

Farming & Nature in Greater Manchester

Sustainable farming futures in Greater Manchester:
Working with land managers



Your Voice, Your Land, Our Future

Have your say in crafting Greater Manchester's landscape
through the Local Nature Recovery Strategy

What is the Local Nature Recovery Strategy?

The Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) is driving the creation of Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) in Greater Manchester as a crucial blueprint for **biodiversity restoration**. As stewards of our land and providers of our food, land managers and farmers in the region are crucial in advising how we can drive **nature recovery** across the region.

Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRS) are being produced in local areas across England to **set out the collective effort needed to restore nature**. Addressing the loss of species locally requires not just recognition of the vital role farmers and land managers already play in shaping our landscapes, but a commitment to doing more. Our strategy will focus on **targeted and collaborative actions to enhance the efforts of those who steward the land**, recognising and protecting the key species we already have in our area.



By collaborating with farmers, land managers and local organisations, we want to propose **practical and achievable steps to go further for nature**. Those invested in the local environment are encouraged to contribute to these strategies, fostering local leadership and expertise for a thriving, vibrant landscape.



Farmers taking part in a workshop for our ELMs Test & Trial

Your involvement **now** can shape what we set out to do for nature, future funding for nature on your land and local planning policy. We are expecting that in the future **DEFRA will align ELMs (Environmental Land Management schemes) with LNRS.**

We know that LNRS must be tailored to land managers' businesses, showcasing opportunities on your land, aligning with priorities like income sustainability, and integration with existing tools.

The Road Ahead

Your input now will shape the future resources and funding available. By engaging with LNRS, you pave the way for:

- Better alignment between the delivery of **food production and nature recovery**
- A **local strategy for nature** which better **represents your views on what's feasible and possible on agricultural land**

Important to note:

LNRSs are non-binding. They are not a regulatory mechanism and do not force owners and managers of land identified to make any changes.

How LNRS can relate to your business

In Greater Manchester the Local Nature Recovery Strategy will help to direct future effort for nature and funding.

Financial Opportunities

Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) potential hinges on LNRS and may tie into funding options like Sustainable Farming Incentive (SFI), with ELMs' role to be defined by DEFRA.

Engage and Empower

Your expertise is crucial in setting nature recovery priorities. Effective and early engagement of land managers enables identifying win-win scenarios aligning environmental management with profitable business.

Incentivise Positive Change

Your active involvement links future investment, grants, and Biodiversity Net Gain opportunities directly to achievable actions in the region through LNRS. LNRS informs strategic planning, ensuring targeted measures in priority areas.

Align Support

Linking LNRS to your farms creates a practical resource for your needs, fostering collaboration among sectors for nature's recovery. It helps pinpoint beneficial actions for specific areas.

Adaptation & Resilience

Enhance farm adaptability and building the resilience of your land through nature-based solutions (for example: wetland areas, shelter belts) directing private sector funding.

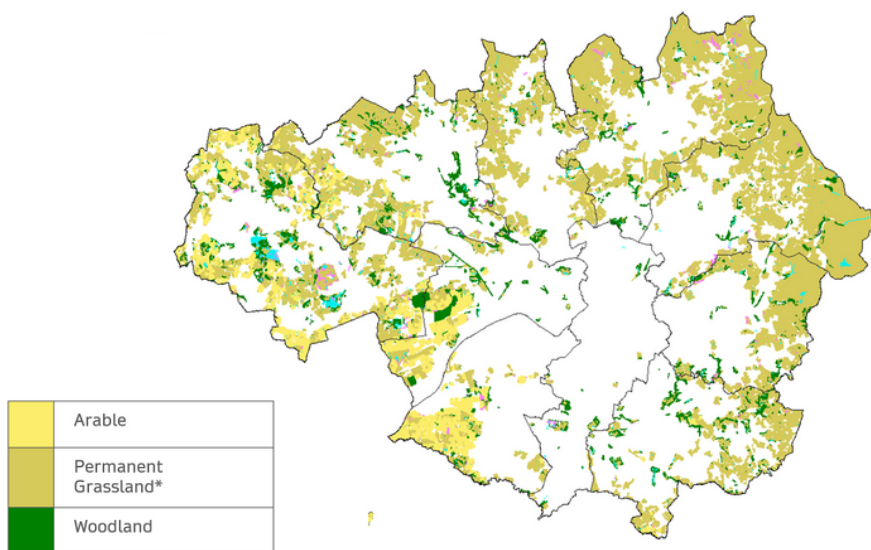
Species & Land Focus

Identify lower-yield areas linking them with mechanisms like BNG and Natural Flood Management (NFM) and ELMs.

Why your input on LNRS matters

Stewards of Greater Manchester's Land

As stewards of 30% of Greater Manchester's land, your role is pivotal in shaping the future of our natural landscapes.



Farmers, land managers and landowners **already deliver a wide range of benefits for climate and nature, and we need to recognise that.**

Land managers' experience, knowledge and understanding is a crucial component of any solution to the ecological and climate crises – and key to any success: No one knows the land like a farmer or land manager who's been working on it for generations. We will be seeking views from a wide range of organisations as well.

Informing Future Funding Opportunities

Your input now will shape the future resources and funding available.

LNRS and ELM schemes share an overarching goal: to improve our natural environment and build resilience into our landscapes for nature, people and planet.

ELM will be key in delivering LNRS. Once up and running, **we expect the LNRS to inform future funding opportunities from a range of public and private sources such as Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG).** Engaging now is an opportunity to help influence this process.

Realistic and Achievable Actions for Nature

The priorities and actions outlined in the LNRS need to be realistic and achievable. While **we want to know the opportunities to improve nature, we also need to know how this can be done alongside food production.** Share your vision for how we can better support you in nurturing your land. What initiatives do you want to expand upon? Your input matters.

Voluntary Participation and Landowner Control in LNRS development

Participation in these strategies is voluntary. Local Authorities are keen that as many stakeholders as possible get involved so that **the final strategy reflects your local views and priorities.**

LNRSs are non-binding. They are not a regulatory mechanism and do not force owners and managers of land identified to make any changes.

You can be involved from the beginning if you would like to participate, but even if you can't, there will be a consultation on the final document. **You will be participating in engagement around the strategy, not building the strategy itself.**

Schemes & other sources of funding

BNG income potential on your land will be influenced by the LNRS. But there may also be added ability to access certain other land-based funding options through Countryside Stewardship (+) and/or through various woodland schemes, for example.

Funding available includes:

Sustainable Farming Incentive (SFI)

Relatively simple options in flexible and accessible 3-year agreements; not requiring formal landlord consent; areas and options can be added to each year. Specific payments (with option codes) include:

- £20 per ha per year for the first 50 hectares of each agreement
- LIG1/2 - manage grassland with very low nutrient inputs (inside/outside SDA's) paying £151/ha
- MOR1 – assess moorland and produce a written record paying £10.30/ha + £265
- On areas classed as 'improved grassland': IGL2 – Winter bird food on improved grassland paying £474/ha; IGL1 - leaving field corners and blocks unmanaged for paying £333/ha; SAM3 - sowing herbal leys, paying £382/ha.
- The following 2 options are report based and therefore require a BASIS trained assessor. These are NUM1 - Assess nutrient management and produce a report, paying £589/yr; IPM1 - Assess integrated pest management and produce a plan, paying £989/yr.

SFI is in continual development and many more options will be added in 2024.

Check the GOV UK website for the latest information:
www.gov.uk/guidance/funding-for-farmers

Countryside Stewardship Capital Grants

Increasingly attractive payment rates are available in 3-year agreements for specific common items, including:

- Hedge Planting at £22.97/m
- Sheep net fencing at £7.47/m
- Wall restoration at £31.91/m

And in some circumstances for improved water quality, there are grants for items such as:

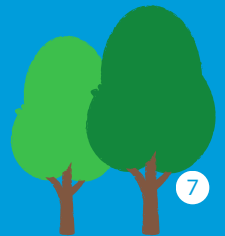
- Installation of roof over slurry/silo store paying grant £72.50/sqm
- Renewing concrete yard paying grant £33.64

From next year, a comprehensive list of both capital items and area-based revenue items will be available through 'Countryside Stewardship Plus'. Funding for options and items promises to be much more readily available than through the past Countryside Stewardship (and previous) schemes.

Funding for Planting New Woodlands

Whether through Forestry Commission England's Woodland Creation Offer (EWCO) or City of Trees' 'Farmer Resilience Fund', there are very much improved rates of funding for tree planting.

Please get in touch with team@cityoftrees.org.uk to find out more.



Other Funding

- **BNG** is a developing market (and will become mandatory from February 2024 for developers). Biodiversity Units may be bought and sold and their value will be variable, but the 'Environment Bank' have advertised that they will pay £27k per ha (index linked) over 30 years to secure land for BNG. BNG is likely to be linked to LNRS.
- **Carbon Markets** - there are various informal mechanisms to buy and sell carbon sequestered from land management. Official markets include the Woodland Carbon Code and the Peatland Code. Prices for carbon promised to be 'sequestered' in advance through these mechanisms have been at around £11/t and £25/t respectively. Prior registration is required.
- **Nutrient Markets** tend to be in arable areas noted for nitrate runoff. Farmers have engaged in 'reverse auctions' to sell a demonstrable reduction in pollution from land management. Less formally, the EPIC team is currently engaged with United Utilities in a project to try to demonstrate reductions in phosphate run-off from agreed land management changes in the Irwell catchment.





How to have your say:

Attend our workshops

We will be starting conversations with landowners & land managers in January 2024 to raise awareness and inform the priorities and measures of the strategy. We will be providing a space for farmers to come together and share their collective feedback on the LNRS.

Public consultation

There will be an opportunity for further consultation and feedback in August/September 2024.

Contact us

Have any questions? Interested in attending one of workshops? Time will be paid for and food provided.

Email us: GMfarmers@groundwork.org.uk

This has been made possible with thanks to

