

Biodiversity in Cumbria

Current Situation:

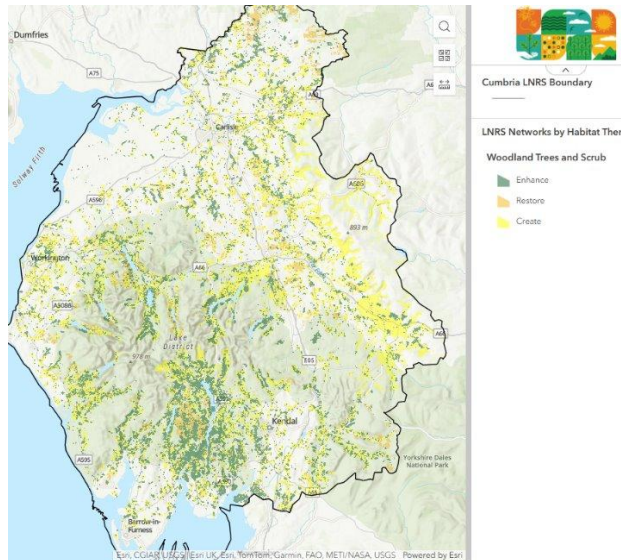
- 1 in 6 species are at risk of extinction
- 97% of flower-rich meadows have been lost since the 1950s
- Hedgehogs are now an endangered species
- Habitats are being isolated – for example, "woodlands are becoming increasingly isolated from other habitats – this means that if a species disappears from a woodland, there is no longer a nearby source for it to recolonise... some hedgerows and trees are being removed to accommodate for larger field machinery and fences are a cheaper/ lower maintenance option" (LNRS p.34)

Cumbrian Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS):

The LNRS maps out all the opportunities and areas for nature recovery across Cumbria – there are specific actions the habitats which make Cumbria unique, as well as key species for the local area.

This map shows the opportunities to enhance woodland trees in green, areas to restore trees in orange, and opportunities to create new tree areas in yellow

The LNRS strategy will be live late 2025-early 2026 when you can read more about the opportunities and explore the map of the opportunities near your school. Keep up to date with the LNRS release: <https://cumbrialnrs.org.uk/homepage-0>



Key species in Cumbria:

- Red squirrels, Hazel Dormouse, Water Vole, Natterjack toads
- Insects: Netted Carpet Moth, Rosy Marsh Moth, White Faced Darter (dragonfly), St. Bees Seed-Eater and Northern Dune Tiger Beetles, Small-Blue Butterfly
- Swifts, Curlew, Lapwing, Redshank and Snipe
- Fungi, Moss and Lichen – including the Waxcap fungi

Actions/ ideas to support habitats and species in Cumbria

- Reducing the use of pesticides and herbicides.
- Plant up hedgerow gaps/ create a species-rich hedgerow with climate resilient species suitable for the local area = hazel, blackthorn, bramble and honeysuckle (honeysuckle is particularly important where dormice could be present).
- Install bat bricks, bird bricks and swift bricks or boxes and Swift nest boxes
- Create dark corridors by reducing or turning off outdoor/ artificial lighting – this will help bats and nocturnal animals to commute and forage.
- Create 'hedgehog highways' (holes in fences) to help hedgehogs move between spaces.
- Ponds should have different depths to support amphibians, invertebrates and mammals.
- Conserve standing deadwood to support woodland birds and bats.
- Create new food, shelter and nesting opportunities such as: nesting plots for birds, beetle banks, sowing bird and pollinator friendly seed mixes – try Wildlife Friendly Gardens for simple habitat-project ideas that are cheap.
- Encourage nature-friendly practices, including: pollinator-friendly planting, reduction in mowing and using of peat-free compost.

Biodiversity in Lancashire

Current Situation (Lancashire LNRS page 11):

- 1 in 6 species in the UK are at risk of extinction
- Total tree and woodland cover in Lancashire is approximately 10.34% - this is below the averages in the North West (12.57%) and England (14.87%)
- Decline in woodland bird species – decline of 10% in pied flycatchers between 1999-2011, a decline in willow tits of 50% between 1999-2011 and a further 11% between 2011-2020.
- Key invertebrate groups also show a pattern of decline in most species. Bees have experienced the most dramatic decline.

Key species in Lancashire:

- **Mammals:** Red squirrel
- **Fish:** Atlantic salmon, European smelt
- **Birds:** Hen harrier, Black-tailed godwit, Black-headed gull, Lesser black-backed gull
- **Plants:** Yellow Star-of-Bethlehem, Northern bedstraw, Wood Crane's-bill, Melancholy Thistle, Lady's slipper orchid, Petty whin, Dwarf cornel
- **Invertebrates:** Duke of Burgundy butterfly, High brown fritillary butterfly, Pearl-bordered fritillary butterfly, Large heath butterfly, Belted beauty moth, Least minor moth, Wall mason bee, Tormontil Mining-bee, Bilberry bumblebee, Red wood ant

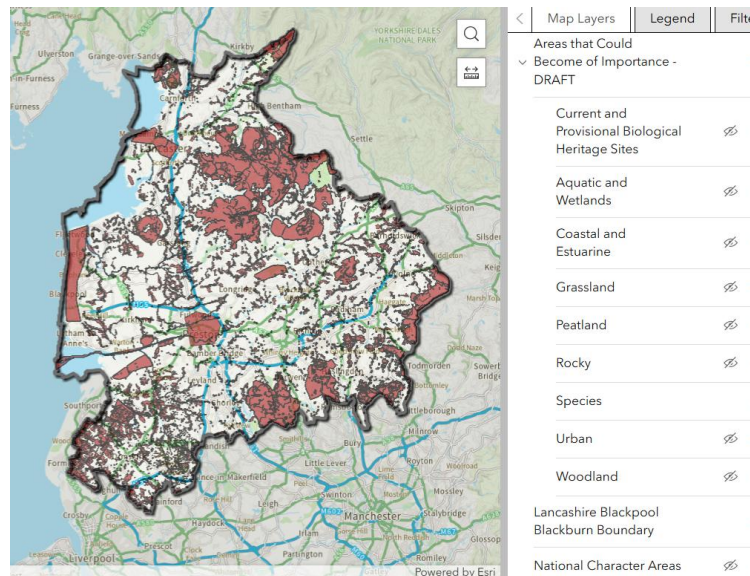
Lancashire Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS):

The LNRS maps out all the opportunities and areas for nature recovery across Lancashire – there are specific actions the habitats which make Lancashire unique, as well as key species for the local area.

This map shows the areas (in red) where actions could be taken to support the key species.

You can find out more about the opportunities and explore the map of the opportunities near your school here:

<https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/council/strategies-policies-plans/environmental/local-nature-recovery-strategy/>



Actions/ ideas to support habitats and species in Lancashire

- Reduce mowing regime in grass areas (especially on verges) to allow grass to grow longer to support an increase in invertebrates
- Maintain and enhance biodiversity and wildflower verges to aid connectivity
- Reduce the use of herbicides and pesticides
- Create habitat piles, nest and roosting boxes
- Conserve standing deadwood to support woodland birds and bats.
- Plant broadleaf native trees in urban areas to build climate resilience through shading and cooling (eg, Alder, silver Birch, Elm, Lime, Field Maple)
- Promote hedgerow management that routinely benefits wildlife such as incremental trimming and longer trimming rotations.
- Create more connected wildflower-rich habitats for pollinators between hedgerows, green roofs, verges, wilder areas, parks and gardens.
- Create and enhance wooded habitats in urban area through orchards, street trees, micro-woods, urban woodland and hedgerows – this will help hedgehogs, bats, greenfinches, millepedes, fungi and buttercups.
- Plant the key food sources for the larval stage of species – eg, plant cowslips and primroses the Duke of Burgundy caterpillars before they become butterflies.
- Embed nature recovery in education, raise awareness in communities in the value of gardens for wildlife.