



Greenspace Information for Greater London CIC
the capital's environmental records centre

About – Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) – National version of Local Habitat Map Layers

Metadata

Greenspace information for Greater London CIC (GiGL) is the capital's Local Environmental Records Centre - we mobilise, curate and share access to high-quality data via services that enable our stakeholders to make informed decisions about London's natural environment in policy and practice. GiGL supported the GLA with the preparation of the LNRS, providing mapping and spatial analysis for the Local Habitat Map (LHM).

Three key layers were produced for London's Local Nature Recovery Strategy: Areas of Particular Importance to Biodiversity (APIB), Potential Measures (Measures) and Areas that Could Become of Particular Importance to Biodiversity (ACB). These layers are designed to highlight to a range of areas of existing biodiversity across London as well as opportunity areas for potential nature recovery, as identified by various stakeholders.

The following information describes the layers that were sent to DEFRA for use nationally. **These layers differ from the ones included in the local version of London's Local Habitat Map (local LHM) and the ones that can be accessed from GiGL. An overview of these differences is provided for each layer. It is important that appropriate signposting to the local version of the Local Habitat Map and associated documents is added to the national map, so users know how to access additional information and get the appropriate context and background.**

Please note, the information on London's Local Habitat Map data is a snapshot of the data outputs at the time of preparation in 2025. GiGL's Local Wildlife Sites (SINC and proposed SINCS) datasets, Local Nature Reserves, and all the associated habitat and species data, are continuously being updated as new information is provided by Local Planning Authorities throughout the Local Plan review stages and by other stakeholders. For further information on GiGL's datasets and access to up-to-date data please [contact GiGL](#), London's Environmental Records Centre, directly.

National (Open) Version of LNRS Layers

Areas of Particular Importance to Biodiversity (APIB)

Description and sources: The Areas of Particular Importance to Biodiversity (APIB) layer displays sites that are known for their significance for biodiversity. This includes sites that are nationally designated for their value to nature such as Special Areas of Conservation, Special Protection Areas, Ramsar Sites, Sites of Special Scientific Interest, National Nature Reserves and Local Nature Reserves. Additionally, the Ancient Woodland Inventory was incorporated into the APIB layer. Further details on the data sources utilised to create this layer are highlighted in Table 1. Each individual APIB site has a set of unique attributes, details are highlighted in Table 2.



Table 1: Data sources of the APIB Layer

Dataset	Source	Access Date
Special Areas of Conservation	Natural England	04/09/2024
Special Protection Areas	Natural England	04/09/2024
Ramsar Sites	Natural England	04/09/2024
Sites of Special Scientific Interest	Natural England	04/09/2024
National Nature Reserves	Natural England	04/09/2024
Local Nature Reserves	Natural England	13/06/2025
Ancient Woodland Inventory	Natural England	20/08/2025

Table 2: Details of attributes for the APIB Layer

Attribute Title	Description
LNRS_ID	An integer used to uniquely identify one of the 48 geographic areas for the Local Nature Recovery Strategies across England.
APIB_ID	Defined non-repeating integer assigned to each APIB site that acts as a unique identifier.
Notes	A comment on publication date and where to find further information.
LocalLHM	A hyperlink to the local version of the Local Habitat Map.

GiGL obtained the most up to date data by consulting Local Planning Authorities (London Boroughs and the City of London Corporation); asking them to review the source data as well as raise any updates. As per Natural England's advice, the latest boundaries for nationally designated sites were extracted from <https://naturalengland-defra.opendata.arcgis.com/>.

Differences to local version of Local Habitat Map layers: Due to licencing, the APIB layer provided to DEFRA excludes Local Wildlife Sites, proposed Local Wildlife Sites and the Ancient Tree Inventory. These are included in London's local LHM and are important for a full picture of the APIB layer. More detailed attributes are also provided on the local LHM. For further information on access to the data, please [contact GiGL](#)

Copyright and terms of use: Please note that the following datasets will not be updated on the Local Habitat Map until the LNRS is reviewed (every 3-10 years), however more up-to-date versions could be available.

- Ancient Woodland Inventory (AWI): The current AWI is published online by Natural England under an Open Government Licence (OGL).
- Statutory designated sites are published by Natural England under OGL.

Potential Measures (Measures)

Description and Sources: The Potential Measures layer (Measures) outlines focus areas for nature recovery with corresponding biodiversity priorities for creating or enhancing a particular habitat and their associated potential measures from the Statement of Biodiversity Priorities. The sites displayed within the Measures layer are based upon information received via LNRS workshops, the LNRS interactive map as well as data sent directly to GiGL and the GLA.

Additionally, some opportunities from the datasets outlined in Table 3 were incorporated into the Measures layer. Each site within the Measures layer has a set of unique attributes, details highlighted in Table 4. It is important that these are reviewed alongside the Statement of Biodiversity Priorities and associated documents that provide the necessary context. It is also advised that other data from Greenspace Information for Greater London (e.g. species records, habitat suitability mapping, etc.) are used for more informed decisions for specific sites and areas.

Table 3: Data incorporated into the Measures layer

Dataset	Source	Date
River Restoration Opportunity Mapping	Environment Agency and RiPL (River Partnerships in London)	18/12/2024
London's Rewilding Opportunity Zones	GiGL and London Wildlife Trust	18/12/2024
Chalk Streams (England)	Natural England	06/05/2025

Table 4: Details of attributes for the Measures Layer

Attribute Title	Description
LNRS_ID	An integer used to uniquely identify one of the 48 geographic areas for the Local Nature Recovery Strategies across England.
PM_Loc_ID	Defined non-repeating integer assigned to each Measure location that acts as a unique identifier.
Priority	The LNRS biodiversity priority assigned to each PM location, which is the end result that the strategy is seeking to achieve.
PM_ID	The specific practical actions to achieve the assigned LNRS priority at each Measure location. The full list of measures can be found in Appendix B: List of potential measures within the Statement of Biodiversity Priorities.
Species Measures	Targeted interventions which could benefit rare, threatened, and locally important species according to the priority assigned to each PM location. The defined non-repeated integers assigned to each measure correspond to further information within the Statement of Biodiversity Priorities.
Notes	A comment on publication date and where to find further information.
LocalLHM	A hyperlink to the local version of the Local Habitat Map

Locations identified via LNRS workshops, the interactive map and direct submissions were screened, assigned to a priority habitat and aligned with existing evidence layers to ensure all sites displayed within the final Measures layer are suitable for nature recovery. Additional opportunities submitted by local authorities during pre-consultation were also screened against existing evidence layers to confirm that potential measure locations detailed feasible

and suitable LNRS priorities. Feedback from the public and other stakeholders was also taken into consideration during the public consultation. Duplicate submissions referring to the same site and priority were merged and the site names given to each polygon were also assessed and updated where incorrect or too long. Location boundaries and site names were also checked to reflect accuracy and consistency. Overlapping submissions were investigated and in some cases merged or removed according to the evidence layers. Please see the LNRS method statement for more information on the methodology. For further information on GiGL's datasets and the information underpinning the Measures layer please contact GiGL directly.

Differences to local version of Local Habitat Map layers: More detailed attributes are provided on the local LHM such as site names, key species and scale of mapping.

Copyright and terms of use: The potential measures layer is published under an Open Government Licence (OGL). Please note that it will not be updated until the LNRS is reviewed (every 3-10 years).

Areas that Could Become of Particular Importance (ACB)

Description and Sources: The Areas that Could Become of Particular Importance (ACB) layer exhibits potential focus areas for nature recovery and identifies areas outside of existing designated sites where nature recovery interventions are most impactful and/or feasible.

The ACB layer was derived from the Measures layer, by merging polygons of overlapping measures and excluding any areas that overlap with the APIB layer. In some cases, an APIB polygon did not completely overlap a measures polygon, and small slivers of polygon were left behind. It was decided to buffer the APIB layer by 10cm to remove many of these slivers during the exclusion process, then any remaining slivers were removed by size (any that were smaller than the smallest measure (0.0003ha)) or manually by selecting and deleting. Please see the LNRS method statement for more information on the methodology.

Each individual ACB site has a set of unique attributes, details highlighted in Table 5. For further information on GiGL's datasets and the information underpinning the ACB layer please contact GiGL directly.

Table 5: Details of Attributes for the ACB Layer

Attribute	Description
LNRS_ID	An integer used to uniquely identify one of the 48 geographic areas for the Local Nature Recovery Strategies across England.
ACB_ID	Defined non-repeating integer assigned to each ACB site that acts as a unique identifier.
Notes	A comment on publication date and where to find further information.
LocalLHM	A hyperlink to the local version of the Local Habitat Map

Copyright and terms of use: The ACB layer is published under an Open Government Licence (OGL). Please note that it will not be updated until the LNRS is reviewed (every 3-10 years).