favourable condition by 31 January 2028.

Environment Improvement Plan

The Government's [Environment Improvement Plan](#) sets out a plan to deliver the 25 Year Environment Plan (25YEP), organised around the ten goals in the 25YEP.

The 'apex goal', towards which all other goals will contribute, is to halt the decline in our biodiversity so we can achieve thriving plants and wildlife. The eight points of focus for this goal over the coming decade are:

1. **Creating more joined up space for nature on land** – protecting land and increasing interconnections to boost natural resilience.
2. **Restoring our protected sites on land** – tackling increasing pressures on our most valuable sites and building their long-term resilience.
3. **Managing our woodlands for biodiversity, climate and sustainable forestry** – delivering co-benefits for nature and climate.
4. **Enhancing nature in our marine and coastal environments** – taking a holistic approach to coastal and marine protection.
5. **Taking targeted actions to restore and manage species** – such as tailored conservation strategies and habitat creation.
6. **Mobilising green finance and the private sector** – drawing on the increasing interest in investing in nature.
7. **Taking action to restore our global environment** – supporting other countries to take the action we role-model domestically.
8. **Unlocking private and public financial flows** – ensuring that we grow new sources of finance for nature.

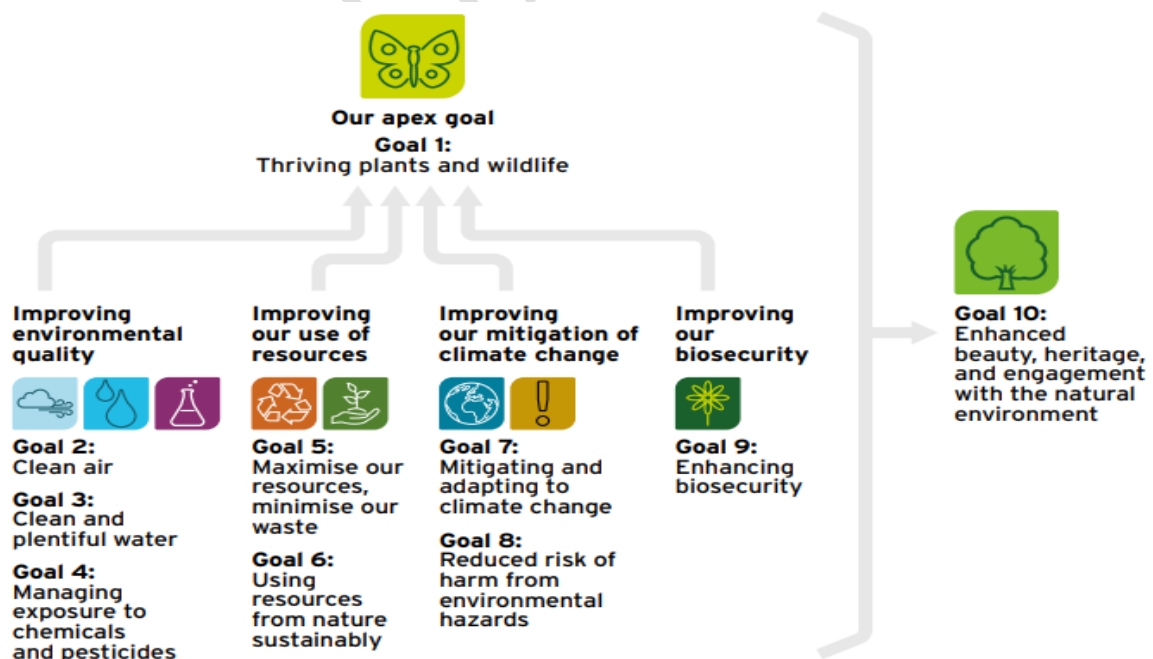


Figure 1: the connections between the ten goals in the Government's Environmental Improvement Plan 2023. Taken from [Environmental Improvement Plan 2023](#).

Among the other goals, the most relevant priorities to LNRSs are listed below. In developing Local Nature Recovery Toolkit, we have considered how nature recovery can contribute to these priorities.

Goal 2: Clean air

- Supporting farmers to reduce the impact of ammonia emissions

Goal 3: Clean and plentiful water

- Reducing pressures on the water environment from agriculture
- Tackling pressures from chemicals and other pollutants
- Restoring natural function and iconic water landscapes

Goal 4: Managing exposure to chemicals and pesticides

- Minimising the risks and impacts of pesticides

Goal 6: Using resources from nature sustainably

- Maintaining a sustainable and long-term supply of timber and wood products
- Improving and protecting soil health
- Supporting a prosperous, healthy and nature positive food system

Goal 7: Mitigating and adapting to climate change

- Reaching net zero domestically
- Building resilience by adapting to climate change

Goal 8: Reduced risk of harm from environmental hazards

- Using nature to reduce flood and coastal erosion risk
- Managing the flood risk from surface water
- Building resilience to increasing wildfire risk
- Reducing risks from heat

Goal 9: Enhancing biosecurity

- Tackling invasive non-native species

Goal 10: Enhanced beauty, heritage, and engagement with the natural environment

- Improve access to nature
- Protect our landscapes and their heritage
- Nature for wellbeing
- Connecting children and nature

Detail on each of these can be found in the full version of the [Environment Improvement Plan](#).

Net Zero

The UK is legally committed to delivering net zero emissions of greenhouse gases (GHGs) by 2050, which means that the UK as a whole will not be adding to GHGs in the atmosphere. Any residual GHG emissions will, therefore, need to be offset by an equivalent amount being removed from the atmosphere.

The UK Government recognises the valuable role that nature can play in sequestering carbon, with a £640 million Nature for Climate Fund having been made available for the creation and restoration of habitats that will help us reach net zero.

So far, the main focus has been on tree planting and woodland creation, and restoration of peatlands, although there is an increasing recognition of the role that other habitats, such as saltmarsh and intertidal habitat, can play in sequestering carbon.

In developing the Local Nature Recovery Toolkit, we have considered the best opportunities for sequestering carbon afforded by habitat creation and restoration in the region. The most significant of these in their ability to sequester carbon are woodland creation, lowland peat restoration, creation of wetland habitat, and saltmarsh creation.

However, restoration of other habitats such as shifting mosaics and grassland habitats can also sequester carbon, though likely at a lower rate. Nature-friendly farming practices, especially those that restore soils, can also sequester carbon.

CONSULTATION DRAFT