



Westmorland
& Furness
Council

Nature Strategy

Appendix A – Action Plan



Action themes

We have developed this 10-year Action Plan to outline our approach to nature recovery in Westmorland and Furness; it should be read alongside the Nature Strategy.

This Nature Action Plan builds on the progress already delivered by Westmorland and Furness Council, and incorporates the Cumbria Local Nature Recovery Strategy priorities, that through collaboration with partners, will create joined-up habitat networks that allow native species to flourish.

Our actions include a range of projects, policies, activities and processes that Westmorland and Furness Council will undertake to directly support nature and biodiversity. We have included a timescale on the actions whether they are:

- **Short-term** – to be achieved within 12 months.
- **Medium-term** – aiming to be achieved within 5 years.
- **Long-term** – aiming to be achieved within 10 years.
- **Ongoing** – to be delivered or reviewed continually.

Alongside using habitats to categorise our actions, we have also developed six action themes, which are:

- **Restore and connect habitats.**
- **Recover species abundance and range.**
- **Enhance beauty, heritage and engagement with nature.**
- **Invest in natural capital.**
- **Sequester carbon.**
- **Manage risks.**
- **Enhancing and protecting biodiversity in Westmorland and Furness**



Theme 1 - Restore and connect habitats

Restoring and connecting habitats in Westmorland and Furness is a vital part of international efforts to reverse biodiversity loss and achieve national conservation targets. Through time, the way that we use the land has resulted in the development of isolated patches of habitats; this process is referred to as fragmentation. Small, isolated patches result in small populations of animals and plants that are highly vulnerable to local extinction. However, these patches may be connected to each other using wildlife corridors, patches of habitat that act as 'stepping stones', or through making the area between habitat patches more suitable for wildlife. This creates a connected network of habitat patches.

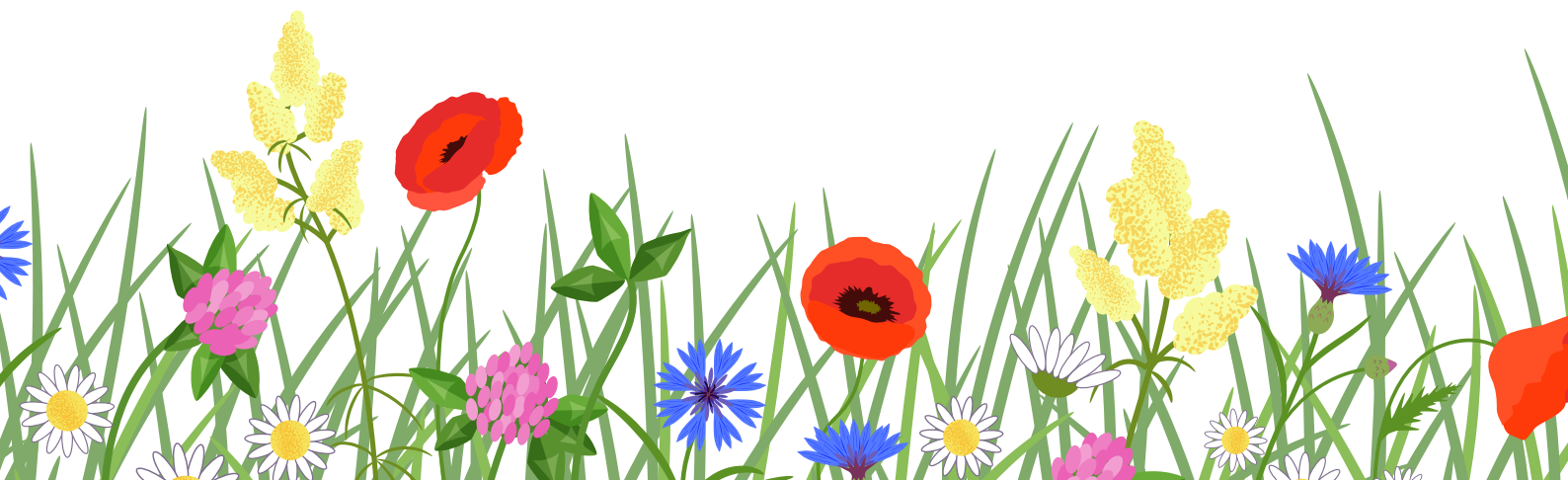
Improving the quality of habitat is also crucial. Better quality habitat can support larger populations which are usually more genetically diverse and more resilient to environmental threats such as climate change, pollution and disease. Combined with increased connectivity, it also allows species to shift their range more easily in response to climate change. Healthy ecosystems also provide ecosystem services to humans and can provide direct benefits to us through, for example, improved air and water quality, flood regulation, pollination of our crops and carbon storage.

Theme 2 - Recover species abundance and range

Species are all living organisms from the smallest pollinator and plants to iconic species such as red squirrel and water vole. Increasing species abundance and range is essential for restoring healthy, resilient ecosystems. A greater number and diversity of species help support vital natural processes, such as pollination, soil health, and water purification, while also improving resilience to climate change and disease. Expanding the range of native species allows wildlife to adapt to changing environmental conditions, reconnect fragmented habitats, and maintain balanced food webs. In turn, this enhances the overall ecological health of the landscape, benefiting both nature and people.

Theme 3 - Enhance beauty, heritage and engagement with nature

One of our Council Plan priorities is to ensure customers are at the heart of everything we do. There are clear benefits to nature by restoring habitats and protecting species, but there are also wider co-benefits to our residents and visitors from these actions. Enhancing beauty, heritage, and engagement with nature is vital for strengthening the connection between people and the natural environment. Celebrating the unique landscapes and rich cultural heritage of places like Westmorland and Furness fosters local pride and a deeper sense of stewardship. Improving access to nature and creating attractive, biodiverse spaces also supports health, wellbeing, and learning. This in turn encourages more people to enjoy, value and protect the natural world. By integrating heritage and place-shaping



Theme 4 - Invest in natural capital

Natural capital comprises the ecosystem services that our natural assets provide, such as food production, flood alleviation, carbon storage and recreation. In Cumbria alone, the landscape attracts millions of visitors each year, with tourism contributing £4.68 billion to the local economy whilst employing nearly 46,000 people¹.

Valuing natural capital and ecosystem services – known as natural capital accounting – is beneficial when financially recording the importance of nature to national and local economies. Natural capital accounting allows businesses to see the true cost of risks to their assets and allows them to make a choice between accepting the risk or investing in natural capital to mitigate against them. The cost of protecting natural capital assets will likely be outweighed by the huge value that they bring to the business, meaning businesses on an international scale are beginning to invest in natural capital, often through nature finance.

By valuing and enhancing natural capital, Westmorland and Furness Council can support long-term economic prosperity, tackle climate change, and improve health and wellbeing. Strategic investment in nature also helps unlock funding opportunities, create green jobs, and ensure that communities benefit from thriving, healthy environments for generations to come.

Theme 5 - Sequester carbon

Climate change will continue to impact upon our natural environment due to a lag time between the response of the climate system against emission reductions. One of the ways we can limit climate change is to reduce the amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere through a process called carbon sequestration.

Carbon sequestration plays a vital role in tackling climate change by capturing and storing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, and is closely linked to nature recovery. Healthy ecosystems such as peatlands, woodlands, wetlands, and grasslands, or blue carbon stores like marine sediment, seagrass and saltmarsh are powerful natural carbon sinks, locking away carbon while also supporting local biodiversity. By restoring and protecting these habitats, we can not only reduce greenhouse gas levels but also create more resilient landscapes that support wildlife, improve water quality, and reduce flood risk. Investing in carbon sequestration through nature-based solutions is mutually beneficial for both climate action and ecological recovery.

Theme 6 - Manage risks

Managing risks to biodiversity is crucial for protecting the ecosystems that underpin life and wellbeing. Threats such as habitat loss, pollution, invasive non-native species and climate change can rapidly degrade natural environments, leading to declines in species and the vital ecosystem services they provide. By identifying and addressing these risks early through habitat protection, species management, sustainable land use, and climate adaptation, we can safeguard biodiversity, support ecosystem resilience, and ensure that nature continues to sustainably benefit people, communities, and the economy.

Nature-based solutions (NbS) can also help with climate adaptation. NbS help to manage the risks to society by having a better quality environment. This includes creating shade, regulating temperatures, water flow management and increasing drought resilience.

¹Cumbria Tourism (2023) Research: vital market intelligence about visitor audiences and business performance. Available at: <https://www.cumbriatourism.org/resources/research/> [03.09.2024]

Monitoring and Reporting

Effective and transparent monitoring and reporting are essential components of delivering the Council's Nature Strategy. They ensure that progress is tracked, successes are celebrated and challenges are identified early, enabling effective risk management and continuous improvement. Through using actions with measurable and evidence-based indicators that align with the priorities and measures of the Cumbria Local Nature Recovery Strategy, we can adapt our key objectives to ensure our actions remain effective.

The Nature Strategy and action plan in this appendix will act as a benchmark on which we can track our progress against. Actions will be monitored internally, with some actions set to be delivered and completed at different times throughout the lifetime of the strategy.

Annual reporting against this strategy will demonstrate progress to our residents, partners and stakeholders, helping to maintain momentum and support. It also provides the data needed to attract further investment, inform future decision-making, and align local action with regional and national environmental goals. This is of particular importance to the monitoring of progress against Cumbria's Local Nature Recovery Strategy. This commitment to monitoring and reporting is critical to ensuring that the Council's Nature and Biodiversity Strategy delivers real and lasting change for nature and for people across Westmorland and Furness.



Key

T1 - Restore and connect habitats.

T2 - Recover species abundance and range.

T3 - Enhance beauty, heritage and engagement with nature.

T4 - Invest in natural capital.

T5 - Sequester carbon.

T6 - Manage risks.

* Action subject to funding.

^ Action will require formal decision-making process subject to Cabinet approval.

ID	Category	Action	T1	T2	T3	T4	T5	T6	LNRS Priority and Measure	Team(s)	Suggested partner(s)	Timescale
O1	Overarching	Ensure alignment with Westmorland and Furness Council's Climate Change Action Programme to deliver actions with shared benefits for nature, climate change mitigation and adaptation.	Cross-cutting and enabling						LNRS Principles for Nature Recovery	Climate and Natural Environment		Short-term
O2	Overarching	Produce guidance to help embed the consideration of nature impacts and nature-based solutions into council operations and services, through inclusion in service area plans and strategies, risk registers, Cabinet reports etc.	Cross-cutting and enabling						LNRS Principles for Nature Recovery	All		Long-term
O3	Overarching	Where possible support the safeguarding of 'areas of particular importance for biodiversity', 'areas that could become of particular importance' and LNRS priority species where possible and appropriate by incorporating them into our Local Plan, supplementary planning guidance and development management decision-making.^	Cross-cutting and enabling						Priority 4 Measure O10	Local Plan, Development Management		Medium-term

ID	Category	Action	T1	T2	T3	T4	T5	T6	LNRS Priority and Measure	Team(s)	Suggested partner(s)	Timescale
O4	Overarching	Embed ecosystem services into urban development opportunities such as by supporting the Barrow Rising initiative.*	✓	✓	✓				Priority 25 Measures U4, U5 and U9	Climate and Natural Environment, Economic Development, Capital Programmes, Highways		Long-term
O5	Overarching	Continue to identify, survey, and manage data by supporting the Cumbria-wide County Wildlife Sites project where funding is available.*	✓	✓					Priorities 3 and 4 Measures O4 and O12	Climate and Natural Environment	Cumbria Wildlife Trust	Long-term
O6	Overarching	Maintain habitat and species protections through effective planning, monitoring, enforcement and reporting processes.	✓	✓					Priority 4 and 27 Measures O10 and O11	Development Management		Ongoing
O7	Overarching	Continue to work in partnership with the Cumbria Local Nature Partnership and the Morecambe Bay Local Nature Partnership and support their biodiversity aims and objectives through i) membership on the board and ii) membership of sub-groups.	Cross-cutting and enabling						LNRS Principles for Nature Recovery	Climate and Natural Environment	Cumbria Local Nature Partnership, Morecambe Bay Local Nature Partnership	Ongoing
O8	Overarching	Continue to work in partnership with the Lake District National Park Partnership and support their biodiversity aims and objectives through i) membership on the board and ii) membership of sub-groups.	✓	✓	✓			✓	LNRS Principles for Nature Recovery	Climate and Natural Environment	Lake District National Park Partnership	Ongoing

ID	Category	Action	T1	T2	T3	T4	T5	T6	LNRS Priority and Measure	Team(s)	Suggested partner(s)	Timescale
O9	Overarching	Continue to work as part of the Yorkshire Dales National Park Management Plan Partnership to support the achievement of the shared ambitions and objectives for nature and climate in the National Park, including through ongoing membership of the Partnership board.	✓	✓	✓			✓	LNRS Principles for Nature Recovery	Climate and Natural Environment	Yorkshire Dales National Park Management Plan Partnership	Ongoing
O10	Overarching	Encourage wildlife friendly gardening to benefit native biodiversity by providing guidance.	✓	✓	✓				Priority 6 and 27 Measure O20	Climate and Natural Environment, Locality Boards, Community Power,	Cumbria Wildlife Trust, RSPB, RHS	Short-term
O11	Overarching	Explore alternatives to pesticides and herbicides, aiming to minimise their use in council operations to reduce environmental impacts and address health and safety concerns.^		✓				✓	Priority 25 and 27 Measures U1 and O20	Climate and Natural Environment, Highways, Parks and Open Spaces		Medium-term
O12	Overarching	Where feasible, use sustainably sourced peat-free compost or soil in all council funded landscaping, horticulture, and externally supplied materials.	✓	✓					Priority 25 (indirectly 13 and 14) Measure U1	All		Medium-term
O13	Overarching	Source native plants and trees for Council-led schemes from peat-free and local sources, ensuring species are selected for their climate resilience.	✓	✓				✓	Priority 25 (indirectly 13 and 14) Measures U1, W1 and W15	All	Contractors and grounds maintenance teams	Medium-term

ID	Category	Action	T1	T2	T3	T4	T5	T6	LNRS Priority and Measure	Team(s)	Suggested partner(s)	Timescale
O14	Overarching	Work with our contractors to collect green waste from our grounds maintenance work and establish local composting sites, where the compost can be used on our own land and for community projects.	Cross-cutting and enabling						Priority 25 Measure U1	Parks and Open Spaces, Community Development	Contractors, grounds maintenance teams, town and parish councils, community groups	Medium-term
O15	Overarching	Enhance our access to locally relevant data to inform nature recovery, climate mitigation and adaptation, and enable strategic decision-making through simplified data sharing agreements and by working with partners.	Cross-cutting and enabling						Priority 3 Measure O7	All	Cumbria Biodiversity Data Centre, Cumbria Local Nature Partnership	Medium-term
O16	Overarching	Support the long-term conservation status of LNRS priority species by working in collaboration with our own services and with local partners.*		✓					Priority 27 Measures S1, S2, S18, S31	Climate and Natural Environment	Cumbria Local Nature Partnership, LDNPA, Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority, Cumbria Wildlife Trust, RSPB, Rivers Trusts, Freshwater Biological Association etc	Long-term
O17	Overarching	Ensure Westmorland and Furness Council is best placed to secure long-term funding opportunities to help nature recovery, climate mitigation and adaptation by maintaining a register for funding opportunities.	✓	✓		✓			Priority 25 and 27 Measure U9	Climate and Natural Environment		Ongoing

ID	Category	Action	T1	T2	T3	T4	T5	T6	LNRS Priority and Measure	Team(s)	Suggested partner(s)	Timescale
O18	Overarching	Explore opportunities to facilitate the development of high-integrity local nature markets, including the option of creating and selling biodiversity net gain units and nutrient neutrality credits through the proposed “Nature Net Gains” special purpose vehicle.*^	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	Priority 25 and 27 Measure U9	Climate and Natural Environment	Lake District National Park Authority, Cumberland Council, Cumbria Wildlife Trust, landowners.	Medium-term
O19	Overarching	Produce Habitat Management and Monitoring Plans (HMMP) for Westmorland and Furness Council sites to be put forward for Biodiversity Net Gain funding.	✓	✓		✓			Priority 25 and 27 Measure U9	Climate and Natural Environment	Consultants	Long-term
O20	Overarching	Explore research opportunities for nature recovery, climate mitigation and adaptation by engaging with relevant educational establishments.	Cross-cutting and enabling						Priority 3 and 5 Measures O8 and O14	Climate and Natural Environment	University of Cumbria, Lancaster University, Morecambe Bay Curriculum	Ongoing
O21	Overarching	Maintain and improve access to live and accurate habitat and species data through continued funding for Cumbria Biodiversity Data Centre, supporting future mapping and sharing data.*	Cross-cutting and enabling						Priority 3 Measure O7	Climate and Natural Environment	Cumbria Biodiversity Data Centre	Ongoing
O22	Overarching	Develop, publish and implement the Council's invasive non-native species policy.		✓				✓	Priorities 2 and 27 Measures O2 and O3	Climate and Natural Environment		Short-term

ID	Category	Action	T1	T2	T3	T4	T5	T6	LNRS Priority and Measure	Team(s)	Suggested partner(s)	Timescale
O23	Overarching	Work in partnership to prevent the introduction and spread of invasive non-native species, and the diseases they carry across our area, through increased biosecurity, including education, engagement, and targeted risk reduction.		✓				✓	Priority 2 and 27 Measures O2 and O3	Climate and Natural Environment, Parks and Open Spaces, Grounds Maintenance, Public Health, Environmental Health	Rivers Trusts, Cumbria Wildlife Trust, Cumbria Local Nature Partnership, farmers and landowners etc	Long-term
CE1	Community and engagement	Produce and deliver a Nature Literacy training programme for council officers and members.			✓				Priority 6 Measures O18 and O21	Climate and Natural Environment		Short-term
CE2	Community and engagement	Inform and engage Council officers, Councillors and grounds maintenance contractor staff in the delivery of this plan.			✓				Priority 6 Measure O18	Climate and Natural Environment	Contractors and grounds maintenance teams	Ongoing
CE3	Community and engagement	Develop a communications and engagement strategy for climate and nature.			✓				Priority 6 Measure O18			Short-term
CE4	Community and engagement	Share climate and nature related work and success stories with residents, through quarterly public newsletters.			✓				Priority 6 Measures O18 and O21			Ongoing
CE5	Community and engagement	Share climate and nature related work and success stories with staff, through quarterly internal newsletters.			✓				Priority 6 Measure O18			Ongoing

ID	Category	Action	T1	T2	T3	T4	T5	T6	LNRS Priority and Measure	Team(s)	Suggested partner(s)	Timescale
CE6	Community and engagement	Inform our residents about Council maintenance regimes, such as reducing cutting, wildflower planting displays containing pollinator friendly planting by producing educational materials and communications.			✓				Priorities 6 and 25 Measures U1, O18, O20 and O21		Contractors and grounds maintenance teams, Cumbria Wildlife Trust.	Ongoing
CE7	Community and engagement	Encourage community groups, town and parish councils, businesses, schools and residents to take action for nature in their local areas, and recognise volunteers working on nature projects.	✓	✓	✓				Priorities 6, 25 and 27 Measures O18, O20 and O21	Climate and Natural Environment,	Town and parish councils, businesses, community groups, CICs, schools, youth councils and youth groups, RHS, Cumbria Wildlife Trust	Ongoing
CE8	Community and engagement	Improve the biodiversity on council-owned school grounds by supporting the implementation of biodiversity strategies, and encourage schools not owned by the Council to improve biodiversity.	✓	✓	✓				Priorities 25 and 27 Measure U9	Climate and Natural Environment, Estates, Assets, Capital Programmes	RHS, schools.	Medium-term
CE9	Community and engagement	Engage diverse audiences with climate and nature by supporting and engaging with public events.			✓				Priority 6 Measures O18 and O21	Climate and Natural Environment, Community Development, Public Health	Public events organised by community groups, agricultural sector, town and parish councils etc.	Ongoing

ID	Category	Action	T1	T2	T3	T4	T5	T6	LNRS Priority and Measure	Team(s)	Suggested partner(s)	Timescale
CE10	Community and engagement	Through partnership grants, support farmers and landowners to make more space for nature and improve soil health within the farmed landscape.*	✓	✓			✓		Priorities 7 and 27 Measure O23	Climate and Natural Environment providing grants (not directly delivering)	Through partnership grants to relevant partners, NFU, The Farmer Network, CLA, Federation of Cumbria Commoners, CICS, farmers and landowners.	n/a
CE11	Community and engagement	Support the provision of local green education and skills training in the environment and agriculture sector by working with partners.*			✓				Priority 5 Measures O14 and O16	Climate and Natural Environment	Land and Nature Skills Service, NFU, The Farmer Network, National Parks, National Landscapes, CICS, farmers and landowners.	Ongoing
CE12	Community and engagement	Promote opportunities for nature-based health and wellbeing activities as part of green social prescribing.			✓				Priorities 6 and 25 Measure O19 and U6	Climate and Natural Environment, Public Health, Active Travel	Natural England, National Health Service	Ongoing
CE13	Community and engagement	Develop council-wide initiatives that support our 'Ecologically Aware' value and volunteering policy by working with the council's internal Change Champion group.			✓				Priority 6 Measures O18, O20 and O21	Climate and Natural Environment, Change Champions		Ongoing

ID	Category	Action	T1	T2	T3	T4	T5	T6	LNRS Priority and Measure	Team(s)	Suggested partner(s)	Timescale
CE14	Community and engagement	Work with partners to encourage and support community food growing schemes to reduce food miles, increase biodiversity, and improve residents' mental and physical wellbeing.		✓	✓				Priorities 25 and 27 Measure U6	Climate and Natural Environment, Community Development	Town and parish councils, community groups, local charities, farmers and landowners.	Medium-term
BE1	Built environment	Explore the aspiration to go above and beyond the statutory requirement for 10% biodiversity net gain to a potential of 20%, and if appropriate, obtain the evidence needed to enshrine this into local planning policy.^	✓	✓					Priorities 4 and 25 Measures O10 and U9	Local Plan	Sharing good practice with Lake District National Park Authority, Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority and Cumberland Council	Medium-term
BE2	Built environment	Draw on good practice to develop local planning policies which maximise opportunities to protect and enhance biodiversity through the planning system.^	✓	✓					Priority 4 Measure O10	Local Plan	Sharing good practice with Lake District National Park Authority, Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority and Cumberland Council	Medium-term
BE3	Built environment	Limit the impact of obtrusive lighting on behavioural patterns of nocturnal species by following the Council's dark sky policy to: i. i) Preserve nocturnal environments. ii. ii) Mitigate light pollution iii. iii) Use appropriate lighting levels and colour temperatures.		✓				✓	Priorities, 25, 26 and 27 Measure U8	Highways, Capital Programmes, Assets.	Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority, Lake District National Park Authority, Friends of the Lake District	Ongoing



ID	Category	Action	T1	T2	T3	T4	T5	T6	LNRS Priority and Measure	Team(s)	Suggested partner(s)	Timescale
BE4	Built environment	Create a list of habitat and/or species interventions suitable for public spaces, and implement at least three on each Council-owned site above 1 ha in the built environment where appropriate.*	✓	✓					Priorities 25, 26 and 27 Measures U1 and U10	Parks and Open Spaces, Assets, Capital Programmes, Climate and Natural Environment, Cemeteries.		Medium-term
BE5	Built environment	Reduce the number of bedding plants purchased in plastic trays for creating floral displays in summertime, instead moving towards more sustainable native planting that requires less watering and maintenance, and has greater resilience to our changing climate.*	✓	✓				✓	Priorities 25, 26 and 27 Measures U1	Parks and Open Spaces	Contractors and grounds maintenance teams	Short-term
BE6	Built environment	Provide ongoing internal and external training, knowledge sharing opportunities and ecological support to Development Management planners to help them to consider biodiversity, including statutory Biodiversity Net Gain, in relevant planning applications.	Cross-cutting and enabling						Priority 25 Measure U9	Development Management, Climate and Natural Environment	Planning Advisory Service, Lake District National Park Authority, Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority, Cumberland Council	Ongoing
BE7	Built environment	Encourage contractors to use native climate resilient species in planting schemes by producing and providing a suggested specification and guidance document.	✓	✓					Priorities 25, 26 and 27 Measure U1	Climate and Natural Environment, Capital Programmes, Parks and Open Spaces, Local Plan	Contractors, RHS	Short-term

ID	Category	Action	T1	T2	T3	T4	T5	T6	LNRS Priority and Measure	Team(s)	Suggested partner(s)	Timescale
WT1	Woodland and trees	Develop and publish a tree strategy for Westmorland and Furness Council owned/ managed woodlands and trees to enhance the biodiversity of the Council's existing woodlands, increasing the diversity of age, species and structure, and minimise the potential to cause harm or damage.	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	Priorities 8, 10 and 27 Measures W1 and W14	Arboriculture		Short-term
WT2	Woodland and trees	Adopt the tree mitigation hierarchy in our tree and woodland management approach (avoid tree damage, minimise loss, adequate mitigation, and compensation as a last resort).	✓	✓				✓	Priority 8, 10 and 27 Measures W1 and W14	Arboriculture	Contractors.	Ongoing
WT3	Woodland and trees	Working with partners plant one tree, or one metre of hedgerow, per Westmorland and Furness resident (approximately 250,000 trees) to increase tree cover and to sequester carbon by 2028.*	✓	✓			✓		Priorities 9 and 27 Measure W6	Climate and Natural Environment	Forestry Commission, LDNPA, Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority, Raise Community Forest, Ullswater Catchment Management CIC, Woodland Trust, town and parish councils, community groups	Medium-term
WT4	Woodland and trees	Support community tree planting schemes such as community orchards and micro-woodlands.*	✓	✓	✓		✓		Priorities 8 and 27 Measure W2	Climate and Natural Environment, Community Development	Town and parish councils, community groups.	Medium-term

ID	Category	Action	T1	T2	T3	T4	T5	T6	LNRS Priority and Measure	Team(s)	Suggested partner(s)	Timescale
WT5	Woodland and trees	Identify and implement appropriate opportunities for tree planting and woodland expansion on existing Council-owned land.	✓	✓			✓		Priority 9 and 27 Measures W6 and W7	Arboriculture, Climate and Natural Environment, Parks and Open Spaces, Assets, Capital Programmes.		Ongoing
WT6	Woodland and trees	Using the Council's grey squirrel policy, fund and/or grant licences for relevant incorporated groups to undertake appropriate management of grey squirrels on council-owned or managed sites through the use of trained operatives.*		✓				✓	Priority 8 and 27 Measures W1, S1 and S2	Arboriculture, Climate and Natural Environment.	Local groups and charities with an interest in squirrels.	Long-term
WT7	Woodland and trees	Manage existing council-owned woodland to be wildlife-rich by increasing structural and species diversity and resilience within the wooded landscape, and encourage natural processes such as the decay of dead wood.	✓	✓					Priorities 8 and 27 Measure W1	Arboriculture	Contractors	Ongoing
WT8	Woodland and trees	Continue to adopt precautionary tree health measures by undertaking relevant surveillance and subsequent management of diseases and pests to prevent their establishment or spread.						✓	Priority 8 Measure W4	Arboriculture	Contractors	Ongoing

ID	Category	Action	T1	T2	T3	T4	T5	T6	LNRS Priority and Measure	Team(s)	Suggested partner(s)	Timescale
WT9	Woodland and trees	Where individual trees are felled for safety reasons on council-owned land, retain a significant portion of the trunk (where safe to do so) to create standing monoliths with bat crevices and solitary bee holes to provide new opportunities for biodiversity.		✓					Priority 8, 10 and 27 Measure W1 and W14	Arboriculture	Contractors	Ongoing
WT10	Woodland and trees	Identify suitable sites on council-owned land to reinstate or plant new hedgerows and associated margin features, to enhance biodiversity and create and restore connectivity.	✓	✓			✓		Priority 11 and 27 Measure W16	Climate and Natural Environment, Arboriculture, Parks and Open Spaces, Assets	Landowners, People's Trust for Endangered Species	Long-term
WT11	Woodland and trees	Review the council's hedgerow maintenance regime and implement measures to increase biodiversity, such as cutting at appropriate times of year, reducing cutting frequencies where safe to do so and maintaining hedgerows at different heights and widths.		✓	✓				Priority 11 and 27 Measure W15	Highways	Contractors, People's Trust for Endangered Species	Medium-term
G1	Grassland	Promote good practice when managing our grassy areas for the benefit of pollinating insects by developing and publishing a local pollinator and insect policy.	✓	✓					Priorities 16, 17 and 27 Measures G2 and G4	Climate and Natural Environment	Cumbria Local Nature Partnership, People's Trust for Endangered Species, Cumbria Wildlife Trust, Plantlife, Buglife	Short-term

ID	Category	Action	T1	T2	T3	T4	T5	T6	LNRS Priority and Measure	Team(s)	Suggested partner(s)	Timescale
G2	Grassland	Review and republish the 'Caring for Westmorland and Furness' Roadside Verges' booklet, including updated policies and practices.	✓	✓				✓	Priorities 16, 17 and 27 Measures G2 and G4	Climate and Natural Environment, Highways		Short-term
G3	Grassland	Promote the natural growth of grasses and wildflowers to support a variety of insects and other species by collaborating with local and national campaigns and educating the public.	✓	✓					Priorities 16, 17 and 27 Measures O21 and G2	Parks and Open Spaces, Cemeteries,	Contractors and grounds maintenance teams	Short-term
G4	Grassland	Gather residents' views on grassland management in Westmorland and Furness, such as frequency of cuts and locations where grass could be left longer, by conducting a survey.	✓	✓	✓				Priorities 16, 17 and 27 Measures O21 and G2	Climate and Natural Environment	Cumbria Local Nature Partnership	Short-term
G5	Grassland	Plant native wildflowers with local provenance for pollinators in multiple locations each year in partnership with local communities and charities.*	✓	✓					Priorities 16, 17 and 27 Measures O21 and G2	Climate and Natural Environment, Community Development	Community groups, landowners and charities such as Cumbria Wildlife Trust	Ongoing
G6	Grassland	Assess council-led maintenance practices for parks and open spaces, leisure pitches and cemeteries to support grounds maintenance practices that benefit nature.	✓	✓					Priorities 16, 17 and 27 Measure G2	Parks and Open Spaces, Cemeteries	Contractors and grounds maintenance teams	Ongoing

ID	Category	Action	T1	T2	T3	T4	T5	T6	LNRS Priority and Measure	Team(s)	Suggested partner(s)	Timescale
G7	Grassland	Explore the feasibility of dedicating 30% of our parks, open spaces and cemetery areas to wildlife by 2030 to mirror the global 30x30 initiative.	✓	✓					Priorities 25 and 27 Measures U1 and O20	Climate and Natural Environment, Parks and Open Spaces, Cemeteries, Arboriculture		Medium-term
G8	Grassland	Increase the number of our parks and cemeteries with Green Flag status by 2030.	✓	✓	✓				Priorities 25 and 27 Measures U1 and O20	Parks and Open Spaces		Medium-term
G9	Grassland	Identify suitable pilot areas in 20mph or 30mph zones to act as trial plots for improving roadside biodiversity, including reducing mowing frequency, removing arisings and overseeding with native and local provenance flowering species for invertebrates.	✓	✓					Priorities 17 and 27 Measure G2	Highways, Parks and Open Spaces, Waste and Environmental Services	Contractors	Medium-term
G10	Grassland	Manage existing special verges proactively for pollinators and other wildlife, and protect them from damage.	✓	✓					Priorities 16 and 27 Measures G1 and G4	Highways	Contractors	Ongoing
P1	Peatland	Support partners to deliver peatland restoration projects that would provide landscape scale nature recovery, carbon sequestration and natural flood management benefits.*	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	Priorities 13, 14 and 27 Measures M1, M2 and M8	Climate and Natural Environment	Cumbria Peat Partnership, Cumbria Wildlife Trust, North Pennines National Landscape	Long-term



ID	Category	Action	T1	T2	T3	T4	T5	T6	LNRS Priority and Measure	Team(s)	Suggested partner(s)	Timescale
WF1	Wetland and freshwater	Support partners to improve freshwater quality across Westmorland and Furness.	✓	✓				✓	Priorities 21 and 27 Measures F12, F13, F15, F5 and O25	Climate and Natural Environment, Waste and Environmental Services	Love Windermere Partnership, Environment Agency, Freshwater Biological Association, Rivers Trusts, CLA, NFU, The Farmer Network, Federation of Cumbria Commoners	Ongoing
WF2	Wetland and freshwater	Continue to work in partnership with the Love Windermere Partnership and support their biodiversity aims and objectives through i) membership on the board and ii) membership of sub-groups.	✓	✓				✓	Priorities 7, 21 and 27 Measures F12, F13, F14, F15, F5 and O25	Climate and Natural Environment, Waste and Environmental Services	Love Windermere Partnership	Ongoing
WF3	Wetland and freshwater	Embed natural flood management learning and good practice, from the Cumbria Innovative Flood Resilience project, to enhance ecosystem services, natural capital and climate resilience.	✓			✓	✓	✓	Priorities 9 and 19 Measures W6, F1 and F3	Climate and Natural Environment	Environment Agency, Natural England, Cumbria Community Foundation, Lancaster University, Cumbria CVS, Cumberland Council	Medium-term

ID	Category	Action	T1	T2	T3	T4	T5	T6	LNRS Priority and Measure	Team(s)	Suggested partner(s)	Timescale
WF4	Wetland and freshwater	Improved nature-based solutions using the learning captured by the Cumbria Innovative Flood Resilience project, and Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems that benefit nature.	✓			✓		✓	Priorities 9, 19 and 26 Measures W6, F1, F3, F13 and U11	Climate and Natural Environment	Environment Agency, Natural England, Cumbria Community Foundation, Lancaster University, Cumbria CVS, Cumberland Council	Medium-term
WF5	Wetland and freshwater	Explore and where feasible implement opportunities for riparian planting in upland areas, to manage water quality, quantity and temperature.	✓	✓			✓	✓	Priorities 9, 19 and 27 Measures W6 and F5	Climate and Natural Environment, Assets, Arboriculture	Rivers Trusts, Cumbria Wildlife Trust, National Parks, North Pennines National Landscape, Natural England	Long-term
WF6	Wetland and freshwater	Where Westmorland and Furness Council is a riparian owner, effectively manage invasive species and introduce appropriate habitat improvements based on individual site assessment and recommendations, for instance otter holts, overplanting with native plants or providing shelter for fish.	✓	✓				✓	Priorities 2, 9, 19 and 27 Measures W6, F5, O2 and O3.	Assets, Climate and Natural Environment	Cumbria Wildlife Trust, Rivers Trust	Ongoing



ID	Category	Action	T1	T2	T3	T4	T5	T6	LNRS Priority and Measure	Team(s)	Suggested partner(s)	Timescale
CM1	Coastal and marine	Help reduce the risk of harm to wildlife from litter by supporting and enabling community-led coastal clean-up efforts along Westmorland and Furness' beaches and strandlines outside of nesting bird season.		✓	✓			✓	Priorities 21 and 27 Measure O21	Climate and Natural Environment, Waste and Environmental Services, Community Development	Cumbria Wildlife Trust, RSPB, National Trust, community groups, town and parish councils	Ongoing
CM2	Coastal and marine	Support the establishment of seagrass colonies in the Morecambe Bay area for carbon sequestration opportunities and nature benefits.*	✓	✓			✓		Priorities 22 and 27 Measure C3	Climate and Natural Environment	Cumbria Wildlife Trust, Our Future Coast	Medium-term
CM3	Coastal and marine	Through partnership working, explore recreational disturbance impacts and mitigation.		✓				✓	Priorities 4, 22 and 27 Measure O13	Climate and Natural Environment, Local Plan	Morecambe Bay Local Nature Partnership and Cumbria Local Nature Partnership	Medium-term



Westmorland
& Furness
Council

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