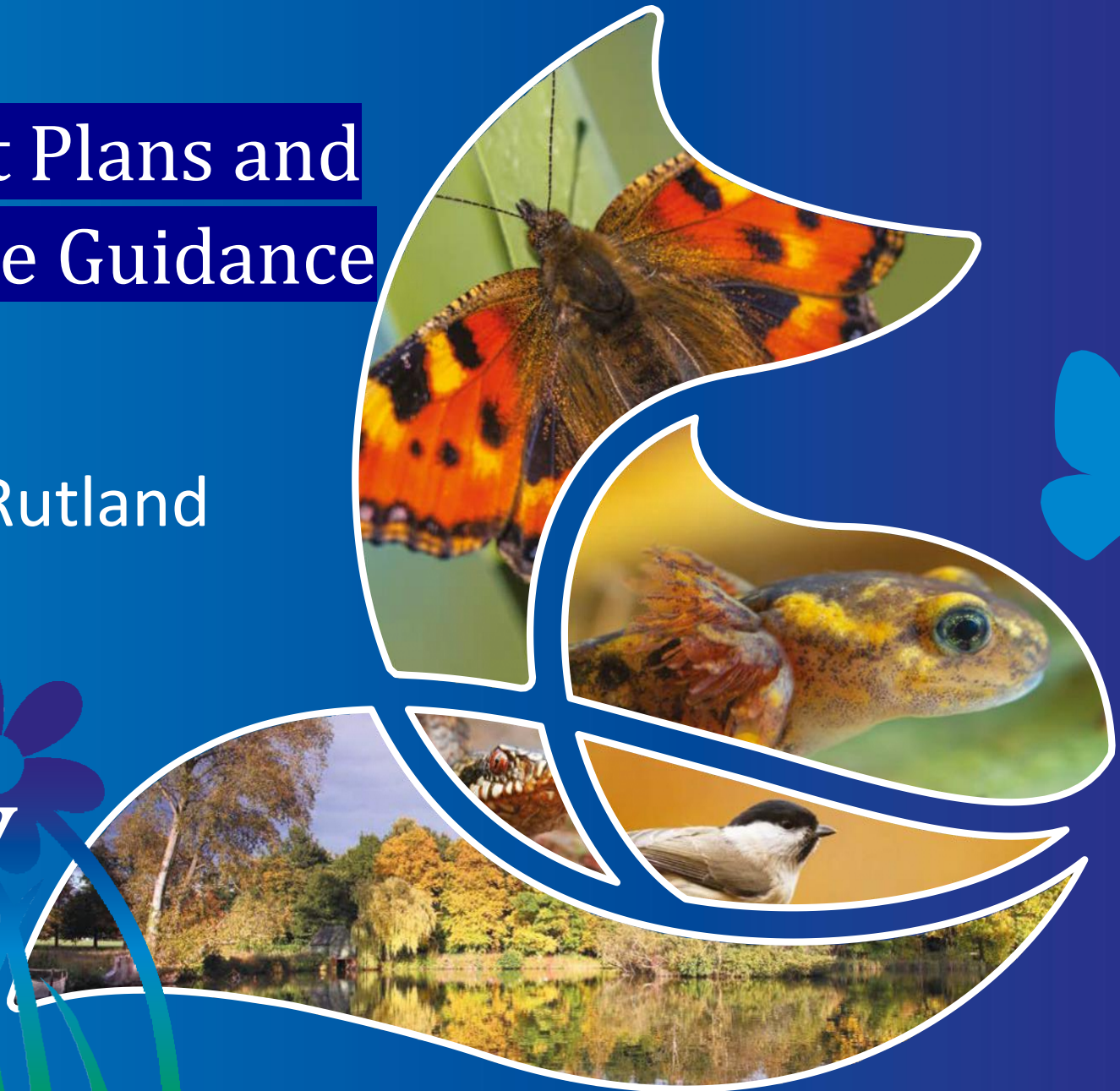# Management Plans and Good Practice Guidance

Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland

Local Nature Recovery Strategy

Making Space for Nature

Management plans and good practice guidance documents

Management planning for nature conservation sites is particularly important and should include best practice guidance. Embracing the approaches recommended in best practice guidance for habitat restoration, maintenance, and monitoring is the starting point for creating higher quality habitats. These emphasise the importance of activities such as grazing and mowing regimes in grassland habitats, woodland management, natural flood management, invasive species management, and habitat connectivity. Good management ensures that habitats remain suitable for native species, supports ecological balance, and enhance the resilience of natural areas against environmental changes.

This table lists several management plans and good practice guidance resources that inform effective strategies for delivering the Local Nature Recovery Strategy.

This table has been created with support from the Local Nature Recovery Strategy Steering Group and a range of professional stakeholders. Please note that new guidance and strategies are always being updated, and therefore it is best practice to speak with the relevant experts and do due diligence before acting.

Theme	Name	Source	Link	Content
Woodland Management	How to Manage Your Woodland	Forestry Commission	https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/how-to-manage-your-woodland	This collection of resources provides practical advice on managing woodlands sustainably, covering topics such as tree planting, woodland creation, thinning, and managing woodlands for wildlife. It also includes information on pest control, disease management, and woodland economics.
	Managing Your Woodland for Wildlife	Woodland Trust	https://www.woodlands.co.uk/owning-a-wood/managing-your-woodland-for-wildlife/managing-your-woodland-for-wildlife.pdf	This guide focuses on enhancing biodiversity within woodlands. It provides detailed guidance on habitat creation, species-specific management, and how to manage woodlands in a way that supports a wide range of wildlife.
	The UK Forestry Standard	Forestry Commission	https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-uk-forestry-standard	This is the reference standard for sustainable forest management in the UK. It outlines best practices for woodland management, ensuring that activities contribute to environmental, social, and economic sustainability.

	Forest Development Types	Forest Research	https://www.forestresearch.gov.uk/tools-and-resources/fthr/forest-development-types/	This is a guide to stand transformation to move woodlands towards continuous cover systems which are best suited to the soil, moisture and geographical conditions of a site.
	ESC-DSS (Ecological Site classification - decision support system)	Forest Research	https://www.forestresearch.gov.uk/tools-and-resources/fthr/ecological-site-classification/	This is a decision support system relating to future climate projections to inform new planting, or restocking species choices.
	Managing ancient and native woodland in England	Forestry Commission	https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5b35fa57ed915d0b53021ae1/FCPG201.pdf	This is a UKFS practice guide to inform management actions in ancient and priority woodlands
	Woodland Wildlife Toolkit	Silva Foundation	https://woodlandwildlifetoolkit.sylva.org.uk/	This is a collection of reference material to allow woodland owners to consider what wildlife may be found within their woodland and how management could be tailored to provide suitable conditions.
	Hedgerows - How to manage a hedgerow for wildlife	The Wildlife Trust	https://www.wildlifetrusts.org/how-manage-hedgerow-wildlife	The Wildlife Trusts interactive webpages not pdf download.
	Woodland condition assessment	Forestry Commission & Sylva Foundation	Woodland Wildlife Toolkit (sylva.org.uk)	This is a new web based condition assessment tool (also available as an app for mobile use) to provide land owners and managers a practical tool for assessing the ecological condition of their woodland - with further links to management actions showing how to improve condition scores. This will be used in BNG assessment and will be useful for all woodlands of all sizes and types.

	Managing Ash trees and woodlands	Forest Research	[Managing Ash trees and woodlands](#)	A high-level guide to managing Ash trees in the landscape and in woodlands with links to other specific guidance.
	Managing woodland SSSI and ancient woodland with ash dieback	Forestry Commission & Natural England	https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/managing-woodland-sssis-with-ash-dieback-hymenoscyphus-fraxineus/managing-woodland-sssis-and-ancient-woodland-with-ash-dieback-hymenoscyphus-fraxineus	Guidance and management advice for protected and irreplaceable woodlands impacted by Ash dieback
	Adapting forest and woodland management to the changing climate	Forestry Commission	https://cdn.forestresearch.gov.uk/2022/05/UKFSPG026.pdf	This is a practice guide for management actions to build resilience against future climate change within woodlands
	Climate change: impacts and adaptation in England's woodlands	Forest Research	[Climate change: impacts and adaptation in England's woodlands (forestresearch.gov.uk)](#)	As above
	Creating and managing riparian woodland	Forest Research	[Creating and managing riparian woodland (forestresearch.gov.uk)](#)	A new UKFS practice guide on riparian woodland creation and management to benefit ecology and water improvement criteria.
	Resources for managing woodland for resilience	Royal Forestry Society & Forestry Commission	https://rfs.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/Resources-for-Managing-for-Resilience-2022.pdf	A collection of resources grouped by theme to support woodland owners in considering and managing for future resilience.

	Best practice guides - wild deer management	The Deer Initiative	https://thedeerinitiative.co.uk/guides-landing-basc/	A collection of resources on management of deer populations including survey methodology and species ecology.
Woodland Creation	A guide to planning new woodland in England	Forestry Commission	https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/templates/gem_layout_homepage.html.erb	A guide to the regulatory system and key decisions required in planning a new woodland.
	Plant Healthy	Plant Healthy	https://planthealthy.org.uk/	Guidance for nurseries including for forest species on biosecurity and reduction of pest and disease spread via management standards. Includes access to directories of approved nurseries for purchase of planting stock for woodland creation.
	Woodland Creation Guide	Woodland Trust	Woodland Creation Guide - Woodland Trust	A practice guide (with accompanying site assessment and tree species information) to creating new native woodlands
	Using natural colonisation for the creation of new woodland	Forestry Commission	https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/6181586d8fa8f5297cc02cd4/FC_Natural_Colonisation_Report_HP_1_Nov.pdf	A practice guide to support creation of new woodland via natural colonisation (natural regeneration)
	Priority open habitats and woodland creation	Forestry Commission	https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5fbe6b7fd3bf7f5735e29b60/Priority_open_habitats_and_woodland_creation_11092020.pdf	A field guide to priority open habitats with detail of survey requirements and considerations required in woodland creation schemes.
	Agroforestry handbook	Soil Association	https://www.soilassociation.org/farmers-growers/low-input-farming-advice/agroforestry-on-your-farm/download-the-agroforestry-handbook/	A practical handbook covering the benefits of and different systems of agroforestry, including guidance on how to plan/design and implement.

Policy / general guidance	Open habitats Policy	Forestry Commission	Microsoft Word - 10 03 26 Open Habitats Policy Final.doc (publishing.service.gov.uk)	Guidance on when to convert woodlands and forestry to open habitats including detail of the regulatory process.
	Wading birds and afforestation guidance	Forestry Commission & Natural England	https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/66214557be5f81890e757d35/2024_APRIL_Trees_and_Wader_Guidance_V6_.pdf	A policy practice document detailing the survey requirements and considerations required when planning afforestation in areas with wading bird populations.
	Decision framework for peatland protection: new woodland and existing woodland	Forestry Commission & Natural England	July_2023_Decision_support_framework_for_peatland_protection_V4.pdf (publishing.service.gov.uk)	A decision support framework relating to peatland protection and creation of new woodlands, or re-establishment of existing woodlands in areas of peat.
	Ancient woodland and trees -advice for making planning decisions	Forestry Commission & Natural England	https://www.gov.uk/guidance/ancient-woodland-ancient-trees-and-veteran-trees-advice-for-making-planning-decisions	Standing advice from Forestry Commission and Natural England for decisions relating to planning applications with impacts to ancient woodland, ancient trees or veteran trees.
	Guidance for professionals - Resources	Bat Conservation Trust	http://www.bats.org.uk	The Bat Conservation Trust encourages people working with bats, or those who might come into contact with bats or their roosts during their daily lives, to follow good practice.
Grassland Management	Managing Grasslands	Plantlife	https://www.plantlife.org.uk/advice-learning/managing-grassland/	Plantlife's guide provides advice on managing grasslands to enhance wildflower diversity and support pollinators. It includes sections on mowing regimes, controlling invasive species, and the use of grazing animals to manage grassland ecosystems.

	Lowland Grassland Management Handbook	Natural England	https://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/35034	This handbook focuses on the management of lowland grasslands, providing detailed guidance on maintaining species-rich swards, managing soil fertility, and preventing encroachment by scrub and invasive species.
	Grassland Strategy 2023 - 2033	Leicester City Council	https://www.leicester.gov.uk/content/grassland-strategy-2023-2033/introduction/	This strategy aims to provide a framework for improving biodiversity and carbon sequestration through the identification and agreement of sustainable practices for effective grassland management of the council's managed land for the benefit of both people and wildlife.
	Roadside verges - Managing road verges for wildlife	The Wildlife Trust	https://www.wildlifetrusts.org/managing-road-verges-wildlife	Wildlife Trusts work with highways authorities, councils and landowners to advise and help manage road verges. This guide has step by step details on the best way to manage grass verges for wildflowers and pollinators.
Freshwater Habitat Management	The River Restoration Centre's Manual of River Restoration Techniques	The River Restoration Centre	https://www.therrc.co.uk/manual-river-restoration-techniques	This manual provides practical techniques for restoring and managing river habitats. It includes case studies and best practice methods for improving river habitats for biodiversity, water quality, and flood management.
	The Pond Management Handbook	Freshwater Habitats Trust	https://freshwaterhabitats.org.uk/advice-resources/pond-management-hub/	This guide offers comprehensive advice on the creation, management, and restoration of ponds. It focuses on maintaining water quality, managing vegetation, and supporting a diverse range of aquatic species.
	The Water Framework Directive	Environment Agency	https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2017/407/contents	This document provides guidance on how to meet the Water Framework Directive requirements, which are essential for managing freshwater habitats sustainably. It covers river basin management, water quality improvement, and ecological status assessment.
	Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) Manual	CIRIA (Construction Industry Research and	https://www.ciria.org/Memberships/The_SuDs_Manual_C753_Chapters.aspx)	The SuDS Manual provides best practice guidance for designing and implementing sustainable drainage systems. These systems are crucial for managing surface water in

				urban areas while enhancing freshwater habitats and biodiversity.
	Information Association)			
	Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS)	Leicester City Council	Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) (leicester.gov.uk)	This technical guidance is primarily for use by developers and outlines how to achieve the adoption of sustainable drainage in developments. With the overall aim of the guide being to help developers and applicants deliver high quality, easily maintained SuDS that are safe and contribute to the public realm.
	River basin management plans: updated 2022	GOV.UK	https://www.gov.uk/guidance/river-basin-management-plans-updated-2022	Find the 2022 update to the river basin management plans which describe the challenges that threaten the water environment and how these challenges can be managed.
	Flood risk management plans 2021 to 2027	GOV.UK	https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/flood-risk-management-plans-2021-to-2027	Flood risk management plans (FRMPs) set out how organisations, stakeholders and communities will work together to manage flood risk in England.
	England | Catchment Data Explorer	DEFRA	https://environment.data.gov.uk/catchment-planning/	Explore and download information about the water environment in your area and access river basin management plans.
	Floodplain Meadows - Beauty and Utility A Technical Handbook.pdf	By: Emma Rothero(Editor), Sophie Lake(Editor), David Gowing(Editor)	https://www.gov.uk/guidance/river-basin-management-plans-updated-2022	This publication covers the history, management, restoration and creation of species-rich floodplain meadows.
	GCN-Conservation-Handbook_compressed.pdf	Froglife	https://www.froglife.org/info-advice/our-publications/great-crested-newt-conservation-handbook/	The Great Crested Newt Conservation Handbook is a comprehensive guide to habitat management, pond creation and restoration.

	Habitat Management Handbooks | Amphibian and Reptile Conservation	Arc-Trust	https://www.arc-trust.org/habitat-management-handbooks	This handbook forms a resource for a range of users including conservation professionals and interested volunteers.
Sustainable Urban Habitat Management	Building with Nature: A Benchmark for Green Infrastructure	Building with Nature	https://www.buildingwithnature.org.uk/)	This guide provides a framework for designing, delivering, and managing green infrastructure in urban areas. It covers best practices for creating multifunctional green spaces that provide environmental, social, and economic benefits.
	Biodiversity Net Gain: Good Practice Principles for Development	CIEEM, IEMA, and CIRIA	https://cieem.net/i-am/current-projects/biodiversity-net-gain/	This document outlines best practice principles for ensuring that urban development leads to a net gain in biodiversity. It includes strategies for enhancing urban habitats, creating green corridors, and integrating natural features into urban planning.
	Green Infrastructure and Planning Design Guide	Natural England	https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/GreenInfrastructure/downloads/Design%20Guide%20-%20Green%20Infrastructure%20Framework.pdf	This guide provides best practices for creating and managing urban green spaces, such as parks, community gardens, and green corridors. It focuses on enhancing biodiversity, improving ecosystem services, and making urban areas more resilient to climate change.
Sustainable Farming	DEFRA's Environmental Land Management (ELM) Scheme Guidance	DEFRA	https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/future-of-farming-in-england	The ELM scheme provides financial incentives for farmers and land managers to adopt sustainable practices. Guidance documents cover topics like soil health, water management, biodiversity, and climate adaptation.
	Natural England's Countryside Stewardship Guidance	Natural England	https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/sustainable-farming-incentive-scheme-expanded-offer-for-2024	This series of documents supports the Countryside Stewardship scheme, offering guidance on managing land sustainably for wildlife, water quality, and reducing flood risk. It includes specific advice on creating wildlife habitats, managing hedgerows, and protecting watercourses.

	Catchment Sensitive Farming (CSF) Guidance	Natural England	https://www.gov.uk/guidance/catchment-sensitive-farming-reduce-agricultural-water-pollution	The guidance focuses on nutrient management, soil protection, and watercourse management to prevent runoff and erosion.
	LEAF Sustainable Farming Review	LEAF	https://leaf.eco/farming/review	The LEAF Sustainable Farming Review is a comprehensive tool that helps farmers assess their practices against a set of sustainability criteria. It includes guidance on soil management, energy use, water conservation, and biodiversity enhancement.
	Pasture for Life's Guide to Sustainable Livestock Farming	Pastures for Life	https://www.pastureforlife.org	This guide promotes pasture-based livestock farming, which focuses on animal welfare, soil health, and environmental sustainability. It includes information on grazing management, feed, and animal health.
	The Farm Carbon Toolkit	Farm Carbon Toolkit	https://farmcarbontoolkit.org.uk	This resource helps farmers understand and reduce their carbon footprint. It provides tools and guidance on carbon management, including soil carbon sequestration, energy use, and emission reduction strategies.