



LOCAL NATURE RECOVERY STRATEGY (LNRS) PARISH REPORT

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 Funded by: Oxfordshire County Council
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Terms and Conditions

Data-related terms:

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- The data should be considered valid until the next LNRS review is published, which is expected to be within the next 3 - 10 years from the date on the cover of this report. If the data is to be used after that time an update should be requested.

Introduction

Oxfordshire's Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) was published in November 2025 after extensive consultation and preparation. The Oxfordshire LNRS vision is 'To create a well-connected, biodiversity-rich, network of nature that is resilient into the future, restored for the health and wellbeing of future generations, and for nature's own sake'. To achieve this, it encourages all local people and organisations to follow the following principles by:

1. enhancing the habitats that we already have
2. creating more habitats in a targeted way to achieve a connected network of nature
3. making space for nature everywhere.

Local Nature Recovery Areas in Spelsbury

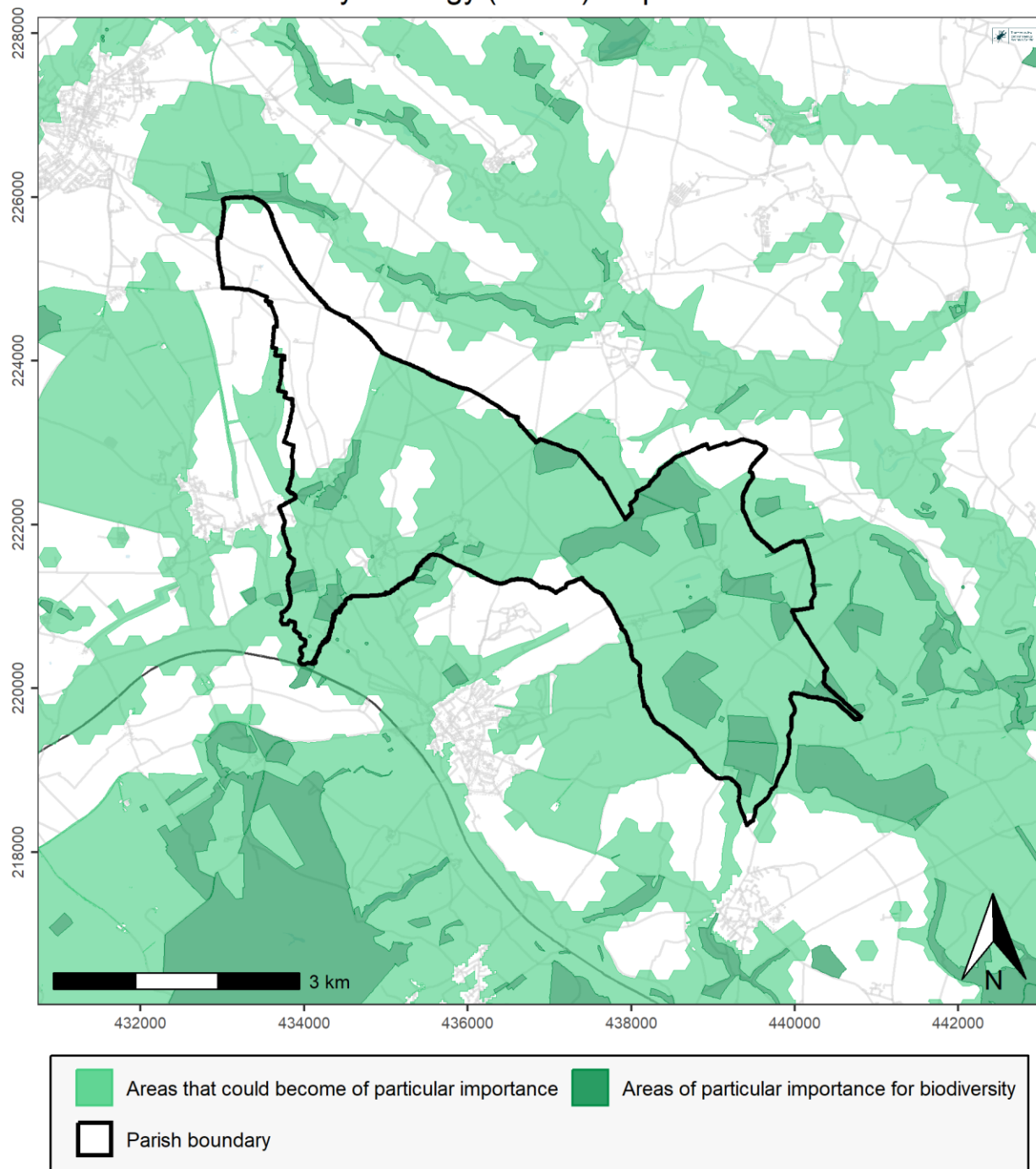
The Biodiversity Duty (the NERC Act) now requires all tiers of planning to have regard to the LNRS, including neighbourhood plans. Local areas are expected to incorporate LNRS actions, locations, and/or species work into Neighbourhood Plans to support nature recovery through planning. In the following map, the Spelsbury boundary is shown alongside the LNRS mapping.

The LNRS mapping shows strategic locations where nature recovery actions could be targeted within Spelsbury. By delivering nature recovery actions in these places, Spelsbury would significantly contribute towards the creation of a wider and more joined-up network of habitats, supporting wildlife and delivering wider environmental benefits.

Wider benefits can include natural flood management, improving water quality, more resilience to extreme weather events (drought, storms, and flooding), and outdoor spaces that people can enjoy and safeguard into the future. The following map shows which areas in Spelsbury the LNRS considers to be particularly strategic opportunities for nature recovery.

Spelsbury

Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) Map



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In all of the locations indicated on this map, the LNRS contains recommended actions (also called ‘potential measures’) that specify what you could do in each place to help habitats and species to recover. The full detail of exactly which action is mapped to which location can be viewed on the public, online LNRS [local habitat map](#), or hard copies and PDFs can be requested from [TVERC](#). The following section offers a summary of this information.

The **Areas of Particular Importance for Biodiversity (APIB)** are places that are already designated as important for wildlife, including nationally and locally designated sites such as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and Local Wildlife Sites (LWS), as well as irreplaceable habitats such as ancient woodland and fens.

In Spelsbury there are 277.05 hectares of ‘areas of particular importance for biodiversity’ covering 14.86% of Spelsbury (see [Appendix I](#) for more information) which is 8.4% higher than the average for Oxfordshire

The **Areas that Could Become of particular importance (ACB)** are the strategic areas recommended for nature recovery actions by the LNRS. Local conditions, land managers’ views and professional advice should still be considered in conjunction with the LNRS mapping to decide which measure will be most suitable and exactly where they should go.

In Spelsbury there is a total of 1188.74 hectares mapped as ‘areas that could become of particular importance’ (see [Appendix I](#) for more information). This covers 63.75% of Spelsbury, which is 29.6% higher than the average for Oxfordshire

Which actions are important to deliver in Spelsbury – a summary

The following section summarises which habitat enhancement actions, habitat creation actions, and species-specific actions the LNRS recommends for delivery within Spelsbury. The tables present the actions in order of their prevalence in this area (i.e. the actions that are mapped across the largest proportion of Spelsbury are presented at the top, and the actions that cover a smaller proportion of Spelsbury are presented at the bottom). See [Appendix II](#).

Key actions to enhance existing habitats within Spelsbury

Which habitat enhancement actions are encouraged in this area	Area (ha) mapped within parish boundary	Percentage of parish area
Enhance Woodland	372.80	20%
Enhance Areas of Particular Importance for Biodiversity	277.05	15%
Enhance Wood Pasture & Parkland	260.57	14%
Enhance Plantations on Ancient Woodland Sites	177.50	10%
Restore & Manage Rivers & Riparian Areas	64.28	3%

Which habitat enhancement actions are encouraged in this area	Area (ha) mapped within parish boundary	Percentage of parish area
Enhance Neutral Grassland	26.05	1%
Enhance Ancient Woodland	25.86	1%
Restore Biodiversity Around Heritage Assets	14.98	<1%
Enhance Calcareous Grassland	7.52	<1%
Enhance Lowland Meadow	6.49	<1%
Manage Scrub	4.24	<1%
Enhance Ponds	3.20	<1%
Enhance Acid Grassland	2.17	<1%
Enhance Heathland	2.17	<1%
Enhance Traditional Orchards	1.10	<1%
Manage Fen Buffer Areas	0.63	<1%
Enhance Fens	0.42	<1%
Enhance Grassland Around Road Verges	0.42	<1%
Create & Enhance Community Growing Spaces	0.19	<1%
Create & Enhance Greenspace in Urban Areas	0.08	<1%
Create & Enhance Habitats to Complement Community Use	0.08	<1%

Each of these actions and more detail about them can be found in the [LNRS Statement of Biodiversity Priorities](#).

Summary of habitat creation actions within Spelsbury

Which habitat creation actions are encouraged in this area	Area (ha) mapped within parish boundary	Percentage of parish area
Create Ponds	1,119.31	60%
Create Calcareous Grassland	615.86	33%

Which habitat creation actions are encouraged in this area	Area (ha) mapped within parish boundary	Percentage of parish area
Create Grassland & Woodland Matrix Habitats	375.88	20%
Create Wood Pasture & Parkland	293.43	16%
Create Woodland	142.13	8%
Create Lowland Meadow	105.17	6%
Create Wetland Habitat Matrices	44.38	2%
Create Neutral Grassland	30.79	2%

Each of these actions and more detail about them can be found in the [LNRS Statement of Biodiversity Priorities](#).

Summary of key species action mapped within Spelsbury

Which additional species recovery actions are encouraged in this area	Area (ha) mapped within parish boundary	Percentage of parish area
Take action for Small Blue butterfly	62.52	3%
Take action for Devil's-bit scabious	52.08	3%
Take action for Mountain Bulin Snail	37.06	2%
Take action for Meadow Clary	32.38	2%
Take action for Downy Woundwort	29.08	2%
Take action for Hazel dormouse	21.71	1%
Take action for Dark Green Fritillary	11.15	<1%
Take action for fish	1.67	<1%
Take action for Water Vole	1.67	<1%

Each of these actions and more detail about them can be found in the [LNRS Species Priorities List](#).

Summary

In Spelsbury there are already woodlands, existing areas of particular importance, wood pasture and parklands, plantations on ancient woodland sites, rivers and riparian corridors, neutral grassland, ancient woodlands, archaeological sites with biodiversity opportunities, calcareous grassland, lowland meadows, areas of scrub, ponds, acid grassland, heathland, orchards, fen buffer habitats, fen habitats, road verge nature reserves (RVNRs), local food growing spaces, greenspaces within urban areas, and community used spaces. The LNRS recommends enhancing those habitats.

When thinking about habitats to create in Spelsbury, the LNRS suggest that this area could be particularly suitable for more ponds, calcareous grassland, mosaics of grasslands with trees, wood pasture and parkland, woodland, lowland meadows, wetland habitats, and neutral grassland.

Whilst undertaking such actions this area could particularly focus on supporting and monitoring the following species, where appropriate: small blue butterfly, devil's-bit scabious, mountain bulin snail, meadow clary, downy woundwort, hazel dormouse, dark green fritillary, fish, and water vole.

The LNRS map and recommendations should be used as a guiding tool for local efforts. The mapping itself does not have powers to preclude or prevent development or any other type of land use, nor was the map designed to force landowners or managers of that land to implement any of these measures. Instead, the LNRS is designed as an evidence base to support local decision making and the strategy is a material consideration in planning, designed to support long-term spatial planning. A key purpose of the mapping is to attract and encourage more nature recovery investment and funding opportunities into the mapped areas. It is an opportunity map intended to guide investment and action.

Documentation

Oxfordshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy

For more information and to download the full documentation please visit:

[Oxfordshire LNRS website](#)

[Oxfordshire LNRS Description of LNRS area - short summary](#)

[Oxfordshire LNRS Biodiversity priorities](#)

[Oxfordshire LNRS Species priorities](#)

[Oxfordshire LNRS online map](#)

[Oxfordshire LNRS shapefile download](#)

A full Parish data search and detailed LNRS report are available to request from TVERC: [Data Searches](#)

Appendix I: Summary of Local Nature Recovery areas

Biodiversity Areas	Area (ha) in parish boundary	% of area in parish boundary
Areas of particular importance for biodiversity	277.05	14.86
Areas that could become of particular importance	1,188.74	63.75

Appendix II: Summary of Potential Measures

	Number of Measures in parish boundary	Sum of Areas (ha) in parish boundary
Oxfordshire - Habitat Potential Measures	29	3,974.77
Oxfordshire - Species Potential Measures	9	249.31